

Meet Bill Nurcombe

Marathon Coach Club President



Carol and Bill Nurcombe have been happily married for 46 years.

by Deb Johnson

When Bill and Carol Nurcombe purchased their first coach 15 years ago, they had no idea how their future would change as a result. After all these years of bussing, they thoroughly cherish the lifestyle, so much so that three years ago they purchased a lot at Outdoor Resorts of America Motorcoach Country Club in Indio, California. Their goal was to establish a warm home base in the south where they could go to escape the cold Canadian winters.

Bill was born in Brooks, Alberta, Canada, where his parents owned and ran a restaurant. After attending high school and college in Calgary, Bill worked several years for the Halliburton Company. Then he worked for a firm in Brea, California. The Nurcombe's subsequently bought a company that originated in Long Beach, California, which they moved to Canada. This company, Variperm Canada, Limited, is an oil, service, and supply business that they still own. ("Variperm" is a geologic term that means "variable permeability.") Because Bill is semi-retired, Variperm is run by the Nurcombe's two sons.

"Jamie and Kelly do an excellent job running the family business," Bill boasted. "But when Carol and I are at our home in Calgary,

I still enjoy going to the office. First thing in the morning is when you'll find me there. It's a great way for me to start my day." Bill and Carol also have two daughters, Lorry and Linnell, and seven grandchildren. "The grandkids definitely keep us young," Bill laughed, "as does the bussing lifestyle."

The Nurcombes have traveled extensively in North America in their coach. They have made two trips to Mexico, traveled to the Florida Keys, to New York, and to Chicago, to name just a few of their excursions.

"Our trips to Mexico were just super," Bill said. "We made one trip to Matzatlan with four other coaches, and then, because we had so much fun, the same group traveled to Cabo San Lucas. One couple in our group had been there several times, so they knew where we were going and where we could stop along the way. With just five coaches traveling together, our group wasn't too large to keep us from getting parking spots, yet we had enough presence with five big buses that we felt safe. That can be an issue in Mexico."

Yes, bussing is a good lifestyle for these friendly Canadians. While Bill drives the bus to their respective destination, Carol spends quality time with her cat, Grace, whom she found several years ago when they were touring Elvis Presley's Graceland estate in Memphis, Tennessee. Carol also likes to crochet. Every Christmas she crochets the nativity scene, which she gives as gifts to family and friends.

Bill and Carol truly enjoy their winters in the desert, "because of the weather," Bill emphasized. But they also cherish the other three seasons, which they spend in Canada.

"We enjoy the Rocky Mountains when we're home because we live close to Banff and Lake Louise. It's beautiful country with wonderful



Look for Bill and Carol's H3-45 at Marathon rallies.

summertime golf courses." Another summertime treat for the Nurcombes is when they have friends come up for a visit, which they do every couple of years.

"We love it when our bus friends stay with us several days when they're here. Then we're able to show them the sights of Calgary in a very relaxed way. We thoroughly enjoy our bus friends, even when it's time spent outside of club rallies."

Bill confessed that he's fascinated by bus people. "The thing that's so interesting to me about our group is the diversity in our voca-

tions, as well as geographically, because we're from all over North America. When I first meet people, I ask them their name, where they're from, and what they do. Sometimes it's pretty difficult to tell what a person's background is, even if I talk with them for awhile."

Bill will be serving as Marathon Coach Club president until October of 2007, which means you will have future opportunities to meet, and get to know, him and Carol. Look for them at the June Colorado Springs rally, "Pikes Peak or Bust!" Bill and Carol always enjoy making new friends. •