

August was ending with seven of us venturing to Wing Ding. Clifford, Tiffany, and William Criss rode to Knoxville together while John & Teresa Gull and Brenda & I were joined by Denny Trumble from Chapter H and headed to Knoxville on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Denny rode down from his home in Palmer meeting Brenda and I then we linked up with John & Teresa in Topeka. The ride was uneventful until we got to St. Louis and the traffic decided to be a royal pain. It was moving right along but typical of city traffic it was hard to stay together and with the way I-70 gets to the bridge over the Mississippi river if you aren't careful you are on top of the turn and at least one lane too far to the left. I managed to do that even though I've driven through there dozens of times over the years. I made the turn (it's not really an exit but resembles one and my GPS gave no heads up about bearing right) but John couldn't make it. Denny was behind him and made it. Even with CBs there was no way we were going to link back up in that area, however we had planned to stop at the Drury Inn in Mt. Vernon, IL so we all just headed to the motel. John & Teresa got a tour of a part of St. Louis nobody wants to tour but thankfully came out unscathed. Their little side trip put them about 15 minutes behind us so they didn't miss supper. The Drury Inns are a little higher priced, however if you figure in the evening meal, breakfast and the 3 adult beverages of your choice they are very reasonable. Also they have all the hot popcorn you want and free soft drinks until 10:00 pm.

When we got up the next morning and checked the radar things didn't look too bad. As John and I were loading our trailers we looked to the west and saw a real dark cloud that had formed in no time at all and we thought heading east ASAP would be best. After calling Denny and letting him know what the weather looked like we took off in about 10 minutes. We got down the road about ½ hour and we ran into some rain, however it felt pretty good so we didn't even slow up. I think we ended

up riding in the rain for about 15 minutes and then it was dry clear sailing all the way to Knoxville with the exception of some road construction.

After I had stumbled onto the addresses of the parking garages for Wing Ding and put all four in my GPS we headed over the next morning and had no problem parking in the closest garage to the event. Wing Ding itself was a very good event this year. There were plenty of vendors of all types and even plenty of places to sit and rest. Seats always seem to be at a premium.

Teresa saw Clifford, Tiffany, and William at the event; however she said they were toward the back of the facility and the rest of us were sitting by the exit door and ready to leave for the day so we never linked up. We did see a few people from Kansas but not near as many as are normally at a Wing Ding. I'm not sure if it was the distance, or weather that was the reason but it was still a fun time for our group.

Brenda's microphone quit working the first day so J&M "fixed" it when we went back the second day. Our plan was a short stop on Friday for last minute things and heading back home a day early. We got her helmet back and Teresa got her last minute things and out to the trikes we went. Brenda plugged her headset in and said about 10 words and it quit. That meant going back and having them fix it again. After about a half hour getting that done we got on the road and headed home. Other than heavy traffic in Nashville and about 5 minutes of light rain the trip back to Manhattan was pretty uneventful other than the second day was about 500 miles but thanks to the testy headset we had to do the short end first.

I'm not sure how we managed to do it but we found three restaurants along the way that were non chains with home cooking and the food at all three places was excellent. For supper one night John found a Mexican "restaurant" that we almost didn't eat at until we ask some locals where a restaurant was and they pointed to the place we had stopped. It was a grocery store with a small area that had excellent Mexican food and each plate was piled high with way more than any of us could eat.

We held our supper ride on the 4<sup>th</sup> and as it seems to be situation normal for this year the weather didn't want to cooperate at all. When it came time to head for Topeka it was trying to rain and with a quick look at the weather radar it didn't appear that it would get any better so Brenda and I headed out again on four wheels. When we arrived at the station Bill & Margaret were already there and also on four wheels. We shot the breeze until 6:00 and when nobody else showed up and since we were all from out of town, we decided that going to Green Acres was a waste of gasoline. So we made the decision to go to Amigo's just south of the Kuik Shop. The restaurant wasn't busy at all so we didn't have to wait all that long for our orders. Neither couple had been there since they changed hands so we had no idea what to expect. The menu had basically stayed the same and as most Mexican restaurants have a lot of the same items this made ordering even easier.

While waiting for our food and also during and after eating we have a very enjoyable and relaxing conversation. The food turned out to be very good and plenty of it at a reasonable price.

After our leisurely meal we parted company and head back to our homes.

We had our chapter birthday get together, Sep. 22, at the Gull's again this year only we did it a month later than normal since last year's August get-together was just way too hot. With that change the weather was perfect. We had 19 people that made it. Several of the chapter members had other commitments which brought our numbers down a bit, however Garry and Phyllis Vanbuskirk from chapter P and Everett and Carol Chastain from chapter F joined us along with Bob and Sharon Tootle (the shirt lady at the rallies) from Independence, MO (yes we allow foreigners), and also Jamie and Karen Gull (John's son and daughter in law) from Girard. Jamie brought his ice cream machine he built so we had plenty of ice cream to go with the other deserts that were brought. We did miss not having Ken Felch's famous cookies much to Bill Hanson and his father's disappointment. Just to clarify Ken is a bit under the weather and Arlene was attending a wedding in Ohio. Bill wasn't complaining, but I personally think he enjoys Ken's cookies more than anybody else which is extremely hard to do because they are everyone's favorite. As for Bill's father being disappointed, whenever Ken brings cookies there are always plenty because he always makes a double batch and Bill take cookies back to Emporia for his father who is in his 90's and is always asking about them.

We ended up not playing combat croquet this year even though Margaret Hanson did practice and as I was watching her I'm glad I wasn't playing against her as most of her shots were right on the money. Without the game playing we enjoyed talking and visiting with everybody. However, the second best thing that could have happened just managed to be to Teresa, which made it even better. As with most outdoor events involving food there were plenty of flies. After the ice cream was all dished up Jamie was killing flies and just managed to get one near

Teresa's ice cream. I said it went in her ice cream bowl not knowing that it actually did. She just picked it out and finished eating as though nothing had happened. The reason I said the second best thing that could happen was because the best thing that could have happened is if she hadn't seen it and actually had eaten it but you can't win them all.

After we had visited for a few hours we partially packed things up and headed our separate ways. The reason I said partially packed up is because we normally put things in the basement but John just had them put in the garage this year.

Hopefully September will continue to be a much cooler month than August but who knows with Kansas weather.

Birthdays for October

3 Gary Drake

10 Earl Barnes

***Don & Brenda Williams***  
***CD/Newsletter Editors***