

CLUB NEWS – Once an Escapee, Always an Escapee!

From Escapees RV Club

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Hanging Up the Keys

By Dorothy J. Brown, SKP# 15784



My husband, Ray, and I joined the Escapees RV Club in 1990 and have enjoyed our membership immensely throughout the years. We made many friendships, sometimes just by knocking on the door of an RV that displayed the Escapees logo. One time when we were in Alaska, we caught enough salmon to share, so we called local Escapees, using the membership directory. They froze the salmon and showed us places that were wonderful in return. Another time (while still in Alaska), we invited everyone with an Escapees decal in the park to join us for our own little Escapade and celebrated the 4th of July together. Friendships carried on.

In 1993, we were hit head-on by a little red pickup truck. The motorhome caught fire and burned fast. We were on our way to Rainbow's End. We were taken to the emergency room in Livingston, Texas, where Joe Peterson #1 surprised us with a visit and asked if there was anything we needed. WOW! We didn't feel alone anymore. We had only the clothes on our back because the motorhome had completely burned down to the chassis, so we needed everything. Joe gave me a ten-dollar bill from his pocket, but that was just the start. Our predicament was announced at happy hour, and everyone began helping. We spent 10 days in the Lufkin hospital. On the third day, a couple entered our room and introduced themselves as Escapees members. They had parked their BIG 5th-wheel in the hospital parking lot. They talked with us and then left. Shortly they came back up with sweaters, underwear, combs, and so forth. WOW! They thought about what they would miss most if they were in our situation and shared what they had.

When we were dismissed from the hospital, my husband was still quite nervous about traveling the highway, so Joe Peterson #1 drove us back to Rainbow's End. They had set up a 5th-wheel for us to use until we could travel again. Plus, there were four bags of clothes waiting for us. WOW! We had never had so much help from people we did not even know. My husband had a deep wound infection and had to be taken back to Lufkin, Texas for attention. At happy hour, our newfound friends helped us again. The "WOWs!" continued throughout our two-month stay.

Back at our home base at the Saguaro SKP Co-Op, in Benson, Arizona, Escapees members who were wintering in Mexico in their small 5th-wheel, had their big 5th-wheel set up on our RV space so that we could use it during the winter. Someone even put on a slow-cooker with beef stew. WOW! That sure smelled good after two long days of driving a car to get there. Using our neighbors rig allowed us time to decide what to buy for a replacement RV. We ended up buying a 5th-wheel.

In our travels, we have stayed in at least seven different SKP Co-Ops. We have made friends from nearly every state. We have been to three Escapades. We have given help to others, and others have given help to us. And, of course, we received the best mail-forwarding service from the Escapees RV Club. I am 73; my husband died in 2002, and

I no longer have an RV. I hate to see these travels come to an end, but I have decided to settle near family. I now have a house in The Villages, Florida. If you are in the area, give me a call, come share a hug, and let me show you around, because I'll always be an Escapees member at heart.

Are you contemplating hanging up *your* keys?



Just in case you are traveling less these days, don't forget, Escapees offers a special **Gold Age Membership** for anyone who is 75 years old or older, that grants you a 50-percent discount on your annual dues. This special Gold Age membership program was specifically designed for members who are no longer traveling but want to continue to receive their magazine and stay in touch with their Escapees friends. For more information, contact the club at 888-757-2582 or e-mail

clubbusiness@escapees.com for details.

Escapees CARE Center

Had Ray and Dorothy's unfortunate incident happened five years later, they could have stayed at the Escapees CARE Center and been well taken care of until they were able to travel again. Remember, CARE is not just a facility for people with chronic medical problems, it is also an ideal place to stay while mending from surgeries or tragedies such as the Browns experienced. Learn more about Escapees CARE at

www.escapeescare.org

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