

CHRISTMAS 2018 a wonderful time of year, and even better this year than the last few because we've gotten about 4 feet of snow since late October and the skiing this season is fabulous! I've already been out 6 times whereas I normally don't get out until early January. Jim, on the other hand, has also been out about 6 times...snow blowing! He's thrilled though that I finally got the driveway heater fixed last summer and his job is sooooo much easier than the last 7 years! Go figure!

This year's travels began in February when we made a 5 day trip to Cabo. We stayed at a quaint little hotel in the heart of the city, walking distance to everywhere, called The Mexican Inn. Free breakfast, street parking, and an old curmudgeon of a manager whose entire family from himself down to his 5 year old granddaughter, worked at the inn, all for about \$70 a night! (And there was a free cat to sleep with if you wanted it!) Such a deal! No sooner had we arrived home, than we left for a concert in Las Vegas three days later with our friends Cindy and Larry Nelson to celebrate her 60th birthday with Elton John! He puts on a truly fabulous concert!

The end of March until April 12, we joined 4 of our viper club friends and 4 other friends to take over half of a bike/barge in Holland to ostensibly see the tulips in bloom! The other half of the barge was occupied by a single family celebrating their daughter's engagement. Our favorite bicycle guide, Tami was our guide, which made the trip even more enjoyable. It was a bit early, and a bit cold, and a bit windy (gale force winds windy), and the tulips weren't out yet, but we DID get to go to a wonderful indoor nursery complex with so many beautiful tulips we didn't really miss the huge fields of tulips touted for Holland. But the winds were so strong that I would have KILLED for an e-bike. I had talked Jim OUT of renting an e-bike and it was so windy that he ended up not riding much, but swears he enjoyed the trip anyway. I rode every day, but at one point was nearly blown off a bridge crossing a 6 lane highway! Scary! We spent 3 days before the boat began exploring Amsterdam on foot, visiting thousands(?) of museums, the red light district (briefly, I swear!), meeting up with Tami and her significant other for dinner one night, and of course visiting the home of Anne Frank. The bike tour took us to many small towns and I was able to meet up with a favorite client and her daughters in Gouda, and to visit the Delft factory in Delft, and see the miniature city near The Hague. After the bike tour, four of us went to the city of Bruges in Belgium and enjoyed 2 nights there exploring that ancient city, again into the museums, including one art museum for Salvador Dali...the very interesting Spanish egomaniac!

The end of April and into May, we drove with the Viper Club via Santa Fe and Flagstaff overnights, into Las Vegas for the 3rd National Viper Event. My viper was once again not running so great, so we drove my retro Chevy truck, the SSR, and became the only one on this trip to get a speeding ticket! Bummer! The event features drag racing, auto-cross and oval track racing, which we had to pass up, but we also spent a day at Wayne Newton's huge estate, went to dinner up in the mountains outside of Vegas at a fun little hamburger joint, and Jim and I found an afternoon to play golf. The drive home included an overnight in Palisade, Colorado, where we were able to check out facilities for our trip in June!

In May we drove to Houston with an overnight stop in San Antonio. We stayed in an old hotel right on the river and had brought our bikes. That afternoon we biked to The Old Pearl Brewery to have dinner. The area is beautifully renovated and has a myriad of restaurants from which to choose. It was so lovely that the next morning, we rode back there for breakfast. For lunch, we located Ray's Drive-in which is 'world renowned' for their puffy tacos. I finally understood why people talk about puffy tacos as they do! Absolutely delicious! That evening we drove on to Houston to be able to enjoy dinner with my oldest -friend/ex-college-roommate Nora on her 73rd birthday! It wasn't 'a big birthday' (like 70 or 75), so she happened to be free of family that day! She had recently gone through a nasty surgery for

cancer, and was just beginning chemo, so it was a good time to visit. In Houston, we also got out the bikes again and rode all over Memorial Park, to downtown, and back enjoying the newly renovated bike paths there.

The summer was spent mostly in Breckenridge golfing. In June however, our dear friends from South Africa, Geoffrey and Carol Read, were here for their annual summer visit, and we arranged golf and wine tasting in Palisade/Grand Junction area for 3 days. In July Jim's daughters, Christian and Merritt came for 4 days with some of their kids: Max (17), Jude (10) and Lake (5). We had much fun showing them the county, going to the adventure park on top of Peak 8, and hiking down as the weather had shut down the gondola serving that area and the lines for the bus were too long for the kid's patience! In August Jim and I spent two nights in the old mining town of Redstone which also touts a 'castle' built by the coal baron of that area, and discovered a Texas BBQ restaurant in Marble, Colorado, the supplier of most of the marble in Washington D.C.

September took us To Park City, Utah, with the Viper Club (another long trip to supplement all the day trips the club takes together.) We had a great tour of Salt Lake City, including the Mormon complex. One of our members runs the Ancestor Discovery Center, and arranged for us each to research our ancestry. I found that somewhat interesting as nothing relating to my father appeared in their records, but my mother's death and my Aunt Rosalie's death were both reported. Also, my great grandmother was listed along with her husband, but not her children or their children. I didn't update their records as I don't recall enough actual dates and names to do so. We also visited Sundance, Utah, on that trip and rode to the top of the ski area and hiked down...very challenging! September 26th was Jim's 75th birthday. We drove to Galveston to celebrate at the historic Galvez Hotel, bike around the town (free bikes from the Hotel), and sample favorite restaurants. ON the 26th, I had arranged for Jim's best friend Robert to drive down from Houston to join us for dinner at Gaido's Restaurant...a very famous and wonderful seafood restaurant. It was my mom's favorite place to eat back in the 50's and 60's when we would go there as a family. We also had dinner one night with another college roommate and her husband, Jane and Jose Reinhart Gonzalez who live in Galveston. Jim flew back to Denver a week later, and I spent the weekend with Jane and Jose. On Monday morning, I drove into Houston to stay with Nora who had finished with her chemo, and now was in her 3rd week of radiation. The doctors had assured her she wouldn't feel like driving herself, so I had volunteered to chauffeur for the first week of October. She was fine for the first few days, but by mid-week was finally using/trusting my driving skills to alleviate her discomfort a bit. After a few more weeks of radiation, and now a month post-treatment, she is beginning to feel like herself again.

Here we are in December, and mid-September to now has been uneventful! I've been skiing a lot as I mentioned earlier due to some early season snowstorms, and loving every second of it. I have signed up for Legendary Ladies at A-Basin again this year (a ½ day lesson with lunch every Wednesday for 9 weeks), and ski with 'the guys' just about every Friday! Most of our friends' wives don't ski anymore, but the guys still go, so I get to join them. Jim also doesn't ski, but is so thoughtful to get up early on Fridays and take me to the mountain so I can avoid the parking fees!

We will spend Christmas in Cabo this year, playing golf, sampling restaurants, etc. Wish you all could join us! Hope you all have a great Christmas season, and hope to see you sometime in 2019! Happy Holidays to everyone and much love from

Penny and Jim