

VINH LONG OUTLAWS NEWS

VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION
(VLOA)

July - September
3rd Issue, 2005

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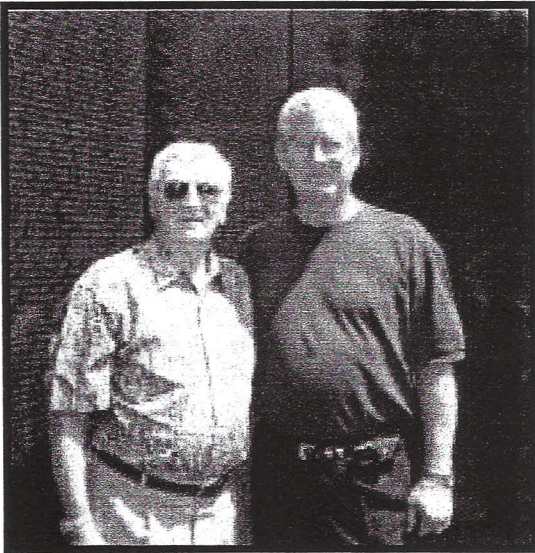
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Notes from the Director

"Nothing is permanent except change." This adage was made evident with the arrival of Hurricane Katrina. The loss and destruction left in her wake resulted in a decision by the VLOA Steering Committee to cancel plans for the location of R2K+6. Emmadel and Chester Voisin, Pat and Patty Theriot had already expended, at considerable time and expense, dedicated efforts planning and arranging an unforgettable visit for VLOA members in the grand old city of New Orleans. Agree R2K+6 wasn't scheduled until September, 2006 but the decision was based on current risk of financial and scheduling instability. Maybe next time!

Your Steering Committee did authorize continuation of plans for R2K+6 at Pigeon Forge based on it's popular choice by VLOA members. They also wholeheartedly approved Tom and Pat Anderson to immediately proceed with coordination/finalization plans for the event. Talk about "being in good hands." We can rest assured Tom and Pat will make great housing and entertainment arrangements for our comfort and enjoyment. We will learn more details from Tom and Pat in their Reunion Committee article. Make plans now to attend R2K+6 at Pigeon Forge located in the beautiful Smoky Mountains next September.

It has been our good fortune having talented members of our organization come forward when needed. When results of hurricane damage precluded New Orleans as our site for R2K+6, Al and Marguerite Iller, Tom and Pat Anderson volunteered to coordinate and arrange for alternate locations at Branson, MO, Washington, DC, and Pigeon Forge. Emmadel and Chester Voisin, Pat and Patty Theriot came forward before and they will again. All of us appreciate the fine work Al and Nell Moist do editing and publishing our quarterly Newsletter. We have a central VLOA focus point with the establishment and continuation of our VLOA web site. Bud Allie came through big time to reactivate and keep our improved web site current and on line. Al Iller planned and coordinated our April visit to Ft. Hood for the Change of Command ceremony of CPT Sean Huggins and to welcome back from Iraq his fellow B Troop, 1/158th Aviation Regiment "Outlaws." As our Quartermaster, Al established our QM Store. With the able assistance of Bob Koonce designing Outlaw, Maverick, and Roadrunner decals, Al has also obtained Outlaw pins/tie tacks, and bronze belt buckles for our purchase.
(continued on page 4)



When Ernie Isbell was in Washington DC on a business trip recently, he and Tom Anderson visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to pay their respects to the memory of our many comrades whose names appear on the Wall. Tom and Ernie are pictured above in front of the panel on which are inscribed the names of two of our Outlaw members, Jack Sanford and Mike Moritz. Jack and Mike were KIA on June 16, 1965 when their Maverick gunship was shot down by enemy fire within sight of Vinh Long airfield.

FROM AL & NELL:

To family and friends,

We haven't said anything to anyone about this until now because we wanted to wait until things were final.

We just purchased a one bedroom condo near Destin in NW Fl. as an investment property. It finally closed last week, so we thought that we would let you all know in case anyone is interested in accommodations for an upcoming getaway to the island. It's available for weekends or on a weekly basis. For now, we will be handling bookings until we can find an agent. Weekends will cost about \$100 for three nights and \$250 for the week. These prices are low because they are for friends and family. Prices will be a bit different for people we don't know, but we can discuss that on an individual basis. In any case, it's a one bedroom, high-rise unit that overlooks the ocean, nestled among lush greens, and has a lovely ocean view from every window!

