



# History of the TrailManor TrailBlazers Club.

## 1993 - 2015

Prepared by Jim and Mary Grant.

Finalized in this fine fashion by our  
Grandson Cary.



# TrailManor™

## TrailBlazers



### HOW THE IDEA OF DOCUMENTING THE HISTORY OF THE TRAILMANOR TRAILBLAZERS CAME ABOUT!

As Jim and I were heading east for the Jubilee 2012, we realized the club was organized in 1993, and through our “wisdom,” realized the following year would mark the Twentieth Anniversary of our club. And since “some” of us are getting older, we thought it would be a good time to document the start of this amazing club. Perhaps it would be ready by the next Jubilee.

We want to thank Gene and Lois Schaffner for sharing all the photos they have taken since “day one” of the start of the club. We have had possession of their Tidings (also from “day one”), which is where most of the information came from. Also, thank you Ron and Phyllis Posselt. As you will find out, if you don’t know the Posselts, Ron was our first president, and Phyllis was our first secretary. They have shared valuable information to get us started on this journey.

Our only regret is the story was not completed until after the death of Bob Drzmala on 10/30/12. We are dedicating this “History of the Club” to Bob. Happy Camping! Jim and Mary Grant

### HISTORY OF THE CLUB 1993-2014

How do you suppose two families living in the Midwest had one thing in common? THEY BOTH OWNED A TRAILMANOR (the trailer that pulls like a popup). Both of the families had a history of camping. Camping family No. 1 experienced their popup imploding due to a propane leak, and went to a camping show in Rosemont, Illinois. They saw a TrailManor for the first time. The 2618 model was purchased on

the spot.

Enter camping family No 2, who also owned a TrailManor. Would you believe they camped at the same campground in Rockford, Illinois?

Thus, Gene & Lois Schaffner, and Bob & Leona Drzmala became the idea behind starting a camping club for fellow TrailManor owners. There was a gathering at a McDonalds in Nilis, Illinois, attended by Bob Drzmala, Gene & Lois Schaffner, and Marge Gearhart.

The first campout was at a KOA in Union, Illinois, on **October 8, 1993**. On a cold and windy day they met for an organizational meeting in a small room at the campground. Ron Posselt’s wife Phyllis volunteered Ron for the first president. Gene became vice president, Phyllis Posselt became secretary, and Peggy Barry became treasurer. And as Gene Schaffner has said, “to make a long story short, the TrailManor Camping Club grew beyond our expectations.”



Gene & Peg Barry

Twelve families with TrailManors attended, representing Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Initial membership fees were set at \$15/family and annual

membership fees \$10. At that time, it was decided to limit membership to all TrailManor owners in the states of **Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin**, with future consideration given to **Iowa and Minnesota**.

In attendance were Gene & Peggy Barry, John & Patti Chakroff, Bob & Leona Drzymala, Jens & Kay Erickson, Pete & Marge Gerhart, Don & Elaine Gilleran, Dick & Chris Hall, Fred & Dorothy Jensen, Bill & Gloria Merrill, Ron & Phyllis Posselt, Rich & Julie Rogers, and Gene & Lois Schaffner.

## 1993 FALL RALLY NEWSLETTER –

Written by Phyllis Posselt

Ron & Phyllis Posselt had met Bill Hulse, President and founder of TrailManor at an RV Camping & Van Show in Rosemont, Illinois. They were told the company has received over 15,500 inquiries on their trailers, and are sending out an average 300 videos per week. TrailManor had three 1994 units, one of which is their new 21' price-leader model No. 2518, which sells for under \$14,000.

SPECIAL RALLY INFORMATION – Spring 1994 rally will be held at Creekview Campground in Edgerton, Wisconsin, on April 29-May 1. Ten Dollars per night camping fee. Checks are to be sent to Peggy Barry, with a deadline of April 10<sup>th</sup>.

## 1994 NEWSLETTER

– Written by Phyllis Posselt

Phyllis was somewhat of a poet. Started off the newsletter this way...

*Fourteen TrailManors in a row*

*With cold winds and seven inches of snow*

*We rallied together with much delight*

*Our TrailManors kept us warm – both day and night!*

As you can see by the above poem, weather wasn't too cooperative, but "enjoyment" is one of the words which standouts out in this newsletter. The business meeting was called to order by President Ron Posselt at 10am. It was held in a nice warm room with homemade coffee cake, juice, and coffee, compliments of the campground owners.

Of the fourteen families with TrailManors in attendance, six were first timers. After the fall '93 rally, **there were twelve memberships, and this number has grown to 39. Club is now active in five states, i.e. Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.**

## Edgerton Rally



Bill Hulse has informed the club that all TrailManor manuals will include a section about our club. The option of a microwave instead of an over has been added.

Problems with the trailers were discussed. For anyone who wished to attend, a meeting was held at 2pm on Saturday, with Don Gilleran presiding, to discuss trailer problems and solutions.



Don & Elaine Gilleen

## 1994 FALL RALLY – NEWSLETTER

- written by Phyllis Posselt

Held at the Deer Creek Resort near Stockbridge, Michigan, 9/16-9/18. John & Patti Chakroff were rally hosts

## Stockbridge



Nineteen TrailManors were parked at the campground. **Membership has grown from 39 to 49. New Jersey, New York, and South Carolina** have been added to the states represented by the Club.

At the workshop, of continuing concern was the potential problem with the Reliable axle furnished on some trailers. Owners with trailers so equipped should inspect the axle for a horizontal crack (this applies to spring suspension trailers only). Those affected were to contact TrailManor.

Trailer walks, potlucks, and campfires were also enjoyable events back in 1994. At this rally, Don Gilleran has made available TrailManor/TrailBlazer shirts. Attached was an "official" shirt order form. Form to be sent to TrailManor.

There was a gentle reminder. TrailBlazers who have not paid their '94-'95 dues (\$10.00) can do so by making out a check to "TrailManor Trail Blazers" and sending it to our Treasurer, Peggy Barry

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 2 – Spring 1995

### SPRING RALLY NEWSLETTER – by Phyllis Posselt

Organized by Harold & Charlotte Thompson and Stan & Mary Harsh, 5/19/95-5/21/95 at Indian Lakes CG, Batesville IN. \$10/night (includes water & electric). Indoor heated pool, store, laundry, 9-hole golf course.

Thirty-two trailers at this rally. Bill Hulsey, president and founder of TrailManor had never seen that many TMs in one spot at one time before!

## Batesville Rally



During the trailer walk, there was one trailer from the early 80's. The "new" 2720SL was there. Don Gilleran led the workshop, and Bill Hulsey helped field questions regarding everything from wheel bearing maintenance to checking for LP gas leaks.

In this Newsletter the announcement was made from Bill Hulsey about TrailManor TrailBlazers club members in good standing receiving 10% discount on parts and labor ordered direct from the factory.

### RAMBLINGS – by Ron Posselt

Since the "explosion" of the size of our organization, it was recognized we needed to become more organized. Marilyn Letko & Rita Jeffers have put together a rough draft of a Trail Blazers constitution.

Also the important issue of providing the opportunity to all members to participate in club rallies. **The idea of "Chapters" was discussed. Tentative boundaries were outlined. Right now the membership stands at 129+.**

The position taken at this point is that we are a national organization. We will accept applications from any group of TBs members to form a regional chapter, based on the boundaries outlined by the meeting in the minutes, or adjusted boundaries approved by the national membership.

**Another first for our fledgling organization; our first National Convention!** It's to be held in the area of Lake City, TN, in the summer of 1997. Let's get a committee formed!

Ron then talked about "putting together" a national newsletter to be published quarterly. **As the Grants are putting this history information together, we are looking at the first attempt on Ron's part. (mjg)** This will be a good reference point, and the eventual "Editor" will have something to work with. Ron had several ideas.

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS - Volume 3 – Number 1 – Fall 1995

### 1995 FALL RALLY NEWSLETTER – by Phyllis Posselt

Twenty-five trailers were in Sheridan, IL, for this rally from 9/22/95-9/24/95. The hosts for this rally were Rich & Julie Rogers and Pete & Marge Gerhardt.

### Sheridan Rally



As the TM owners gathered for the TM workshop, the subject matter ranged from leaking faucets to flickering lights to refrigerator problems. One of the most interesting discussions centered around tire failures while towing. While it's not an experience one would look forward to, those with experience agree the trailer tracks beautifully with a blown tire; just creates a bit of a drag. Regardless of the subject, there were plenty of suggestions to help anyone who was experiencing any kind of problem.

### WHAT'S UP – Ron Posselt

Plans are in the works for a spring '96 rally at Mark Twain Cave & Campground in Hannibal MO. Billy & Frances Zeiger are the hosts. Phil Austin has come up with the idea of caravanning to the campground.

Ohio will be the host state for the '96 fall rally 9/20-9/22, hosted by Tom & Billie Gaisford and Donald & Phyllis Pfeifer.

The summer of '97 will be when the first National Convention is held in the Lake City TN area. Chuck & Connie Book from Oak Ridge, TN have been searching for a site to accommodate approximately seventy trailers. With little success, until the Caspers from Obion, TN, called to suggest the Smoky Mountain CG in Kodak, TN. At that point, with more phone calls, the Books along with the

Colemans from Hillsborough, NC, met at the campground, talked with the managers, and recommended the Smoky Mountain CG be the site of the 1997 Trail Blazers National Convention. The campground is about 42 miles from Lake City, and within 20 miles of many national attractions, such as Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg.

### RAMBLINGS – By Gee Coleman

#### From the Editor

At the Fall Rally in Sheridan, Ohio, it was agreed that **Gee Coleman, and Bill & Carol Muffa** would publish the national newsletter. The "Tidings" format will be established by Ron Posselt. First issue will be published late in July to report on the Spring Rally and with information on plans for the Fall Rally. Another issue will follow in November reporting on the Fall Rally, and the third edition will herald the Spring Rally.

As regional chapters are organized, reports on their rallies and activities will be reported as they are received. The idea is to keep the newsletter simple, but to report on things that will interest members.

Gee Coleman suggested not worrying about having items typed or what format. Just send a hand written note...If necessary the telephone can be used. **Please note – this is before the use of e-mails to communicate. You will note further on where these new-fangled things called e-mails are solicited if anyone has one!!!**

#### From the President – Ron Posselt

Ron talked about qualifications for positions within the club. Nominating Committee was made up of Mike McCarthy, Frank Rybicki, and Harold Thompson.

A special "hats off" to the Colemans and Mummas for accepting the responsibility of publishing the "TIDINGS."

