

APRIL 2017 JOURNALS & BLOGS

4.15.2017 Del-Raton RV Park:

We were very lucky to find an RV park within ten miles of Dennis' condo. We officially took back our coach on April 15th, Yes, Easter weekend. It was a weekend of mixed feelings.



This is our spot and we'll most likely be here till at least the end of the year or longer. Del-Raton is basically a small family-operated RV Park. In total it looks like they have about seventy RV sites. As a sideline these folks sell and service trailers. The campground has no perks, except for laundry and game room.

4.04.2017, Celebrating Dennis' Birthday:

We'll yesterday was Dennis' birthday. We all got together and had a nice celebration. The big gift was a new VCR for the main TV in the house. The previous one could take eternity thinking about getting going. This one, surprisingly had a very simple and fast setup, wish we had it. The other big gift coming in a couple of days would be a transport chair. Not that he hasn't got enough wheelchairs already, this one comes in at only nineteen pounds, great for getting him to his appointments and shopping with Miss Camille.

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5.05.2017 We await the arrival of Tom and Sue Ward.



Very good friends we got to know well on our Alaskan Tour. We've mentioned them before, but this time they're coming way out of their way to spend a few days with us as they trek to Tennessee eventually. Nice to see our friends crisscrossing the states in their motorhome. At last, after a month of anticipation, Tom and Sue arrived and met with us at our motorhome in Delray, FL. It was a great night sharing stories and experiences, the good and the not so good workings of our coaches and talk about meeting again tomorrow night.

5.06.2017 Sat. "Two Georges" Delray Beach, Florida



I must apologize for the sharpness of the picture, since it is a picture of a picture. For some reason Bluehost does not like phone pictures any more. Two Georges in Delray Beach is right on the intercostal waterway. Beautiful breezes and great food were enjoyed by all. If anyone is ever in driving distance of this great eatery, I recommend it highly. We finished the evening with a walk along the docks looking at boats only the One-per centers could possibly afford. It wasn't too long before the mosquitoes found us and we called it an evening.

5.07.2017 Sun. We visited the Ward's at their motorhome.

As you can tell from just the size of this coach, it's big. It's a 2017 Tour by Winnebago. Top of the line, and from the picture below, it's just as pretty on the inside. We enjoyed an awesome dinner with Tom and Sue then watched Sue do dishes. Not necessary in this motorhome since it comes with a dishwasher. Even ours comes with a dishwasher...me! John Prince Park, a Florida State Park. We took a little time to visit this beautiful park. We might even plan to stay there come November of this year. Just checked my phone and we have no pictures of this park. Guess everyone will have to

wait till Nov.

5.20.2017 Sat Nine Lives

Not much to say about this great flick except it should be seen by everyone. Yes, it's about a cat. Sounds like a dumb show, but trust me, you will enjoy it.

5.23.2017 Tuesday Finding Neverland -

We watched this movie two years ago and my opinion hasn't changed. This movie, by far in my opinion, is the best movie Johnny Depp has ever starred in.



5.24.2017. Carla finishes her radiation treatments.

This is a six-week regimen, every day except weekends. She did well. At the end of the course of treatment is the official "Ring of the Bell." We are both very positive about the 5-year outlook. We can only pray that this is all behind us and it's time to get back to our original lives.

25th Thurs Trip to La Mesa

There's always something that needs fixing; definition on a motorhome. We're still trying to have the dash A/C fixed, the by-product damage of a trip to Alaska. Another A/C damaged part, but no A/C person to work on it. Guess we'll have to take another field trip next month.



Memorial Day and tomorrow will be the end of another month. This is the first month since September on 2016 that I've gotten back to this blog, and it feels good. Began this special day with a call to our extended family in Iowa, Don and Joyce MacDougall. In our travels we've discovered that almost everywhere we'd decided to travel, mysteriously intersected in Iowa. Our plans are to, hopefully, take some time to ourselves in September and possibly travel North to NY now the construction is completed. It would be nice to do a side trip to Don and Joyce on the way to NY; it might be a stretch. It's been eight months since we've travelled anywhere except to have repairs or improvements done to the coach, we're experiencing travel-withdrawals. We pray each day this will happen.

I don't expect to add anything useful the rest of the day and same for the 31st, so we'll get together again next month, and hopefully months to follow.

5.31.2017- This blog has lately evolved into a personal diary as opposed to a travel blog but it will have to continue this way until at least September. But getting back to the picture above. This is a group shot the remaining Grenier elders clan. Starting from the right side of the picture my son Michael then Christine and her husband Richard. Left side first is Dennis, myself and Carla. The only elders here are really Rich, Dennis and myself. For Michael, it might be a "father thing," but I always envision him around eighteen; even at this age he's grown up to be a very impressive adult. Having all three brothers together on a given day is rare for our family; having Michael there as well was a real bonus.

