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“Friends Are Great”

by  
Tom Holbrook

A great big “Welcome Back” to some great friends who have been summering in the Northern regions of Ohio... Manny and Elena along with John and Jean have been gone way too long and those of us in Winifred Village are glad they’ve returned to the roost. We know it won’t be long before they become permanent residents because they just can’t stand to be away from us... nor us from them. Welcome back guys... stay around for awhile.

Speaking of northern incomers, we in Winifred are happy to welcome two new couples into our midst and can’t wait to get to know them better. We met Sarah and Kent from Columbus, Ohio at a recent impromptu driveway soiree and learned they have retired here as full time residents and now live in Carl and Karen’s beautiful home on Buxton. Carl and Karen recently moved to a new beautiful home further south in the Villages. Sarah and Kent seem to be as crazy as the rest of us so they should fit right in.

Jim & Melanie, from upstate New York were present at the get-together as well and told us their particulars. They have not retired but have purchased a home on Flanders Ct. previously owned by our friends Ken and Jenna who moved to a new home in Bridgeport Village. Jim is still running his own company and says he loves it too much to retire right now, but after spending an evening with us on the driveway he said they might want to get here a little earlier or, at least, a little more often. Both couples are real nice folks and we look forward to seeing how well they can play Hand and Foot or a friendly game of poker. One comment on Sarah... she seems to embarrass easily and blushes a deep red.

Judy and I recently met another couple at breakfast who are from Green Bay, Wisconsin... Their names.... Gary and Judy. They talk about as much as my Judy and I do and, observing them at the breakfast table, I’d say they enjoy eating as much as we do as well. Gary’s Judy is a little quirky when it comes to eggs, however... she said she can’t stand eggs... can’t even stand to look at them after they’re cooked, but yet we were able to talk her into eating a boiled egg. She asked our waitress, who is a piece of work as well, if she could crack and peel the egg for her and then added slicing it for her ... Our waitress came back at her saying in her best Longggyellland accent, “You want I should eat it for you to?”

Gary has a history in the military and he and I talked about some of the foods regularly served for breakfast in the chow halls. I brought up the infamous S.O.S plate... if you don’t know what it means that’s okay... if you do, you know from where I’m coming here... Gary said that was

his favorite military meal because it took less energy to eat than anything else they served. I asked him what he meant and he said, “With all the grease that’s surrounding it all you had to do was move it to the back of your throat, tilt your head back and let gravity take over.... down it went in a flash.”

All this talk about food reminded me of a joke our pastor recently shared from the podium... It seems a Russian visitor, we’ll call him Alexander, came to America for the first time in the early 70’s and was absolutely blown away by the abundance and choices of food in our grocery stores and all the other technological marvels that are part of our every day life here in the United States. While visiting a local grocery store with his local sponsor Alexander came upon a box of Powdered Milk and asked what that was. His sponsor said, “If you want milk, you just add water and you get milk.” A little further down the aisle Alexander lifted another box labeled Powdered Potatoes and his sponsor said, “Same thing applies there... if you want some instant potatoes you just add water and you’ve got them.” Alexander kept shaking his head in amazement as he would lift one item after under in the Powdered Foods section and here his sponsor say, “Just add water....” Then Alexander lifted up another box that said Baby Powder and before his sponsor could say anything, Alexander said, “What a country!!!”

You’re right on Alexander... it’s a fantastic country and we’ve all been blessed to be living here. See you next week.

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