**IN MEMORIAN - Elaine Gilleran**, a charter member of the TrailBlazers with her husband Don, lost her battle with cancer this past November. We are indeed saddened by this loss and wish to express our sincere sympathy to Don. Elaine brought a ray of sunshine with her wherever she went and most certainly will be greatly missed by her family and friends, especially those of us with the TrailBlazers who knew her. (Please see previous photo of Elaine with Don)

#### NOTE & NOTIONS

**Tom Gaisford** has volunteered to maintain the "official" Membership Roster.

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS— Volume 4 – Number 1 – August 1996

Gene Coleman (publisher of the national newsletter)

### Appalachian Regional Chapter

Organized – by Gee Coleman

During a spring-like weekend in 1996 the first regional chapter of TrailManor TrailBlazers was organized. Eight TrailManors and fifteen owners met at Smoky Mountain Campground near Kodak, TN, and began making plans for the future of the **Appalachian TrailBlazers**. This new chapter is composed of TrailManor owners from **Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, and Kentucky**.

On Saturday morning during the business session, besides naming the chapter, it was decided to have a coordinator and an assistant coordinator, rather than the usual officers. The coordinator serves one year; and the assistant coordinator would move up to the coordinator post. A new assistant would be elected, and the past coordinator would serve as an advisor. There would be no chapter dues, and the only requirement for membership in the chapter will be to own a TrailManor, and be a member of the National TrailBlazers.

Gee Coleman – serving as coordinator for first year, Paul Godsey - the vice-coordinator. Joe and Ann Wetherbee will host the next rally in their home state of Virginia. This would be in the fall of 1996. Since the National Jamboree will be held in the summer of '97, there will be no spring rally that year, but there will be a fall rally (tentatively September, '97) with Chuck & Connie Book planning the agenda for this one.

Jim & Nancy Warner from Atlanta GA, met with us and they plan to organize a chapter in the states of Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida.

### SANDUSKY, OHIO TO HOST TRAILBLAZER RALLY

**Tom & Billie Gaisford**, whose home state is Ohio, will be planning this rally. **(Please note – at this time Ohio was in the Charter Chapter)**. This rally will take place at Traveland Campground, Sandusky OH, and the cost is \$17.00/night.



**Tom & Billie Gaisford**

### ZEIGERS GREAT HOSTS FOR HANNIBAL RALLY – Phyllis Posselt

May 17-19, 1996, was the date for this rally, hosted by Billy and Frances Zeiger and 27 units were on hand (from as far away as Portsmouth VA). A tour of Hannibal was available by way of a trolley bus coming to the campground. This was “Mark Twain Country” and was enjoyed by all. A yummy country-style dinner of baked ham, roast beef, cheesy scalloped potatoes, creamy coleslaw, green beans, homemade biscuits, and luscious apple & blackberry cobbler was provided by a caterer.

### RAMBLINGS – From the President – Ron Posselt

As Ron marveled at how each rally has its own personality, probably the result of location, which in turn also impacts the people able to attend. His appetite was whet to see what Ohio, Tennessee, and Texas can do to demonstrate their own personality. Remember, Ohio is our election meeting. **During the past three years, the club has evolved from a small group of twelve TrailManor owners from three Midwest states into a national organization with 170 members.** The majority of our members are the direct result of TrailManor’s mass mailing. Without that, the original four states would be at 61 members. Not that all this sudden growth didn’t present its share of problems. While we did have a small comfortable group that could rotate rallies through a four-state area, we now felt an obligation to bring rallies to as many of our members as

possible, so they too could share in the pleasure of meeting other TrailManor owners.

The final solution to resolving this issue is yet to be uncovered. For now other states were asked to host rallies if they have not yet had the opportunity. A nice response! Spring '96 rally was in Missouri; Fall '96 rally in Ohio; '97 TrailBlazers Jubilee will be in Tennessee; Fall '97 rally will be in Texas. Each time we hold a rally in a new state, we attract members who are finding the trip more feasible. But, of course, by moving rallies farther from the Midwest, many loyal attendees from there now find the journey a bit of a stretch; it's no longer a weekend camping trip. That's why regional chapters are so important.

### WHAT'S UP – Ron Posselt

TrailBlazers Jubilee will be held from Monday, June 16, 1997, through Saturday, June 21, 1997, at the Smoky Mountain Campground which is a few miles east of Knoxville TN. All sites are full hookup at \$15.47/night. The rate will drop to \$13.92/night if at least 50 sites are booked. The folks at TrailManor are going all out to support TrailBlazers Jubilee '97, and committed to providing tee shirts to attendees, a guest speaker, and entertainment at the Friday banquet. There will be a factory tour with transportation to and from Lake City, mass mailings to all TrailManor owners inviting them to attend this event, and more. Harold Willis from Bowling Green KY, and Jon Ridzelski from Huntsville AL, are heading up this event. There has been a \$100 deposit and a guarantee of fifty spaces.

Texas will be the host state for the '97 Fall Rally hosted by Jack & Vivian Fox. More details will be provided in time for you to make plans.

### Getting a Regional Chapter Going is Easy – Gee Coleman

Gee gave guidance into this necessary task since there has only been one chapter formed at this time. A decision needs to be made on the states or area to be included. Keith Hulsey can help with this decision, since TrailManor has records of how many TMs have been sold in each state. Selecting a campground for the organizational meeting and date is important before you get ready for a mailing. If you self-stamp an envelop this encourages people to return them even if not interested. Make a copy of this information and send to Keith Hulsey at TrailManor and they will handle the addressing and mailing. Plan an agenda and sit back and wait for the cards to come in. Gee provided his phone number in case any questions arose.

### LETTERS

Remember the olden days? Before e-mail? Mike

McCarthy suggested in the next newsletter Gee ask the membership how many have an Internet E-Mail address. "As time goes on we could send a lot of news out this route and thereby save a lot of postage." Gee provide e-mail addresses for the Wetherbees and Gaisfords.

### DRZYMALA – FIRST HONORARY MEMBER



### Bob & Leona Drzymala

Without the actions of one man, TrailManor TrailBlazers likely would not exist. BOB DRZYMALA had long been a member of the Pioneer Camping Club, and had learned how much fun, and what a learning experience it could be to associate with other campers who had similar interests. In case you do not know, Pioneers is an organization of employees and former employees of Western Electric and the Bell companies. Bob arranged a meeting with fellow TrailManor owners Eugene Schaffner and Jim Pierson, to give birth to TrailManor TrailBlazers. A contact with Keith Hulsey at TrailManor provided them with a list of TrailManor buyers in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Several of them were contacted to survey their interest, and with favorable results they proceeded to set up an organizational meeting at the Union, Illinois KOA. And as we say, "the rest is history."

In honor of their efforts in the organization and continued work with the TrailBlazers, Bob and his wife Leona were named the first lifetime members. **Leona has since passed away. Bob passed away on 10/30/2012.**

### TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 4 - Number 1A – December 1996

New National Officers were elected at the Sandusky Rally. They are Ron Posselt, Outgoing President and Advisor to the Board, and National Coordinator for Membership; Lois Schaffner, Treasurer, Eugene Schaffner, President, Phillip Austin, Vice President; Marlene Rybicki, Secretary, and Gee Coleman, Board Member as Coordina-

tor of the Appalachian Chapter.

## Natl officers Dec 96 Tidings



### PLANS SET FOR JUBILEE '97

Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup> is the start of the first Jubilee, held at Smoky Mountain Campground, Kodak TN. The Books and Colemans will be the hosts. Factory tour will be one event. Jubilee will end with a banquet provided by Bennett's Pit Bar-B-Que. TrailManor will provide a speaker and entertainment for the banquet. Volunteers are needed to run such an event.

### SANDUSKY RALLY BIGGEST AND BEST – 9/20/96 to 9/22/96

There were 36 TrailManors at the Fall Rally. Folks came from Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. What a site!

This rally was another "first!" It had the most trailers ever, and hosts Tom & Billie Gaisford and Don & Phyllis Pfeifer, did an outstanding job.

This was the last article by Phyllis Posselt, as her term of office has expired, she will pass the baton. She ended it with "Happy Trails to You, - Until We Meet Again."

## Sandusky Rally



### DIXIE CHAPTER ORGANIZATION

In the fall of 1996, twelve TrailManors representing South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and one visitor from North Carolina, gathered at Stone Mountain Campground just outside of Atlanta, **to organize the Dixie Chapter of the TrailBlazers.** Jim and Nancy Warner were the driving force behind this decision. At the business meeting, Jim Warner agreed to be the first coordinator, and Bob Turner was selected as the assistant coordinator. Plans were made for campouts in April in Alabama, and October in Florida.

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

*The following e-mail addresses have been noted; Bob & Ginger Oakes, Anita Graham, Gee Coleman, Joe Wetherbee, Tom Gaisford, Mike McCarthy. **And we all know how this list grew and grew and grew!***

### "TOUCH OF TEXAS" '97

To be held at Whispering Pines RV Resort near Tyler TX 9/19/97-9/21/97. Jack & Vivian Fox will be the hosts for this rally.

### The Beat Goes On – Gee Coleman

Gee talked about the formation of two regional chapters – the Appalachian Chapter and the Dixie Chapter. Bob Drzmala is leading the effort to establish the Great Lakes Chapter with members in Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska.

### TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 4 - Number 2 – March 1997 Special Pre-Jubilee Issue

NATIONAL JUBILEE – June 16-21, 1997

The Jubilee will be held at Smoky Mountain Campground in Kodak TN. There was information on an optional item on the registration form for the Lee Greenwood Theater. Lee Greenwood, a country singer, is best known for the song "God Bless the USA." Some of the volunteers already acquired are; keeper of the morning coffee pot, donut picker upper, maker of badges, keeper of the flame, first aider, and leader of the tour to Cades Cove.

### AND THE BEAT GOES ON – Gee Coleman

The Warners are expending a lot of energy and getting results in the Dixie Chapter. The Turners are at work in Alabama, and Harry & Pat Bennett have been contacting TrailManor owners in Florida to spur interest in TrailBlazers. The Drzmalas and other TrailManor owners are in the process of getting the Great Lakes Chapter organized. The Foxes are hard at work on the State of Texas, Joe and Ann Wetherbee are putting together the Appalachian Rally in Virginia.

Gene & Lois Schaffner and Ron & Phyllis Posselt are busy promoting on the national level. Someone (probably Tom Gaisford) got us on the Internet. As a result of a mailing by TrailManor to buyers on their list at the factory, new memberships have been coming in so fast Ron is spending most of his time working on the National Mailing List.

There were five rallies listed in this issue along with the Jubilee.

### TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 4 – Number 3 – July 1997

**COMING: More Rallies – More Fun**

**August 15-17** – Illinois will host a rally that will also serve as the official organization of a new chapter. Kentuckiana Campground, Hopedale IL. Approximately \$14/night. Bob Drzmala

**September 19-21** – Touch O'Texas National Rally will be held at Whispering Pines RV Resort in Tyler TX. Hopefully this will result in a new regional chapter for the state of Texas. A deposit of \$15/night's camping fee in required in advance. Jack and Vivian Fox.