(See photo on page 4)

NEW MEMBERS THIS QUARTER:

Collis L. (Sonny) Smith - Holdrege, NE

Pat Obrien - Martinez, CA

CORRECTION:

In the last newsletter article Notes From the Director the "Ringling Brothers Circus former summer quarters" should have been "winter quarters". I apologize for this error...Tim did tell me to make this correction and I simply forgot it.
Nell



THE BACK PEW

Submitted by our Chaplain: John Doyle

Sending God an E-mail

I've made up my mind. I have decided to send God an e-mail. That's right! An e-mail. After all, we are constantly sending e-mails to family, friends, and even strangers. But, I have a couple of problems: How do I word it? What does one say to God? Even more important, what is His e-mail address? Maybe I'll just send it to <God@pearlygates.heaven>. That should get it to Him.

Now, how do I begin? Let me see: "Dear God", too formal for my liking. How about, "Yo, God"; not respectful enough. Maybe I'll just say, "Hello God", ya, I like that.

What does one say to God? I can't say "Hello God. How are you feeling today?" No, that will never do. I certainly can't tell Him to "Forward this to 100 people in the next hour and something good will happen to you by midnight. If you don't forward it, you're in big trouble." And I doubt if He would believe that if He forwarded this "to everybody in His address book, and the entire New York City White Pages, Bill Gates will send Him a buck-twenty for each name." NO! NO! NO! That will never work.

Maybe I'll just say:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be one, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." (Matthew 6:9b-13 NIV)

On second thought, maybe I'll just close my eyes, lower my head, and say "Hello God, this is John....."

Child of a Soldier

My hometown is nowhere, my friends are everywhere.

I grew up with the knowledge that home is where the heart is and the family-With no dependence on the dwelling.

Mobility is my way of life. Some would wonder about roots, yet they are as deep and strong as the mighty oak. I sink them quickly, absorbing all an area offers and hopefully giving enrichment in return.

Travel has taught me to be open. Shaking hands with the universe, I find brotherhood in all men.

Farewells are never easy. Yet even in sorrow comes strength and ability to face tomorrow with anticipation-and when I leave one place, I feel that half of my world is left behind. I also know that the other half is still waiting to be met.

Friendships are formed in hours and kept for decades. I will never grow up with someone, but I will mature with many. Be it inevitable that paths part, there is constant hope and that they will meet again.

Love of country, respect and pride fill my being when Old Glory passes in review.

As I stand to honor that flag, so also do I stand in honor of all soldiers, And most especially, to the parents whose life create mine. . Because of this I have shared in the rich heritage OF ARMY LIFE!

~Anonymous~

(submitted by Linda Isbell)

NOTE FROM BYRON MIKSCH:

Hi Everyone,

I'm headed to San Antonio on Oct 10 to visit my daughter. A few days ago she told me that, "in about two and a half weeks", there is a strong chance she will be going to Ft Benning (anyone know where that is?) for two weeks "small arms training". Shortly thereafter Shelby will be headed for- BOSNIA. So, if anyone is interested, I can pass on to Al and Nell anything from Shelby that might be interesting to all for inclusion in future newsletters. Be forewarned- coming through a security clearance, it might be pretty "dry".

Byron



Al & Nell's new condo

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR (continued from page 1)

As mentioned, Bob is our talented and creative cartoonist and art designer. Chuck Wren does invaluable service keeping the books as our Treasurer. Chaplain John Doyle helps all of us invite our Lord into our lives with good humor and personal concern. His Prayer Request/Chaplains Page as part of our web site is excellent. Many others have served important roles, performed key tasks, and can be counted on to assist again. Just wanted to say thanks to those who have served, doing noteworthy tasks for VLOA this past year.

Will head back to Huntsville 9 October. Had another good summer in Wisconsin. It was warmer than normal and lacking in moisture but grass grew as usual and our garden came through with more than enough, as always. Thanks to Mitzi, we will return with a good supply of canned and frozen goodies for our winter dining enjoyment.

