

TEXAS GULF COAST UNIT

YELLOW ROSE



CARAVAN

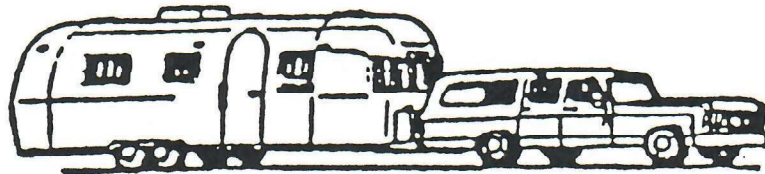
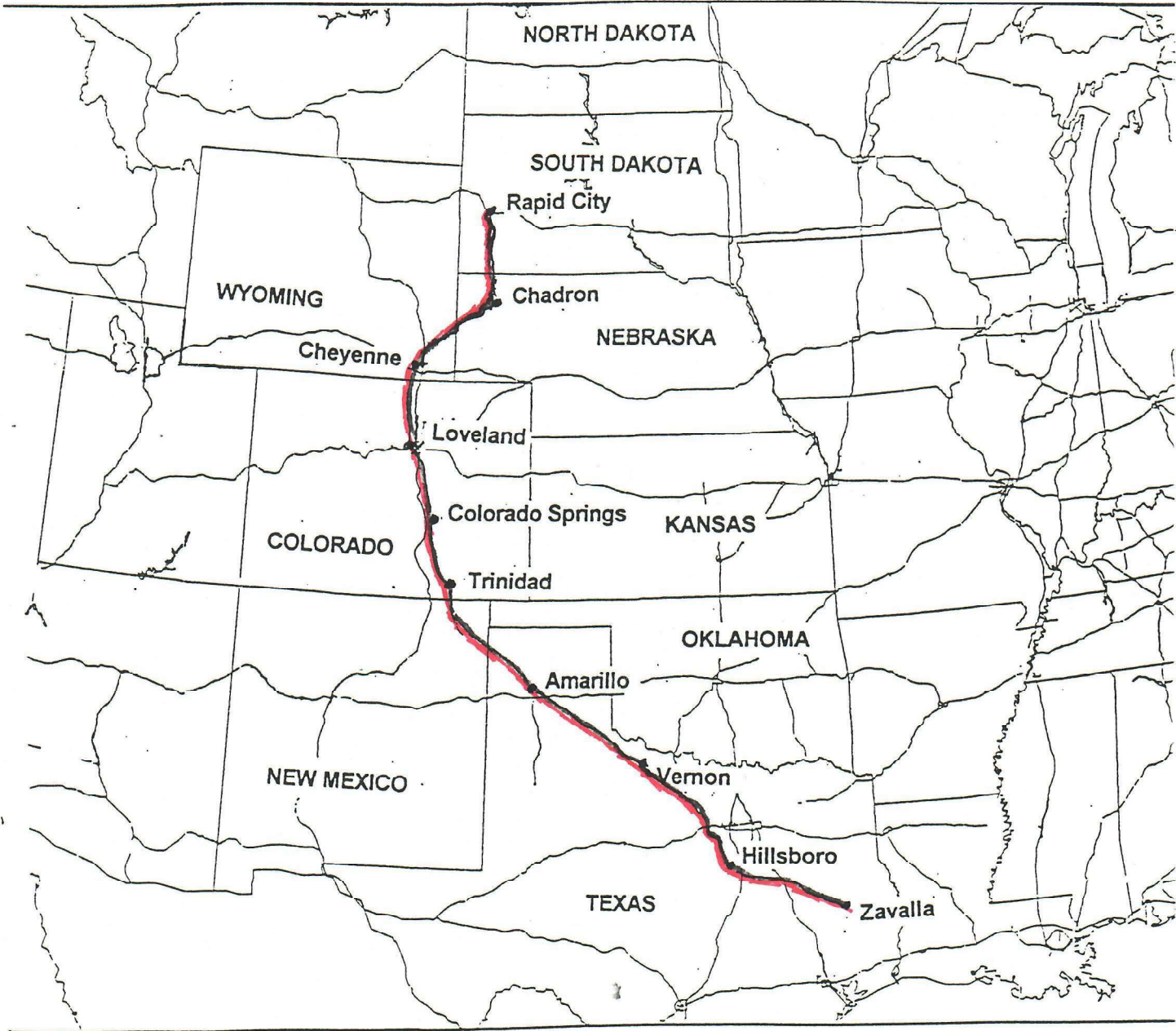
ZAVALLA, TEXAS
TO
RAPID CITY, NORTH DAKOTA

DEDICATED TO
JIM & GWEN PRATT
LEADERS OF
THE YELLOW ROSE
CARAVAN

JUNE 11 TO JUNE 25 1996



**FROM ZAVALLA, TEXAS
THE YELLOW ROSE CARAVAN
WENDS IT'S WAY TO
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA**



U-158 CARAVAN
TAHI to RAPID CITY

ROUTING

1996

6-10 Gather at TAHI; Try to attend the June Rally - June 7-9 and stay over and prepare for leaving on Tuesday, June 11.

Tue.		<u>Mileage</u>
6-11	Leave park at 10:00 AM, taking SR 147 thru Zavalla to US 69	6 miles
	RT US 69 to Loop 287 in Lufkin	25
	LT Loop 287, around south side of Lufkin to S 103	5
	LT S 103 to State Hwy 7	16
	LT (west) State Hwy 7 to Loop 307 around S/S of Crockett	30
	Continue State Hwy (west) to I-45, Centerville	35
	RT I-45 (north), past Buffalo, to Dew (Exit 189) to Hwy 179	11
	LT Hwy 179 (N/W) to Teague;	
	PU US 84 (west) to Mexia to Hwy 171	23
	RT Hwy 171 (N/W) to Hillsboro (171 joins 22)	<u>47</u>
		198

LT NTAC exit left off Hwy 171/22 on _____ St/road, going past a Baptist church and RT into Park.

5:00 PM Happy Hour and drivers meeting to cover next days travel. Dinner meal about 6:00 PM
 6:00 PM Dinner meal at NTAC clubhouse prepared for us. Suggest about \$2.00 extra contribution to "Kitty" to cover meal cost. Bring your own set ups and drink.
 6:?? PM games and fellowship in their hall following meal.

Hillsboro has multiple outlet stores in event you need to restock anything.

Wed			
6-12	8:00 AM Leave NTAC via State Hwy 171 (W N/W) to Weatherford	75	
	LT Hwy 180 (west) [180 is north of I-20] to US 281 in Mineral Wells	19	
	RT US 281 (north) to State Hwy 25 in Windthorst	65	
	LT Hwy 25 (west) to US 287 in Electra	49	
	LT US 287 (west) to Vernon	<u>23</u>	231

on To Rocking A Park , from Junction of US 70 (Plainview, Cromwell exit) west of town; N/W 0.2 miles frontage road to Harrison St; N/E 0.3 miles **R????????????????????**

Thu			
6-13	8:00 AM Leave for Amarillo via US 287 N/W to I-40 (west) in Amarillo	<u>180</u>	180

To Sun-Down Campground, from Junction of I-40 & Hope Rd. (Exit 62) east 0.6 miles on South frontage road. (R)

Fri
 6-14 Second night in Amarillo following car pooling to Palo Duro Canyon.

6/13-14 continued:

We should arrive in Amarillo with some time for you to visit points of interest there: American Quarter Horse Heritage Center and Museum; Stanley Marsh's Cadillac Ranch and Dynamite Museum; Don Harrington Discovery Center; Government Helium Facility; and Creekwood Ranch Old West Show and Chuckwagon Supper. (8 miles)

On Friday, June 14, 1996, it is suggested we form carpools to Canyon (14 miles) and visit Palo Duro Canyon State Park and its magnificent scenic attractions, spectacular geologic wonders and panorama of colors. The park scenery can be enjoyed by traveling 16 miles of roadway through the canyon or by the "Sad Monkey Railroad" a two mile scenic, narrated tour by miniature train through parts of the canyon not accessible by auto.

We have reservations for our group to see the Musical Drama "TEXAS" at the amphitheater in the Canyon. Our tickets will be available at the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum in the city of Canyon. You may want to visit the museum. An optional barbecue dinner is served at 6:00-7:00 PM in an area near the amphitheater. It is suggested we regroup there and enter the theater at 7:45 PM. The drama starts at 8:30 PM. Our group will be introduced during intermission. Ticket to the performance are about \$7.00.

