



Prairie Rose



Official Newsletter of the North Dakota Peace Garden Unit

April 2010

www.nodak.wbcci.net

Volume 7 Issue 1

Welcoming in Spring at the WBCCI's National Natchez Pilgrimage Rally



In this issue....

May Day Luncheon
May 1st in Minot

2010 Calendar of
Events

Int'l Board of
Trustees Report

Wooo Hoooo
It's Springtime!

By Bruce Coonrod

Natchez was a hundred years old when Lewis and Clark made their trip up the Missouri, so the area has been occupied by Indians, France, Spain, and England. The town is two years older than New Orleans. The WBCCI Natchez Spring Pilgrimage Rally is held during the Natchez Spring Pilgrimage, which has been held since sometimes in the 1930s.

It's a celebration of times before the Civil War. Although Grant and his Army passed through Natchez on the way to get behind Vicksburg, the town wasn't destroyed and contains many antebellum homes, many of which are open for tours. Some are even lived in.

Natchez sits on high ground on the east side of the Mississippi River on loess soils deposited over thousands of years by winds from the west bringing in dust from Texas and Louisiana.

During the rally we toured the Old River Structures on the Mississippi River 40 miles south of Natchez. This is where 30 percent of the Mississippi is diverted to the Atchafalaya River. Our guide was Cecil Grisham (#6295) who worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for over 30 years on levees as a project manager. And Cecil is a cousin to author John Grisham. We toured the Frogmore Cotton Plantation and Gin, which contrasts a working cotton plantation of the early 1800s with a modern cotton plantation and gin of today. Its gin is the country's only computerized gin.

Another tour was to the Natchez City Cemetery by the author of a book on the cemetery, Don Estes. Natchez is the southern end of the Natchez Trace. One day we went the trace to Port Gibson and Grand Gulf, where Union troops came ashore from the Mississippi to circle behind heavily defended Vicksburg.

(Continued on page 3)

President's Corner

by John Krabseth

I would like to welcome our new members and those members transferring in from the South Dakota and Manitoba Units.

Please join us at these upcoming unit events:

May Day Luncheon: May 1, 2010 at 2:00 pm, Homesteader Restaurant on the Hwy 2/52 West Bypass, just North of Dakota Inn Motel and Capital RV, Minot, ND

Enchanted Highway Rally: Regent, ND June 4th, 5th and 6th. Rally will begin at Assumption Abbey in Richardton ND; Interstate 94 exit 84 North. A pic-

nic lunch will be provided between 12:00. and 1:00 p.m., followed by a tour of the Abbey and wine cellar.

Directions to Regent: Going west on interstate 94 take Exit 72, and travel 32 miles south on Enchanted Highway. Campground registration is at the Enchanted Highway Gift shop. Make reservations by calling 701-564-6400 - tell them you are with the Airstream group. After Saturday morning breakfast, Gary Graff, sculpture creator will conduct tour and explain each sculpture.

John Krabseth, Unit President



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
47 Amelia Cr.
Winnipeg, MB, R2K 3X8 CANADA
Or email your resume to: terdon@mts.net

Unit President

John Krabseth #3682

1st Vice President

Vern Zink #4114

2nd Vice President

Bev Zink #4114

Treasurer

Lillian Thomson #4304

Recording Secretary

Arlene Bailey #235

Corresponding Secretary

Joyce Krabseth #3682

Membership Chair

Larry Ruebel #10081

2010 Calendar of Events

May 1, 2010
2:00 PM

May Day Luncheon - Homesteader Restaurant,
Hwy 2/52 W, Minot, ND

June 4 - 6, 2010

Enchanted Highway Rally - Regent, ND

June 27 - July 4,
2010

53rd International Rally - Gillette, Wyoming

July 23 - 25, 2010

North Dakota State Fair Rally - Roughrider Camp-
ground, Minot, ND

Aug. 2-9, 2010

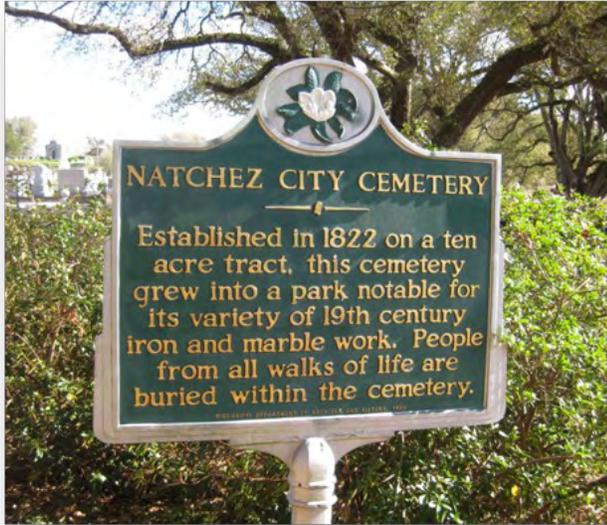
Region 7 Rally - Red Trails Campground, Medora,
ND

