

## LET'S START AT THE BEGINNING

"A very good place to start"

Many times we hear "When did Timber Valley Park begin? How old is it?" So let's start at the very beginning before there was a Timber Valley Park.

July 4, 1978: "Escapees Inc. was founded by Joe and Kay Peterson". Now headquartered in Livingston, Texas.

1985 our "Oregon Trails", the 9<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Escapees was formed. Within a year Chapter 9 members wanted a "home park". The following dates are from Chapter 9 and Timber Valley newsletters.

March 1988: Chapter 9's "Land Search Committee" discovered Sutherlin, Oregon.

Oct 15, 1988: the news was "the 90.19 acres in Sutherlin will cost \$80,000, plus additional costs for a total of \$90,301." (The property had sold for \$300,000 in 1981 but that development failed.)

The property was described as "a total mess", "scrubby brush and a few trees", "cans, bottles" and "everywhere MUD".

A founding board was formed, folks put in \$1000 each and Olen Edwards of Myrtle Creek was hired to draw up the plans and be the contractor.

The winter of 1988 "was the biggest snow Sutherlin had in 20 years. "But by spring:

"Sub-excavation with over 50,000 cubic yards of dirt moved to grade and level."

July 15-16, 1989: Lot selection took place. "It took 5 ½ hours to select 202 lots."

The "Executive Board was Roy Adams, President, and Elton Lee, Verne Hanson, Bill Field. They will remain in office until completion of construction and then we will elect five new ones to make a board of nine."

August 1990: the actual date of "The Pots and Pan Rattlers" (who became the Jacks and Jills) is undocumented but the August 1990 newsletter says, "The Pots and Pans Rattlers have been very busy."

Oct 1991 newsletter: "Park members must be 55 or over", by a vote of 110 to 67.

Virginia Adams, wife of the President, wisely said, "We have a terrific park we can be proud of. It is not perfect. It was built by people and for people who are not perfect. Perfection is not of this world."