ITINERARY

YELLOW ROSE CARAVAN TO RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA JUNE 11, 1996 TO JUNE 25, 1996

DATE	LOCATION (at night)	MILES	R.V. PARK/C.GROUND
10	TAHI		
11	Hillsboro, TX	198	NTAC
12	Vernon, TX	231	Rocking A Campground (817)552-2821
13	Amarillo, TX	180	Sundown Campground
14	Amarillo, TX		(806)359-0921
15	Trinidad, CO	231	Budget Host Campground (719)846-3307
16	Colorado Springs, CO	126	Goden Eagle Ranch C.ground
17	Colorado Springs, CO		(710)576-0450
18	Colorado Springs, CO		1-800-666-3841
19	Loveland, CO	130	Johnson's Corner Campground
20	Loveland, CO		(303)669-8400
21	Loveland, CO		1-800-322-5416
22	Cheyenne, WY	53	Terry Bison Ranch RV

23	Cheyenne, WY		(307)634-4171 1-800-319-4171
24	Chadron, NE	224	J & L RV Park (308)432-4349
25	Rapid City, SD	94	WBCCI Rally Site (605)393-8946
		<hr/>	
	Total Miles	1,467	

U-158 CARAVAN
TA-III to RAPID CITY

ROUTING

1996

6-10 Gather at TA-III; Try to attend the June Rally 6/7-9 and stay over and prepare for leaving on Tuesday, June 11.

Tue.

	Mileage
6-11 Leave park at 10:00 AM, taking SR 147 thru Zavalla	6 miles
to US 69. Right on 69 to Loop 287 in Lufkin	25
Left on 287, around south side of Lufkin to S103	5
Left on S103 to State Hwy 7	16
Left (west) on S 7 to Loop 307 around S/S of Crocket	30
Continue on S 7 (west) to I-45, Centerville	35
Right (North) on I-45, past Buffalo, to Dew (ex. 189)	11
Left (N/W) on 179 to Teague; US 84 west to Mehia	23
Take S 171 (right, N/W) to Hillsboro (Joins S Hwy 22)	47 198

N-Tac exit left off 171/22 on _____ St/road, going past a Baptist church and right into the park.

We have N_Tac clubhouse available to us for an evening meal which will be prepared for you. Suggest about \$2.00 extra contribution to "Kitty" to cover most cost. Bring your own set ups, drink.

5:00 pm Happy hour and drivers meeting to cover next days travel. Dinner meal about 6 pm; games and fellowship in their hall following.

Hillsboro has multiple outlet stores in event you need restock anything.

Wed.

6-12 8:00 AM Leave N-Tac via State Hwy 171(W-N/W) to Weatherford	75 miles
Left (west) on US 180 (past I-20) to US281, Min. Wel.	19
Right (north) on US 281 to St Hwy 25, Windthorst	65
Take S 25 west, N/W to US 287 in Electra	49
Left (west) on US 287 to Vernon.	23 231

covered had supper

Rocking A Park, from Junction of US 70(Plainview, Cromwell exit, W. of townNW 0.2 mi on frntg rd to Harrison St; NE 0.3 mi R

Thurs.

6/13 Leave 8 AM for Amarillo via US 287 N/W to I-40 west 180
Sun-Down Campground: From Jct of I-40 & Hope Rd. (exit 62) east 0.6 mi on S frntg rd (R)

Fri.

6/14 2nd night in Amarillo following carpooling to Palo Duro Canyon.

6/13-14 continued:

We should arrive in Amarillo with some time for you to visit points of interest there: American Quarter Horse Heritage Center and Museum, Stanley Marsh's Cadillac Ranch and Dynamite Museum, Don Harrington Discovery Center, Govt. Helium facility, and Creekwood Ranch Old West Show and Chuckwagon Supper (8 miles)

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Sat.	MILEAGE
6/15 3:00 AM leave Amarillo via US 87/287 to Dumas, Tx.	46
Continue of US 87(west) to Hartley	24
Right(N/West) on US 87/365 to Dalhart	14
Continue on US 87 to/thru Texline	36
Continue on US 87/44 to I-25(N.M.)	88
Right (North) on I-25 to Trinidad, Colorado	23 231
<i>Bar-B-Q Together</i>	

Sunday

6/16 Try to attend church early, like 10:00AM so that we may leave for Colorado Springs about 12:30 PM.	
Take I-25 North to Colorado Springs	126

6/16,17,18 at Golden Eagle Ranch RV Park and Campground. From I-25 and Academy Blvd(exit 135; West 2 mi on Academy Blvd to Hwy 115 (Nevada); South 5 miles to Rock Creek Canyon RD.; West 1 mi (R).

Points of interest, Colorado Springs area: Pikes Peak; Air Force Academy; Royal Gorge; Florissant Fossil Beds Natl. Monument; Garden of the Gods; US> Olympic Training Center; Miramont Castle/Museum; Seven Falls & Cave of the Winds; Will Rogers Shrine; Hall of Presidents; Western Museum of Mining & Industry; Ghost Town; Cliff Dwellings; Flying W. Ranch; Cheyenne Mountain Zoo--MANY SITES IN DENVER.

6/16-21 Denver is accessible from our stay in both Colorado Springs and Loveland. Among the many points of interest in Denver are: U.S. Mint, Colorado State Capitol, Museum of Western Art, Denver Art Museum, Molly Brown House, Denver Botanic Garden, Colorado Railroad Museum, Denver Zoo, Buffalo Bill's Museum & Grave, Coors Brewing Co.

20at Breakfast w/ Donna & Abbie

Wed:		Mileage
6/19	Take I-25 North thru Denver to Loveland	122
	An alternate route around East side of Denver is an option: Loop/I-225, I-70, Loop/I-270, I-76	8 130

Johnson's Corner Campground: From Jct of I-25 & exit 254, South 2 blocks on frontage road (L)

6/17-20-21: Points of interest in Loveland, in addition to Denver outlined above: Rocky Mountain Natl. Park, Estes Park, Loveland Sculpture Garden, Loveland Community Theatre, 3 Golf Courses. Loveland has become a Nationally known center for Bronze Sculpture; many fine artist welcome visits to their studios.

An Anheuser-Busch Brewery is located north of Fort Collins (about 30 miles). It is possible that some could pull in here en route to Cheyenne on 6/22, calling ahead to determine extent of visitor parking available for RV'S.

Sat.		
6/22	Continue North on I-25 to Cheyenne, WY	53
	Terry Bison Ranch & RV Park, I-25 and WY exit 2 (Terry Ranch Road), South 2.7 mi (L)	

6/22-23 Cheyenne: Fishing, horses & wagon rides, Chuckwagon dinners/chuckwagon band, bison herd, rodeo; all on the ranch. In Cheyenne Cheyenne Gunslinger Gunfights on Old Town Square, 6pm Fri, 12noon Sat.; Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum; Historic Governors' Mansion, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Big Boy Steam Engine.

Mon.		
6/24	I-25 North, thru Cheyenne to exit 17 & US 85	15
	Right (N/E) on US 85 to Torrington, Wyo.	73
	Continue on US 85/US 26 West to Lingle	10
	US 85 North to Lusk to US 20	47
	US 20 East into Nebraska, on to Chadron, Neb.	79 224
	J & L RV Park; From jct of US20 & US385, W. 0.5 mi on US 20	
	6:00 PM, Dinner at South Forty Steak House	

Tue:		
6/25	Scheduled Arrival at Rapid City Rally site at 11:45 AM	
	8:00 .5 Mi. E to US385; 385 N. to Hot Springs, SD.	50
	5.0 mi south of Hot Springs take S79N to Rapid City	44 94
	As you approach Rapid City on S. side, note S16-truck route from your left, pass Fairmont Blvd on left; take St. Patrick on right. We should pick up WBCCI traffic signs along this route.	

