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Region VII Folklorama Rally

By Cathy Ruebel
Photos: Cathy Ruebel & Gail Harrower

Starting our caravan to Winnipeg at the Prairie Haven Campground, Eckelson were Jack and Arlene Bailey, Vern and Bev Zink, Bruce and Carolyn Coonrod, and Ron and Rose Larson. We all were greeted with a tote bag with an Airstream painted on it by the campground owners, Colleen and Robert Collier. After good fellowship in Zink's motorhome due to rain, we all headed for our trailers to get ready for traveling.

Saturday morning after a hearty breakfast of biscuits

gravy, eggs, bacon and sausage served by the Colliers, we headed to our next destination, Wahalla. We had a stop over in Petersburg (where the Larsons once called home) to stretch our legs and walk our four legged friends.

In Wahalla, we were met by 3rd International Vice President Don Clark and his wife Jan, Don and Lillian Thomson from Cavalier, Judy Koester from Cando, and Region 7 President Don and Terrol Rogers who drove down for the day from Winnipeg.

On Sunday afternoon, we went to Mountain and the Icelandic Festival which was

wrapping up. From there, our bus driver Don Thomson gave us a tour of the local countryside. That evening, we were joined by Larry and Cathy Ruebel of Bismarck.

Misfortune befell the Ruebels on the way to Walhalla, when they crossed paths with a kamikaze seagull. It almost was a miss, but the hapless bird took off downwind and couldn't get enough altitude to clear the expensive panels on the trailer. Bruce Coonrod made a valiant attempt to fix the booboo with a strategically placed Band-Aid, but it did wonders for Larry's

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Saddle Up to Medora

Region 7 Rally, August 2-9, 2010

By Joan Lahr

Medora, North Dakota, a premier family entertainment destination, is the site of the 2010 Region 7 rally. Medora offers spectacular scenery and dozens of indoor and outdoor activities to make your visit a modern "Old West" experience.

Savor a delicious New York Strip steak prepared pitchfork fondue style while viewing the picturesque Badlands from atop a bluff at the Tjaden

Terrace. Steaks come with all the fixin's.

After dinner, enjoy the high-energy, western Medora Musical, which is presented in the outdoor splendor of the North Dakota Badlands in the 2,852 seat, Burning Hills Amphitheatre. This musical is proudly dedicated to the legacy of America's 26th President, Theodore Roosevelt, and his time spent in the North Dakota Badlands. The musical is professionally produced,

family entertainment and always showcases American patriotism. Along with comedy and nationally known variety acts, the show combines exciting song and dance routines accompanied by professional singers and an on-stage band. An extravaganza that features fireworks, horses, and outstanding professional entertainment, the Medora Musical is fun for the whole family!

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Medora, from Page 1

Medora is the gateway to Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the North Dakota Badlands. Enjoy the breathtaking vistas in the savagely beautiful North Dakota Badlands. View bison, prairie dogs, wild horses, mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, and several species of birds in the 110 square mile park. Travel through the park to the site of President Roosevelt's Elkhorn Ranch and stop for a picnic lunch. Depending upon the depth of water in the Little Missouri River, we may drive through the river to the ranch site with our own four-wheel drive vehicles.

Explore the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame, an interpretive \$4 million facility which displays the history of Native Americans, ranching, rodeo and the western lifestyle of the north plains horse culture and the Badlands.


Tour the Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, home of the Marquis de More. The Marquis was the founder of Medora and named the town after his wife, Medora von Hoffman. Refurbished to its original splendor of yesteryear, the home includes items of interest and fascination.

Bike or hike the nationally ranked, 97 mile Maah Daah Hey Trail. This adventure lover's dream traverses the scenic and rugged Badlands of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Saddle up and take a trail ride with the "horsey" set, beginning at the Peaceful Valley Ranch located in the Badlands.

Play 9 holes of golf at the world-class Bully Pulpit golf course. While there, visit the Transportation Museum, which interprets Theodore Roosevelt's involvement with the Panama Canal.

Watch the thrilling bronco riders at the annual Champions Ride Match Rodeo. Proceeds from the rodeo benefit Home on the Range, a residential center for troubled boys and girls.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park, the North Dakota Badlands, and most of the events and activities are located right in Medora, just minutes from the rally site, the Red Trail Campground.

More details and a coupon will be available in future *Blue Berets*. Contact Joan Lahr 262-327-4336 or email lahr@wbcci.net for further information. 

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perspective. Could happen anytime to anyone.