**June, 2000** – First mention of 2000 Jubilee in Rapid City SD area. If you have input, or wish to volunteer to help, contact Richard and Mary Schneider, Omaha NE.

### RAMBLINGS – From National Membership Coordinator – Ron Posselt

Many members have mentioned the fact that they would like to communicate with other TrailBlazers via e-mail. *IMAGINE THAT!* The Roster to be made available in June will publish e-mail addresses for members who

already have given Ron that information. He then asked members with these addresses to forward them to him for upcoming Rosters.

Ron then talked about some of the numbers at the Jubilee. A total of 97 TrailManors were at the Jubilee at one time or another. At any given time, there were ninety of them assembled. The total number of registrations was 103; a number only the most optimistic said could be reached. And there were only three cancellations.

Now that the first Jubilee is history, Ron mentioned Jubilee '2000 is planned for Rapid City SD, and plans were already being formed.

### STILL ON THE ROAD – First TrailManor Going Strong

At the Jubilee in '97, Donnie Pilkey was in attendance with the oldest TrailManor. This was one of three prototypes built in 1983. After TrailManor's initial testing, the first prototypes sat at the factory for ten years. Don, who was the Service Manager for TrailManor, bought the first one, the whereabouts of the second one is unknown, and Don's brother-in-law has the third one. It didn't take much to get it on the road again. He brought his "Number 1" trailer to the '97 Jubilee for everyone to see.

### First Trailmanor Still on the Road



**TrailBlazer Jubilee '97** - There were many photos and stories about the first Jubilee.

## '97 Jubilee



**In Memoriam** – We are very saddened by the news of the death of Billie Gaisford. Her friendly attitude and smile will be sorely missed at future rallies. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to her husband, family, and friends. Look for previous photo of Billie with her husband Dick. See previous photo of Billie w/Tom.

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 5 – Number 1 – December 1997

### One of the Reasons for the Success of TrailManor TrailBlazers – Chuck Lemke

Charter members Ron & Phyllis Posselt have had major roles in the success of the club so far. Ron was the first president, and Phyllis was the first secretary-treasurer. **As they continue to serve the club, they have seen the membership go from twelve TrailManor families to 321 trailers.**



Ron & Phyllis

They took care of the organization's business for the first two years and started our official publication, TrailBlazers Tidings, which is now the responsibility of Gee and Anne Coleman.

The Posselts began camping as many of us did with a young family. The borrowed tent worked its way up to several pop-ups until Phyllis happened to glimpse a TrailManor in a campground. "What was that?" is what came out of her mouth, and they turned back to take a better look. Talked to the owner, attended a travel trailer show in Milwaukee, and decided it was exactly what they wanted. A trip to Lake City, Tennessee, was the next stop to pick up their 1990 model. Two years later they upgraded to a slide-out model. Ron worked as a mechanical designer and put his Engineering and Planning expertise to work customizing the trailer to Phyllis's specifications. For their 1992 model, Phyllis asked for a vinyl floor surface in the kitchen area, and this has become standard with TrailManor.

**LAKE MICHIGAN CHARTER CHAPTER RALLY** – August 15-17, 1997, the Charter Chapter was organized. Our official name is: "CHARTER CHAPTER" (Lake Michigan Area). Held at Kentuckiana CG in Hopedale, Illinois.

**TOUCH O' TEXAS RALLY HIGHLIGHTS** – At this rally they were contemplating a new chapter for owners of TrailManors in the South Central states. This was the name suggested for a chapter, conceived and discussed, but not yet born.

*New members totaled twenty-nine*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 5 – Number 2 – March 1998

### Gene and Lois are great leaders for our club – Chuck Lemke

Gene is the current president, and Lois is the treasurer of TrailBlazers. At rallies, Gene can be seen going around taking photos, and Lois is in the background getting all the finances in order.

Like so many of us, they started out camping when they were young and had a young family. Their method of camping was in a tent. They worked up to a Starcraft pop-up, and after a leaky propane tank caused an explosion, they saw an ad for what Gene calls, "a strange looking hard-sided camper with the luxury of a bathroom." They bought a 22-foot TrailManor '89 Model, and have towed it from coast to coast.

In 1993, they attended an NCHA campout and saw another TrailManor like theirs. It belonged to Bob Drzma-la. They got together for a talk, and Bob suggested forming

an international organization. And as the saying goes, “the rest is history!”

e-mail address, for all TrailBlazer correspondence except for the newsletter correspondence.



## Gene & Lois

**Committee to Prepare a Constitution** – At a recent Board of Directors meeting, it was decided to appoint a committee to prepare a constitution and a set of bylaws for TrailBlazers.

## PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Being the computer guru Gene Schaffner is, we are not surprised that he has created a database for the membership directory. He has been corresponding with members who now have e-mail addresses, and he has put out a request for anyone else with an e-mail address to let him know through his address [campergene@aol.com](mailto:campergene@aol.com).

Latest membership count is 333. This brought Gene to another situation with the club. Ron Posselt, who has been our charter present, and now has served in the capacity of our board advisor and membership coordinator, has just informed Gene he and his wife, Phyllis, have traded in their TrailManor for a different form of camping. Ron has worked very hard to make this club what it is today, and he was in the process of drafting a constitution for our club.

So Gene put the word out through the internet that the club was in need of a new membership coordinator. John Ridzelski, of Huntsville, Alabama, is now our new membership coordinator. The word was passed along to contact John through the US Mail or else through his

## RAMBLINGS – Ron Posselt

In this issue Ron has mentioned the need to trade the TrailManor for a different type of camper. One of the major factors was a move to a condo and the lack of space to park the TM. He has talked about the fun times spent at rallies, and hopes he and Phyllis will be able to drop in on a rally or two just to renew acquaintances.

Also, since the Posselts are co-hosts of the upcoming West Salem, Wisconsin, rally, they will honor this commitment. He also wanted it to be known that until the new National Membership Coordinator is named and up to speed, any correspondence or dues sent to his address will be sent to the appropriate person.

*New members totaled seven*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 5 – Number 3

### Meet Your Next President & First Lady

Phil is the current Vice President. He and his wife Linda are both Michigan natives, and were in school together from 4<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade in Charlotte, Michigan. They were married in 1958, making this their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary year. Their children, grandchildren, and beyond live within 40 miles of each other.

Phil worked for the Michigan DOT for 33 years, retiring from the state in February, 1992.

He and Linda began camping about 24 years ago. They started with a tent, which Linda didn’t really enjoy. Then it was a move to a pop-up trailer. One of their friends bought a TrailManor, and they became interested in it. Phil says, “We stopped at the TrailManor factory just to look, but ended up buying one through Bill Hulsey in 1993.



**Phil & Linda Austin**

**Mountain View, Arkansas Rally 5/15-5/17/98 – Vivian Fox**

Eighteen TrailManors along with their owners attended this rally. At the business meeting President Gene Schaffner gave updates on the work of the constitution committee. Its recommendation is to extend the tenure of current officers by one year until new rules are in place. Gene Barry invited folks to a week in Mexico in March 1999. Jack Fox reported on the factory's expansion plans. Peg Barry explained the trailer-walk where we "snoop" into each other's home-on-the-road.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Gene Schaffner**

Gee Coleman, our Tidings editor, has informed Gene this would be the last newsletter he would be able to do. The Tidings is a very important part of the club. He and Anne did a fantastic job, and we are very grateful for all the hard work they have done for us.

**Vivian Fox has agreed to assume the position of Tidings editor.**

**SOUTH-CENTRAL HEARTLAND NEW TRAILBLAZER CHAPTER**

Rally was in Thackerville OK on 3/6-3/8 1998.

Business centered on organization of this chapter. After naming ourselves **SOUTH-CENTRAL HEARTLAND**, the

following positions were filled – Coordinators: Vivian and Jack Fox, Treasurer: Florence Hollebeak, Wagonmasters for the next rally: Elizabeth and Lewis Gore, Assistance Wagonmasters: Don and Nellwyn Watters.

Details are being formed, but the upcoming rally is hoped to be in the Antonita, Colorado area in late summer.

*New members totaled fifty-nine*

**The Beat Goes On** – Gee Coleman talked about the pleasure it was for him to publish The Tidings the last several years. However, after being blessed with excellent health for the past 76 years, suddenly he has been hit with some physical problems that will make it impossible for him to continue one of the things he has enjoyed for many years... and that is camping. He talked about how fortunate the club is to have Vivian Fox step up to the plate to publish the newsletter. "My best wishes to all you lucky TrailMan or TrailBlazes. May God bless you all."

**TRAILBLAZERS TIDING – Volume 6 - Number 1 – September 1998**

**A Tribute to Gee Coleman, Editor and Organizer – by Chuck Lemke**

What a great organizer Gene was, and he was responsible for fashioning a newsletter that binds members as family, and gives them a sense of belonging. The three annual issues of The Tidings are eagerly anticipated by all TrailBlazers.

As if Tidings wasn't enough of a challenge for 1996, he also decided to get things rolling regarding the formation of regional chapters of TrailBlazers. **Before the summer was over the Appalachian Chapter became a reality, and the seeds had been planted for the beginnings of the Dixie Chapters.**

At the same time Gee was involved with the selection of a site for Jubilee '97. During a critical time in our development he was also a much needed and respected voice on the Board of Directors.

He was a natural at doing all these things. At one point in his career he owned *The News of Orange County*, a weekly newspaper that served Hillsborough, NC, and neighboring areas. During his tenure with this paper he served as editor, reporter, photographer, business manager, production man, and yes, he even cleaned the place.

**His leadership in The Tidings will be sorely missed, but Gee Coleman feels as though it will be in good hands with Vivian Fox.**

**Constitution and Rules and Regulations Committee**

Chairman: Frank Rybicki  
Committee Members: Pete & Marge Gerhardt  
Lois Schaffner  
Bob Dryzmala

Frank thanked his committee for all their hard work and perseverance on a hard job of organizing and putting into words our base of operations.

“Our many journeys back and forth, North and South, with Marge checking that all our English grammar was right, and some of the legal statements as well. Lois kept us guys and gals on the subject at hand. Pete helped us word it right. Gene sat in to make sure everything ran according to Hoyle, OOPS Roberts rules of Order. A special thanks to my wife Marlene for being our recording secretary, taking notes, typing and recopying for the next meeting.”

### President’s Report – Gene Schaffner

Gene praised the constitution committee for a job well done. Of the 370 mailings of this important document, 205 were returned. You were asked to vote to adopt or reject the Constitution. The count was as follows: Yes, 195, No, 6, Abstain, 4. So the TrailBlazer Constitution and Standing Rules were approved and adopted by an overwhelming majority. Some members had constructive comments, which may result in proposing some amendments in the very near future.