CARAVAN ROSTER - U158

° Gerald & Ruth Alexander
Route 1, Box 430A
Hempstead, TX 77445

Phyllis Bachler
2409 SW 83rd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73159

Eva Bready
Route 2, Box 190
Zavalla, TX 75980

° Dr. Donald Cain
P. O. Box 487
Zavalla, TX 75980

Elley & Helen Doucet
3807 S. Patillo Road
Orange, TX 77630

Joe & Lessie Dupuy
6702 W. Patillo Road
Orange, TX 77630

Louis & Calla Fontenot
5525 Sul Ross Lane
Beaumont, TX 77706

Finis & Lucille Gibbs
1302 Tom Temple Dr. #125
Lufkin, TX 75901

Mason & Nada Hebert
190 Blueberry
Bridge City, TX 77611

Edna Holden
Route 2, Box 191
Zavalla, TX 75980

° Vic & Lotus La Rocca
5995 Avie Lane
Beaumont, TX 77708

Troy & Hazel Moreland
1602 19th Ave. North
Texas City, TX 77590

° Louis & Donna Neumeyer
1519 Monta
Liberty, TX 77575

° Richard & Bobbye O'Quinn
6003 Atascosita
Liberty, TX 77575

° Jim & Gwen Pratt
408 Oakview Dr
Nacodoches, TX 75961

° Hunter & Eleanor Pratt
Route 3, Box 185
Batesville, MS 38606

Ray & Vivian Ryder
P. O. Box 930
Oberlin, LA 70655

° Van & Betty Skiles
351 Lakeside Lane # 310
Houston, TX 77058-4353

Ross & Ernestine Van Winkle
P. O. Box 102
Petrolia, TX 76377

Bill Wilson
8725 Robindell
Highlands, TX 77074
Houston

MEET OUR CARAVANNERS

Gerald & Ruth Alexander - 1761

Gerald and Ruth are newcomers to WBCCI and RVing. Gerald was born February 19 in Malakoff, TX. Ruth was born August 4 in Franklin, NC. They married January 26, 1957. They have two sons, one daughter, two grandsons, and 4 granddaughters. Gerald retired from Air Liquide and Ruth as a Dental Assistant. Gerald enjoys tennis and woodworking. Ruth's hobbies include oil painting, crafts and sewing. This will be their first caravan and their first International Rally. They travel in a 1989, 32 foot Classic.

Phyllis Bachler 10871

Phyllis has been RVing as an Airstreamer since 1968. Her birthday is March, 31 and she was born in Missouri. Phyllis has one son, and one daughter. She has three grandsons and 1 granddaughter. Phyllis also has four great grandsons and two great granddaughters. She is a retired Beautician and Cosmetology Instructor. Phyllis is still working for her great grandchild Brenden. Her hobbies include music, knitting, crochet, and traveling. She has attended 20 International Rallies and has been on 10 or more caravans. Thaveling with Phylis are her daughter Sandra and son-in-law Fred Huff and a tiny toy poodle named Gabby.. Sandra was born March 6 and Fred July 14. Sandra is employed as a musician and Fred as a computer programer.

Eva Bready - 21226

Twenty-five of her 32 years of RVing have been as an Airstreamer. Eva was born December 7 in New Orleans, LA. She has one son, one daughter, three grandsons and two granddaughters. Eva was a teacher in the Texas Public School System. She has attended 12 International Rallies and has been on 6 National, 1 Region and 4 Unit Caravans. Her hobbies include raising camellias, reading and all types of word puzzles. Eva travels in a 190 B Van.

Dr. Donald Cain - 18230

Dr. Cain has spent over 30 years RVing, all of them as an Airstreamer. He was born in Champaign, IL on December 6th. He and his wife Joanne(deceased) are the parents of one son and one daughter. He has three grandsons and two granddaughters. Doc is a retired Physician/Surgeon. He enjoys fishing, family, friends and travel, not necessarily in that order. He has attended about nine International Rallies and has ben on several caravans. He travels in a 36 foot Classic Motorhome.

Elley & Helen Doucet - 17961

They have been RVing for 11 years as Airstreamers. Elley was born September 23 and Helen on March 30 in Louisiana. They have two sons, five daughters, four grandsons and one granddaughter. Elley retired from Dupont. Helen has no plans to retire from her job as a homemaker. Elley likes to fish and gardening. Helen enjoys sewing. They both like to travel. They have attended 8 International Rallies and have been on 12 caravans. They travel in a 1979, 31 foot Classic trailer.

Joe & Lessie Dupuy - 3763

Twenty-one of their 29 years RVing have been as Airstreamers. Joe was born September 5 in Crowley, LA and Lessie on April 4 in Marksville, LA. They have been married 58 years and will celebrate their anniversary on June 19. They have two daughters, two grandsons, three granddaughters, one great grandson and four great granddaughters. Joe retired from Gulf Oil Chemical. Lessie continues her job as a homemaker. They have attended 16 International Rallies, and have been on 18 caravans. Joe likes fishing, hunting and gardening and Lessie enjoys her hobbies of sewing, knitting, crochet and gardening. They travel in a 31 foot Excella.

Louis and Calla Fontenot - 29243

They have been RVing for 19 years all of them as Airstreamers. Louis was born January 13 in Oberlin, LA, Calla was born on August 29 in Beaumont, TX. They were married June 19, 1942 and will celebrate their 54th anniversary on this caravan. They have two sons, one daughter, two grandsons and five granddaughters. Louis retired from Sun Oil Co. Calla is a homemaker. They both enjoy travel and reading. They have been to 9 International Rallies and on 7 caravans. Their most memorable RV experience was two years traveling full time. They travel in a 28 foot classic trailer.

Finis and Lucille Gibbs - 25092

All of their 25 years of RVing have been as Airstreamers. Finis was born June 2 in Lufkin, TX and Lucille June 26 in Huntington, TX. On January of this year they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They have two daughters, three grandsons and one granddaughter. They have four great grandsons and one granddaughter. Finis was the proprietor of an Auto Agency until his retirement. Lucille continues her job as a homemaker. They have attended 20 International Rallies. They have been on caravans to Great Britain, China, Alaska and Canada. They have been on many Unit caravans. Their most memorable RVing experience was a six months caravan to Europe.

Mason and Nada Hebert

Mason and Nada started the caravan with us but were only able to make it to North Texas Airstream Community at Hillsboro, TX. As we approached Mexia, TX they experienced a blow-out that did considerable damage to the wheel well, water, and gas lines of their trailer. They were able to change the tire and proceed to Hillsboro to determine the extent of the damage. They decided to go to the Dallas area to see if repairs could be made in time for them to rejoin the caravan. We wish them Godspeed and hope they will be able to join us soon

Edna Holden - 2054

Edna has been Airstreaming for 20 years. She was born January 15 in Florida. Edna is a retired school teacher. She enjoys visiting friends and playing the piano. She has attended six International Rallies and has been on one National, one Region and five Unit Caravans. Her most memorable RVing experience was the Trail of Lights Caravan. Edna travels with Eva Bready in a 190 B Van.

Vic & Lotus La Rocca - 10312

They have been WBCCI members for 7 years. Vic was born July 18, in St. Rose, LA. Lotus was born December 3, in Williamson, WV. They were married May 21, 1954 in Jacksonville, FL. They are the parents of four sons, two daughters, four grandsons, and four granddaughters. Vic retired from Neches Electric Co. and Lotus from Mobil Chemical. Vic likes fishing and gardening. Lotus enjoys computer games, sewing and reading. They both like canoeing and travel. They have attended four International Rallies and this is their second caravan. They travel in a 1989, 25 foot Excella.

Troy and Hazel Moreland -7626

Troy and Hazel have been Airstreamers for 23 years. He was born November 21 in New Mexico and Hazel was born December 10, in Oklahoma. They have been married 57 years. They have one son, two grandsons and two granddaughters. Troy retired from Union Carbide Corp. Hazel has kept busy as a homemaker. Troy is a member of the Elks and is active with the Boy Scouts of America. Hazel enjoys coin collecting and reading. They both enjoy traveling. They have attended 14 International Rallies and have been on 22 caravans. They have many wonderful memories of their travels. They travel in a 32 foot Limited trailer.

