

Sometimes it not the Destination or the Journey... Sometimes It's Much Better than That

By Lem & Darlene

It never ceases to amaze us, of the people that we meet on a ride ... and all because of one common element ... riding a Harley! Whether we are touring or day tripping ... strangers will approach and start a conversation. Young & old will share their stories, whether they ride, know someone who rides, or used to ride back in the forties, the stories are priceless.

One Saturday in August we went on a club ride to Cape May, New Jersey. Being a Saturday morning we expected some traffic, which of course there was, as we got closer to the "Shore" (that's the Beach for all you Delawareans), but we prevailed (most of us, anyway) & ended up at the Ugly Mug Restaurant in a quaint little section of town.

And now, that priceless part, the part that always amazes us, was about to begin. Because, as we ate lunch the conversations started, new friendships began, old friends shared their stories, we shared pickles (& different ways to eat them?), but by the end of lunch we all came away with that feeling of satisfaction, not from the good food, but from the experience, from the journey, from the mutual interest, and from the Friendships - all thanks to a Harley!! Who would have realized that in the price tag of a Harley Davidson so much was included? Is it worth it? Yes it's worth it, that, and much more!!

A very big Thanks to our new friends (& future First State HOG members?) Mike & Kim Blair who allowed all eleven bikes to park in their mom's backyard, helping us to avoid the parking hassle in the busy little shopping district. And who later gave us a tour of the sites in Cape May including all the beautiful Victorian Houses and their histories. And to Gordy for "smoozing" over the elderly next door neighbor who was a little worried about all the commotion when we rolled in. Unfortunately, we never did get those ham "sam-witches" that he tried to bribe her to have ready for us when we got back. We can't forget the laughs we had over Gordy's wife worming her way (for free) into a \$25 open house tour of a Victorian Church that had been restored into Condos and Designer decorated. And least we not forget to thank Tom & Rose Manzi for organizing the ride, Great Job! (Keep your eyes on the schedule for a possible future "FROSTY" Ugly Mug Ride when the weather gets cold, get it, "Frosty Mug").

P.S. A few of us had planned to do an overnight, and we ended up spending the evening with Mike, Kim, and a couple of his buddies (who had rode in on Fat Boys) enjoying the sites and sounds of the Cape May night life. Throughout the evening we were awed at the stories that Mike and his buddies (currently serving our country together in the Military) shared with us. The next day as we rode home, the ride took on a whole new feeling, (and not from the hang-overs), but from a feeling of pride. With the American Flags flying from Tom's bike in the front and Jeff & Vickie's bike in the back, it was our own way of giving our new friends a military escort, "Harley Style".

No, it wasn't the Destination or the Journey... it was much better than that.