

LOCAL ITEMS

'Tis the fall season for travel, adventurous Lake City travelers including recently returned Phil and Carolyn Virden who report a fun time motoring about France for several weeks last month.

Inventive explorer Ben Hake of Lake City Recreation has taken time out from ice farming and other Rec Dept.-related activities to explore



portions of Barcelona, Spain, accompanied by newly-seated town trustee Landon Whinnery and Colorado Air National Guard-bound Bjorn Piltingsrud.



Lake Citians Abroad - adventurous trio Bjorn Piltingsrud, Ben Hake, and Landon Whinnery, pictured above and Whinnery and Piltingsrud posed top right, have been at Porto in north Portugal, highlights including the arched steel span Dom Luis I Bridge, top left, built in 1880 by the German engineer Theophile Seyrig with a 1,297' arched span over the River Douro.

In addition to marveling at Barcelona architecture, the Lake City travelers also ventured over into northern Portugal with stops at Porto, a designated World Heritage site located on the River Douro adjacent to Vila Nova de Gaia.

Among the remarkable engineering feats at Porto, Portugal, is the Don Luis I



Bridge, an 1880 double decker arch span bridge which the German engineer Theophile Seyrig designed in collaboration with Gustave Eiffel, the latter best known for the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

By way of catchup, SILVER WORLD is delinquent in mentioning the 75-plus-mile hiking exploits of two Lake City seasonal couples, Bruce and Linda Gardiner and Tom and Jane Swanson, who hiked a portion of the celebrated Camino de Santiago in

northern Spain earlier this fall.

After flying to Santiago de Compostela, the Gardiners and Swanson took a bus to Sarria, Spain, in late September for the start of their hike. Each day for a total of nine days they hiked roughly eight to nine miles per day (11 miles on their longest one-day hike), headquartering along the route in hotels and smaller inns known as *alberques*, a majority of which were charming stone accommodations dating to medieval times.

The route of their adventure took the travelers from Sarria to their first overnight at a small stone inn at Morgade, and in



Scenes from a 75-mile trek along the Camino de Santiago earlier this fall by Lake City couples Gardiner and Swanson include view of an overnight respite at a centuries-old hostelry at Xann Xordo on the outskirts of Lavacolla, Spain, top photo, near the hike's conclusion; one of many charming churches, this one overlooking the main square at Melide; slabs of weathered slate delineate property boundaries along the route; and, above, intrepid local hikers — Bruce and Linda Gardiner, and Tom and Jane Swanson pose at the end of their trek at Plaza del Obradoiro with Cathedral de Santiago de Compostela in the background.

very glad we made the hike."

On their initial hiking departure from Sarria, says Jane Swanson, "our first shock on leaving the town was finding that the trail was precipitously uphill for a considerable distance."

"We were amazed by the views," Jane continues, "as we hiked through herds of grazing sheep and cattle," roosters "announcing that it was morning."

Temperatures gradually increased during the early part of the hike and the hikers lingered along shady, chestnut-strewn portions of the trail.

From Jane we learn that a 17th Century villa called Pazo Xan Xorda at Lavacolla with stone walls and a series of beautiful gardens was one of their favorite destinations. Along the route, the hiking trail was

frequently littered with both fallen chestnuts and apples, other fascinating features including corn storage buildings known as *horreos* which were typical at nearly every farm they passed. Weathered

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School Corner

11/28 - Back to School
 UBR, yogurt, fruit, milk;
 Chicken tenders, mac & cheese, peas.
Boys B'Ball AWAY game vs. Alamosa
HOMEWORK CLUB
 11/29 - Muffins, yogurt, fruit, milk;
 Enchilada casserole, salad, fruit.
4:15 PTSA Meeting
HOMEWORK CLUB
 11/30 - Frudels, fruit, milk;
 Cheeseburgers, baked beans, fruit.
4:30 MS Boys B'Ball HOME game vs. Moffat
 12/1 - Breakfast sandwiches, fruit, milk;
 Pulled pork sandwiches, ranch beans, salad.
HS Girls B'Ball AWAY game
at Sangre Tournament

Save the date for Upcoming Events:
 Saturday, December 2 - Elementary students sing at Tree-lighting, Town Park
 December 5 - 8 - Scholastic Book Fair, School Library
 Friday, December 15 - 5:00 Elementary Play
REMINDER:
The school week before Winter Break will be Monday - Thursday, December 18 - 21.

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and lichen-covered slate slabs were set in vertical patterns along sections of the pilgrims' trail, Jane telling us the interesting fact that a proliferation of slate has historically been mined in northern Spain to supply a majority of Europe's slate roofing needs.

