

# **NEWSLETTER#25**

**PORT LABELLE FINALLY GOT SOME RAIN STARTING THE LAST OF MAY. THE CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER WAS SO LOW THAT SOME FARMERS AND RANCHERS COULDN'T PUMP WATER FOR THEIR VEGATABLES, CITRUS, SUGAR CANE, OTHER CROPS OR CATTLE. LAKE OKEECHOBEE IS THE LOWEST IT HAS EVER BEEN IN RECORDED HISTORY. MANY CANALS AND MARINAS ARE DRIED MUD AND WHEN YOU LOOK OVER THE RIM OF THE LAKE FROM HWY 27 YOU SEE NO WATER FOR AT LEAST ONE MILE OUT INTO THE LAKE. THE TREMENDOUS FINANCIAL LOSS IS STILL NOT KNOWN BECAUSE UNLESS WE GET A LOT MORE RAIN THAN NORMAL WE WILL STILL BE LOW ON WATER IN THE LAKE WHEN THE RAINY SEASON IS OVER IN OCTOBER. IT WILL TAKE SEVERAL YEARS FOR THE LAKE TO GET BACK TO SOME DEGREE OF BEING NORMAL.**

**THE RESIDENTS OF SOUTH FLORIDA WERE ON WATER RESTRICTIONS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS MEANING WE COULD ONLY WATER TWICE A WEEK FROM 4 TO 8 IN THE MORNING. OUR YARD CITRUS CROP FOR NEXT YEAR WILL BE VERY SMALL IN SIZE AND SHORT IN QUALITY AND QUANTITY BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF WATER. WE ARE FAR ENOUGH FROM EITHER COAST SO THAT MOST OF OUR WELLS ARE STILL OK WITHOUT SALTWATER GETTING INTO THEM. WATER RESTRICTIONS INCLUDED WELLS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY. NOW THAT WE ARE GETTING SOME RAIN IT IS TIME TO TURN OUR LAWN SPRINKLERS OFF.**

**ALL OF YOU SHOULD REMEMBER CFS PROPERTIES. THEY SENT A LETTER TO MANY OF YOU OFFERING \$200 FOR YOUR LOT IF THE TAXES WERE PAID. THEY BOUGHT SOME LOTS THAT WAY AND THEN THEY BOUGHT MOST ALL THE LOTS THE COMPANY HAD LEFT. ON RECORD AT THE HENDRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE CFS PROPERTIES AND THEIR SISTER COMPANY COUNTRY HOMES & LAND HAVE 475 LOTS TO DATE. I HAVE TALKED TO THE LOCAL MAN WHO IS THE PROMOTER FOR THE COMPANY. THEY HAVE SOME GOOD PLANS FOR PORT LABELLE AND I WANT TO SEE THEM BE SUCCESSFUL.**

**THE TERMS FOR ALL 5 MEMBERS OF THE PORT LABELLE UTILITY SYSTEM (PLUS) WERE RENEWED FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS AT OUR LAST MEETING JUNE 8, 01. WE ADOPTED OUR BUDGET FOR THE COMING YEAR WITH A \$5 REDUCTION IN THE BASE RATE AND A REDUCTION OF THE AMOUNT OF TIME THE COUNTY WILL CHARGE US FOR THE COUNTY ATTORNEY.**

**ONE OF THE REASONS THIS LETTER IS LATE IS BECAUSE MY WIFE AND I WERE ON VACATION. WE FLEW TO RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA AND JOINED A GRAND CIRCLE TOUR GROUP OF 40 PEOPLE AND OUR TOUR DIRECTOR ROGER T. JOHNSON. WE TOOK A 17-DAY BUS TRIP OF NATIONAL PARKS IN SOUTH DAKOTA, WYOMING, UTAH, ARIZONA AND ENDED IN COLORADO. OUR BUS DRIVER WAS A VERY PROFESSIONAL DRIVER NAMED RICHARD.**