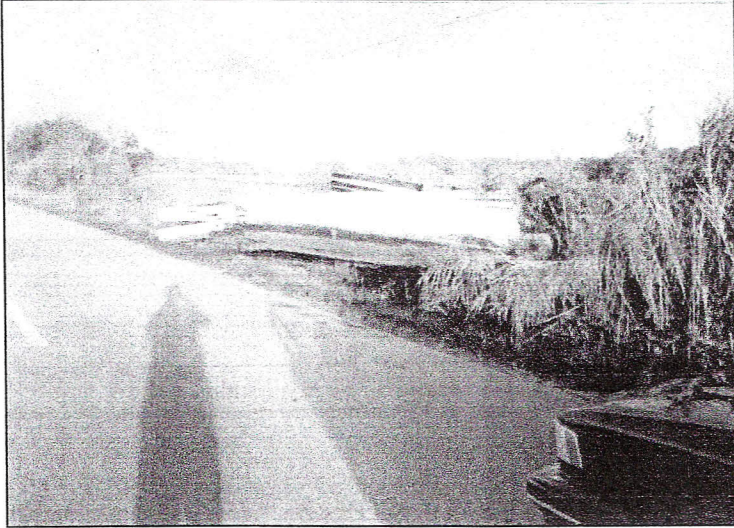
Tim Bisch, Director

THE TREASURERS CORNER

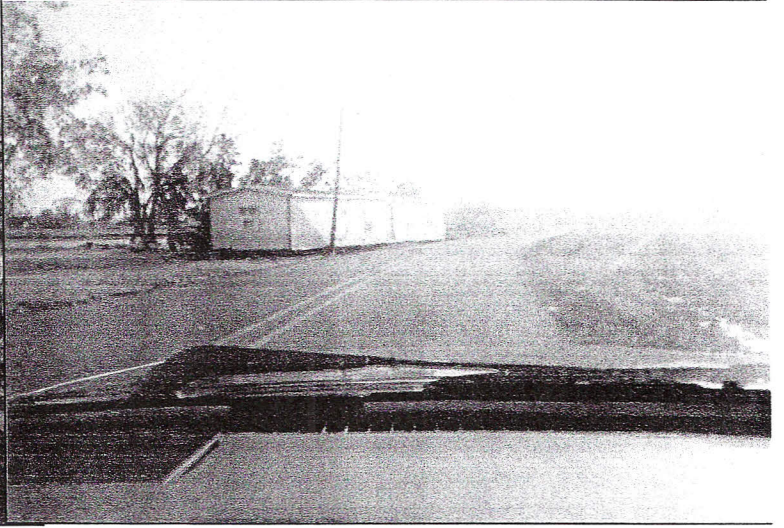
The Vinh Long Outlaw Association has been very fortunate since its inception. We have been able to accrue a significant dollar amount through reunion sales of hats, shirts, cups, etc., the Chinese auction, 50-50 sales, donations by members for the VLOA Memorial and lastly Annual Membership dues. As a result the VLOA financial balance as of 30 September is \$16,595.24. I would like to remind everyone that if you have internet capability you can check-out whether you're a current member by checking the VLOA website.

Chuck Wren

The following pictures were sent to us by Chester & Emmadel Voisin



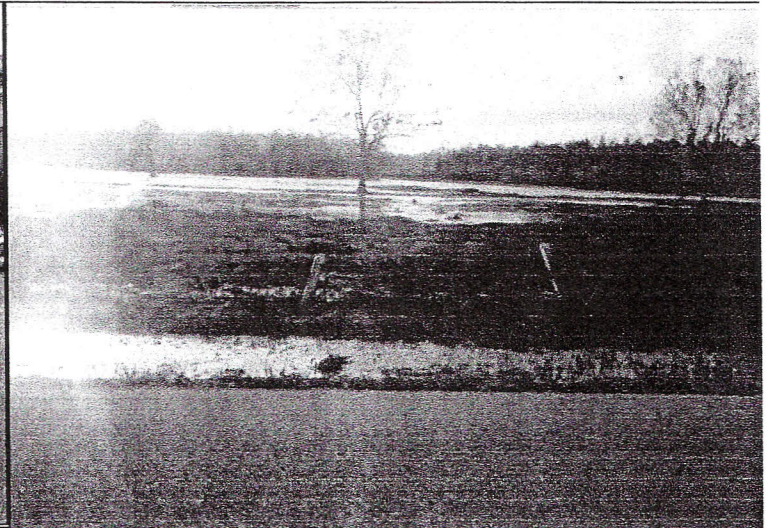
Sunken boat in bayou brought ashore by flood waters



Trailer brought partially on road by flood waters



House on right lost husband of 65 years two days after Katrina
Had water up to window bottom . Three weeks later lost
everything in her home. All of people's life is on the street.