Chatting with an ebullient Cindy Bissell, whose Hunny B's vocal duo with daughter Chelsea will open next September's Wine & Music Festival, we learn encouraging word on Cindy's mother, long-time Lake City businesswoman and accompanist Leo Jo Lowry, who has recently undergone heart surgery.

According to Cindy, Leo Jo was at Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs on October 20 where she received a stint remedying a 75-80 percent blockage to the main artery of her heart.

Leo Jo has since returned to her home in Ulysses, Kansas, where in the interim to her next surgery — heart valve replacement, also at Penrose, scheduled for Wednesday, December 6 — she is bidding her time with a typical busy schedule playing piano in Ulysses public schools, including continuing a 55-year tradition as choir accompanist.

Looking a bit further ahead to post heart valve surgery and recuperation, Leo Jo already has tickets in hand for air travel to Las Vegas, Nevada, where she will spend Christmas and New Years with Cindy and Chelsea, and family.

From Elisa Loper we receive an update on Lake City's expanding Girl Scout Troop 19141 and a variety of weekly programs which the local scouts have participated in this fall.

First of all, according to Elisa, membership in the local Girl Scouts continues to increase, new members welcomed by signing up at gstroop19141@gmail.com. In addition to signing up new members for a plethora of



Badge-earning projects for members of Lake City's newly-formed Girl Scout Troop 19141, top photo, include a presentation with regional representative Ashley Virgin in the Lake Fork Conservancy yurt on October 21.

Hinsdale Veterans Service Officer Erin Cavit addressed the Scouts early this month and, center above, Lake City Scouts visited a Montrose pumpkin patch shortly before Halloween.

Above, Scouts and leaders — joined here with Lake City Boy Scout Wyatt Loper, enjoyed an impressive overview of the Black Canyon during a field trip in late September.

— photos courtesy Troop Leader Alisa Loper

interesting programs designed for earning specific badges, Elisa says the local troop would also eagerly welcome adults who, following background check, may wish to volunteer as assistants.

The current roster of Lake City Girl Scouts consists of Brystil Decristino, Elsa Martin, Emilia Kambish, Eeve Smith, JoJo Milski, Kate Loper, Lauren Rhodes, Max Milski, Afton Tubbs, and Carson Shepherd.

Looking back to late September, Troop 19141 enjoyed an all-day hiking adventure at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park as part of requisites for earning their coveted Hiking Badge.

As a fun, non badge-earning social event, local Girl Scouts visited and admired fall decor at the Covered Bridge Pumpkin Patch in Montrose on October 15.

The spacious Lake Fork Valley Conservancy yurt at the Slumgullion Earth & Sky Park was the destination for Girl Scout Troop on October 21, Scouts' special guest being regional representative Ashley Virgin who spoke on requisites, including design, for their "Girl Scout Way" badge. Also in the yurt, local girls and leaders talked about Girl Scout traditions, sang songs, and observed the late October birthday of the Scouts' revered founder, Juliette Gordon Low, after which they dashed out onto the Slumgullion Slide for an enjoyable one-mile hike.

Most recently, local Scouts took part in Veterans Day observances at Veterans' Park (*WORLD* November 17), in advance of which the troop met with Hinsdale Veterans' Service Officer Erin Cavit on November 16. Cavit shared insights into her U.S. Air Force career and explained the significance of her military uniform. As an inquisitive and bright group, Lake City Girl Scouts peppered Cavit with a variety of questions, tops on their minds being basics such as why she initially joined the U.S. Air Force, what wars she served in, where she served, what the food was like, and "How did you stay in touch with your family?" as well as whether military experience influenced Cavit's thinking about war and the military in general.

As a final element of their meeting with Cavit on November 6, local girls as part of their "Celebrating Community" and "Honoring Our Vets" badges crafted personalized thank you letters which were presented to local Veterans during the November 11 ceremony.

From Hinsdale County Treasurer Lori Lawrence we learn that her new Hinsdale County Deputy Treasurer is a former Arizona resident, Lori Hanco, whose first day in the office will be Monday, December 4, handily coinciding with the sale of properties with delinquent 2022 property taxes.

An Arizona resident for the past four years, Lori Hanco formerly lived in Colorado Springs. Her daughter-in-law, Heather Kuellenberg, is the new Lake City Town Clerk.

SILVER WORLD Editor Grant Houston was absent from his usual haunts for several weeks in late October while assisting with court documents in Silver Star, Montana, closing the estate of his late father, Jim Houston.

