

# Travels with Cole & Cole



Dear Donna,

Great Escape #122 (Happy Thanksgiving) November 22,  
2011

Greetings from **Pahrump, Nevada.**

## New Format

No doubt you will notice that this travelogue has a completely new look. We are in the process of switching to an entirely new mailing program that will allow us far more flexibility and sophistication. The switchover is a huge job with lots to learn. Please bear with us as we make constant improvements over the next few months.

## Happy Thanksgiving!

We hope you have a joyous Thanksgiving. It's a beautiful, partly cloudy day here in the Nevada desert. The air is incredibly clear and you can see forever. The trees have turned color, the mountains have dark blue shadows and there is no wind. All in all it is a very special day and we hope Thursday will be just as nice.



Three years ago, we wrote a travelogue entitled, "Gratitude." Many of you liked it and it is still as timely as the day we wrote it. It is our pleasure to make a few minor updates and send it to you again this year.

## Gratitude

Certainly, we are in difficult economic times, which are likely to get worse before they get better. It might be easy to focus on our hardships and losses. It would be reasonable to ask how we got in



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## *Attention*

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this situation and who is to blame. We can complain about short-sighted energy policies, corrupt politicians, greedy bankers, unethical pharmaceutical producers, auto makers receiving large management bonuses while bankrupting their companies, and heart surgeons performing unnecessary operations. We could talk about stockbrokers urging their clients to stay in the market while they continue having their retirement funds wiped out. Perhaps we should be irritated by irresponsible consumers purchasing houses, cars, and toys they couldn't afford using easy credit and now wanting to be bailed out for their reckless behavior. Oh yes, the list goes on and on.

**But if we wish to have joy, happiness, and peace in our lives, then a completely different mindset is required. Complaining cannot bring happiness or creative solutions to our problems. The secret ingredient to happiness is gratitude. That's right, gratitude is the solution, particularly in difficult times. We need to have gratitude for what we have! When we focus on being thankful for what we have, we change our outlook, our mood, and our creativity. We become problem solvers instead of victims.**

Donna and I are constantly grateful that we found each other 26 years ago. Our immediate family is a small, bossy Yorkshire Terrier who, in spite of the fact that she is now blind and deaf, still makes us smile. It's a tiny family, but we are grateful nevertheless. Chuck's extended family is down to his cousins, who are some of the finest people on the planet. Donna's extended family is now only one sister-in-law, a niece and a nephew who are geographically distant, but are held close in her heart. In addition, we are rich with many, many friends scattered around the United States. We are also extremely grateful to many men and women, no longer with us, who had a positive influence in shaping our lives.

We are grateful that we have inquisitive minds, a keen sense of right and wrong, and the courage to fashion a unique life. We are particularly grateful that our primary business allows us to help so many people who are in financial turmoil and to protect their retirement funds from further losses.

**We urge you, nay challenge you, to take a few moments during this Thanksgiving holiday to reflect upon what is good, true, and valuable in your life. Be grateful for what you have and even more will be forthcoming!**

**With love and gratitude for your friendship, we wish you a sincere Thanksgiving.**

Until next time, home is where we park it.

Chuck & Donna Cole  
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