

Dear Friends,

Greetings from **Desert Hot Springs, California.**

Well, as you can see, we finally escaped from the **Monaco Service Center in Harrisburg, Oregon.** Did Monaco finally finish our coach? Heck no! We sat around for weeks waiting for the right side decals to come in and when they finally arrived, they were for the left side. Monaco apologized and said they could have the correct ones there in about two weeks. We said, "Drop dead, mail them to us in Yuma, Arizona and pay someone to put them on." They said, "Okay." Who knows what will really happen. Meanwhile, the coach is together and we can travel with or without decorative decals.

We are in complete and total weather shock. A few days ago, the high for Harrisburg, Oregon was 46 degrees and foggy. On the same day, the high in Desert Hot Springs was 92 and clear as a bell. It's so bright outside that sunglasses are an absolute necessity. Wow, what a change from constant overcast, rain, fog, and cold.

Let's get caught up. After we left **Sequim, Washington** and headed south, we landed for two nights at the **Elks Lodge in Kelso, Washington.** A nice stop! From there, we continued south to the **Elks Lodge in Keizer, Oregon.** This is a great lodge for RVers. They have 39 full hookup spots and many of those are pull-throughs. At \$15 per night, this lodge is a bargain. Not to mention, nice bar and good food. They even have a laundry! From there, it was just a few miles to the annual Monaco coach rally where we spent five nights. Interesting and worthwhile, but expensive. The price tag was \$400. The rally had lots of entertainment, lots of food, lots of new coaches to look at and incredible amounts of free alcohol. Perhaps the idea was to drink until you buy a new motorhome. There were a carload of Monaco service technicians running around and you could sign up to get two problems fixed free. There were also lots of third party vendors on site and they were also making free house calls. We did, indeed, get a bunch of small annoying problems taken care of. We also met a very competent couple who own **RV Custom Interiors in Vancouver, Washington.** They gave us a good price on a new sofa bed and we ordered it. It's great! It actually makes a nice bed that a full size couple can sleep on. Want to travel with us?



**Flexsteel Magic Bed.**

For our RV friends, the new sofa bed is called a "Magic Bed" and is made by Flexsteel. We had it custom covered in Ultraleather to match the Captain's chairs for the driver and navigator. The couch that came with our coach was a cheaply made, short, and torturous bed. The new Magic Bed is a quality product and very comfortable. What an improvement!

After the Monaco Rally, we went east to the **Silver Spur RV Park** in **Silverton, Oregon**. It's a nice park, but we went there primarily to hook up with our RV friends, **Jim and Peg**. Our friends own **American RVer**. You really should check out their RV video productions at [www.americanrver.com](http://www.americanrver.com). They do all sorts of really interesting interviews with interesting people in the RV world. For example, they interviewed the CEO of Monaco, Kay Toolson, while at the Monaco Rally.

While we were in Silverton, we took a very interesting motorcycle ride with Jim and Peg to **Silver Falls State Park**, the largest State Park in Oregon. It's a beautiful place with gorgeous trails and ten spectacular waterfalls. If you get the chance, visit this park in the spring when the falls are at their best.



**South Falls at Silver Falls State Park, Oregon.**

Another interesting site at the park is the historic **South Falls Lodge** which was built in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps. It is furnished with very heavy myrtle wood tables and chairs. The lodge was recently restored and serves as a gathering spot for visitors with interpretive displays of the park's history. Interpretive programs are often presented in the front of the lodge's massive stone fireplace. In 1983 it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



### Historic Lodge at Silver Falls State Park, Oregon.

Between motorcycle rides, we managed to get in one of our financial seminars. Helping people protect their retirement funds gives us great satisfaction and we have earned our reputation as the **"safe money people."**

Another fun ride with Jim and Peg was to the little town of **Mount Angel**. The primary attraction of this town is several Bavarian style restaurants and the quite remarkable glockenspiel. Mt. Angel is located 18 miles northeast of Salem on Highway 214. Founded in the late 1800s by German settlers, this town has an Old World flavor which is heightened by the many Bavarian style storefronts and the beautiful Benedictine Abbey. They celebrate their German heritage each year during the Oktoberfest, held in September. We had an okay lunch and a glass of very overpriced German beer.