**DAY 1&2 IN RAPID CITY SEEING THE BLACK HILLS AND THE CRAZY HORSE MONUMENT. WE COULDN'T SEE ANY WORK BEING DONE ON THE MONUMENT BECAUSE IT WAS SNOWING TO HARD BUT WE SAW THE HOME OF THE ORIGINAL SCULPTOR KORCZAK ZIOLKOWSKI WHO STARTED IN 1948. THEN WE WENT TO MOUNT RUSHMORE WHERE IT WAS STILL SNOWING BUT WE COULD SEE THE FOUR FACES. WE ALSO SAW A LARGE WHITE MOUNTAIN GOAT ON THE**

**MOUNTAINSIDE. WE WENT BACK TO THE HOME OF HOWARD & AUDREY SCHAFF FOR DINNER OF BUFFALO STEW SERVED WITH WINE OR CHAMPANGE. AFTER DINNER WE TOOK THE BUS BACK TO MOUNT RUSHMORE TO SEE THE NIGHTLY LIGHTING OF THE MOUNTAINSIDE. STAYED AT RADISSON HOTEL.**

**DAY 3 WE'RE OFF AT 8:00 TO SHERIDAN, WYOMING WERE ON THE WAY WE VISITED DEVIL'S TOWER. WE WALKED AROUND THE BASE 1.3 MILES AND SAW 12 OR 14 CLIMBERS. STAYED AT HOLIDAY INN SHERIDAN.**

**DAY 4 TO CODY, WYOMING AND BUFFALO BILL HISTORICAL CENTER AND HAD A CHUCKWAGON DINNER. STAYED AT HOLIDAY INN CODY.**

**DAY 5 MAGNIFICENT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK AND OLD FAITHFUL GEYSER. STAYED AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK HOTEL.**

**DAY 6&7 GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK WITH BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN, VALLEY AND LAKE VISTAS. THEN ON TO JACKSON HOLE WHERE WE VISITED THE MUSEUM SHOWING THE HISTORY BEHIND THIS FORMER HIDEOUT FOR WILD WEST OUTLAWS. ON THE SECOND AFTERNOON A 2 ½ HOUR RAFT FLOAT TRIP ON THE SNAKE RIVER. TWO NIGHTS AT THE BEST WESTERN LODGE AT JACKSON HOLE.**

**DAY 8&9 A GOOD BIT OF DAY 8 WAS SPENT TRAVELING TO SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH. DAY 9 STARTED WITH A TOUR OF TEMPLE SQUARE WHERE WE SAW MORMON TABERNACLE AND HEARD THE MORMON TABERNACLE CHOIR IN A LIVE PERFORMANCE. WE ALSO VISITED SITES FOR THE 2002 OLMPICS. WE HAD TWO NIGHTS IN A VERY NICE EMBASSY SUITES.**

**DAY 10 UTAH'S BRYCE CANYON WITH WINDCARVED LIMESTONE, SANDSTONE AND MUDSTONE SPIRES (KNOWN AS HOODOOS). BRYCE CANYON LODGE.**

**DAY 11&12 GRAND CANYON AND LAKE POWELL, ARIZONA HOME OF GLEN CANYON DAM. A TOUR OF THE DAM WAS VERY INTERESTING. TWO NIGHTS AT LAKE POWELL WAHWEAP LODGE WITH A BOAT TOUR OF LAKE POWELL ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> DAY.**

**DAY 13&14 VISIT MONUMENT VALLEY THEN ON TO DURANGO, COLORADO. WE VISITED CLIFF DWELLINGS WHICH WERE HOME TO THE ANCIENT ANASAZI INDIANS AT MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK. DOUBLETREE HOTEL DURANGO.**

**DAY 15 RODE THE OLD NARROW GAUGE COAL FIRED RAILROAD FROM DURANGO TO SILVERTON WHERE WE HAD LUNCH AT THE BENT ELBOW. AFTER VISITING MANY GIFT SHOPS, WHICH WERE AT EVERY STOP FOR 16 DAYS, WE WERE PICKED UP BY OUR BUS FOR THE TRIP TO GRAND JUNCTION.**

**DAY 16 GRAND JUNCTION TO VAIL, COLORADO(WHERE WE COULDN'T AFFORD TO STAY VERY LONG) THEN ON TO DENVER MARRIOTT FOR A FAREWELL DINNER WITH THE GROUP.**

**DAY 17 FLY FROM DENVER HOME WERE EVERYTHING WAS OK.**

**HAROLD**