Sept. 10-12, 2010

Fall Installation Rally - Jamestown, ND



Natchez Pilgrimage Rallycontinued



Carolyn Coonrod explores a section of the historic Old Natchez Trace that predates the 1700's.

Continued from page 1

In Port Gibson, the minister of the First Presbyterian Church, Mike Herrin, led a tour of three churches, the Methodist, Catholic and Presbyterian, discussing the history and architecture of each. Each new church had to be taller with more windows than the previous church. Rev. Herrin has degrees in American History from Washington and Lee University and Vanderbilt University. He taught High School social studies and coached debate for three years before attending Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi.

We also attended the annual pageant and a play spoofing the pilgrimage, called *Southern Exposure*. And then there's the antebellum homes. We toured a half dozen, including Rosalie, Melrose (National Park Service) and Longwood. Longwood was never finished and stands today as it did in 1862 when the workers from Philadelphia, fearful of being caught in the South, dropped their tools and returned home.

The Natchez Pilgrimage Rally is sponsored by Region 6.

—BC—



The tour is by the author of *Legends of the Natchez City Cemetery*, Don Estes.

SADDLE UP TO
Medora!
REGION VII RALLY
AUGUST 2ND THRU 9TH, 2010

International Board of Trustees Report



By Joan Lahr
Region 7 1st VP

John and Sandy Stumpf, Region 6 President and First Lady, along with Region 6 members, hosted the 2010 Mid-Winter IBT Rally in Rayne, Louisiana, January 19-24. Region 7 members attending were Don Rogers and **Don and Lillian Thomson (North Dakota Unit)**; John and Bobbi Tetzlaff (Minnesota Unit); and Annette Hooker, Mike and Joan Lahr, and Ed and Carol Witzke (Wisconsin Unit).

The International Board of Trustees meeting was held on January 23. A live streaming of audio of this meeting is available on WBCCI.org. Highlights of the meeting:

Standing Committee Reports

Treasurer: Total club assets as of December 31, 2009 are \$1,380,881. Fund balances are: General Fund, \$796,703;

Life Member Fund, \$176,862; International Rally Fund, \$242,500; and Common Cents for Kids Fund, \$15,742.

Budget: The July 5, 2009 budget deficit was \$70,759. However, \$10,000 will not have to be expended for federal tax, and income of \$3,000 for Blue Beret advertising and reduced telephone costs of \$1,000 will lower the deficit amount to \$56,759. Professional legal expense is at 437.4% of the annual budget due to increased

consultation for grievances and professional accounting expense is at 118.9% due to a revision of tax forms.

Caravan: As of December 1, 2009, five caravans have been scheduled to arrive in Gillette. Fifteen national caravans are active for 2010, 12 for 2011, and 11 are being developed for 2012. Two unit caravans and one region caravan have been scheduled for 2010.

Ethics and Grievance: The committee reviewed six grievances through December 1, 2009. Four have been dismissed, one required action, and one remains under review. The committee reviewed the Bylaws and Policies, Article V, Disciplinary Procedures and presented recommendations for action to the board.

Family and Youth: The Gillette youth and family program is on the website for review.

International Relations: A request has been submitted to the executive committee to develop a caravan to New Zealand and Australia in conjunction with International Caravan Association members to ensure there are enough participants to fill the caravan.

Public Relations: Several club members along with Bill Schrader have volunteered to form a support group to mentor and assist more than 80 WBCCI websites that support units, regions, intra-clubs, standing committees, national rallies, and caravans.

RV Parks: Members are encouraged to use the RV parks in the directory that support our club by advertising, and also to let the campground owners know that we appreciate them. This source of revenue could be lost unless members take action.

Special Committee Reports

Electronic Communications: Airstream Company's link to the WBCCI website has been enhanced. An article about WBCCI is in the works on Wikipedia. The new WBCCI Community Forum

has continued to grow both in registered users and user participation. As of December 31, registered users exceeded 900, including users from Japan, England, Germany, and Spain. New features include direct links to WBCCI website membership pages and an advanced photo gallery. Club leaders are encouraged to post on the site.