Louis & Donna Neumeyer - 1868

Louis and Donna have been RVing for 10 years 5 of them as WBCCI members. Louis was born June 14 in Checotah, OK. Donna was born April 28 in Fargo, ND. They were married September 1, 1947. They have two daughters, one grandson and one granddaughter and one great-grandson. Louis retired from the Soil Conservation Service and the Texas National Guard. Donna retired from teaching Science and Homemaking. Louis is a model railroading enthusiast. Donna likes playing bridge, gardening and crochet. They have attended three International Rallies and have been on three caravans in their 1988, 25 foot EXcella.

Richard & Bobbye O'Quinn - 11598

Richard and Bobbye have been members of WBCCI for seven years. Richard was born June 17, in Cypress, LA. Bobbye was born in Flora, LA on December 18th. They have been married 41 years and are the parents of one son and one daughter. They have three grandsons and one granddaughter. Richard retired from Texas Eastern Transmission Corp. and Bobbye retired from the Liberty Independent School District. Richard hobbies include fishing, hunting and travel. Bobbye enjoys reading and computing. They travel in a 29 foot trailer. They have been on two caravans and attended one International Rally.

Jim and Gwen Pratt - 10393

They have been Airstreamers for 8 years. Jim was born July 2 in Pope, MS, Gwen on September 5 in Pucket, MS. They were married April 5, 1953. They have three sons, one daughter, six grandsons and two granddaughters. Jim retired from St. Paul Insurance Company. Gwen was self-employed as a florist. They both enjoy traveling and their grandchildren. Gwen enjoys flower arranging. They have been to five International Rallies and this is their fifth unit caravan. Their most memorable RVing experience was the International in Duluth, MN. They travel in a 31 foot Sovereign Airstream.

Hunter and Eleanor Pratt - 1782

Hunter and Eleanor have been RVing for four years as Airstreamers. He was born March 14 in Pope, MS and Eleanor was born February, 20 in Marks, MS. They were married March 8, 1957. They have two sons, one grandson and one granddaughter. Hunter retired from Coastal Corporation. Eleanor was a Registered Nurse at South Panola Community Hospital. Hunter enjoys raising flowers, exercising, travel and camping. Along with travel and camping Eleanor enjoys reading and her grandchildren's activities. They have attended 3 International Rallies and been on four caravans. They travel in a 31 foot classic trailer with their dog Star.

Ray and Vivian Ryder - 10783

Ray and Vivian have been RVing as Airstreamers almost six years. Ray was born in Oberlin, LA, December, 1st and Vivian was born February 16, in Pineville, LA. They have been married 36 years and are the parents of four daughters. They have three grandsons and four granddaughters. Ray Retired from the 33rd Judicial District of Louisiana where he served as District Attorney. Vivian worked as a Legal Secretary and taught school in the Allen Parish schools. Ray enjoys hunting and Vivian enjoys sewing. They both consider golf and traveling among their favorite pastimes. They have attended two International Rallies and have been on two caravans. They travel in 29 foot Classic Airstream.

Van and Betty Skiles - 3508

Van and Betty have been RVing for 27 years, six of them as Airstreamers. He was born July 6 in Denton, TX and she was born October 26, in Liberty, TX. They have been married 53 years and have one daughter. Van retired from Texas International Airlines. Betty is a Homemaker. Van enjoys planes and flying. They both enjoy traveling in their 33 foot Land Yacht Motorhome.

Ross and Ernestine Van Winkle - 2648

Ross and Ernestine have been RVing for 30 years and have been Airstreamers for 15. He was born February 15, and she was born August 26 in Henrietta, TX. They were married February 18, 1939 and have been married 57 years. Ross worked at Sheppard Air Force Base with the Civil Service.. Ernestine retired from the Texas - New Mexico Power Co. Ernestine likes to knit. They both like to travel. This is their second caravan and they will be attending their first International at Rapid City, SD. They travel in a 34 foot Excella.

Bill Wilson - 7545

Bill is a newcomer to Airstreaming. This is his first caravan to his first International Rally. Bill was born November 22, in Little Rock, Arkansas. He and his wife Judith were married October 28, 1969. They have one son and one daughter. Bill retired from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Bill enjoys hunting, fishing, traveling and computers. Judith is traveling in Europe while Bill is on this caravan.



Bill Wilson

1996

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1996

By: Lotus La Rocca

Sixteen units of the Texas Gulf Coast Unit Yellow Rose Caravan rendezvoused at Texas Airstream Harbor, near Zavalla, TX to make final preparations for departure. Many had attended the TGPU rally the previous week-end. Others arrived in time for our first drivers meeting on Monday, June 10, after completing last minute chores at home. Three additional rigs will join the caravan enroute.

The much anticipated day has arrived! The first group of the Yellow Rose Caravan departed promptly at 8:00 AM. This group was escorted by Edgar and Bernice John who will act as our hosts at North Texas Airstream Community. The second group of trailers pulled out at 8:10 under cloudy skies. Our group of three trailers got underway at 8:20, with the last group scheduled to depart at 8:30.

It is always great to be "on the road again" and now our adventure begins. As we top a rise approaching the town of Zavalla, a beautiful rainbow was a sight to behold! We encountered a brief shower as we made our turn for Lufkin, a most welcome event for the residents of this area.

As we made our way around Lufkin, we were greeted, on the CB radio, by Finis and Lucille Gibbs. They were waiting to join the group following us. Our caravan has now grown to 17 units.

As we approached the town of Kennard we saw Airstreams pulling onto the road ahead of us. A quick decision was made to take a short break to maintain the ten minute interval between groups of trailers. As we pulled out after our ten minute break the next group made the wise decision to use the same rest stop. We would like to thank the Kennard School District for the use of their parking lot.

The excellent information we received at the drivers meeting helped us to make the necessary turns to arrive at our lunch destination — The Walmart parking lot at Mexia, TX. As we approached this stop we saw two trailers stopped on the shoulder. In answer to our inquiries we learned that the Heberts had a blow-out and sustained damage to the wheel well and water lines on their trailer. They were able to make their way slowly on the shoulder, accompanied by the Neumeyers, to the parking lot where emergency repairs were made.

After a brief lunch stop we regrouped to finish the last leg of our journey to Hillsboro, TX. Our group now consists of Vic and Lotus La Rocca, Bill Wilson, Van and Betty Skiles, Gerald and Ruth Alexander, and Louis and Donna Neumeyer.

By 3:00 PM all of the caravan members had arrived and were busy making plans to go shopping at the nearby Outlet Mall, or just relaxing and cooling off. Those leaving were admonished to be back in time for Happy Hour and for the meal being prepared for us by our caravan leaders Jim and Gwen Pratt.

We gathered at the NTAC clubhouse at 5:00 PM for fellowship and a Drivers Meeting. We appreciate the detailed information provided by Edgar John for our trip tomorrow.

Satisfied by a delicious dinner of barbecued brisket and all the trimmings most of us were ready for an early night. Many thanks to our caravan leaders and our hosts for making the first day of our caravan such a success.

Wednesday 12, 1996

By: Calla Fontenot and Vivian Ryder

Second day of Caravan:

We started our day with coffee and a variety of doughnuts graciously provided for us by Edgar and Bernice John. We were visited during breakfast by Dewey and Gloria Spiller, fellow members of Texas Gulf Coast Unit, whom we were happy to see.

We all gathered at 7:45 AM for our daily devotional. Jim Pratt read the first four verses of the twenty-third psalm and Louis Fontenot led us in a prayer. Shortly thereafter, Mason and Nada Hebert left to return home because of the unfortunate incident with their trailer yesterday.. Our prayers go with them and with the hope that repairs can be made so they can rejoin us to continue the caravan.

Groups of four or five trailers began leaving at 10 minute intervals at 8:00 AM. The weather was pleasant with a partly cloudy sky. As we traveled through rolling hills we saw pecan groves, fields of corn, wheat and milo, and cattle ranches. We noticed a cattle feeding lot with fan cooled shelters for the cattle which they seemed to be enjoying in the afternoon heat.

We saw crop-duster planes fertilizing crops and dipping dangerously close to tree tops and power lines. We drove through picturesque old towns with interesting looking court houses, one of which was being thoroughly restored. An interesting feature of one courthouse was the very steep staircase, seeming to go almost straight up.