Assisting Grant part of the time while in Montana were old friends from long-ago Lake City days, Martha Nelson Wentworth, who flew in from Fort Collins, Colorado, and, from Tacoma, Washington, Jim and Pat Murlless. Martha is recalled from her work with the local bank and as a member of Hinsdale County School Board dating to the early 1980s, while the Murllesses will be fondly remembered for their work at Lake City Community School in the mid-1980s when the new school was built.

Election of officers for the ensuing year has taken place at Lake City's venerable Masonic Lodge, Crystal No. 34, AF & AM: Jack Johnston will serve as the local lodge's Worshipful Master in the ensuing year, while the posts of Senior and Junior Warden will respectively be filled by Monte Hannah and Larry Vickers; for 2024, Ron Bruce and Lester Babe Vickers will serve as Senior and Junior Deacon. Charles Ferris continues in the sizeable shoes of the late Burton Smith as lodge secretary, and Gerald Springer is treasurer.

Crystal Lake's Silver Street lodge rooms remain "dark" for the winter months with no meetings, although activity resumes with monthly meetings which will be held the first Tuesday of each month starting in June and continuing through October.

A full complement of Lake City Historic Commission — Kerri Holt, Kim Knotts, Joe Fox, Jodi Linsey, and Grand Houston — met virtually on Zoom for the board's meeting on Tuesday morning, November 7.

The commission voted in favor of several minor fence construction projects within the Lake City Historic District. While a majority of the applications were approved unanimously, the vote allowing

fencing surrounding the large dog area at the dog park at the mouth of Henson Creek passed with four voting yes and one no vote.

At the early morning meeting, long-time commission chairman Fox tendered his resignation as chair, although he continues as a commission board member. Fox's post as board chairperson has been filled by Kerri Holt, Kim Knotts agreeing to serve as the commission's vice chair. In turning over reins to Holt, Fox noted, "You're taking over, Kerri, good luck."

The terms of three town-appointed commission members are expiring at the end of the year, Fox indicating he plans to seek reappointment while two other appointees to the commission — Linsey and Houston — are indicating they plan to retire from the board having each served two two-year terms.



Past and present Lake City residents were among a large group of friends attending celebration services for Randy Ford in Rifle, Colorado, on October 22.

Ford, who was continually inspired by the solitude and mountain vistas during his years in Lake City — as well as being a fine volleyball champ and — surprisingly — tough ping pong competitor for Lake City Recreation — died in Grand Junction on October 2.

Lake City friends at the Rifle memorial service and pictured with Ford's spouse, Julie Knowles, included Kent Milski, Charles and Bear Ferris, Ford's in-laws, Bill and Beth Wyman, from Gunnison, and the three Murlless daughters, Melissa, Lindsay, and Emily, with Emily's husband, Josh Bassett.

Higgins, 45, Greg Ochocki, 75, newlywed Jakob Michael Murphy, 25, Joy Pankratz, 37, Donna Jean Barlow, 75, and Emily Firsching, 32.

Ken Vigil celebrated his 69th birthday on November 18, Nov. 19 adding a year for Echo Wuest, 40, and Delta, Colorado, resident Justin Mangum, 49. Lake City 11th Grader Silas Fox was 17 years old on Monday, November 20, followed on the 21st by Jeanne Russell, 83, Karen Pavich Hurd, fondly recalled as "Tiny," age 66, summer resident Charles Barker, and Tom Carl's youngest son, Duane Carl, age 46. Thomas Gregory Arnold, 73, Scott Higgins, 19, and Andy Dozier, 48, had birthdays on November 22, and Nov. 23 added a year for Griffin Boyce, 25, Pamela Gomez, 75, and Nicole Thompson Goring, 54.

Looking ahead, birthdays in the coming week are trail blazer Walter Potter in Austin, Texas, 79, on November 24, Nov. 25 birthdays for Hinsdale County Undersheriff Jordan Kaminski, 37, Calvin Monasco, 66, Sue Shadix, and sadly missed Becky Campbell, 74.

South End resident Cynthia Toner marks her 65th birthday on Sunday, November 26; other Nov. 26 birthdays are Kris Bloomer, 36, the artist Phyllis Ann Bairrington, 75, Lake City Community School Senior Silas Frost Hartman, 18, and Janet Lynne Darrah, 69.

Monday, November 27, is 65th birthday for Lake City Mayor Pro Tem Diane Bruce and Bluff Street dweller Brad Smith celebrates 62nd birthday.

Next Wednesday, November 29, marks 80th birthday for handiman Joe Marshall, traveler Ben Hake is 54, and Oliver Hagendorf turns 11. Rounding out birthdays on the final day of the month, the 30th, is retired lumber magnate Jud Hollingsworth, 76.