2020 Long Range Planning: Through assisting unit officers with planning unit rallies, caravans, and activities, region officers play a vital role to enhance club appeal to all members. Shorter caravans are encouraged to allow working families to participate. The committee will undergo a study to restructure the regions.

Marketing: The online version of the Blue Beret is a work in progress. Units are encouraged to create a link at their websites to promote WBCCI on local levels. Interaction benefits for advertisers are needed. As display advertising rates have not changed since 1993, a 6% increase is recommended to new advertisers. Internal communications have improved due to the new WBCCI Forum. Potential new members need to be able to pay club dues on line. Extensive use of the membership mentoring program is vital for member retention. A member benefit fact sheet is being developed for distribution with new owner packets. Creative ad development should be ongoing. Recommend hiring an advertising agency to help WBCCI develop a new advertising campaign to create and place ads in various media. An advertising budget of \$15,000 is proposed to cover ad agency costs.

Financial Advisory Board: Strong support to adopt the Marketing Committee's requested budget of \$15,000. Unanimous support to reduce international and region officers' travel budgets by 10%. Significant support for a dues increase of \$15 or \$20 per year. Fiduciary responsibilities of all mem-

(Continued on page 5)

Airstreamers in the Valley Luncheon well attended



The Airstreamers in the Valley Luncheon was held February 15th at Peter Piper Pizza in Alamo, Texas. A total of 81 people attended, with 12 from Region 7. From left to right are Lillian and Don Thomson of Cavalier, ND, Gail & Bruce Harrower from Ste. Anne, MB, Rose and Ron Larson from Bowman, Sandi and John DeYoung of Wattertown, SD, all of the North Dakota Unit, and from the Wisconsin Unit Carol and Ed Witzkie of Plymouth, WI, and Region 7 1st VP Joan and Mike Lahr from Menomonee Falls, WI

International Board of Trustees Report... *continued*

Members of the board of trustees to the members require that each board member be given sufficient financial information to make informed decisions regarding the entire operations and finances of the corporation, including international rallies. International rally reports should be distributed to the full board for review and formal presentation at the mid-winter IBT. Three motions regarding the above have been filed for review and decisions upon their merits.

New Business / Motions Passed

- The Greater New Orleans, Louisiana/Gulf States Unit (#133) requested its name be changed to The Greater New Orleans Louisiana Unit.
- Transfer \$103,279.76 from the International Rally Fund to the General Fund to offset costs in excess of income from the 2009 International Rally. The International Rally Committee shall prepare and distribute a detailed financial report of the international rally no later than December 1 following the rally; such financial report shall be presented to the second meeting of the board of trustees following the international

rally. In cooperation with the treasurer of WBCCI, prepare and present to the incoming board of trustees at its first meeting each fiscal year budgets for the general fund and each future international rally for which a location has been announced.

- Bylaws, Appendix #6, Suggested Model of Unit Bylaws, Article VI, Delegates, Section 1, be deleted and replaced by a new Section 1, as follows: The Executive Board shall appoint one Delegate and one Alternate from among the Regular Members of this unit who will attend the annual Delegates Meeting of the parent organization, Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc. An Affiliate Member of this unit who is a regular member in the same region may be appointed if the unit has no Regular Members who are going to attend the Delegates Meeting. Any vacancy occurring following such selection shall be filled by appointment by the President. The President and Secretary shall certify to these appointments. The Delegate and Alternate should be instructed on how to vote on behalf of the unit regarding issues to come before the delegates.

- Effective July 1, 2010, travel disbursement budgets are to be reduced by 25% for international officers.

- Effective July 1, 2010, travel disbursement budgets are to be reduced by 10% for region officers, with reimbursement for travel expenses on a variable allotment for each unit in the region also reduced 10% to \$36.00 for the president and \$18.00 for vice presidents.

- Effective July 1, 2010, the dues rate will be increased \$10.00 to \$65.00 annually. The Operating Budget for 2009-2010 was amended to include \$5,240 to fund the recommendations of the 2010 Marketing Committee plan.

- Bylaws, Policy V, pages 11 through 14 and Appendix #11 were amended to clarify the club's disciplinary procedures.

- A motion to eliminate the international third vice president, restructure the regions, and conduct the international rally within a region rally was referred to the 2020 Committee for deliberation and recommendations back to the IBT.