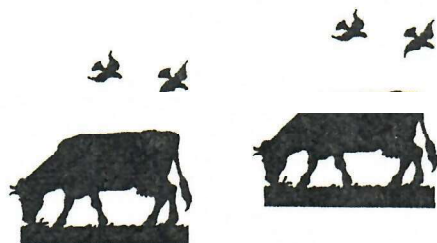
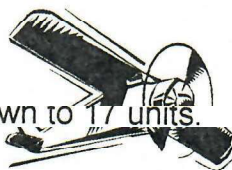
We heard of one mishap of the day. Finis and Lucille Gibbs' trailer tire started disintegrating, but Joe Dupuy, who was traveling behind them, saw it and alerted Finis before it damaged their trailer, as Mason Hebert's did. This shows the importance of an alert tailgate such as Joe.

The last of the trailers arrived at Rocking A Campground in Vernon, Texas at about 4:30 PM. Each trailer of the caravan was met by a very friendly and helpful park greeter and was given a "Goody Bag".

Some of the caravanners arrived early enough to enjoy some of the local attractions, such as the Red River Valley Museum. This museum contains works of the renowned sculptress Electra Waggoner Biggs, a photography display and many historical artifacts, among other things.

At 5:00 PM we gathered at an outdoor pavilion for a Happy Hour. The ladies returned to their trailers to put last minute touches on the dishes that were being prepared for supper. After a prayer of thanks by our unit president, Richard O'Quinn, we enjoyed a pot-luck supper which included more of the delicious barbecued brisket from yesterday and a wide variety of other dishes. After our meal, our fine caravan leader, Jim Pratt, briefed us on Thursday's trip to Amarillo and some of the interesting things to do and see there.

now grown to 17 units.



Thursday, June 13, 1996

By: Lucille Gibbs

Third day of caravan:

Eva Bready and Edna Holden surprised us with homemade muffins as we gathered at the campground pavilion. Our morning devotional was led by Jim Pratt. After a prayer by Elley Doucet, groups of three or four trailers left at 10 minute intervals. Once again we had good driving weather. Road conditions were good for the most part but several sections of five to ten mile stretches were reduced to one lane. There were no mishaps reported today.

The Neumeyers, O'Quinns, Alexanders, and Van Winkles made an impromptu stop at the town of Claude. They walked the town square and visited the local museum.

After reaching the Sun Down Campground in Amarillo, TX and getting set up, caravanners scattered in all directions to take in the sights. Bill Wilson, Dr. Cain and the Pratt brothers decided to see if they could take a tour of the helium distribution facility located nearby. Some slick talking by Hunter Pratt gained them admittance and a tour. Helium, an inert gas, is a derivative of natural gas. The helium processed at this plant is used mainly by the U.S. Government. They also stopped to see the ten Cadillacs buried nose down in a wheat field. The idea of this contemporary art is to replicate the exact angle of the Egyptian Pyramids.

Jim and Hunter Pratt, along with wives Gwen and Eleanor drove back to Claude. They took state Highway 207 south toward Silverton. This most impressive drive goes through miles of agricultural plains that spread from horizon to horizon then plunges into scenic grandeur at the Palo Duro Canyon. This was made more spectacular by a rainbow within the canyon stretching completely across the canyon. It is not often you get to see both ends of the rainbow.

The sound of motorcycles filled the air as some 500 members of HOG, the Harley Owners Group, were in Amarillo to attend a six block long "block party". They are making a cross-country pilgrimage along Route 66 in celebration of the historic Highways' 70th anniversary.

Amarillo has an abundance of restaurants and many of them were tried by our caravan members. Others stayed in to rest in anticipation of the big day planned tomorrow.

Our featured journalist for today, Lucille Gibbs, has been a bit under the weather and has been trailer bound. We hope she is feeling better soon and can join our activities.

Friday, June 14, 1996

By: Joe and Lessie Dupuy

Fourth day on Caravan:

We gathered at 8:30 AM to discuss plans for the day and to form carpools for the trip to Palo Duro Canyon later in the day. The noise of hundreds of motorcycles going by drowned out all conversation for several minutes. When the roar died down we returned to our plans.

Almost everyone decided to leave around 12:30 PM so there was time to spare before getting underway. Several of the ladies decided this would be a good time to catch up on some laundry. Others used this time to tidy up their trailers while the men were doing maintenance on the trailers and tow vehicles. Another group of ladies decided this would be a good time to go to the nearby mall.

Bill Wilson with Dr. Cain and the La Roccas decided to get an early start on the sightseeing. They left the campground at 10:30 to take in the American Quarter Horse Association Museum. Van and Betty Skiles left about the same time to visit friends living in the area.

Everyone got together at the appointed time to make the trip to Canyon, TX and then on to Palo Duro Canyon State Park. Most everyone stopped at the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum in Canyon. The museum covered three floors with hundreds of exhibits. It would take several visits to do justice to this excellent museum.

As we traveled the 14 miles to the State Park we could see thunderstorms forming in the distance. We were informed at the gate that there was only one entrance and exit to the park and to watch for flash flooding. We drove around in the park, stopped at the Interpretive Center, and made a visit to the Trading Post.

At 6:00 PM we picked up our show tickets and proceeded to the Chuck Wagon Dinner. The rains came and had everyone scattering for shelter before the meal was finished. We had doubts that the outdoor play "TEXAS" could be performed that night.

Shortly after 8:00 PM the gates opened, we found our reserved seats, and was just getting settled when raincoats were donned and umbrellas opened again. The skies cleared enough for the show to go on. It was a wonderful musical about the settling of the plains area. The energy and talent of these young performers made you forget about the rain. The play ended with a spectacular fireworks display. The Outdoor Drama "TEXAS" has been performed for more than 30 years.

It was hard to control the yawns as we made our way to the cars for the 30 miles or so drive back to the campground. We got back to the trailers around midnight with the thought that we would have to sleep fast to be up and ready to leave by eight o'clock in the morning.

It was a wonderful day and one that we will remember for a long time

Saturday, June 15, 1996
By: Bobbye and Richard O'Quinn

Fifth day of caravan:

This morning we awoke at 6:30 even after our late but thoroughly enjoyable evening at Palo Duro Canyon and the play "Texas". The drivers meeting was concluded by Jim with this thought for the day - How my life goes depends on how each day goes, and how each day goes depends on how I begin it. The best way is to begin it with God. "In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation." — Psalm 5:3

Phyllis Bachler, her daughter and son-in-law, Sandra and Fred Huff, joined the caravan today. We are happy to have them aboard. Our caravan roster is now complete.

Traveling with the Alexanders, Neumeyers and Van Winkles and missing only one turn, we made our way out of Amarillo. We couldn't resist singing a few strains of "America the Beautiful" and "Home on the Range". Neighbors are few and far between out here, and we figured you don't just run to the store for a loaf of bread either.

As we headed northwest we began to notice the change in terrain from the flat plains around Amarillo to western movie mesas and then to farmland. The irrigated corn fields around Hartley were absolutely lush. We learned that about 10,000 stems per acre are planted. The patchwork of golden wheat, dark green corn and rich brown soil formed a treat for the eye, and the crop duster's view must be even more so.

Nu recollected how for many years America fed the world. The price of corn today is higher than ever in history, and this area probably produces 150-160 bushels of corn to the acre. In spite of this kind of production, a shortage of corn by January 1997 is predicted.

We sighted our first pronghorn between Texline and Clayton, NM and then began hunting in earnest. We saw quite a few.

The Mountain Time Zone hit us around noon. We had just discovered the Hi-Ho Cafe in Clayton "famous for home cooked Mexican food." It was 11:00 o'clock their time and they were hurriedly getting ready for the lunch crowd. When we were served our generous orders, we found the food to be delicious. Some of us had half orders but we had to have a take home box anyway. Ummm, Good.

North of Raton we began to climb and the fellows were kidding one another about whose radiator cooling fan clutch would be the first to engage.

Occasional lightening bolts flashed and we encountered some rain on the pass and all the way to our Trinidad campground. Jim, Troy and Hunter had their slicker on or an umbrella held high making a gallant effort to park the incoming vehicles in less than ideal sites. Jim suggested some of us check out the other campground nearby because it didn't look like we could all park satisfactorily. Luckily, there were some spaces available and six of us found a spot there.

With the thunderstorm now past and the sun shining, most of our folks got together for cake and coffee and celebrated birthdays and anniversaries occurring during the caravan. saries.

