

Dear Friends and Relatives,

We wish you a very **happy Easter** holiday from the town of **Truth or Consequences**, New Mexico. Yes, there really is a town called Truth or Consequences. (The locals just call it "T or C.") You can trust us on this, after all it's Easter, not April Fool's Day. How the town got its name is an interesting story in itself.

Until 1950, **Hot Springs** New Mexico, was plodding along slowly and fairly comfortably, much the same as hundreds of other small resort cities. Tourist trade, practically speaking, was the city's only industry. Recreation had not been developed to its full potential and the town was lost among hundreds of other "Hot Springs" scattered all over the United States; the name indicating nothing more significant than the likelihood that some hot springs were located in the area.

Then in 1950, NBC television and radio producer, **Ralph Edwards**, on the 10th anniversary of the Truth or Consequences radio program, called his staff together and said, "I wish that some town in the United States liked and respected our show so much that it would like to change its name to 'Truth or Consequences.'" On hearing the proposition, the New Mexico State Tourist Bureau relayed the news to the manager of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and the news spread like wildfire. Here was an opportunity to advertise the city and its resources free of charge! Better still, no longer was this city to be confused with that "other one" in Arkansas and the others throughout the nation (California alone has more than 30 towns called "Hot Springs").



Ralph Edwards



Ralph & Barbara Edwards



Bob Barker joins Ralph in 1970

So, in a special city election, the town's residents voted for the change to "Truth or Consequences." Ralph Edwards and his entire NBC production, acting and show crew came here in 1950, aired the first live, coast-to-coast broadcast of Truth or Consequences from the city of Truth or Consequences, and the residents of his adopted home are very pleased to say he has been coming back every year since with his Hollywood friends to celebrate the anniversary of the name change, and to help spread the news about this oasis of hot springs, two of the state's best lakes and many other recreational opportunities throughout the area.

We are happy to be bringing you this issue of our Great Escape travelog while camped on the shore of the very large and beautiful **Elephant Butte Lake** which is right next door to T or C. Thanks to the wonders of our new Internet rooftop satellite antenna, we can be working on taxes and estate planning and still be enjoying the beauty of nature and the excitement of travel. We have, indeed, fashioned a lifestyle that suits us to a T.



Marina at Elephant Butte Lake State Park, New Mexico

As soon as we get a bit more time, we will fill you in on some fascinating visits to:

- Columbus, New Mexico
- Palomas, Mexico
- Silver City, New Mexico
- City of Rocks State Park, New Mexico
- Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument

Until then, home is where you park it.

Chuck & Donna
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