Gene talked about making tentative plans for Jubilee 2000. Lyle Gaaskjolen has been researching to find a campground in the Rapid City, SD area that would be willing and able to accommodate and accept our club. Watch for more information in upcoming Tidings.

**FIRST INTERNATIONAL RALLY - 3/3-3/9 - Playa De Oro RV Park, on the beach at the Sea of Cortez, Puerto Pensaco, Rocky Point, Sonora, Mexico.**

*New members totaled twenty-two*

**John Ridzelski – Membership Chairman** – Earlier in the year, Ron Posselt, our long time membership coordinator, gave us his membership chair post since he no longer owned a TrailManor. John Ridzelski is the new chairman, and is in the process of obtaining all the names, etc.

## **TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 7 - Number 1 – January 1999**

### **INTRODUCING FRANK AND MARLENE RYBICKI – by Charles Lemke**



### Frank & Marlene Rybicki

Frank Rybicki was the chairman of the constitution committee, and Marlene was their recording secretary. The Rybickis live in Burbank, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. They have been camping with their four children for many years. Marlene is the current secretary of the TrailBlazers club. Rybickis

### New Chapter! Central Northeast TrailBlazers

This chapter was formed at a gathering in Newmans town, PA, near Lancaster, on September 25-27, 1998. There were fifteen TrailManors and forty people in attendance. They were from **MD, NJ, OH, and PA**. Bob & Ginnie Hassard came from Maine to see what we do at our gatherings. They would like to organize a chapter in New England.

### PRESIDENT’S REPORT

The Schaffners along with the Gaaskjolens will be getting together soon to start making plans for the 2000 Jubilee.

Gene mentioned the two new chapters, The Southwest Chapter, whose Director is Carol Vesely, of Las Vegas, NV. The states included will be New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and California.

The other new chapter is the Central Northeast Chapter. The states included in this chapter are Delaware, Ohio, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. The chapter director is Harold Schlafman. His e-mail address is [hwschlaf@worldnet.att.net](mailto:hwschlaf@worldnet.att.net).

Gene submitted some proposed constitution amendments to the Executive Board. The Constitution Committee will meet in February to consider his proposals and other amendment proposals. His main proposal is to eliminate the raise in dues.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

*New members totaled thirty-three.*

## **SITE FOR JUBILEE 2000 DESCRIBED**

Lyle & Bobbi Gaaskjolen have started some research for the Jubilee to be held in the Mount Rushmore/Black Hills area of South Dakota. Watch for further news.

**NEW CHAPTER** – Southwest Chapter held a rally at Oasis RV Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 16-18, and officially formed the Southwest Chapter. States included are **Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, and California**. Carol Vesely is the Chapter Director.

## **Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, and TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 7 - Number 2 - May 1999**

### **President's Article – Gene Schaffner**

Gene talked about the upcoming election of officers, and Stan Harsh was the chairperson of the nominating committee. As he was mentioning his wish list for the next administration, one of the items on this list was to create a computer internet web page for those of us who have e-mail. About one third of our membership has an e-mail address at this time.

### **Tidings Editor Does More Than Edit**

Vivian Fox and her husband Jack live in Texas. She has worked as a church secretary, and then moved to a library position at a public school. She wrote a book, **THE INDIAN TRAIL, STORY OF THE ALABAMA-COUSHATTA INDIANS**, which was to earn steady royalty.

As they were raising their two children, camping comprised family outings, from an Applebee tent camper to a pick-up slide-out. In the early 90s they purchased a TrailManor and after putting on over 100,000 miles, they moved up to a new 3124 King.

In March '98 the Foxes agreed to serve as directors of the chapter formed at that gathering, South-Central Heartland, one of the most recently formed TrailBlazer clubs. A few months later, Vivian agreed to edit the newsletter.



**Vivian and Jack Fox**

### **Treasurer's Report – Lois Schaffner**

Lois made note we now have \$5,256.74 in our treasury. There will be no raise in the yearly dues; \$15.00 for new members and \$10.00 for renewals.

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS – John Ridzelski, Membership Coordinator**

*New members totaled thirty-nine. Also nineteen e-mail addresses were received*

### **TrailBlazers Trip to Mexico – Carl Domeier and Joe Wetherbee**

This issue of The Tidings had two articles about this trip. The group caravanned down to Puerto Penasco (locals call it Rocky Point). There were nine TrailManors and one full-size trailer. We had no problems at the border. However, they made a quick inspection of Joe and Ann's Suburban, and had Robert & Joan open their TrailManor. We think the border patrol wanted to see how it worked!

The road to Puerto Penasco was two-lane, nicely

paved. The Domeiers had a blowout about half-way down so about one-half of us stopped and assisted them. About five miles from our destination the Wetherbees had a blowout. They were the last of the "caravan" so they radioed the rest to go on.

A campfire almost every night was on the schedule. Saturday night the wind was too strong for a safe fire. The campground provides old washing machine tubs for campfires, and Mike Thomas brought firewood. The camping area and the beach were made up of pulverized sea shells. We were able to drink the water at the campground and also use US currency.

The rest of the week was taken up with fishing trips, potluck, eating out at the Lighthouse Restaurant where the scenery was wonderful and there was a band and a dance floor. Wednesday morning we left.



**TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 7 - Number 3 – September 1999**  
**Membership Coordinator Lends Experience to TrailBlazer Record-Keeping – Chuck Lemke**

John and Estelle Ridzelski met in December, 1961, and shortly after that John enlisted in the Army. This was the start of 22 years of fun, travel, and adventure. Their three daughters were born in three different military bases (except for the youngest daughter whom they adopted in Inchon, Korea).

Two tours to the Far East took John to Vietnam, Okinawa, Taiwan, Thailand, and Korea, while Estelle resided in Okinawa. The third of John's overseas tours took him and his family to Germany. While there they traveled throughout Europe. Since staying in hotels was too expensive for a family of five, they did as many Europeans did, they camped. Would you believe in staying in a tent in Downtown London and Rome?

After retiring from the Army in 1984, John completed a degree in electronics then returned to the Army as a civilian. They camped in tents for many years and

purchased their TrailManor 2720 SL in November of 1994.



**John & Estelle Ridzelski**

*New members totaled thirty-five.*

**TRAILBLAZER Jubilee 2000**

An application for the TrailBlazer Jubilee 2000 was included with this issue of The Tidings. It will be held at Rushmore Shadows Resort in Rapid City, SD from June 19<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the cost per site will be \$20.00. There are many optional activities with the application showing what they are and the cost.

One of the main issues for many members with pets was the campground policy of no pets. We have negotiated with the management about this issue. YES, dogs will be allowed for our event as long as their owners keep them on a leash while walking them, clean up after them, and not leave them outside their campers while away from the trailer. In other words, they are asking what any other campground would expect from pet owners.

**New Officers for the TrailBlazer club for 1999-2002**

Bob Turner, Mobile, AL - President

Dave Cranmer, Albuquerque, NM - VP

Ann Wetherbee, Portsmouth, VA - Secretary

Lois Schaffner, Skokie, IL - Treasurer

Stan Harsh went on to thank his Nominating Committee for a job well done. He learned a lot in this process which he can pass on to the next Nominating Committee.

**NEW CHAPTER** – An organizational rally is scheduled for September 10-12, 1999, at Myre-Big Island State Park in Albert Lea MN. Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ripley of St. Paul, MN were the contacts for this rally.

*New members totaled 35*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 8 – Number 1 – January 2000

### Meet Bob Turner, National President & his wife, Becky

Teaching, camping, and romance...What a great way to begin their life together. Bob was teaching gifted education in a small coastal community in Florida when Becky arrived from Green Bay, Wisconsin to begin her career in Special Education. It didn't take long to realize that it had been love at first sight! Eight months later, family and friends flew in for a small wedding in a quaint historic church. After a few short days of honeymooning, you guessed it; they were back at work and living in their first home, an 18-foot Yellowstone camper, traveling from state park to state park.

Different job opportunities brought them to Mobile, Alabama where developing careers took precedence over camping for the next twenty years. Bob left education for ownership in a REMAX franchise while Becking remained in the field of education. She pursued several degrees and received her doctorate in Counseling Psychology from Auburn University in 1996.

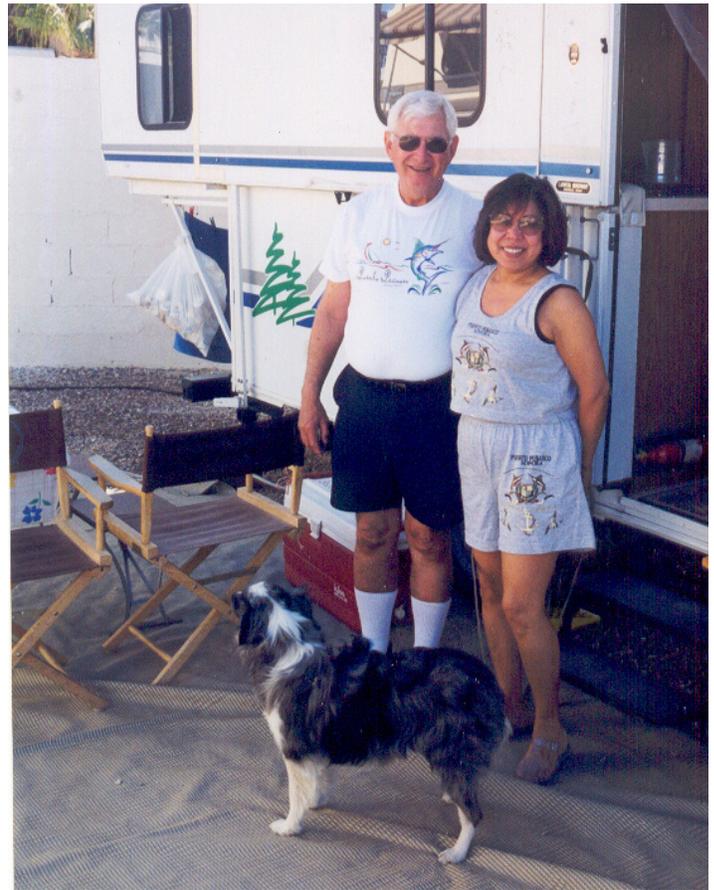
They purchased their model 3225 TrailManor in the early '90s. They eventually heard about the "TrailBlazers" and attended the Dixie Chapter organization. He was elected co-coordinator and served in that capacity along with Becky until he became Director a couple of years ago.

*New members totaled thirty-five*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 8 - Number 2 – May 2000

### Dave and Paula Cranmer Our VP Couple

The Cranmers were highlighted in this issue. Dave retired as a pharmacist in 1996, and Paula retired from the IRS in 1999. They have camped most of their lives, and purchased their TrailManor in 1995. Dave has been active as chairman of the New Mexico Pharmacist Recover Network (a support and monitoring group for pharmacists with drug and alcohol problems). Paula keeps active with sewing, quilting, and embroidery.