We conclude with these few words from a song, the sentiment of which we wish for you:

May God bless and keep you always,
May you build a ladder to the stars and climb on every rung,
and may you stay forever young.

Sunday, June 16, 1996

By: Bill Wilson

Sixth day of caravan:

Following a cool night in the clean refreshing mountain air (great sleeping weather), the sun rose on the TGCU crowd in two trailer parks in Trinidad, Colorado. Thoughts of the previous days rain were evaporating as fast as the water in the two parks located near the summit of Raton Pass. Off to the west we notice some beautiful snow capped peaks in the foothills of the Rockies.

A large part of the group headed off for the church of their choice, while another group followed Bill Wilson into the ladies room. The Ladies Room! I thought I would get shot or worse, but it seems that's where the laundromat was located, just outside the ladies restroom. After the church group returned and the laundry was done we hitched up and headed north on Interstate 25 at 1:00 PM. Who is leading this herd? Don't ask me? Communication failure, the result of leaving from two starting points; but who cares we're all going to the same place. Just be sure to maintain your correct following distance.

Passing through Trinidad, everyone notices there are a lot of train tracks. Louis Neumeyer fills us in, Trinidad was the staging area for the Santa Fe Railroad to get additional engineer on to their trains to go over Raton Pass. We roll on north, the front range of the Rockies to our left. The color of the grass is brown, reflecting the drought, but a few green patches are noted where some recent rains had fallen. A Santa Fe coal train is noted to our left straining as it climbs toward Raton and the pass. At Walsenburg, Colorado, Gerald and Ruth Alexander rejoin the group. They left early to have as Gerald said, "a good lunch and good conversation" with Gerald's brother who lives in Walsenburg.

We roll on north and notice large mounds of dirt on our right as we approach Pueblo, Colorado. Looks like coal mines. Further into town we notice a steel mill, the town really has a lot of heavy industry. The snow capped peaks of the front range are so beautiful in the purple haze off to our left.

Hey! There is our leader, parker, and the rest of the administrative group in that rest area we just passed. Instructions are received by CB from "Father" Pratt to, "keep on rolling".

Pikes Peak comes into view, it doesn't have much of a snow cap, but is still beautiful. Not much further to exit 135 in Colorado Springs. Gerald & Ruth Alexander lead us smoothly off. My "Old Paint", vapor locks and dies just past the stop sign after the exit. Too much altitude for a sea level Suburban. With Fred & Sandra Huff's assistance and a little time to cool off "Old Paint" is limping along again. They just thought "old paint" ran out of gas yesterday at the gas station in Raton. Van and Betty Skiles are looking for a great big tire pump. Their coach won't go up and down anymore. Betty wants her vehicle level with the wheels on the ground, none of that up on just the leveling jacks for her.

We arrive at the Golden Eagle RV Park and Campground in Colorado Springs safe and sound. Rain at first threatens then dissipates. The sun breaks out just in time for a bring your barbecue cookout, followed by a sing-a-long around the campfire. What a beautiful day and what wonderful companionship the Lord has given us on this, his day.

Monday, June 17, 1996

By: Eleanor and Hunter Pratt

Seventh day on caravan:

Another glorious day dawned over Colorado. Folks were up early walking, jogging, or just having a cup of coffee. Plans were being made for the day with the trip to Pikes Peak the main event.

Groups scattered in all directions to see and do as many things as possible before our scheduled departure at 1:20 PM on the Pikes Peak Cog Railway.

One place of interest was right at our doorstep. The John May Natural History Museum of the Tropics is located on the grounds of the Golden Eagle Ranch RV Park where we are staying in Colorado Springs. This is one of the worlds most famous displays of giant tropical insects and their relatives — including thousands of beautiful butterflies and moths, grotesque beetles and spiders, 16-inch stick insects and deadly scorpions.

The Garden of the Gods was another well attended attraction. The place to start your tour of this City Park is at the Visitors Center. A film tells how the magnificent rock formations were created. Some of the red sandstone rocks have very descriptive names such as The Kissing Camels and Balanced Rock. This is where a little stuffed red fox (toy) joined our caravan.

"Everyone for Pikes Peak, over here." Tickets were passed out and we made our way to assigned seats on the Cog Train. The journey began at Manitou Springs and followed a stream through a canyon filled with beautiful evergreen trees and giant boulders. As the elevation increased we passed stands of quaking Aspen. Several small lakes could be seen in the valley below, and the Great Plains stretches as far as you could see. It is no wonder this sight inspired Kathryn Bates to write "America the Beautiful".

The train made its stop at the 14,110 peak. We were warned to take it slow and easy in the rarified air. Some of our group of 18 did experience some dizziness but no serious effects. The temperature registered 33 degrees and snow began to fall. Our coats felt good in the cold temperature which was quite a contrast to that in the valley below. Everyone agreed the view was fantastic!

Most were ready to call it a day but a few set out for dinner at Judge Baldwin's Brewery. They had heard about the ale that was served by the yard. Seems the brew was served in 36-inch glasses that rested in a rack on the floor. Our group decided to pass on that

Everyone agreed it was a full and interesting day!

Tuesday, June 18, 1996
By: Donna and Louis Neumeyer

Eighth day on caravan:

Most everyone went to Royal Gorge in one direction or another. We had the O'Quinns, Eva and Edna with us and the Alexanders were not far away. There were several options at Royal Gorge — you could go to Buckskin Joes, or drive to the Gorge bridge. We stayed at Buckskin Joe's where we shopped, ate lunch, wandered along the old street where there were schools, churches, saddle shops, etc. and where we saw a gun fight in which 3 desperados bit the dust. We rode a little train out to the gorge, fed fat and fuzzy squirrels popcorn and had a photo op.

After lunch we headed up Phantom Canyon — a 37 mile road which was narrow, gravel, and winding. It was built on an old railroad bed and had a couple of one-lane tunnels. Bobbye spotted a rock she named totem pole rock, oddly enough, because of it's shape. The canyon was steep and the rock formations were breathtaking, but when we finally got to Victor and paved road we thought of the new cap that Gerald's brother had given him the day before: "Been there, done that, prefer this".

There was extensive gold mining in Victor. The strip mining had shaved the sides of mountains, but they had carefully graded the areas smooth to leave it with a minimum of damage.

In Cripple Creek we met up with Gerald and Ruth Alexander and spent \$1.25 on gambling and an hour looking for a quiet place to eat. We found one at Maggies and had a delightful dinner.

Leaving Cripple Creek we saw some of the most beautiful high meadows we'd ever seen. We saw a llama in one field striking a majestic pose as though he expected one of us to take his picture. Just before the town of Woodland Park we reached the Continental Divide and got a Rocky Mountain high.

When we got back to camp we had some input from other caravanners:

Van and Betty Skiles had eaten brunch at the famous Broadmoore Hotel and enjoyed watching black and white swans display their graceful necks and fluff their feathers.

Bills "Old Paint" had to be taken to a repair clinic to cure it's repeated attacks of indigestion. Could it have been eating too much Johnson grass? The cure worked and "Old Paint" had no problems making a run through Phantom Canyon.

There are many more things to see and do here, but they will give us an excuse to come back again.

Wednesday, June 19, 1996

By: Gerald and Ruth Alexander

Nineth day of caravan:

This is the day we negotiate the road down the hill at Golden Eagle Ranch with all the trailers and motor coaches. Coming up was an experience that I almost didn't complete. I think my trailer wheels got caught in one of those ravines in the road that enables water to negotiate its way down the hill. At least this morning I will be going down the hill and will be more aware of what is ahead.

Well, this morning started early. Everyone seemed to be eager to get away. This morning meeting and prayer were conducted fifteen minutes early and the first group got away at 7:45 AM. The second group waited until 8:10 AM with each group following a 10 minute intervals. Our group had cards to mail so we stopped at the office. Louis Neumeyer suggested we check for messages or mail for the group since he had gotten an unexpected and unannounced package by accident the previous day.

As we drove out to the highway, we all agreed to help Richard O'Quinn look for gas priced at \$1.05 per gallon. Louis shared with us via CB radio his purchase the previous day of gasoline of "75 octane" instead of the usual diet of "78 octane". I was happy to hear that someone else has a digital inversion problem as I do. After Richard wrestled for a while with the information, we finally shared with him the correct octane so he could get his mind back on driving before Bobbye got down in the floor of the van as she has been known to do in the past.