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As you can see from the images above the entire facility is paved almost all the sites are pull-through and it is very clean. What you don't see, unless you're lucky enough to be here at the right time is the rail-road tracks that can be found less than one-hundred feet from the back side of the property. We're getting used to the sounds and whistles in the middle to the night.

6.04.2017- I know, this is out of sequence, but its relevant to the park. I'm bored. Just wanted to note that we're now in site #32 overlooking the back storage/parking-lot of the Delray Hyundai/Genesis Dealership. This is nothing to brag about, but it does give me an opportunity to write, even if it's just a line of two.

18th...It's been so long since I've sat down and written a new entry to the Blog. For the last seven months Carla and I have been keeping busy tending to my brother and his obligations. At one time or another we might all have the challenge of trying to step into someone else's shoes and do the best we can to expedite the many demands he had to face daily when he was well, but for us we try to handle the ups and downs of his life and let him concentrate on his recovery.

Long story short back in September "16" Richard, my brother from San Jose, and I were witness to Dennis just lying in the hospital bed totally motionless. He had lost his ability to control his left arm and left leg.

I can't even imagine what was going through his mind. He knew he had a problem, and he was aware that we were there with him in this dilemma, but the shock of his situation must have been mind boggling to him.

After nine days in the hospital he was sent to HealthSouth to recuperate in a friendlier environment. HealthSouth did not improve his situation very much so once they felt he was in no more danger of another stroke he was released to Carla and I for home rehab. His physical well-being did not improve much at HealthSouth. At home he would embark on home rehab for six weeks. His diet, since his stroke, consisted mostly of macerated food items which in no way resembled what was being served. By the time we got him his chances for choking and another stroke had been minimized, salt was permitted, and the food presented looked edible.

His new life at home would turn out to be quite different from what he was hoping for. He was unable still to sit up on his own, had to be carried from bed to wheelchair and wheelchair to car. Then to make things even worse he had Carla feverishly trying to improve his diet of seventy years and me yapping at him to exercise or else. To make things worse his junk food diet would be a dream. With all this to cope with, medications had to be given all day long.

After enduring home rehab for about six weeks and patiently watching Carla and I, mostly Carla, trying to untangle and understand the rules and procedures that had to be followed for Dennis to continue receiving cash benefits to pay for all that he needed, we were fortunate to learn that Boca Regional Hospital ran its own out-patient rehab and Dennis was permitted to participate. Boca Regional was also the hospital he was brought to at the time of his stroke. This happens to be one of the finest facilities in all South Florida.

It's now been seven months and Dennis can sit up on his own even in a regular chair, can stand mostly on his own for a minute or two and is beginning to re-learn how to walk again with considerable help. Guess you could say things are looking up. However, Dennis has always been on his own same as with Carla and me. It was only a matter of time before we realized Dennis needed a little more space and we did as well so we'd decided to relocate back in our coach. Delray is only a ten-minute ride to Dennis' home so I can check in on him daily and be available to him for his appointments. We appreciate the space as well. We're staying at the Del-Raton RV Park. This is a great little park just off US 1 in Delray, FL.

So why do I tell the details of Dennis' trials these last few months; simple!

I would like everyone reading this to realize just how taxing on everyone a stroke can be especially on the victim. After a discussion with one of Dennis' neurologist he told me that many kinds of strokes are predictable. The best start is diagnosis, through a series of four types of tests and MRI's. These tests are affordable, and, for us, our Medicare is paying for it. The cost of these four procedures is a no-brainer if it can either relieve you of most concerns if they come out negative or make you aware of a potential problem you might be able to avert under a doctor's care. It's what I've decided to do. The last thing I would wish on anyone is the difficult days my brother has had to endure. Another consideration is the cost of care. Dennis had made an excellent decision about twenty-five years ago with the Disability Insurance he purchased. Daily he has thirteen hours a day of home help care. Believe it or not that comes out to around \$250 dollars a day or about \$8000 a month.

Thank you.

Paul

23rd... Devine Mercy Sunday, once again.

I guess we were asking too much. We were looking for a Sunday Service at 2:30 so we drove about twelve miles to go to a service at that time. Trouble with the location it was basically Hispanic. There was enough English to keep us on the right page, but I should have more diligent in checking out a new church.

23rd ...We must treat ourselves occasionally. This steak was just sitting in the Walmart cooler with a bright yellow sticker saying 40% off, outdates next day. Well that was two months ago and today we thawed it out and gutted it down to the bone...Delicious! What made it even better was the Lambrusco wine that we enjoyed the main course with.



To make the day just about perfect was a call from my daughter, Cheryl, returned my call. Always a refreshing call. It's rewarding to see your child and her husband living a very responsible life, savings are a mainstay in how they live; so very different from the examples I set for her as a child. Now, as a senior, I must reconcile myself to the fact that if I had lived a little more frugally finances might be a little easier these days, although I'm not complaining, not much I would change even if I could