These are flood waters from Katrina

LETTER FROM THE VOISINS AND THERIOTS:

To our fellow VLOA members:

We were expecting to publish the itinerary and particulars including the estimated costs for our VLOA R2k+6 Reunion in New Orleans. However, it seems that Katrina and Rita had other plans for our region. As a result we will not be hosting the R2K+6 Reunion in New Orleans.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their thoughts, concerns, prayers and phone calls regarding our well being during these unwelcome events.

Thanks to Tom & Pat Anderson for rescuing us from the turbulent waters we have recently experienced. We all know that they will do a great job and put forth a great reunion in Pigeon Forge.

Chester and I have had three displaced daughters during these trying times. Janelle, our oldest, had the visit of two huge pine trees in her home in Mandeville during Katrina. They had evacuated to Dallas but had returned to Louisiana afterwards and were staying with us at the time Rita decided to visit. Our youngest daughter, Erin, had to evacuate her apartment in New Orleans for Katrina and was staying with us for Rita. We still don't know the extent of the damages to her apartment. Our middle daughter, Heidi, experienced the most significant damages as a result of both systems, roof to be replaced and major structural & flooring repairs and furniture replacement due to 1 ½ feet of tidal water in her home. She and her family have moved in with us until repairs are complete.

Our homestead will require new roofs on our residence and barn/workshop. ONE inch of tidal water was enough to require complete flooring replacement. Other than that we consider ourselves very lucky since Rita was 185 miles to our west. Any closer and we would have been devastated. We all are well insured and on our way to recovery. Some of you may ask "why do you stay down there?". Unless you have been here you don't know that this place is Heaven on earth and worth all the sacrifices you have to endure to live here.

Pat & Patty Theriot are doing fine. They live further north from the coast and did not experience the wrath of those two women. Their granddaughter, Hannah, is not currently in the hospital and they would like to thank everyone for their prayers and ask that they continue to pray for little Hannah and her family.

A special thanks to the Bishops, Illers and Andersons for all the assistance and guidance during the past year. It has really been fun and we look forward to seeing all of you in Pigeon Forge in 2006.

Chester & Emmadel Voisin
Pat & Patty Theriot

JUST FOR LAUGHS:

CHILDS VIEW

A three year old boy went with his dad to see a new litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother, "There were two boy kittens and two girl kittens."

"How did you know that?" his mother asked. "Daddy picked them up and looked underneath." he replied.

"I think it is printed on the bottom."

(Don't you just love kids and their insight?)

Outlaw's Reunion 2006 is set !

During the late 1700s, early settlers along a river running through the Smoky Mountains in Tennessee began calling the river the "Pigeon" river because of the vast number of passenger pigeons that stopped to feed along the river. By 1820 a fellow named Isaac Love had built an iron forge along that river to serve the region, thus the town that grew up there became known as Pigeon Forge. Then, in 1934, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was dedicated and the tourism boom began. Now, in 2006 the Vinh Long Outlaws will add to the more than 11 million people who visit Pigeon Forge each year.

Yes, the next VLOA reunion will be in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee on September 21-25, 2006!

Planning arrangements for Reunion 2006 (R2K6) are well underway. Tom and Pat Anderson, who have taken on the job started by the Louisiana Cajuns, recently visited Pigeon Forge, stayed in our hotel, took in a show, ate in the local restaurants and were impressed and delighted with the prospects for our reunion. And, you will be too! You may not know much about Pigeon Forge now, but we think you will be excited and impressed with the town and the area. Here's a run-down on what you can expect.