Our group was planning on stopping before we got to Denver but before we knew it, we topped a hill and saw the city of Denver lying in the valley below. It was pretty and all of us were looking forward to driving through during rush hour. We did well until a traffic lane was closed on the left and the last member of our group passed the leader. Well, some people just drive in a different lane than all the others. I am not mentioning a name but he finds it difficult to drag up the rear without checking on the leader since he is the Unit Leader.

After negotiating the Denver traffic, we did stop on the outskirts at a Target parking lot and had some coffee and some of those Father's Day cookies that Louis had unexpectedly received.

The drive through the green farmland was very nice and relaxing. Richard even posed the question, "Wonder where these people go on vacation"?

We all arrived at Johnson Corner Campground in good shape. Generally, we all had good parking spaces around a pavilion for our use. We were happy to see Betty and Van Skiles drive up after staying behind to once again repair an "air" leak on their coach. Louis Fontenot brought good news after stopping in Denver to have a specialist diagnosis the tire's wear and set up an appointment to have it repaired. Our other late arrival, Phyllis Bachler, Sandra and Fred Huff who had stayed behind to get parts to repair a water leak which Fred was able to do before they departed. We also hated to leave Dr. Cain in Colorado Springs but were envious that it was his grandkids that are to fly in for a trip together and not ours.

With most all of us sitting under the pavilion, we sang Happy Anniversary to Lessie and Joe Dupuy (59th) and Calla and Louis Fontenot (54th). That's two very nice couples that the younger couples can learn from.

Now that we have all our problems behind us, we can look forward to a good stay at a nice park that our very capable caravan leader scheduled for us. We can tell already that he will be called on again soon to lead another caravan.

Thursday, June 20, 1996

By: Troy and Hazel Moreland

Tenth day on caravan:

We awoke to overcast skies but that didn't put a damper on the scheduled morning activities. At 6:30 Troy and Hazel Moreland had set up a juice bar and were serving orange juice, apple juice, and breakfast Bloody Marys. The activities group had prepared sausage gravy and biscuits were baked in various ovens around camp. You could have your eggs cooked to order by Gwen and Donna.

We were happy to see Lucille Gibbs out and about today. She and Finis had made plans to go to Estes Park. Ray Ryder was a bit under the weather and decided to skip breakfast and rest up for later activities.

This has been a good stop to take care of all those little problems that seem to crop up when you travel. Troy was happy to learn that there was no major problems with his transmission. Hunter was able to change out a fan that had been giving him some trouble. Jim left his van at the shop for minor repairs while he and Gwen continued their sightseeing. Eva and Edna were out shopping for essentials. We have all been making good use of the laundry facilities here.

Lotus La Rocca writes — By 8:30 the sky was clearing and the cars were beginning to head out. The consensus was that this was the day to visit Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park. The drive through Big Thompson Canyon was spectacular. For several miles we drove between sheer rock cliffs that were awesome. The white water tumbling down the rocky riverbed was slowed by a series of dams that created mini waterfalls.

We stopped at the Visitors Center for park information and were told we could pick up a mat at the Beaver Meadows Entrance Station. We decided to take the Trail Ridge Road to the Continental Divide. It is impossible to describe the majestic vistas that surrounded us. The mountain peaks are still carpeted with snow. The La Rocca's "Old Betsy" had a severe case of "mountain sickness" and came to a complete standstill about two miles from the Alpine Visitors Center on the return trip. After about 20 anxious minutes and some verbal abuse from the passing motorists "Old Betsy" recovered enough to get us to the top and down the other side. After an experience like that you are about ready to call it a day.

Eleanor Pratt writes — Having visited this area in the past, our group set out to explore a new part of the country. Our driver took us west though Loveland on US Highway 34 past Lake Loveland and on to Devil's Backbone. Past this strange rock formation, we traveled on Masonville Road, north on a paved road through a beautiful valley to Highway 14E which paralleled a white water river. We stopped at an observation area to watch three rafts running the rapids. It looked like hard work even with six young people in each raft.

Continuing on Highway 14 through Poudre Canyon, we discovered Mishuwaka Inn and Amphitheater just in time to have lunch there while watching the river through the wall of windows. After lunch, Highway 287 took us through Fort Collins and on to Loveland where we visited Loveland Museum and Gallery.

As everyone drifted back to camp from their travels, vehicle repairs, shopping and laundry, plans were being made for dinner out or a quiet dinner at "home". A brief rain shower cooled us and settled the dust. We all agreed it was another great day on the caravan.

Friday, June 21, 1996
By: Helen and Elley Doucet

Eleventh day on caravan:

This morning started off with another great breakfast, enjoyed by the group under the shelter. After breakfast everyone went in different directions. Some did laundry, while others went sightseeing.

Elley and I, along with Joe and Lessie Dupuy, went to enjoy the city of Loveland. We visited the Loveland Museum and Gallery. Then, we drove around the beautiful lake and visited the Columbine Gallery, the home of the National Sculptors Guild. While there we saw Troy and Hazel enjoying the museums and galleries. The city of Loveland has many bronze sculptures located around the city. A wonderful place to visit was the Benson Park Sculpture Garden. This park has convenient sidewalks that direct your stroll past more than 40 pieces of sculpture and around two small ponds that are the natural habitat of birds and geese. Plantings of native flowers in beds surrounding each piece of sculpture were lovely. Vic and Lotus La Rocca were spotted in Loveland looking for yet another Kinko's. Phyllis, Fred, and Sandra were also taking in the sights of the area. Loveland is a beautiful city and much larger than we had originally thought.

Betty and Van Skiles and the Pratts drove to Estes Park and enjoyed (?) a little hail in addition to the Scandinavian Festival. Louis and Calla Fontenot and the Ryders also made a trip to Estes Park to make campground reservations for the coming week. They have decided to wait here for a scheduled appointment that Louis made in Denver to have some work done on his trailer.

The O'Quinns, the Alexanders, Eva, and Edna drove to Fort Collins, then on to Highway 14 to enjoy watching some rafters on Cache La Poudre River. This looks like a lot of fun, especially for the young. It takes a lot longer for older bones to heal.

Donna and Louis visited what is known as the Alluvial Fan in Rocky Mountain National Park. Long Lake's dam gave way in July 1982 and sent 300,000,000 gallons of water cascading down the 5 mile length of Roaring River. Trees were snapped and boulders tossed like playthings and the debris was unloaded in Horseshoe Park. This site has become one of the many interesting tourist attractions in the park.

It was then back to the campground for a Happy Hour and fellowship under the shelter. We appreciate the use of this convenient picnic shelter for our many activities while here. We have enjoyed our stay in Loveland but are looking forward to our next stop in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Saturday, June 22, 1996

By: Gwen and Jim Pratt

Twelfth day of caravan:

We left Loveland in heavy overcast skies, however a little rain did not dampen our spirits. Today's trip was a short one hour, 50 mile trek to the Terry Bison Ranch at Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Last night's badly needed rain made the corn crop look very green and beautiful. A yellow flaming bush carpeted both sides of I-25 Freeway. The terrain changed from farmland to ranchland as we neared Wyoming.

We learned a lot about the history of the Terry Bison Ranch when we checked into the campground. Charles H. Terry sold the ranch to F. E. Warren, the first Wyoming Territorial and State Governor, in 1885. It has always been operated under the Terry name. In the late 1800's it was primarily operated as a sheep and cattle ranch. The ranch, now owned by Ronald Thiel, remains a working ranch. It consists of nearly 30,000 acres of land and stretches into Colorado. Mr. Thiel runs 2,000 head of American Bison on the property. The ranch has a wide variety of activities to entertain it's guests, including a rodeo, chuckwagon meals, live entertainment and various tours.

After getting settled in, a group went into Cheyenne and saw the "Cheyenne Gunslingers" shoot it out on Old Town Square. Tomorrow we have reservations on the Cheyenne Street Railroad Trolley to tour the city; visit the Old West Museum, Warren Air Force Base, the historic Governor's Mansion, and the Big Boy Steam Engine — reported to be the largest ever built.

Saturday night's Chuckwagon Dinner was attended by all. We were called to dinner by our own Bill Wilson, who had volunteered to ring the official dinner bell. We dined on barbecued bison and beef, and all the trimmings. The ample portions would have been more than enough for any ranch hand.

