

## **2000 Memories**

*Tommy Lynn*

I'd best write this while I can still remember the details, HAH!! Have to warn you's, these are MY memories and I'm sure there are over 60 others as each will have their own.

Judy and I arrived at the resort Friday about noon and found that Tom and Ann Post had already set up shop in the function room. Tom had his lappie and was hard at work entering his data. He had the signage up in all the appropriate places to steer everyone to rooms 104 -106. Thanks Tom and Ann, you're the best....

Folks began straggling in during the afternoon and the highlight of my day was when Judy and Clayton came down the hall bearing hugs and gifts.

Of course, when the elevator door opened and my new friend Brenda and her supported Dee stepped out, I was also thrilled beyond words. And then there was Trudy, a gal I have been writing to for years and had never met till that day. What an awesome experience this was for me seeing new faces and friends that I met last year that have impacted my life in so many ways.

Several left to go out for supper, but as I had made a promise to stay there till 7, we missed the location that they were at and slipped across the highway with the ones that were left and ate my last hot meal for the duration.

Saturday was spent visiting with those already there and waiting for the ones yet to come. We had a suite of 3 function rooms as the resort refers to them and the use of the lobby with its plush furniture and right outside was where a lot of us spent some quiet time and so me blew smoke.

I ranged between all the aforementioned rooms and the great out doors trying my best not to miss anyone which was virtually impossible with over 60 people and like our Linda D . related, these were my people.....

The A/C drove me out more than several times and as I had come down with a wicked sore throat 3 days before the reunion, I had all but

lost my voice and it was difficult for me to carry on a conversation with anyone especially with all the laughter and giggling.

I have already written about my meeting with the President of Indonesia's wife, but what I did not tell you was this.

I had received a phone call from our T-shirt lady on Thursday asking me for the names of 4 people that would provide the necessary information for a background check. So, I hurriedly wrote those still at home and asked for volunteers willing to give me this info.

They were to have this interview with the 4 of us at the resort and the CIA and FBI had come and gave us the all clear on said meeting so the "chosen few" were all pumped up for a 4 PM with "her" but it did not happen that way.

I asked, no, begged them to take one of the others to the meeting as I could hardly talk, but was advised that it was just myself and Delores, the T-shirt lady. Major bummer....

Kathy and Charlie from the Branson area showed up about 1 PM with tons of food and I still can't believe that the grub only cost each person \$5.00. We would have had a hard time pulling this off without Kathy running her tail off all weekend, getting this and fetching that and we are all in her debt.

Suzy Ross and her friends showed up with their "hot house" and CHI exerciser and several partook of these.

Sunday - Several of us went to the Barbara Fairchild worship service in the Lawrence Welk Theater and it was super plus being free.

At 1 PM, 32 folks went on the "duck" ride, but as I was not included, someone else will have to tell y'all about that.

During the evening, the ladies (?) had their makeup party and the men went outside to escape all the hubbub and screaming laughter.

We had a huge cake made complete with our logo from this year which was intended for the June birthdays, but then decided to cover every celebration for the year 2000, thus the wording was: "Congratulations, you've made it another year."

Some of the more rowdy bunch (won't mention any names) had a war

of silly string and water blasters and I still don't understand why we weren't thrown out on our butts.

Folks, I have to tell you, we was loud and we was all over the place, but the kind folks at the resort went out of their way to make us feel at home. I'm sure that place will never ever be the same.

Monday, we were all up and at 'em early as the TV crew was expected at 9 AM.

When they arrived, I advised them to take us outside so's they could hear but no, Steve said, "No problem."

Then when he arrived at the conference room and saw what appeared to be a mental ward, I'm sure he wished he'd taken my advice. They shot several minutes of video and then retired to the lobby to interview Hillary and Millie one at a time. Thankfully, the mob stayed entrenched in the conference rooms <VBG>.

Steve was about to call it a wrap when Hils asked him if they would take a group picture of us nuts and the look of pain that crossed this mans face was priceless, but he knew he had met his match with our Hillary.

So, he asked me to tell the tribe to follow me in single file way around the lobby and as we were lining up in the hallway, he asked me to make a run by the camera so they could set up the shot. As soon as I started, everyone just followed me. It was hilarious to say the least as the camera was not even running yet.

After that charade, we all moved back into position and those with scooters had a heck of a time turning them around in the hallway all the time jockeying for position. What a deal!

Then it was decided that several would go to Silver Dollar City. Another logistical nightmare as several had arrived via airplanes and did not have ground transportation.

Anyone watching us in the loading zone must have thought we had completely lost our minds.

The healthy males picked up and loaded scooters, power chairs, and etc: into whatever vehicle would accommodate them while the women were shouting their directions to us.

We had a great time at the city and when we all arrived back at the resort, it was decided to scrap our lakeside barbecue plans as we were all ready to crash. Kathy came to our rescue, however, once again by going to Big Wally World and buying a huge box of chicken and salads.

As the evening progressed, somehow everyone circled the lobby to listen to an informative chat by Hillary and then sharing tips on how to use the toilet of all things.

I have already forgot a bunch of things and failed miserably to mention so many folks and I beg your forgiveness. Memory is not my strong suit!

I averaged 5 hrs. of sleep per night and even when I closed the conference rooms down at 10:30 Sunday night, the party continued outside my window.

These are not your typical PPSer's, at least not while in Branson, and I'm sure we ran up the electric bill as we all had to charge our rides batteries so often as we were constantly on the move.

If there is ANY way you can join us next year for the 2nd weekend in June, please consider this. You will NEVER regret it.

Just yell at me and I will put you on the E Group.

Finally, there was a huge hole without my dear friend Linda D and the others that could not make it this go around and hopefully next year, they can all return and bless us all again.

That's it for 2000.....

Tommy

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