### Dave & Paula Cranmer

*It was noted in this issue the death of a few of our fellow TrailBlazers. They are Billy Zeiger, Leona Dryzmala, Billie Gaisford, and Gene Barry.*

In this issue, John Ridzelski resigned as Membership Coordinator. Lindy Gough is working with John to insure a smooth transition. Also Vivian Fox resigned as Editor of The Tidings. Watch for further information about this.

*New members totaled thirty-five*

### TrailBlazer Jubilee 2000 Update

The Schaffners and the Gaaskjolens told us the response to attend this Jubilee has been great. Some of the deadlines have been extended. It was suggested preventive maintenance be performed before beginning the trip. You will be able to order parts and accessories from the factory, but you must place the order on the first day of the Jubilee

## TRAILBLAZER TIDINGS – Volume 8 - Number 3 – October 2000

### Jubilee 2000 Report

If you attended this Jubilee, for all the outstanding memories, the one that will stick in everyone's mind was

the hailstorm during the last night of our stay in Rapid City, South Dakota. But there was much, much more to remember.

There were **seventy-seven** units arriving early to get the most out of our time together. There were campers from thirty states. Illinois had the most attendees followed by Texas.

At the Hospitality Gathering on Monday evening, the president of the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce welcomed our group. A local TV crew showed up and we were on the 10pm news.

We were able to visit Mount Rushmore, the Crazy Horse memorial, and Custer National Park thanks to the committee arranging for three Gray Line tour buses to get us there safely. We were all thankful we weren't driving our vehicles through the rock tunnels and negotiating the "pigtail" turns.

Wednesday morning was an informative seminar about safe towing, tire safety, and maintenance, presented by Neil LeKander of *A Weigh We Go*. As a result of this program, many of us chose to have our tow vehicle and TrailManor weighed at the end of the Jubilee.

## Charter Chapter at Jubilee



Two new chapters were formed during the rally. The **North Central Heartland Chapter** encompasses **Nebraska, Iowa, and Minnesota, North & South Dakota**. Paul Ripley is the director of this chapter.

On Wednesday evening we enjoyed a "chuck wagon" barbeque dinner at the Flying T Chuck-wagon Supper Show, and on Thursday evening we had the opportunity to take in entertainment either in Spearfish or in Deadwood.

At the Friday evening catered banquet, Bill Hulsey, President of TrailManor, was the main speaker, and he described and showed a video of the new TrailManor factory.

About 3am Saturday we were awakened by loud "thumps" on our trailers. Not "jelly- bean size hail, but" golf ball' size hail. Vent covers were shattered, windshields broken, awnings shredded, and every vehicle was pock-marked. Fortunately, no one was injured. As we prepared to leave Saturday morning, we compared notes on hail damage, and wished each other fond farewells.

## New Constitution Committee Appointed

This was done since our Constitution requires a new Constitution Committee be appointed every three years. At the Jubilee, President Bob Turner appointed a new committee: Phil Austin – chairperson, Stan Harsh, and John Ridzelski.

Bob thanked the previous committee for their long hours and efforts in producing the first Constitution and By-laws. That committee was made up of Frank Rybicki – chairperson, Marge and Pete Gerhardt, Bob Drzymala, and Lois Schaffner.

**NEW CLUB – Rocky Mountain Chapter** – This chapter was formed at the **Jubilee** this past June. The Colorado Trailblazers met in Estes Park, Colorado, on August 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Eight trailers were present and the chapter has approximately fifteen members. There was information to contact either Dave and Wilma Cheney or Larry and Paula Lagerstrom for further information.

## New England Pilgrim Chapter

Five TrailManors arrived at Traveler's Woods of New England CG in Massachusetts to form a new TrailBlazer Chapter.

## New England Pilgrim Chapter



*New members totaled seventy-nine.*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 9 - Number 1 – January 2001

### Trail Chat with the President- Bob Turner

Bob thanked Mike & Amy Bernath, the new editors of **The Tidings**. The new constitution committee has worked hard, and the results are in this issue. Please **VOTE**. This **Tidings** also contains an audit report. Direct any questions to Anita Graham, chair of the committee.

### When Don Met Clara: A TrailManor Love Story – by Charles Lemke

Don Gilleran is the member who is always there to handle the Tech Talks at TrailManor rallies, and is always ready to help a TrailBlazer with any TrailManor problems.

Don and his wife, Eileen, lived in Downers Grove, IL. They began camping about thirty years ago. Like most campers, they started out with a tent, but by 1987 they had graduated to a TrailManor.

Don retired and his interest in TrailManor trailers led him to accept a job with the House of Camping in Chicago. They upgraded to a larger TrailManor, and planned on spending more time traveling the country. But this was not to be. Eileen developed breast cancer and died in 1995. Don continued to work for the House of Camping, selling and servicing TrailManors and attending rallies.

In September of 1996, Don hooked up his TrailManor and headed for a rally near Sandusky, Ohio. He was traveling solo, planning to do the Tech Talk and to help TrailManor owners with any problems they might have.

Clara and Ted Bondie were happily married, raising a family of six children. In addition to her family responsibilities, she kept the books for Ted's automotive repair shop business, and learned to help with automotive repairs. Ted had nicknamed her "Joe!"

After Ted suffered a severely broken leg in a motorcycle accident, which led to a stubborn infection, his ability to work was reduced, so Clara found a job to supplement their income. Having been a camping family, they looked forward to retirement and travel. This, too, was not to be. Ted developed cancer and was unable to travel. He died in 1995, before they had a chance to use their new TrailManor.

Clara kept the trailer and decided to attend a rally before making a decision to sell it. In September of 1996, like Don Gilleran, she packed up, hooked up the trailer, and headed for the rally in Sandusky, Ohio.

As Clara was in the process of parking her trailer, she got a bit too close to a large rock and broke a latch on the side of the trailer. Those assisting her assured her

not to worry, there was someone at the rally who could fix it for her. You got it! As soon as Don was finished with another camper, he was introduced to Clara and made the necessary repairs. After the two of them socialized during the rally, they returned to their respective homes but maintained contact through phoning and the post office. Clara invited Don to visit her home in Michigan, he accepted, and was intrigued by the automotive repair shop that Clara had kept after Ted's death.

And as they say, "The rest is history!" They have moved up to a 36-foot Spinnaker with three slide outs. Don works part time at trailer shows and Clara loves arts and crafts.



**Don & Clara**

*New members totaled thirty-nine*

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE TRAILMANOR TRAILERBLAZERS CLUB** was presented to the membership in this issue with an official ballot. The committee has asked the membership to make sure they vote.

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 9, Number 2 – May 2001

**NEW CLUB** - This is to announce the formation of **Mile High TrailBlazers**. We have held an organizational meeting and are planning on our first campout. This campout will take place on June 1-3 at Mueller State Park which is located on the western base of Pike's Peak. For info. Contact Hal Swanson (303) 698-1512"

*New members totaled forty-four.*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS - Volume 9 – Number 3 – September 2001

**Constitution Approved** – This was printed in the May 2001 Tidings. The popular vote count reveals a whopping 82%

approval for the new document.

## **Pikes Peak & Mile High Chapters Collaborate on Joint Rally**

This happened in July 2001. This is significant since the two chapters eventually combined.

*New members totaled fifty five*

## **TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 10 – Number 1 – January 2002**

**Notice – Make your plans/excuses now!**

### **Jubilee 2003 – June 23-28, 2003**

*New members totaled thirty-eight* – this is the first time e-mail addresses were included. We are moving up in the world.

## **TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 10 – Number 2 – May 2002**

Headlines on first page were Fine Tuning the Constitution, It's Officer Election Time Again, and Jubilee 2003 is Coming Fast & Your Help is Needed!

### **From the Editors, Joe & Ann Wetherbee:**

A big **THANK YOU goes** to Amy and Mike Bernath for their outstanding job of editing the Tidings since September 1999. They will be going to Germany for a 3 to 5 year 'tour of duty.' **Please note – this is when Joe took over The Tidings.**



### **Joe and Ann Wetherbee**

#### **In Memoriam**

**Ann Warnes**, Durham NC passed away on March 29<sup>th</sup> after a brief illness. She and Phil had attended the Jubilee and the Williamsburg rally among others and had volunteered to co-host the Appalachian Rally in October.

**Bob Migalski**, Spring Valley CA passed away around Christmas 2001. He and Joan were "regular" members of the Puerto Penasco group.

**Betty Pruehsner**, Rock Point NY passed away in mid-January. She and Vic Metz were veterans of the Jubilee hail storm.

On page 10 the **Proposed Constitution Changes** are documented. The membership was asked to read these changes and vote using the ballot on page 21.

Further in the issue the nominating committee let us know of the people running for office. The ballot must be mailed by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Ken Oekel** – President

**Gil Folsom** – Vice President

**John Irwin** – Vice President

**Ann Wetherbee** – Secretary

**Bruce Martin** - Treasurer

Then on page 19 there was a questionnaire as to whether you planned on attending the Jubilee 2003 June 23-28, 2003 at Smokey Mountain Campground, Kodak, TN. The committee was starting to make plans.

*New members totaled twenty-six*

## **TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 10 – Number 3 – September 2002**

### **ELECTION RESULTS**

**Ken Oekel** – President

**Gil Folsom** – Vice-president

**Ann Wetherbee** – Secretary

**Bruce Martin** – Treasurer

### **Constitution Ballot Results**

The four proposals were approved. 1. Potential Owners to subscribe to the Tidings for one year, 2. Terms of office begin Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 3, stamped pre-addressed envelopes will not be sent with ballots, and 4. clarifying the procedure for handling proposed constitution amendments.

### **JUBILEE 2003 IS SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 23-28, 2003**

The committee has a preliminary event schedule. Then further in the issue is another questionnaire asking if you are planning on attending.

*New members totaled sixty-four*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 11 – Number 1 - 2003

Headline was the fact that 100 trailers have already been pre-registered. Even if you have pre-registered, you are being asked to register via the form on page twenty-five along with your payment. More information was included concerning the schedule. The full schedule for the **Jubilee 2003 – scheduled for June 23-28, 2008** was on page three.

**The Constitution – revised** – was printed starting on page thirteen

### Attn. Fellow TrailManor owners in the Pacific Northwest

**Gregg Woods** is asking if there is any interest in forming a TrailBlazers chapter here in the great Pacific Northwest. He mentioned **Oregon, Washington, and Idaho**.

