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Family Visit  
by  
Tom Holbrook

Hello everybody! By the time you read this my oldest son Lane, his wife Amy and their three beautiful and wonderful children (I gush) Jessica, Joshua and Jackson will be visiting here from West Virginia. They arrived Saturday evening and thus far we have been to see our first ever Polo match here in The Villages, spent Monday at the Magic Kingdom and are preparing today to take in the sights and sounds of The Villages.

It's great to have anyone visiting but especially one's family and when they've not been here before it's especially nice to be able to drive through The Villages giving its history, pointing out the beautiful golf courses, walking the streets of the Town Squares, looking over the rows and rows of future homes of new friends and proudly proclaiming, "This is our hometown now and they do all this for Judy and me." What a great place to be at this time in our lives.

Tomorrow we'll be going South again to Disney-MGM Studios to take in another day of Walt's hospitality and magic, followed by a day of rest on Thursday swimming in a Villages family pool and celebrating Jessica's 13<sup>th</sup> birthday and my 66<sup>th</sup> birthday. We have a couple of other little things planned but will have to wait and see what they are. It's fitting this article is in the Lifestyles Section of this paper because what a lifestyle we are enjoying and yes, do we love to brag about it with our friends and family.

At the Winifred pool last week I was sitting reading in the 84 degree sunshine but, also, listening in on the conversations of a group in the pool. It's amazing how similar the comments you hear from one group to the next... everyone can't help shaking their heads in wonderment at the facilities we enjoy and being thankful that they discovered this place known as The Villages. It's humorous and oh, so predictable to watch several of those sitting in their chairs around the pool, cell phones to their ears saying, "Hey, there... guess what I'm doing right now? Sitting around a swimming pool and the temperature is almost 90 degrees. No... you say you had ice and snow again last night... oh my gosh, 18 degrees outside... I'm real sorry about that. (Chuckles) We're thinking about staying here forever... it's so beautiful..... Well, got to go now... we've got a 2:00 tee time to play golf and we don't want to be late. Oh, tonight? We'll be dancing under the stars at one of the Town Squares they've got here. Oh yeah, live music every night. Sure wish you were here to be part of all this. Take care... we'll see you later!" We sure do love to rub it in don't we?

Hearing that Judy and I were planning a couple of flights in the near future several friends shared some airline stories to keep us laughing while preparing for our trips. Apparently Southwest Airlines has the most humorous flight crew and allows a little more frivolity than the others... on one

flight to Tampa, FL the flight attendant was instructing the passengers..."To operate your seat belt, insert the metal tab into the buckle, and pull tight. It works just like every other seat belt; and, if you don't know how to operate one, you probably shouldn't be out in public unsupervised." Here are a couple other on-board announcements. On Delta... "Delta Airlines is pleased to have some of the best flight attendants in the industry. Unfortunately, none of them are on this flight." Southwest again ... After a very hard landing in Salt Lake City a flight attendant announced: "That was quite a bump, and I know what y'all are thinking. I'm here to tell you it wasn't the airline's fault, it wasn't the Captain's fault, it wasn't the flight attendant's fault... it was the asphalt."

Hope you enjoyed those... it helps to know that those who fly us around are human as well and have a sense of humor. One last announcement from US Airways..."We'd like to thank you folks for flying with us today, and, the next time you get the insane urge to go blasting through the skies in a pressurized metal tube, we hope you'll think of US Airways."

You guys have a great week and allow me to get back to having fun with my family. I would like to end with this one question... Is Disney World the only people trap operated by a mouse? See you next week.

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