We were entertained by "Rattle Snake Jake" and his band. They played and sang songs of the old west along with a few more modern "Willie Nelson" tunes. Guests from the audience were invited to the stage to perform and were roundly applauded for their efforts. The picking was good but the seats were hard! As we left, Jake had a few words of wisdom: "Don't drink downstream from the herd" and "Don't squat with your spurs on".

Upon returning to our RV units, we were greeted by lightning, hail, and rain. Looks like a bad night in store. We were relieved that the storm was gone and the stars were shining by bedtime.

Sunday, June 23, 1996

By: Van & Betty Skiles

Thirteenth day on caravan:

We were awakened by the train's whistle; outside it was a gorgeous day and it just seemed fitting to open the shades, prop up in bed to enjoy coffee and the view.

As the campground began to awaken we decided to take a walk around this very nice park. We would like to share some of these sights with you — A mother feeding a group of teenagers out of a very small trailer — possibly a church group. The "Happy Hobo's" caravan pulling out. Around the barn a wrangler was hitching up the large draft horses to the tour wagon. "Thelma" was acting like a stubborn mule about getting into the harness — talk and slaps on the rump finally persuaded her

We walked by the petting pens and saw baby rabbits, chickens and turkeys together. Llamas, pigs, and a donkey were intermingling. A young bison was trying to mooch food from the horses. The horses shoed him away so he wandered over to the fence and became a movie star for the camcorders.

A group of horse fanciers spent the night with a trailer load of horses, a pop-up camper, and an all terrain vehicle to do the "round-up".

In the tenting area, morning chores were taking place — folding the bedding, tents being taken down, packing, and the wonderful smell of frying bacon. Didn't Wally Byam make "camping" simpler!

So off to church with detailed instructions for finding the First Presbyterian Church downtown. After a frantic search we found ourselves on the other side of town at church time. We spotted Eva Bready's B-Van at the Episcopal Church so we joined Eva and Edna for worship. It was a beautiful sanctuary and the service was impressive and inspiring.

The caravanners scattered on Sunday afternoon. After lunch we admired "Big Boy" the world's largest steam locomotive. We visited the Governors Mansion, home of Wyoming's Chief Executive from 1905-1976. It is an elegant colonial style mansion that is very well preserved. A detailed video of the rooms and furnishings made it come alive.

On to "Happy Jack Road" — 38 miles of scenic byway to Laramie. From rolling grasslands to fascinating rock formations to Medicine Bow National Forest. It's not much of a forest compared with East Texas pines. In Laramie some visited the Wyoming Territorial Park with its recreated 1870's western town containing a prison where Butch Cassidy was an inmate. We returned via Interstate 80 — "Lincoln Way." We saw the 42' tall Memorial, featuring a bust of Abraham Lincoln.

We returned to camp in time to join everyone for Happy Hour. We all shared tales of our adventures and made plans for tomorrow's travels.

We would like to say thank you for all your concerns and help with our Motor-home problems. We appreciate the generous welcome and big smiles when we showed up late at the next campground. With our problems solved we hope to be able to travel on to South Dakota with the caravan.

Monday, June 24, 1996

By: Lotus La Rocca

Fourteenth day of caravan:

After the beautiful day we enjoyed yesterday we had hoped for another one today. That was not to be the case though. This morning dawned, cloudy and windy, what you would call a dreary day. Our morning devotional did much to lift our spirits and there is beauty to be found in every day.

Soon after our first group departed, it was discovered that Lucille Gibbs was locked in her trailer — another Airstream lock failure. Bill Wilson, Vic La Rocca and Fred Huff, under the direction of Joe Dupuy and Finis Gibbs, removed the door by releasing the hinges. With Lucille safely out, the door can be secured with the dead bolt until repairs can be made.

We are heading north on Highway 85 after a premature turn that took us on a scenic tour of Cheyenne. We are passing through ranchland dotted with oil wells. We spot a herder with his dogs, tending a flock of sheep. Intricate snow fences line the north side of the highway. Fields of grain are green and beautiful after the recent rains. Fred and Sandra have seen mule deer on both sides of the road.

Just south of Torrington we saw the first signs advertising the famous Wall Drug Store in South Dakota. The fierce wind with gusts up to 50 miles per hour (so some say) has been blowing tumbleweed across the road. As we continue north to Lusk we are driving through rolling sand hills with flat topped mesas to the east. To the west the taller foot hills can be seen. After lunch and a fuel stop in Lusk, we turned east to Nebraska. We have now entered the fifth state on our journey.

Nearing Crawford, Nebraska we dropped into a pine forested valley. Many of the trees had been destroyed, either by fire or insects. The road passed through a Nebraska State Park that had once been an Army Post. We traveled on to our night's destination, the J and L RV Park in Chadron, Nebraska.

This is the last stop before we make our way to the 39th International Rally tomorrow. Plans have been made to hold our caravan banquet at the South Forty Steakhouse in Chadron. We are in the process of donning our "nice" clothes and "sprucing up" a bit for the evening's festivities. We have been looking forward to this evening and know it will be a big success.

Our caravan banquet was more than we had expected. The food was good and the fellowship was great, as always. It gave us all the opportunity to thank our very capable caravan leaders, Jim and Gwen Pratt. Jim recognized and thanked the various caravan committees. The evening ended with our final driver's meeting where Jim passed out our official caravan identification. The excitement is high! Tomorrow is the big day!

Tuesday, June 25, 1996

Final day of caravan:

This journal was conceived in Texas and came to fruition in South Dakota. We traveled over 1,400 miles through six states. We left Texas with 17 units — 14 trailers, 2 motor homes, and 1 B-van.

Our number had changed before we had traveled very far. The Heberts had to leave us for trailer repairs, with hopes they could rejoin us. Ross and Ernestine Van Winkle joined us in Vernon, Texas; Phyllis Bachler, along with her daughter Sandra, and son-in-law Fred Huff, joined us in Amarillo. Our caravan now had 18 units traveling the route. We left Dr. Cain in Colorado Springs, CO to await the arrival of his son and daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren. The Fontenots and Ryders stayed behind in Loveland and were to return to Denver for necessary trailer repairs. Our caravan now numbers 15 as we near the end of our journey. We are greeted in Cheyenne, Wyoming by TGCU members John and Nina Staring. They have been waiting for us at this stop to travel with us to South Dakota. Early this morning Phyllis, Fred and Sandra made the decision to leave the caravan at this point because of time constraints.

Our caravan of 15 units left the camp ground promptly at 9:00 AM. By 9:20 we had entered the final state on our caravan — North Dakota. We are now traveling in convoy but maintaining enough distance between units so other traffic can pass us.

The Black Hills can be seen to the west as we continue our trip north on Route 385. We pass a massive cattle feed lot on our right. Thank goodness the wind is in our favor.

After a 20 minute rest stop near Buffalo Gap, we are on the road again. We are now traveling with 12 units. Hunter and Eleanor Pratt have gone on ahead to pick up Jim and Gwen's daughter at the airport. The Dupuys and Doucets have stayed behind to make repairs on Joe's trailer hitch. He discovered a crack that needed immediate repairs. Finis Gibbs is now our tailgate.

The smell of honey is in the air as we pass fields of yellow clover. The sky is clear; we couldn't ask for a more beautiful day to travel.

We were some 15 minutes ahead of our scheduled entry time but a call to Wally Byam Control gave us the green light to proceed to the rally site. TGCU members were on hand to welcome us and wave us in. About 30 minutes after our arrival, the Dupuys and Doucets made it to the camp site. Our group is now complete.

THE YELLOW ROSE CARAVAN HAS ARRIVED!

I would like to express my thanks to Ermaleen Etter and Barb Sproge for their inspiration; to my proofreaders, Vivian and Ray Ryder, and Bobbye O'Quinn; and to my daughter, Paula Somerville, for designing and printing our cover sheet.

With very special thanks to our capable leaders, our journal correspondents, and all the members of our caravan:

The Yellow Rose Caravan Journal is yours !

THE YELLOW ROSE CARAVAN

ARRIVES AT THE

39TH INTRNATIONAL RALLY SITE

TUESDAY JUNE 26, 1996

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

WHAT SIGHTS TO BEHOLD