*New members totaled forty-three*

### IN LOVING MEMORY

**Harold Kline** – His wife Janet will remain a member

**Larry Shoemaker** – His wife, Merilee, will remain a member.

**Mary Loeb** – her husband, Ray, attended the Fall 2002 Central Northeast Rally.

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 11 – Number 2 – May 2003

**Jubilee 2003 Almost Derailed But Now Back On Track** – Hm! Wonder what this is about!!!

**Thanks to the quick work of our Jubilee chairman, Harold Wills and his wife Martha, Jubilee 2003 will be held as scheduled.** That wasn't quite so certain in February when they received notice from the operators of Smoky Mountain Campground that the campground was closing. Jubilee registrar Lindy Gough had already received reservations and some TrailBlazers had made advance reservations directly with the campground.

Harold and Martha quickly went to work contacting other campgrounds in the area to see if they could accommodate us. They received a favorable response from Holly Haven RV in Pigeon Forge and as soon as the snowstorms would allow, they went for a 'first-hand' look. By the way, they live in Bowling Green, Kentucky, about 275 miles from Pigeon Forge. After some negotiations with the campground operator about rates, etc. they were able to "book" the Jubilee for our original dates, June 23

to 28. Then they had to contact the banquet servers, etc. to be sure they could serve us at the new location. In the process there were several phone calls and e-mails to the other committee members for their input. They are happy to say that it all 'came together' and Jubilee 2003 is now back on track.

So Pigeon Forge it was that year, and a fine Jubilee it was. On page 3 there is revised information about the upcoming Jubilee. By the way, this new park was closer to the area attractions and away from the Interstate traffic.



**Harold and Martha Wills**

**In Sympathy – Les Matin** – His wife, Carolie, will sell their TrailManor.

**PIKES PEAK TRAILBLAZERS AND MILE HIGH TRAILBLAZERS** - With a state like Colorado, these two chapters are very active in planning their camping schedules.

*New members totaled fifty-one*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 11 – Number 3 – September 2003

News on the first page was about the Jubilee. There were nearly one hundred TrailManors gathered. **At this gathering the two Colorado chapters volunteer to host the Jubilee 2006.**

**TrailManor TrailBlazers are on the web!!** [www.tmtrailblazers.org](http://www.tmtrailblazers.org) – This was the headline on page 3. By the time the Tidings had been received, the web site would be a reality. Ken Oekel and Joe Wetherbee want to know your thoughts on this website.

There were many, many photos of the Jubilee.

## 2003 Jubilee



*New members totaled forty eight*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 12 – Number 1 – January 2004

*New members totaled sixty-six*

**In Memoriam** -Martha Thompson of the South Central Heartland Chapter informed us that **George Collins** died on September 18<sup>th</sup>. He was an active member for several years, and was always ready to share a joke or tease with anyone around.

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 12 – Number 2 – May 2004

**A Tribute to Jimmy Davis** – This was the headline. He was the National Customer Service Manager for TrailManor. *It meant something to the Grants since Jimmy was the one who sold us our TrailManor.* (mjpg) He came to the RV dealer in Illinois, and we went down there and bought it from him. We had met him at the TrailManor factory the year before.

*New members totaled nineteen*

**Lindy Gough is “Retiring”** – Lindy has served as Membership Coordinator for four years, but finds it necessary to resign from this position since her mother requires more and more of her time. Now the word is out that a new Membership Coordinator is needed.



## Marion & Lindy Gough

**In Memoriam** – Martha Thompson has informed us that **Sharon Shaw** passed away on April 13<sup>th</sup>. She was an active member of the South Central Heartland Chapter.

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 12 – Number 3 – September 2004

**HURRICANE CHARLEY REPORT** – This was the headline on the first page of this issue. Bruce and Tricia Martin experience this hurricane in their own neighborhood. It seems the worst they experience was a 5-day power outage, although there was much destruction in their neighborhood. Their comment was “the experience was like dry camping in our TrailManor, something we do quite often. However they did state their experience paled in comparison to what the residents of Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda suffered.”

**Jubilee 2006** – The Mile High and Pikes Peak Chapters are already making plans for Jubilee 2006.

*New members totaled fifty nine*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 13 – Number 1 – January 2005

There was an article on the first page from RV Business, November 4, 2004. At the Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association event, TrailManor received a Special Recognition Award. Also on the first page was a notice that on the cover of January 2005 issue of Trail Life magazine, there is a picture of a 30’ TrailManor with an Infinity QXt6, and the TrailManor is the subject of a feature article.

## TRAILMANOR SHIPS TO NEW ZEALAND

The first shipment of travel trailers bound for New Zealand were shipped. They will arrive at a New Zealand RV dealership, opening a new international market for TrailManor.

## JUBILEE 2006 UPDATE

Tentative date is June 26-30, 2005, in Colorado Springs.

**In Memoriam** – Martha Thompson has informed us that **Mickey Collins** has passed away. Mickey and George had helped found the chapter. She had not been able to attend a rally since April 2003 as her husband had died shortly after that rally.

*New members totaled forty eight*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – volume 13 – number 2 – May 2008

**NEW MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR - LINDY GOUGH PASSES THE BATON TO MIKE NUMERICK**

Mike is the fourth membership chair. In 1996, when Ron Posselt finished his term as our President, he became our first official Membership Coordinator. Then John Ridzelski followed and Lindy followed him. When Ron was coordinator, our membership numbered about 130. Today we have nearly 600 members.

*New members totaled twenty six members*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 13 – number 3 – September 2005

**Notice of the 2006 TrailManor Colorado Jubilee** – June 26-30, 2006. It will be held at the Garden of the Gods Campground in Colorado Springs CO. There will be more on this Jubilee in upcoming issues.

*New members totaled twenty-six*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 14 – Number 1 – January 2006

The Trailblazers members should already have received a mailing from the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce. The mailing had several pages of information on Jubilee 2006.

**News about TrailManor.** They received a Special Recognition Award from the National RV Dealers Association for the second year in a row. The Price is Right featured a TrailManor travel trailer as a grand prize on December 16<sup>th</sup>. They also received extensive media coverage during the past year on HGTV and magazines including Trail Life, RV Business, Woodalls' Regional Publications, Camping Life, TrailBlazers, Highways, Coast-to-Coast and RV View.

**John's Angels** – We know you have heard of "Charlie's Angels," but how about "John's Angels?" During a Charter Chapter Rally in September, all "available" angels surrounded our favorite camper, **John Lodewyck** and his wife Virginia.



## John's Angels

This issue had the Jubilee 2006 Registration Form in it. Camping fees per night were \$38.00. There was also the following events to take part in - an Air Force Academy Tour Banquet (\$15.00), Flying W Ranch (Chuck Wagon Dinner/Show (\$21.00), Melodrama & Dinner (\$21.00), and Red Hat Tea (\$25.00)

*New members totaled eight-nine*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 14 – Number 2 – May 2006

**Jubilee Update** – This is the last issue of The Tidings before the Jubilee. Up-to-date information was given.

**Welcome to the TrailManor TrailBlazers Webpage** – the website is

[www.tmtrailblazers.org](http://www.tmtrailblazers.org) Rick Newcomb of the Pilgrim New England Chapter has volunteered to edit our web page. **We've come a long way since the club started in 1994!**

*New members totaled fifteen*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 14 – Number 3 – September 2006

**JUBILEE 2006 LIVES ON IN OUR MEMORIES**

This issue of Tidings had ten pages of congratulations, stories, and photos. In other words, a job well done, **Mile High and Pikes Peak Chapters.** **Hal Swanson**, director of the Mile High Chapter, provided us with interesting statistics. There were **97 registrants, 210 people, and 29 states represented** at this Jubilee.

Think back to the first Jubilee! Now with all the neat technology, Hal is figuring out how to upload **2,297 pictures** onto his computer, so that we can all view them.

## 2006 Jubilee



A note about Hal and his wife Pat – A few weeks prior to the Jubilee, Hal was having heart problems and had several stints put in. In spite of this, he continued to lead the committee in the final preparations for Jubilee. “His wife Pat was experiencing medical problems during the Jubilee and since that time has been hospitalized for several days. She is continuing to receive tests and treatments.

### Trail Manor TrailBlazer General Meeting, June 28, 2006

President Ken Oekel presided at this meeting. The minutes of the Executive Committee were read by Secretary, Ann Wetherbee. Here is the summary:

1. Membership Coordinator will be reimbursed \$800/year, to be paid quarterly, because of the amount of work involved in this position.
2. The yearly dues increases to \$15/year. Constitution will need to be amended.
3. The slate of officers nominated is: President – Hal Swanson; Vice President – Ken Oekel; Secretary – Ann Wetherbee; and Treasurer – Bruce Martin. Election ballots will require a special mailing. Tom Gaisford and Gene Culman to serve as election committee.
4. Places for the next Jubilee. The Midwest area was the committee’s suggestion.

Included in this issue were instructions on amending the Constitution, and a ballot for officers.

*New members totaled 135*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 15 – Number 1 - January 2007

### New offices elected:

President – Hal Swanson

Vice President – Ken Oekel

Treasurer – Bruce Martin

Secretary – Ann Wetherbee

**Constitution change approved** – Annual dues shall be as established by the Executive Board and approved by a majority of the regular membership by mail-in ballot.

There is a ballot in this issue to vote whether you are “for” or “against” raising the annual membership to \$15/year.

**Branson, Missouri has been selected as site for Jubilee 2009. The dates are June 21-27, 2009**

Further in the Tidings was announcing the place for this Jubilee. It will be held at America’s Best Campground. There is quite a list of things to do in Branson. Watch for progress reports in upcoming issues.

*New members totaled 76*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 15 – Number 2 – May 2007

**PAT SWANSON - February 10, 1938 – March 22, 2007** – It was noted with sorrow the passing of Pat Sampson, wife of our President, Hal Sampson. Pat and Hal were long-time campers who enjoyed camping in the Colorado Mountains. They worked together to form the Mile High TrailBlazer Chapter. We extend our sympathy to Hal.

**The Vote Is In** – Bruce Martin, the club’s treasurer, has counted the ballots, and the count is **46 for** raising the dues to **18 against** the raise.

*New Members totaled 42*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 15 – Number 3 – September 2007

There was a reminder that the next Jubilee is less than two years away.

*New members totaled 59*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 16 – Number 1 – January 2008

So far in the January issue we are told there are **18 rallies scheduled**, starting in April and ending in October. We are a busy club.

**Factory Report – NEW! 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Edition.** TrailManor’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Limited Edition, a 3124 King

Slideout model with custom maroon and silver graphics, alloy wheels, LED lights, and a stainless steel barbecue grill was featured on page 17.

*New members totaled 39*

## **TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 16 – Number 2 – May, 2008**

### **The First TrailManor Owners Rally in California**

New TM owners, Sharon Zanassi and Andy Johnson have organized a rally for October 17-19 at San Francisco-Petaluma KOA.