Monday we enjoyed our picnic, a lazy afternoon chatting, and psyching ourselves up for the busy week ahead. Later in the afternoon, we were joined by Cathy's dad, Peter Breu and his soon-to-be-bridal, Irene, from Marshfield, Wisconsin. Supper was on your own, and Lillian Thomson served a fresh-from-her-garden raspberry dessert.

Tuesday we were off to Winnipeg with our caravan leaders Don and Lillian Thomson. With everyone through the Canadian Port of Entry at Walhalla, we stopped in Morris, Manitoba for hearty breakfast and paced ourselves for a noon arrival at the Travelers RV Resort on Winnipeg's southeast perimeter.

Following the welcome barbeque, Region 7 President Don Rogers opened the rally with a posting of the unit flags by their representatives. We were welcomed to Winnipeg by Ms. Molly Bumpers, an alleged cousin to a niece of some relative's of the mayor (portrayed by Terrol Rogers). She gave us insight to the attraction the community has to offer and boggling directions to navigate downtown's "Confusion Corner."

In the evening, some people headed out to Club Regent Casino to try their hand, while many others caravanned out to Cooks

Region VII Vice Presidents Positions

Wanted...

Due to Stanley Schwenke's recent resignation, candidates for the positions of Region VII Second Vice President and Incoming Second Vice President are urgently needed. Applicants will be interviewed by a three person nominating committee. If you are interested, please contact Don Rogers or Joan Lahr to ask any questions about the position and responsibilities.

Please send your resume to:

Don Rogers, Region VII President

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Or email your resume to terdon@mts.net

Creek, to tour a historic Ukrainian church and grotto. It was a beautiful place to see, and some members returned there to take in Sunday service.

Pancakes and sausages were served for breakfast Wednesday morning by the Wisconsin Unit. Following breakfast, the Rogers led a caravan out to the Mennonite Heritage Village, while Ron Skelton, president of the Manitoba Unit and a naval veteran, lead a tour to the Naval Museum of Manitoba. Those at the Mennonite village also enjoyed a traditional lunch, including fresh bread prepared with flour milled at the village.

In the afternoon, there was a tour of the Royal Canadian Mint, which is a high-tech, high-volume manufacturing facility. Every single Canadian circulation coin is produced there – literally billions each year.

Following happy hour, the motorcoach arrived to take the group to Folklorama, except it wasn't quite big enough, and Don Thomson was asked to shuttle around a dozen in his van. The Russian pavilion was the first stop for appetizers and the show, the Greek pavilion for our main entree and their show, and later to close the evening with Israel for dessert, coffee and the show.

The Minnesota Unit served oatmeal and ice cream for breakfast Thursday. Some people headed east to Fantasy Lake Golf Course, and prizes were awarded at happy hour for high low scores, most improved score, and a consolation prize for the water hazard.

Ladies day out started with a tour of the Winnipeg Humane Society with our guide, Terrol Rogers. It is a million-dollar state-of-the-art building to house and care for unwanted animals, and was built entirely with donations. From there, the ladies visited the Assiniboine Park Conservatory, where they had lunch and a brief look at the gardens. Next, they were off to downtown and Nygards Fashion World to shop. They gave everyone a copy of *The Fashionista's Guide To Survival* as a complimentary gift before they left.

In the afternoon people set off for a tour of St. Boniface Museum, the oldest remaining structure in the city of Winnipeg. The former Grey Nuns' convent houses the museum, which was built between 1845 and 1851, and served as the first hospital in Western Canada. The group also got to sample some tasty little

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sweet rolls, dubbed “nun farts.”

Thursday evening’s outing to Folklorama brought the group to Columbia and Belgium and to the Celtic Ireland pavilions. Everyone was impressed with the choreography of the step dance by the students of the Brady Academy of Irish Dance; founder Philip Brady credits include numerous competitions and an extensive international tour with Lord of the Dance.


North and South Dakota served a cereal and toast breakfast Friday morning as the weather was threatening a drippy day—perfect weather for taking a drive along the River Road Heritage Parkway. Caravanning north out of Winnipeg, we stopped at St. Andrew’s Church and Rectory, the oldest stone church in western Canada used continuously for worship, and whose kneelers are covered in buffalo hide for comfort. We passed the St. Andrew Lock and Dam, built in 1910 to bypass rapids on the Red River and allow navigation to and from Lake Winnipeg. We stopped at Lower Fort Gary National Historic Park, where the skies opened up just a little more. But the rain could not dampen the opportunity to see these restored buildings from Canada’s early history. All the buildings were attended by costumed interpreters who knew their history, including the blacksmith who was keeping the chill out of his shop. Smoke filled the kitchen in the basement of the Governor’s Big House, as the cook started the wood oven.

