

COMMUNITY SERVICES

NEWS and VIEWS

August 2010

It's been a wonderful "Airstream" summer for us.

Kerry and Betty led us on a very good caravan to the International Rally in Gillette Wyoming.

Several of the overnight stops were just one night; however, in three places we stayed for two days - Davenport, Iowa; Wall, North Dakota; and Custer, Wyoming.

These three all proved to be interesting and exciting.

What's in **Davenport, Iowa**, you might ask - as did we; however, we discovered that the University there has a very active Paleontology Department, and Museum, headed up by Dr. Hammer -

who has spent the past few years uncovering dinosaur remains in ANTARTICA. Who knew?

The primary exhibit of these had been cast in bronze - in Ontario - and was at the main entrance to the Museum to greet us when we arrived.

In addition to the many well-displayed fossils were also exhibits of minerals and gemstones from around the world.

Most people who travel west get to read all the billboards inviting them to the Wall Drug Store - a very interesting place;

however, the best part for us of these two days was that **Wall, North Dakota** is in the heart of the beautiful, colourful, mysterious **Badlands**.

And the third two-night stay, at **Custer, Wyoming**, set us right in the midst of such beautiful cathedral-spire-mountains, and next door to Custer National Park, where we were able to get close - but not too close - to large herds of Bison, and Pronghorns (*Antelope*).

It was great fun at the International Rally to meet with friends old and new - we met for happy hour with eleven of the twenty couples with whom we had toured Newfoundland and Labrador the previous summer.

We enjoyed several seminars, and fun entertainment every evening.

We toured the area around Gillette, Wyoming - again, who knew that this area is the "energy capital of the country" -

with its surface clean-coal mines, natural gas, and oil wells.

And we were lucky in another way as well -

normally in the hot summers, all the western states are dry and brown.

This year there had been so much rain that the rolling prairies were green, and wildflowers bloomed profusely.

After International, we went further west, to **Jackson, Wyoming**, at the base of

the majestic Teton Mountains - more spectacular scenery - seen from the truck,
and also from a raft, on a fun trip down the Snake River.

Then we headed east again, to **Thermopolis, Wyoming**, where
hot springs are the main attraction, as well as a Dinosaur Museum,
in which was housed the largest fossil that has to date been discovered -
the Supersaurus.

Our return to Renfrew was by way of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and
across the top of Lake Superior - a trip we usually enjoy so much -
but this time we were just "scenery-d out"!

You might ask what all this has to do with Community Services -
but it's my explanation for not being more faithful in keeping this page
up-to-date during the past couple of months - we were doing exactly what
Airstreamers do best - travel the country.

And I have reason as well - just after our return, my computer died of old age -
to be replaced by a new one, with of course Windows 7 installed -
so it's been another steep-curve learning experience.

Think I have a handle on it now, so thanks for your patience.

Now to the Fall Rally - do hope the "**Childs Rectangles and Squares**" photo and
pattern have been helpful, and that you've been able to gather your fabric - at our
Saturday morning workshop we'll be doing a brief demonstration,
and working at whatever stage of this quilt each of us has reached.

Also, I think there will be some "Random Strip" quilt tops that were sewn at the
Spring Rally in Paris, to assemble and tie.

If you have extra batting or fabric that would serve as binding that you could bring
along, that would be appreciated.

We're looking forward to a fun Saturday morning.

Betty Mattila was awarded second prize in the crafts at International for her
beautiful crocheted reversible afghan.

She has agreed to share with us at the Spring Rally in 2011,
so that's another project we can look forward to.

We welcome any comments, suggestions for projects, and news.

Please e-mail me at:

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*(Please be sure to state clearly your subject
in the Subject Line of your e-mail)*

***Please note that there have been a couple of new patterns
added.***