The Hotel: Our headquarters for four nights will be the MainStay Suites, a nearly new hotel several blocks off the main road nestled in a secluded country setting. The management has offered us everything we asked for. For example, every room is a studio suite not just a sleeping room! (Suites feature queen size beds, a small den area and a full kitchen) They gave us wonderful rates. (We set late September for our reunion because hotel rates double and triple in October when tens of thousands of visitors come to Pigeon Forge just to see the changing leaves). They provide wireless/hi speed internet connections. We'll have our own dedicated Hospitality Suite for the length of our stay, where we will be allowed to bring in our own drinks, snacks, etc. The Hospitality Suite is more than large enough for our meetings, social events, displays, silent auction, etc. plus it has an attached, fully equipped kitchen for our private use. You'll love the outdoor pools, one of which is a "lazy river" pool. (Bring your swimming suit!) We'll have a complimentary continental breakfast every morning. A beautiful outside pavilion will be the location for two of our planned events. It's a beautiful hotel and we were fortunate to be able to get it booked for our group.

The Activities: We will register on Thursday, September 21st, 2006. We're planning a "Welcome Back" outdoor barbeque dinner, with entertainment, under the pavilion that evening. To give everyone a feeling of the uniqueness and beauty of the Smoky Mountains area, we have scheduled a guided, narrated bus trip to the top of the most visited National Park in the U.S. You will hear an array of history, stories and legend about the area and the people and will have a box lunch on a beautiful river bank in the park on the return trip. (Cameras and jackets are encouraged).

You probably already know that Dollywood is one of the feature attractions in Pigeon Forge. Dolly also puts on a fantastic show called the "Dixie Stampede", where we will have dinner and attend the great show. (Al Iller recently previewed the Dixie Stampede for us and gives it high marks. If Al liked it, you'll like it!) For those who want to take in Dollywood, there will be time for that too. We will have made separate arrangements (on one of our "On-Your-Own" afternoons) for reduced-price Dollywood tickets.

We'll have an early dinner in the Apple Barn Farmhouse Grill restaurant before our reserved-seating attendance at the very entertaining "Smith Family Show". Pat and I went to this show and had a wonderful time. Good, clean entertainment with lots of singing, dancing and laughs.

Arrangements are being made for golf T-Times at the Gatlinburg Country Club for those who want to get in an "18". There are several outstanding Factory Outlet Malls within 3-5 miles for which we will have maps and directions. There are a number of attractions in the area that we just didn't have time to incorporate into our schedule. Such things as the Veterans Memorial Museum, several fine shows and dinner theaters,

A Welcome Desk will be set up in the lobby of the MainStay Suites for your arrival processing. You will each receive a group photo before departure.

(continued on page 8)

OUTLAW'S REUNION 2006 IS SET! (continued from page 7)

We will have our General Membership meeting in the Hospitality Suite on Saturday morning with Open Time that afternoon for Dollywood, shopping, golf, naps or whatever. Sunday morning we will have a nondenominational service in the pavilion conducted by our Chaplain, John Doyle.

The highlight event of every one of our reunions has been our closing banquet. Sunday evening, 2006, will be no exception. Ernie Isbell doesn't know it yet, but, because of his magnetic charm, social aplomb, comedic wit, and the fact that he's bigger than anyone else, he can be assured he will be asked to again be our Master of Ceremonies for R2K6.

Getting There: Pigeon Forge is not isolated. It is served by nearby Knoxville McGhee-Tyson Airport. The airport is served by Delta, Independence, Northwest, United, US Airways, Comair, American Eagle, Continental Express and others. The drive from the Knoxville airport takes no more time than from the San Antonio airport to our reunion hotel in that city. We are looking into having a limo service provide group transportation from the airport to the hotel and return. More on this later.

Costs: At this writing, final costs have not yet been confirmed. But we can say that the cost will be approximately the same as we paid for our San Antonio reunion. We will be able to get more information to you when we have finalized, and signed, the contract for our hotel, bus transportation and social activities. Costs, of course, continue to climb but we have attempted to keep the total cost to you as low as possible. We think you will be pleased. We will get more information to you within the next 30-45 days.

We will use the same registration procedures as in previous reunions. Registration forms are being developed and will be sent out with the next info package. Registration forms and initial (and final) payment will be sent to Chuck Wren who will provide attendance lists to the hotel. Above all, do not make contact with the hotel for your arrangements because the hotel reservations staff is not involved with room rates, reservations or special requests. To ensure coordination with the hotel is maintained, those items will only be handled by Chuck or Tom Anderson.

