

'Round Town

Little Cayman is well named. It's eight miles long, several miles wide in some places, has one hundred and fifty permanent residents, is totally surrounded by coral reefs. But it has the best diving and snorkeling in the world. This testimonial came from fellow residents at the Southern Cross Club who'd come from Istanbul, the Philippines, and Bermuda – to 'dive'. It's mighty difficult to reach. It's got a little landing strip with no lights and no 'airport' – which helps to keep this tiny British Protectorate – protected from the Florida syndrome – for now!

Hosts **Liz Johnson**, MFH of Traders Point Hunt, son **Johnny Johnson**, home owner on Little Cayman have been going to the Island since the eighties. Originally the Southern Cross Club was begun and owned by Indianapolis families – the **Frenzels** and the **Hillenbrands**. **Peter Hillenbrand** now owns this 'gem of the ocean'.

Nobody wears shoes – even to the Christmas eve service at the only little church. Everything come in by boat, or barge, and in a 'container'. It's beautiful – and it's a perfect 'Eden'.

Getting home was a challenge! What with the '...new security regulations...and coming from a 'foreign country'. But Little Cayman, and the Johnsons were worth it all.

And then there was new Year's Eve! A big bunch of Oakwood-ites, and South-a-towners have been getting together for many, many years. And through the years new friends have been added as others departed for Florida etc. The schedule is: 'Cocktails on Oakwood Avenue, dinner at Dayton Country Club, and back to Oakwood Avenue to '...watch the ball drop'. That too has changed somewhat. Each year fewer 'n fewer have made it to the ball-watching and breakfast...but them-what-cock-tailed-and-DCC were in fine fettel. **Bud and Aileen Welch** were there. **Marty and Fred Ohmer** joined the group – and so did their son **Rick** when they got to DCC. Rick reported a large group having dinner down in the men's locker rooms – watching football or something.

Dotty Bachus, Joe Acito, Jane Heywood, and Coreene & Don Moran were at one of two large tables reserved for the group. **Laurence Warwar, Nancy & Tom Gillaugh, Dotty Bachus & Joe Acito, Ginny Hess & Jim McCoy** were busy chatting-up their group – and many of the 'other' groups! **Wise Glossinger** sat near **Connie Breen** and her 'date' – son **Bob Breen**.

The New Year's Day Brunch given by **Tracy and Irv Bieser** is an Oakwood tradition! January first 2010 was a cold, beautiful morning and Sidney Bieser greeted guests with her parents – carrying the largest 'Maine Coon Cat'! 'She' has recently 'adopted' the Bieser household – and was mildly 'tolerant' of the Bieser's guests. The 'guests' were obviously 'intruders' in her 'cat vocabulary'.

Rodney and Stacy Yarger were early arrivals. They're neighbors on Oakwood Avenue. **Mary Mead** was there and 'talked bridge' with another guest. It was great to see **Bob Patton** who's back in his old stomping grounds in the Oregon district. **Jean Woodhull** and daughter **Sara** arrived with **DeDe Granzow**. **Al & Fern Leland** and their son **A.J.** arrived. Al apologized to his 'across 'Houk'Stream' neighbor for not decorating his Christmas tree which the neighbor at 1221 Oakwood Ave. always has enjoyed – until now! And speaking of Houk Stream – **George Houk** was there.

Terrific to see old 'fox hunting friend' **Barb Thomas**. "Has the water frozen-up in your stable?" asked a fellow former water bucket carrier'. "No, I've got a heated tack room and keep three buckets there –

so far so good!" **Dr. Ludolph van der Hooven** arrived and received thanks from a fellow 'bruncher' for a bottle of rum – with a 'ho-ho-ho!' **Sally & John Fisher** announced they'd just shipped-off their last grandchild – "...we all had a fabulous Christmas together.

Alice and Burt Saidel arrived – which always adds to the fun of a party. But, 'Round Town' did not hear a 'New Years joke' from Burt!

Something was wrong. **Tony and Pokey Huffman** were there – and that's an event for they're so often off and away to some foreign destination.

The January 2010 issue of the *Smithsonian* magazine carried a large, color, photo of the Wright Brothers home in Oakwood, Ohio. The photo of the façade was just like the one on last week's issue of 'The Oakwood Register' – except the *Smithsonian's* picture did not have a large buck looking in the window.

The 'copy' under the photo read: I have lived in several communities in the US. But I've never encountered the hometown feeling of Oakwood, Ohio...the feeling of community and the beauty of the homes are unmatched...Oakwood was the home of Orville Wright for most of his adult life...Hawthorn Hill is now a national historic landmark...the Wright Library was built in 1939... Orville was vice-president of this project...you should be proud to say Oakwood is your hometown." - **Dave Bohman**.

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