

WOW!! WHAT A TIME

Branson Mo May 1-8, 2011

By Wilma Jean Alexander, Past President, MI

AMERICA'S SHOW CAPITAL RALLY was held in Branson, Missouri May 1-8 at America's Best Campground. This rally represented the "beginning of the end " -- the beginning of the eighth rally hosted by Les and Wilma Jean and the end of the long running saga of rallies in Branson for the Monaco International Chapter hosted by Les and Wilma Jean Alexander. This rally was unique in that the Branson Lakeside RV Park, where we were originally scheduled to hold the rally, was flooded the week prior to and during the time of the rally. As a result, there were many last minute changes that had to be arranged.

But, as always, God has mysterious ways His wonders to perform. Space was available for us; we had indoor facilities for our activities; and the inconvenience was minor for those in attendance. The weather cooperated during the eight days of the rally, resulting in a great time for all in attendance.

One hundred forty-seven (147) participated in the activities which included a tour of the Ozarks, lunch at Lambert's, the home of the thrown rolls, and a visit to the home of Bass Pro Shop and Grizzly Tools in Springfield on Monday followed by the Pierce Arrow Show. Tuesday took us to the Clay Cooper Theater for breakfast and show followed by a cruise, show, and dinner on the Show Boat Branson Belle.

Wednesday included the afternoon performance of Cassandre, the Voice of an Angel and a performance followed by dinner at Mel's Diner where the wait staff also entertained. Then, we traveled back to the Americana Theater for the performance of Joseph Hall, a Tribute to Elvis Presley.

Thursday included the Hughes Brothers Theater for the Hughes Family performance. Not only do the brothers have excellent voices, as well as smooth artistic steps, but also their wives and children are very talented. It is certainly amazing to see such talent among so many individuals in the same family! Dinner was held at the Grand Country Buffet before proceeding to the Presley Theater for the performance of the Presley's Grand Country Jubilee.

Friday began with breakfast at the Grand Country Buffet followed by the breakfast show, Down Home Country, in the Grand Country Theater. Time for rest, relaxation, and/or shopping was available in the afternoon. Most afternoons, we had a social hour with open bar and snacks preceding our dinner hour. Friday evening took us back to the Hughes Brothers Theater for dinner and the performance of SIX. Six brothers perform using their vocal abilities to create a complete band as well as singing and dancing. What an enthusiastic performance!

Saturday morning we had breakfast at McFarland's Restaurant where six of our attendees were surprised when their table reached the height of their chins. What a look of surprise on their faces. It is always neat when we encounter the unexpected. The morning show was Red, White, and Blue located at the Americana Theater. Time for individual activities was followed by a social hour before leaving for dinner and the Shoji Tabuchi Show.

Sunday morning we were treated to freshly baked sweet rolls as well as fresh bagels from Panera Bread. If you've never sampled their food items, you must do so. In some parts of the country, the company is known as St. Louis Bread Co. Following our time of food and fellowship, the coaches started rolling to their next location.

We wish to thank all of those who participated in this last Branson rally we hosted. If anyone is interested in "picking up where we left off, "we'll be glad to talk with you in detail regarding the planning and organization that goes into a successful endeavor such as the Branson rally.

Thanks for the opportunity to be of service to this great chapter of FMCA, Monaco International. Thanks also to those who assisted us over the years: most recently, John and Rita Ham; Willard and Anne LeBoef, both are now deceased; and Tom and Geneva Cosgrove who are no longer physically able to travel.