The Louisiana Cajuns (Chester and Emmadell Voisin and Patrick and Patty Theriot) had completed a tremendous amount of planning and hard work toward our hoped-for 2006 reunion in New Orleans. Unfortunately, Katrina changed those plans. We hope we will be able to live up to the plans they had made for R2K6 by showing the Outlaws, Mavericks, Roadrunners, gunners and guests a fantastic time in Pigeon Forge. We were very fortunate to be able to get the prime dates we wanted for our Pigeon Forge reunion as well as the services of a very experienced, capable and likeable reunion planner in the Pigeon Forge area.

Every year that passes gets us further away from our year together in Viet Nam. If you miss this reunion, you will miss a golden opportunity to be with that great group of guys who meant so much to each other in 1964-65 in that little muddy, Mekong Delta airstrip at Vinh Long. And you'll always regret not taking the time to be with these old friends. Plus, who knows how many more reunions we will be able to have?

More details and specifics are to come, but for now, start by putting September 21-25th 2006 on your calendars and make your plans to attend.

Tom and Pat Anderson

PIGEON FORGE R2K6

A NEW APPROACH TO THE SILENT AUCTION

One of the favorite features of our past reunions has been the Silent Auction in which a diverse grouping of donated items have been made available to the reunion attendees. Each item is placed on a table in our Hospitality Suite, accompanied by an interesting written description of the item. Alongside each item is a bidding sheet on which attendees write their bid amount for the item beneath the previous bidders name and bid amount. Much of our reunion costs, other than rooms, meals, transportation and shows are subsidized from the sale of these items.

Item on the auction table are normally donated by various VLOA members. Items have included a wide variety of such things as commercial items, personal bits and pieces, patriotic or military memorabilia, VLOA-emblems, etc.

Over the years we have all noted that there is a tremendous amount of talent among our VLOA members, but that talent is often only known, or recognized, by a limited few other members. For example, Bob Koonce's sketches are the equal of anything you could find at an art gallery. Olen Thornton has performed his singing and playing on our VLOA stage at the Branson reunion and has put his guitar/mandolin/banjo/harmonica music on a CD. We know of others who have talents in crafting, writing, painting, carving, pottery making, cooking, scrapbooking and innumerable other areas.

Therefore, the R2K6 Silent Auction will be different. We want the auction to heavily feature personalized items created by YOU with YOUR TALENT. Be assured we will be putting pressure on you to use your personal dexterities to create, generate and donate something fashioned from your own personal talents to the Silent Auction.

It's safe to say that every one of you has something you like to do for fun, your own amusement or even for commercial sale, and that you could offer to the Silent Auction. You may not think of your hobby, pastime or leisure pursuit as good enough to put into the auction, but, you can be guaranteed that someone in the VLOA group will make bids on your donation.

Be imaginative in what you can donate and creative in your thinking. Maybe it's something that has an aviation flavor to it. Maybe it's a VLOA related item. Maybe it's something that you made years ago and don't know what to do with now. Bottom line is that we'd like to have at least one item donated from everyone who attends that can be incorporated into the Silent Auction. More than one would be even better. Start thinking now about what you have, or what you may have created yourself, that might be an interesting, or eclectic, item for our Silent Auction.

Olen and Mary Thornton have agreed to coordinate the Silent Auction. Ole will be calling on you to encourage your participation! So, preempt his call by sending Ole an email (olenandmary@cox.net) or letter (3603 Gawaine Ct, Annandale, VA 22003-1311) or call them (home:703-698-0548 or cell: 703-203-2624) to let them know you will be providing an item (or items) for the Silent Auction. If you don't want your name identified with the item, that's OK. Just put something OF YOURS into the Auction! Don't forget, Ole will be calling you to solicit your donation (not money, just things YOU have created) so don't disappoint him. Contact him first!

DAVID AND DIANNA AMASON made a trip this Summer to Disney World here in Florida with their daughter, Debra, son in law, Tommy and grandchildren Waylon and Taylor.

A "Great Time" was reported by all..... except for the "heat".

They stopped and spent the night with Al and Nell Moist on their way down which we enjoyed immensely!! David and Dianna stopped again on the return trip home . We always enjoy their visits so much!!

Al & Nell Moist