From there, we continued north into Selkirk for a quick lunch, and then on to Marine Museum of Manitoba. There a number of ships sat together on dry land, connected by gangplanks so that visitors could go from ship to ship to take in the restorations in progress and the shipping artifacts. Despite the weather, it was a most enjoyable afternoon with good company and great sights to visit... and just enough time to rest up for the evening’s activities.

Friday was “Folklorama on your own” and the North Dakota group decided to visit the German Pavilion. Supper was a multitude of choices of traditional German foods, including sauerkraut, bratwurst, rouladen, and apple and cherry strudel! The host and hostess for the night’s entertainment encouraged audience participation, and we jumped in on cue. Following the show, Don Thomson gave us a tour of the downtown area, before we headed back to the campground. A number of others continued on to other nearby pavilions afterwards.

Saturday morning, the Region 7 business meeting was held at a local church due to the weather.

Back at the campground, shore lunch was a walleye fish fry to keep everyone going for the day. At happy hour, Terrol Rogers drew names for door prizes, the last being “Bride” and Groom” t-shirts for Peter Breu and his fiancée, Irene Gardner. Peter’s long time friend, Ron Skelton, who is a marriage minister for the province, along with the rest of the group enthusiastically “prepped” the happy couple for their wedding in a couple months. After happy hour, many people headed out to the pavilions for the evening.

Sunday morning, the Manitoba Unit served coffee, juice and fresh donuts from Tim Hortons. Farewells were taken by many, but several members, including the Coonrods, were planning to stay on in Winnipeg, to take in the second week of different pavilions. 

President’s Message

I would first like to thank the Region VII officers and their chairpersons for a fine job this past year. Their hard work and diligence has been a great help to Terrol and I. Volunteers are the backbone of this organization and with their help the club continues to thrive.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to Manitoba Unit members Gail and Bruce Harrower and Ron and Evelyn Skelton for their work and support at the Region VII Rally in Winnipeg in August and to all the Region VII members that attended and gave a hand every day. Special thanks to Gary and Sharon Colbert for letting us put a dozen picnic tables in their camp site so we could meet and eat there every day. We deep fried 30 pounds of walleye filets behind their trailer and served fish, potato salad, coleslaw and bannock to over 80 people.

This was a fun and entertaining rally and Joan and Mike have been putting in lots of time, travel and work to set up another fabulous Region VII Rally in Medora, ND for August 2010. Make sure to leave room on your calendar for this rally and the spectacular Medora Musical you will see while there. We’ve seen this musical a couple of times and highly recommend it to everyone. It is family entertainment at its best, not to mention a beautiful evening under the ND big sky and stars.

The Region VII first timer numbers were up at the International Rally in Madison this past June. It’s always great to see all the smiling faces, as our members enjoy everything there is to see and do and experience at an International Rally. Lots of our members volunteered to do different jobs while they were there. Volunteering is a great way to meet new friends and get reacquainted with old friends.

Congratulations to all the new Unit officers that were installed this fall. We hope you have a fun and enriching year. I am happy to say that although the Manitoba Unit has dissolved, all the remaining members have joined the North Dakota Peace Garden Unit, with the exception of one couple who chose to join our friends in the Minnesota Unit. We know they will be welcomed with open arms. Members of the South Dakota Unit also joined North Dakota. This too, will help to make the North Dakota Unit stronger and help keep Region VII just as strong and viable as always. Thank you to all past MB and SD members for choosing to remain in this great club.

Region VII members will have another year of travel, fun and fellowship, through our rallies, caravans, breakfasts, potlucks, happy hours and campfires in 2010. We are looking forward to seeing y’all.

This is the season of family and rejoicing in our beliefs, whatever they may be. We ask you to please keep in your thoughts and prayers the members of our armed forces, both in the US and in Canada, that are deployed in active war zones and all around the world on land, sea and in the air.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Don and Terrol Rogers
Region VII President and First Lady



International 3rd VP Don Clark and wife Jan with their loyal travel companion.



Molly Bumbers (aka Region VII First Lady Terrol Rogers) entertains the crowd at opening ceremony.



Region VII President Don Rogers and his "date," First Lady Terrol Rogers.



Region VII members enjoying happy hour on a beautiful, Winnipeg day.



Larry Ruebel shows off his trailer's encounter with a North Dakota seagull.



Don Rogers, Kathy Treston, and Gail Harrower share a happy moment.

North Dakota caravan members take a break enroute to the Region VII rally.



Wisconsinites and future bride and groom, Peter Breu and Irene Gardner, relaxing at one of the many happy hours.

President Don Rogers presiding at opening ceremonies.