For several years we have been wanting to organize a TrailBlazer chapter on the West coast, but could never get it started. This past winter these folks bought a TM and decided to try to organize a rally in California.

“We took delivery of our new 3326 in early December and after outfitting it in the front of our house, camped for the first time at KOA-Petaluma in February. We had such a great time, we organized the Rally with a lot of help from KOA. They further stated “A day or so ago we registered our 25<sup>th</sup> TMer.”

Further in the Tidings is the “official” registration form. The cost for this rally was \$38/night + 12% tax.

**In Memory – Carlton L. Deck** and his wife Norma had been members of the Dixie Chapter since 2001. **Carl** passed away 3/30/08.

### **JUBILEE 2009 UPDATE**

This Jubilee is being arranged by the Charter Chapter and the South Central Heartland Chapter. You will need to pay all costs at the time of registration. Everyone attending will have to pay for Sunday through Friday night at a cost of \$149.81. More information later.

*New members totaled fifty-one*

## **TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 16 – Number 3 – September, 2008**

### **President Hal Swanson Resigns**

Following the death of his wife, Pat, Hal Swanson sold his TrailManor and resigned his position as President of TrailBlazers. He had been President since 2006 and also chaired the Jubilee 2006 committee. We are deeply indebted to Hal for his contributions to TrailBlazers.

Our Vice-President, Ken Oekel, has assumed the duties of the President and will continue until the next election.

### **More news about the upcoming Jubilee**

This will be a packed-full Jubilee. From a Meet & Greet, to Great American Cookout, Hillbilly Party, catered banquet, and more, this looks to be shaping up nicely.

The Executive Committee has agreed to pay some of the expenses of the Jubilee for everyone who attends. This means that there is **no charge** for the **Sunday night “Meet & Greet,”** the **Monday morning Continental Breakfast,** and the **Monday night “Hillbilly Party.”**

The first official Rally Registration Form appeared in this issue.

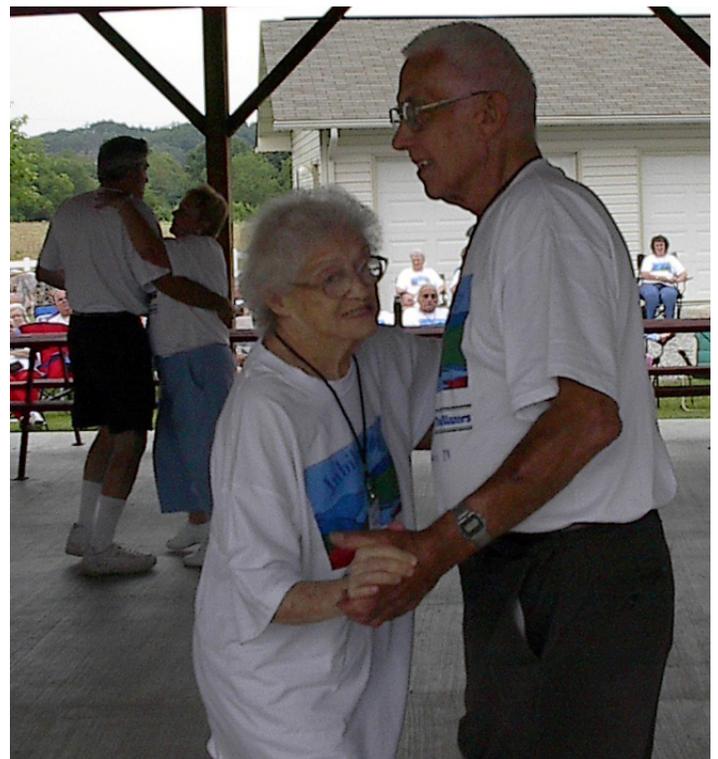
*New members totaled sixty-three*

## **TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 17 – Number 1 – January 2009**

### **It’s time to elect new officers**

The candidates for all four national officers are: **Ed Ruch** - President; **Ann Wetherbee** – Vice President; **Lindy Gough** – Secretary; **Jack Adair** – Treasurer

**In Memoriam – Ed Connell** – passed away 10/13/08. He and his late wife Ruth were active in the Appalachian Chapter.



### **Ed & Ruth Connell**

### **A Report of the First TrailManor Owners Rally in California**

On October 17-19, 2008, **33 TrailManor** trailers converged upon the San Francisco-Petaluma KOA for what

was the first ever get together of this size west of the Rockies. The most important thing on the schedule was to gauge interest in forming a TrailBlazer Chapter in that area. The interest was considerable. **Ralph Sherer** has accepted the appointment of **Chapter Director, Sharon Zanassi** of **Chapter Treasurer, Larry Zieminski** of **Secretary.**

### TrailManor TrailBlazers Jubilee 2009 Update

This included a list of all the activities planned. The events for which the attendees need to pay were the Doug Gabriel Show, Branson Belle Showboat, and Yakov. These shows happened on one day so that a big, air conditioned coach could be used to the fullest advantage. The "meet and greet" on Sunday night, the Monday morning continental breakfast, and the Monday night "Hillbilly Party" were "free" events. The "Great American Cookout" dinner on Monday was an event you needed to choose if you plan on attending. The Hillbilly Party following the cookout was a "free" event.

The registration form was in this issue, and the committee requested this be returned with a check by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

*New members totaled thirty-seven*

### TrailManor Introduces First Upright Trailer

TrailManor's first upright, the **Elkmont**, is a 24-foot trailer with something important missing. About 1,500 pounds!

*New members totaled thirty seven*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 17 – Number 2 - May 2009

**New officers elected – They are: Ed Ruch – President, Ann Wetherbee – Vice President, Lindy Gough – Secretary, Jack Adair – Treasurer**

### In Memoriam – John Lodewyck

John, along with his wife Virginia, joined the TrailBlazers in its infancy. And he loved the ladies. They were married sixty-six years. He was a WWII veteran, and a prisoner of war in Germany during the war. John's claim to fame with the TrailManor was the design of the stirrup used to push the camper down. See photo of John and his "Angels" – Volume 14, No. 1

**New From TrailManor** – TrailManor introduces the TrailMini; the lightest TrailManor yet (under 1900 pounds)

### TrailManor TrailBlazers Jubilee 2009 Update

This was the final information for the rally on June 21-27, 2009.

*New members totaled twenty-five*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 17 – Number 3 – September 2009

There was a 7-page article highlighting the Jubilee in Branson. The front page was a picture of the Hillbilly contest winners Lois Littlefield, Joshua Walter, and Cathy Bennett.

### 2009 Jubilee



The 2009 General Meeting of the TrailManor TrailBlazers was held at the Jubilee, with President, Ken Oekel presiding. **Mike Numerick** will continue to serve as Membership Coordinator even though he is an Associate Member. This position is not a voting position.

**Gene Culman** announced that **the North East Central Chapter and the Pilgrim New England Chapter** have accepted the challenge to have the 2012 Jubilee in the Gettysburg PA area.

**Ralph Sherer** discussed the forming of a **California Chapter** with the first rally being held in October.

*New members totaled forty-six*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 18, Number 1, January 2010

Rick Newcomb has created a DVD of Jubilee 2009. He has organized the photos and combined them with text and music. There is an order form on page 24 for this DVD – Cost \$5.00/DVD

**JUBILEE 2012** – Plans for Jubilee are already under way with more details on page 22.

### West Coast Chapter Fall Rally – October 2-4, 2009

This was the first rally as a Chapter of TrailBlazers after commencing the process of form the Chapter at last year's rally. This year **26 units** attended.

**Constitution Committee Report** – It was reported that the proposed amendment included in the September Tidings was approved.

## TrailManor TrailBlazers JUBILEE 2012

This rally is planned for June 24-30, 2012 at a campground in Pennsylvania.

*New members totaled twenty-one*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 18, Number 2, May 2010

### Needed: Membership Coordinator

Mike submitted his resignation as Membership Coordinator in December, 2009. We have accepted his resignation and **now the club is in need of a volunteer**

**JUBILEE 2012 UPDATE** – At the publishing of the January Tidings, the Jubilee committee has a verbal agreement with the campground in Gettysburg PA to host the Jubilee in 2012. During the contract process, the **campground had a change of heart** and did not want to host our rally due to the size of our group.

Watch for further details.

*New members totaled thirty-three*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 18, Number 3, September 2010

### Jubilee 2012 in Niagara Falls

The Jubilee 2012 Committee has been very busy trying to find a replacement site for the 2012 Jubilee. After much investigation and negotiating, they have selected the **Niagara Falls KOA** for the week of **June 9 to 15, 2012**.

**In Memoriam – Dennis Houck** - The Central Northeast Chapter was sad to report they lost a great friend and camping enthusiast on Sunday, May 9, 2010. Dennis and his wife Sue were usually the first to put in their reservations for the rallies. They had improvised some neat things on their Trailmanor such as an LED on the water heater to remind them to turn off the electric before draining it. Dennis and Sue (D&S Company) have a patent on the screen door (which many of us own) made just for the TrailManor.

**A Big Thank You to Mike Numerick** as he willingly service as Membership Coordinator for five years. **Thank You Mike!!**

**Gary Lewis is our new Membership Coordinator** – After Gary indicated an interest in this position, our president, Ed Ruch, contacted him and, after consulting with the other officers, they agreed that Gary would be our new Membership Coordinator.

*New members totaled thirty-five*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 19 – Number 2 – May 2011

### TrailManor TrailBlazers Jubilee 2012 -Niagara Falls – June 9-15, 2012

#### Niagara Falls KOA – Grand Island NY

Reservations are to be made through the TrailManor TrailBlazers group. The registration form will be in the September Tidings. The camping fee will be \$302.40 for two persons for six nights. Every rally participant must register for the six nights.

Bus Tours will be offered. A Jubilee Civil War Era Quilting Project will commemorate a defining time in American history – 2011 is the 150<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Civil War.

*New members totaled twenty-one*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 19 – Number 3 – September 2011

### Get Ready for Jubilee 2012

This issue of the Tidings had an extensive coverage of the upcoming Jubilee. There will be a scenic Niagara River bike tour, and a choice of five bus tours. Two registration forms were included; one for the Jubilee and one for the bus tours.

#### In Memoriam – Gary Conrad and Dan Sweat

The Dixie Chapter has recently lost two of our very active members **Gary Conrad** and **Dan Sweat**. Gary passed on Memorial Day from a brain aneurism and Dan passed July 19<sup>th</sup> from complications from leukemia. Both were avid campers and participated in all Dixie Chapter rallies and hosted or helped on every event. They were always considered close friends and will be remembered with a smile and be kept close to our thoughts. We offer Linda and Pam our deepest condolences and want them to know they will always be an important part of the Dixie Chapter and Trailblazer Family.

