



## Silver Eagles Newsletter

March 2018

### Silver Eagles,

We have no new members this month. Brent Bahler got back with the info about **Howard Plagens'** whereabouts that **Bob Benzon** asked about. Hey, we Silver Eagles are good for something! Also, several people got back about my 70 ½ year life change comments. Oh, and Dwight shared a Great Adventure! How about you?

**New Members: None**

**Board News: None**

**Member News:**

This from **Dwight Foster** – Wifec (*stet*) and I just finished a 7,600-mile, 25-day cross country road trip in a 1984 VW Vanagon Camper. Took backroads most of the way. (only broke down 3 times)

We went the southern route on the way out, visiting relatives in Dallas, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

On the way back, we went an even more southern route to avoid the snow. Headed west from San Francisco along US 50 to Lake Tahoe and continued west on 50 (The Loneliest Road) to US 93 in Ely, NV (amazing desert moonscapes) and onto Kingman, AZ. Then took I-10 in AZ to Phoenix, then US 70 West through the Apache Indian Reservation. Perhaps the best part was US 90 west across TX; some of the most desolate and beautiful roads I've ever been on. (No wonder my Dad's dream was to retire there.)

We didn't forget the Alamo, because I grew up in Texas ("Remember the Alamo!")

Took the most southern roads we could find to New Orleans (State Route 14), flat, flat, flat. Couldn't resist driving the 444-mile Natchez Trace Parkway from Natchez, MS to Nashville, winding, winding, winding. Then west through Kentucky's State Route 80 and north through West Virginia's US 219, overnighting at one of the nicest small towns on our trip, Lewisburg, WV. Then we went and home. The End. (*Well, maybe not.*)

We navigated ice storms, squinted through dust storms, crabbed through high cross winds (Vanagon's nickname is "BoxKite") and even dodged tornados in Tupelo, MS, aka Tornado Alley. Every day was a new adventure. Wake up, eat breakfast, open the map and decide which route to take. My son says "Oh he's just being spontaneous" Ate fried okra at every opportunity and saw "Chicken Fried Chicken" on the menu alongside "Chicken Fried Steak" more than once. (...gained 5 lbs.)

I would get in the car tomorrow and do it all again... only slower.

Next, several people got back to me (**Jim Henderson**) concerning my 70 ½ years life event. A couple of my favorites include:

**Kay Sommerfeld** congratulated me on my "...latest life passage: getting TSP distributions! I assume you selected leaving your money in the TSP and taking a monthly (or other period) distribution of the required minimum amount, letting the TSP calculate what that RMD amount is. That's what I chose, and what most retirees choose. I've been very pleased with everything about the TSP, and it's easy to access my account online, make interfund transfers, or whatever.

I receive TSP newsletters via e-mail. The mailings contain general information about when their on-line system might be down, when statements are ready, etc. I don't remember how I signed up to receive the e-mails, but am guessing that there is a way to do that from within your online account.

Enjoy your additional income. Yes, it adds to your tax burden and might also trigger an increase in Medicare premiums (other factors can also increase the Medicare premiums—I speak from experience), but just remember that the additional taxes mean you have a larger income and a larger income is a happy problem." *[I took the monthly option and I plan to check out the emails.]*

**Sylvia Livingston** said, "...thanks for the info on TSP withdrawals. I have a few years to go, but I've been wondering if I would be able to withdraw the minimum required each year and leave the rest. I feel that I'm diversified enough with other, non-IRA investments and wanted to take advantage of the lower fees in the TSP. Do you send in the form each following year to withdraw the minimum for that year?" *[I told her that it was easy and that once you fill out the form your only input to the system would occur if you changed banks. My first check showed up at the end of last month and went directly into our vacation funds!]*

Oh, I did get a note from **Chris Julius** buttering me up, but I was suspicious about his motives. It may just be an X-compliance officer/investigator thing. LOL!

**Emilie Eisold (Guerin)** added more contact information to our contact list including her home address and personal email. *[You know- years ago I suggested that we each put in at least our hometown and State in case you would discover a neighbor.. You could share old times with an old friend, someone from another mode or an editor/writer over lunch. Just a thought.]*

### **Miscellaneous:**

Okay, I know that it would be hard to compete with Dwight, but I'd like everyone to try over the next couple of years! Oh, and topping him isn't the real mission. Learning about our lives after NTSB... and perhaps giving us ideas that could spark our own great adventures! Do you remember as a kid travelling across the country in the backseat or way back in a station wagon? I do – twice – and I did not like the "flat, flat, flat" and hot, hot, hot, but I now wonder if I could find the Corn

Palace or the Big Rock Candy Mountain or Dinosaurland. Oh, and one trip in 1958 took us to the third year of a new kiddie park, called Disneyland. – OR... Hobbies, Workshops? Volunteer work? Please! Please!

Don't forget the Silver Eagle Website: [www.precisionwrite.com/SilverEagles.html](http://www.precisionwrite.com/SilverEagles.html)

Happy or is it Merry Easter! Watch some kids hunting Easter eggs, but don't watch too closely – unless you are related!

Jim Henderson