**Glockenspiel Restaurant, Mt. Angel, Oregon.**

The glockenspiel is activated several times a day and puts on a remarkable show with rotating hand carved figures and appropriate music. It really is worth seeing. The Oktoberfest would be an interesting event. Here is a link if you want to know more: <http://www.mtangel.org/>

After leaving Silverton, we checked in at the Monaco Service Center and you already know the rest of that story. When we finally left Monaco, we drove straight to one of our very favorite stops, **7 Feathers Indian Casino in Canyonville, Oregon**. This is always a great stop. There is free, overnight dry camping and there is also a new luxury RV resort. We only spent one night at 7 Feathers and then pressed on to another favorite stop, **Green Acres RV Park in Redding, California**. [www.greenacresrvpark.com/](http://www.greenacresrvpark.com/) It was great to spend a few days in Redding and to see many of our old friends. Unfortunately, we didn't have time to catch them all, nor did we have time to visit with our Trinity County friends.



Tim visiting us at Green Acres, Redding, CA.

From Redding, we spent one night in the **Sacramento Elks Lodge**, but unfortunately we didn't have time to visit with our many Sacramento friends. From Sacramento, we rolled straight to **San Luis Obispo** and parked for a few days on the property of our friends, **Paul and Marie**. As usual, Marie cooked up some treats and Paul helped Chuck sort out some tail light problems. The weather was lovely and so was our visit.

After San Luis, we made a long and difficult drive to one of our favorite **Elks Lodges** in the little town of **Beaumont**. The Beaumont Elks is only about 45 miles from our current park in Desert Hot Springs. Now here is an interesting twist. Normally, we feel a sense of security knowing that at any time we can pack up and leave an area where there may be danger. This time it didn't work that way. We left San Luis Obispo on Saturday morning, November 15. We knew full well we would have to drive through Santa Barbara, California where there were very large and out of control fires driven by strong and gusty winds. The winds made driving very difficult and the traffic was heavy and unpleasant. But then it got worse. What we didn't know was that a great many more fires were raging in the Los Angeles basin and that huge evacuations were underway. Yep, we drove right into the fire zones and became part of the very slow and hazardous traffic that was part of the evacuation. We saw a lot of smoke, but didn't understand why the Saturday traffic was so heavy. We didn't catch on until we turned on the television that night and found out that we had driven into a very dangerous area. Right after we got through, many of the freeways were closed.

Well, it all turned out well. We are well and safe here in the beautiful valley that includes Palm Springs. We love the Western Horizons park here in Desert Hot Springs. It's a jumpin' place with something happening all the time. You can hear the yelling and screaming of the water volleyball games for half a mile. The pickleball courts are absolutely beautiful and have a huge number of players. There is a ton of good food here. Yesterday we had a pool party with music and grilled burgers. This morning, we had to get to the dining room for cinnamon rolls and coffee. Tonight is a pot roast dinner. The fun never stops. Should you ever consider joining the Western Horizon park system, check with us and we will get you a free 4 night pass. If you can get to this park, check in with **Linda** in the sales department. She knows her stuff and she's straight. Her advice is worth hearing.

We are also very pleased to tell you that this park allows us to give one of our financial seminars every week: "**Protecting Your Retirement in Turbulent Times.**" This last year has been very difficult for retirees who have much of their retirement money in mutual funds. Many have lost over half of

their investment. We are very proud to say that not one of our clients has ever lost a penny. Most have earned over 13 percent in the last year with no risk. There is no stock broker on earth who can make that claim. We will tell you more in our next letter.

**Travel Plans:**

Now -- Nov. 30, Desert Pools RV Resort, Desert Hot Springs, CA

Nov. 30 -- Dec. 7, either Desert Pools or Pilot Knob RV Resort, Yuma, AZ ???

Dec. 7 -- Dec. 14, Pilot Knob RV Resort, Yuma, AZ

Dec. 14 -- Dec. 16, Organ Pipe National Monument, AZ

Dec. 17 -- Jan. 5, Kino Bay RV Resort, Kino Bay, Mexico (Bahia de Kino)

Until next time, home is where we park it,

Chuck & Donna  
(530) 524-5020