*New Members totaled twenty-two*

## TRAILBLAZER TIDINGS – Volume 20 – Number 1 – January 2012

### Information about the transition from TrailManor, Inc., to TrailManor Manufacturing Company, LLC

The company has relocated to a new manufacturing facility eight miles north of the old plant, in Jacksboro TN. The owners of TrailManor Manufacturing Company, **Bob and Cleo Eickhoff**, also own a manufacturing facility in Hartington NE. A second TrailManor plant is planned to open there in 2012.

The Eickhoffs wanted to express their gratitude toward TrailManor owners and The **TrailBlazers** for the tremendous support they have provided during the transition, and for the overwhelmingly positive response on the announcement that the TrailManor brand would continue.

*New members totaled twenty-four*

## TRAILBLAZER TIDINGS – Volume 20 – Number 2 – May 2012

**TrailManor TrailBlazers Jubilee 2012** - The Jubilee committee is happy to announce that **Cleo and Bob Eickhoff**, the new TrailManor owners, are planning to attend the Jubilee. **Ed Lytle** from TrailManor will also be attending and answering questions at the Tech Talk.

**Sad Tidings From The Dixie Chapter** - The Dixie Chapter has lost another long time member and very close friend. **Anita Graham** lost her battle with cancer on 23 Jan 2012. Anita and Jean Eckerberg were early TM owners and seldom missed a TM Rally even after becoming owners of a **TM on Steroids** (Motor Home). Anita's always present smile will be sorely missed. We all shall keep Jean in our prayers for her loss and for her own personal fight with a growing list of serious medical problems. We considered them as dear friends and we always shall!



### Anita and Jean

*New members totaled eighteen*

## TRAILBLAZER TIDINGS – Volume 20 – Number 3 – September 2012

**Jubilee Memories** – When 124 TrailManor TrailBlazers get together, the only result can be barrels of fun. The six days of the Jubilee at Niagara Falls were just that. The good news is no TrailBlazer daredevil attempted to traverse Niagara Falls in a barrel but many did get to experience the Falls from above, below, in a boat, illuminated in lights, or to a back drop of explosive fireworks. No matter how you experienced Niagara Falls, its beauty and power is inexplicable.

## 2012 Jubilee group



### From California to Grand Island Jubilee

**Ralph Sherer**, Director of the West Coast Chapter and your future President of TrailBlazers wrote quite a nice article about the west coast folks travelling to Niagara Falls. **Larry and Veronica Zieminski** drove 2,693 miles from San Jose, California to win a Niagara Falls pillow.

**Getting the latest news from TrailManor** – If you are on Facebook, click the “like” button TrailManor to see the latest news and connect with other TrailManor owners. Just search “TrailManor” and you’ll find us. We’ll be posting rally dates, sales events, new products and sneak previews there for TrailManor enthusiasts. You can also follow TrailManor on Twitter: @trailmanor, where we’ll also be posting news and event info.

### General Meeting of TrailManor TrailBlazers – Thur. June 14, 2012 KOA Grand Island, NY

#### Proposed change: Associate Member Status

The C. line reads “Associate Member” is a previous Regular Member who no longer owns a TrailManor, but wishes to remain in the club **and shall retain all Regular member status.**

#### Proposed Change: Chapter Directors

The 2<sup>nd</sup> line reads “If a Chapter Director becomes an associate member, that Director may still serve as Chapter Director if the Chapter so desires, **and retains his position and vote on the Board of Directors.**”

The floor was opened for nominations for Pres, VP, Sec, and Treasurer

The following were nominated and accepted the nomination. President – **Ralph Sherer**, VP – **Bob Bennett**, Secretary – **Mary Grant**. Ed stated that **Jack Adair** had agreed to remain as Treasurer, if accepted. The slate was accepted by acclamation.

THIS IS WHERE **MARY GRANT** – YOURS TRULY! Talked about TrailBlazers turning twenty years old in 2013. She and Jim are working on recording the history of the group.

Ralph Sherer and the West Coast Chapter will be working on the possibility of holding the 2015 Jubilee somewhere near the west coast.

*New members totaled nineteen*

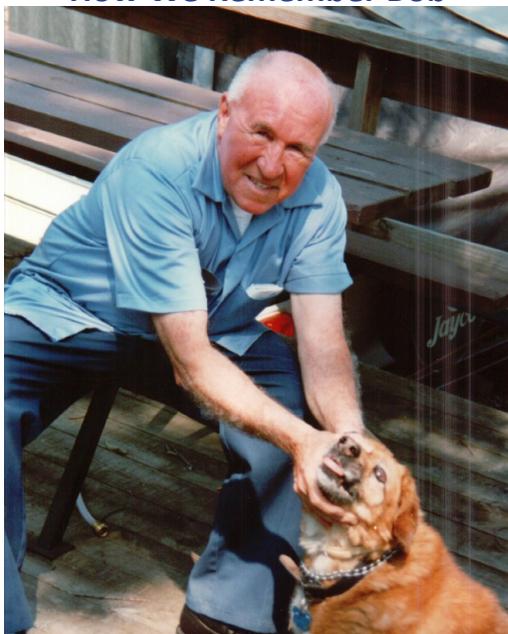
## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 21 – Number 1 – January 2013

ROBERT R. DRZMALA – 5/30/27 TO 10/30/12

How many of you have had the opportunity to meet and camp with Bob? He was what TrailBlazers is all about, and thanks to him, this tiny spark has mushroomed into a national camping club with 442 members and 11 chapters. What a tribute to him. Bob was a WWII veteran, and served his country in France. His entire working career was at Western Electric in Chicago. Bob was an avid camper, and founded this club along with Gene Schaffner in 1993. He and his late wife Leona bought their first TrailManor in 1989. They were named the First Honorary Members of the TrailBlazers Club in 1996. One of the fondest memories of Bob was his fondness for a good poker game. In recent years, after he sold his TrailManor, he continued to be a part of the club and rented a motel room for all the rallies he was able to attend. He had been to the first five Jubilees. However, as we were all celebrating the sixth Jubilee, Bob was already in failing health.

In celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the TrailBlazers Club, the **History of the TrailBlazers Club** is being prepared. This will be dedicated to the memory of Bob Drzmala.

### How We Remember Bob



IN MEMORY OF STAN HARSH – 3/17/35 to 8/22/12

Stan and Mary were involved with TrailBlazers almost from the beginning. They attended their first rally in 1994. They were co-hosts for a rally the next year in Batesville IN.. They were among the first members of the **Charter Chapter**. Stan was an enthusiastic supporter of TrailManor and TrailBlazers. He is survived by his wife Mary and three children; July, David, and Debbie, and eight grandchildren.



### Stan, Mary, and Debbie Harsh

SAN FRANCISCO AREA JUBILEE 2015 October 3-11, 2015

San Francisco North/Petaluma KOA Camping Resort was chosen by the West Coast Chapter to be the site of the next Jubilee. More information on this later.

*New members totaled twenty-six*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 21 – Number 2 – May 2013

DONALD JOSEPH “CHIEF” WALPOLE – 11/26/35 to 3/28/13

The Mile High TrailBlazers lost one of our charter members, **Don Walpole**, recently. He and his wife Joyce have four children – James, Christopher, Carron, and Mark, who are all married, and nine grandchildren. Don retired as a Battalion Chief from the Chicago Fire Department, and moved with his family to Castle Rock, Colorado. Don and Joyce were active in hosting outings through the years. He served as president of the chapter for one term. He always gave a helping hand when someone had questions or problems with their trailers. He offered extra water hoses for those whose trailers couldn't get water from the central supply location. He and Joyce offered up a gathering place for “toddlies” before dinner. He made an effort to attend the campfire discussions after dinner, even if he wasn't up for it. Most of all, he wasn't one to complain about much of anything. He just took things as they came. He will be

greatly missed by all who knew him.

*New members totaled twenty-four*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 21 – September 2013

**Remembering Jack LaCoss** – The New England Pilgrim Chapter has lost one of our dear friends, **Jack LaCoss**. He was the husband of Jeannine LaCoss. Jack was a very active member of our chapter. Whenever help was needed Jack was there from starting a campfire, to helping with raffles, to flipping pancakes. They have attended every Jubilee since they bought their TrailManor in 2000 and have many camping friends in other chapters. Jack will be truly missed. He has gone to start the campfire at the eternal rally. God bless this good and faithful servant.

## San Francisco Area Jubilee 2015 – October 3-11, 2015

San Francisco North/Petaluma KOA Camping Resort. After telling about the amenities at the campground, President Ralph Sherer went on to state “October is a good time to get the best rates for camping site, Kabins, and lodges. The campground will handle all reservations.

*New members totaled thirty-seven*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 22 – Number 1 – January 2014

### TrailManor News

They have patented a new product – **The Wedge** – which is a lock that eliminates the need for tie-downs on pick-up campers. They have manufactured their first pick-up camper that is called **THE RISE**. TrailManor is continually ‘tweaking’ it before they get into full production.

*New members totaled twenty-six*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 22 – No 1A – January 2014A

### President’s Report

Treasurer **Jack Adair** has resigned from his national treasurer duties. Jack has served as our treasurer since 2009. We will miss him and his wife Mary. **Thanks you, Jack, for over 4 years of service.**

**Cindy Watson** accepts treasurer position. Cindy is a member of the Charter Chapter, and has been auditor of our books for at least the last couple years. She will take over Jack’s duties once the books for 2013 have been audited. **Welcome Cindy. We look forward to working with you.**

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 22 – Number 2 – May 2014

### San Francisco Area Jubilee 2015

The committee just published a website for the Jubilee 2015. You can access the site at <http://tbjubilee2015.weebly.com/>. They are in the process of planning various trips and activities. The campground is just 34 miles north of the Golden Gate Bridge.

**Interesting Fact** – as noted in this copy of Tidings. In **2002** – e-mail addresses were first included in a listing of TrailBlazer members. The **2013** Directory lists **420 members** and only **17 of them do not list e-mail** addresses.

*New members totaled twenty-four*

## TRAILBLAZERS TIDINGS – Volume 22 – Number 3 – September 2014

### IN MEMORIAM - ANDY JOHNSON

It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the passing of **Andy Johnson** who started the West Coast Chapter of the TrailBlazers with **Sharon Zanassi**. Andy was a strong supporter of TrailManor and his passion for the community was contagious. To organize their first rally, he and Sharon made reservations at KOA Petaluma and invited anyone to come. Thirty five TrailManors showed up and the Chapter has grown ever since. He served as Secretary for many years, and also as the Wagonmaster for many Rallies. Thank you Andy for all the times you lent a helping hand or chipped in some well rounded advice. You brought many new friends together through the years who will miss you dearly



**Andy Johnson**

*New members totaled twenty-three*

# The End



Unless you're the Lead Dog the Scenery Never Changes.