

Old friends share stretch of road with 'RV Gypsies'

By **Brenda Dunkle**

A blog describing the visit of a Chino Hills woman and her daughter to a family living in a fifth-wheel is titled "No peeing in the shower."

Leanne Mitchell and daughter Kendra, 9, learned the rules of RVing, including the proclivities of a fifth-wheel's bathroom, when they spent a week this summer with the Streett family, formerly of Chino Hills.

The Streetts, known on the internet as the "RV Gypsies," have been roaming the United States since August 2007, having adventures and looking for a potential new hometown. The Streetts - Robert, Josslyn, young sons Robby and Sawyer and family dog Baylee - have just celebrated a year on the road and said they plan to continue their travels for as long as "we are guided to be gone."

Ms. Mitchell met Josslyn Streett two years ago at a Chino Hills health food store and they "just clicked" because both were interested in spirituality.

When Ms. Mitchell learned that the Streetts were planning to head out in a fifth-wheel for a year, she thought, "I could never do it."

Ms. Mitchell said while she thought it would be a wonderful experience for the Streetts' children, "For me, it was a scary idea, to just pull up roots like that."

She said she watched the Streetts decide what to get rid of, what to store and what to take in the limited space of their fifth wheel. She is keeping a few of the Streetts items until they find a permanent home.

Ms. Mitchell promised to meet the Streetts along the road and got her first chance in January, when she and Mrs. Streett took a three-day side trip to Sedona, about an hour and a half north of Phoenix.

The two women visited Sedona's vortexes, which some people consider areas of magnetic energy that help people get in touch with their spiritual energy. They participated in an American Indian medicine wheel ceremony, where a man named Red

Hawk played a flute at sunset.

That trip didn't include an actual stay in the fifth wheel, so Ms. Mitchell and Kendra went for the whole RVing experience in late June. They met the Streetts in Asheville, N.C., because the town in the Blue Ridge Mountains is named after Samuel Ashe, a former governor of North Carolina and ancestor of Ms. Mitchell.

"I spent some time getting Leanne and Kendra acquainted with all the special features of the trailer," Mrs. Streett wrote in a blog about the visit. "How to flush the toilet, how to open the shades, how to know when the gray tank (wastewater) is full, how to work the shower and how to conserve water while showering. Then I forgot one important thing, I yelled to them, 'Oh yeah, no peeing in the shower.' We are not allowed to pee in the shower because it has a separate tank and it does not have chemicals."

Ms. Mitchell said she assured the Streetts that would not be an issue for her and Kendra.

Ms. Mitchell said highlights of their

visit were a trip by the adults to the Biltmore estate and a wet adventure at an area known as Sliding Rock.

Ms. Mitchell said the views from the elaborate Biltmore mansion were incredible and the rooms "humongous." She said many people probably don't know that the 8,000-acre Biltmore estate is still a working farm.

The Mitchells and Streetts also visited nearby Looking Glass Falls, where the falls freeze on the sides in the winter and look like glass; shopped at an old general store in Hendersonville, N.C.; visited Chimney Rock, where the "The Last of the Mohicans" was filmed; and traversed the confusing street system of Asheville.

"I love to travel and I'd do it more, but that pesky job just keeps getting in the way," Ms. Mitchell joked about her career as a first-grade teacher for Mesa Elementary School in West Covina.

For more on the Mitchell's North Carolina trip and the Streetts' year-long adventure, go to www.rvgypsies.us/index.html.



Champion photo by Brenda Dunkle
Leanne Mitchell and her daughter Kendra, 9, stand in front of Looking Glass Falls outside of Asheville, N.C. The Chino Hills family spent part of their summer with the "RV Gypsies," a Chino Hills family that has been traveling the United States for the past year in a fifth-wheel.