



# Boji Queens Visit Yankton

The Boji Queens participated in the Ozark Ham & Turkey Festival Parade in California, Mo., last year. (Courtesy Photo)

Social media sites, texting and e-mail have made keeping in contact with friends easier than ever, but nothing replaces face-to-face conversation when it comes to friends, especially long-standing friends.

For the past 11 years, seven graduates of Central Lyon High School, Rock Rapids, Iowa, have been getting together to reconnect the old-fashioned way.

“We all graduated in 1962,” said Mary Sundvold of Yankton and Omaha, Neb., who hosted this year’s get-together at her condo overlooking Lewis & Clark Lake, west of Yankton. “We had our first get-together in 1999 at Lake Okoboji. We had a cabin there and we would meet there for a few days every year for six years.”

After those initial six years, Boji Bunch — as they referred to themselves until last year — took their mini-reunions on the road visiting the areas where they have settled over the years.

Barb Doeksen-Sorken lives in Reno, Nev., and the Boji Bunch spent a great time at Lake Tahoe to celebrate their 60th birthdays. The group visited Rollys Kahl in Sioux Falls and had a spa day. While in Yankton they toured Gavin’s Point Dam, visited the local art galleries and ate at Murdo’s. When they visited Mary in Omaha, they toured Boys Town. When they have a class reunion they visit Judy Schlumbohm, who still lives in Rock Rapids. They had a great time site seeing in St. Louis, Mo., when they visited Donna Johnson and when they visited Jerri Korenberg in California, Mo., they participated in the Ozark Ham & Turkey Festival parade wearing matching T-shirts and tiaras whereas they renamed themselves the Boji Queens.

“There are a few things we always do when we get together,” said Boji Queen Gloria Abe of London, Ark. “We eat, we talk, we shop, we talk.”

“We usually stay up until 1 or 2 a.m. visiting,” Mary said. “We have a lot of T-shirts that match and when we go out to shop or

to eat we all wear them. People stop us and ask about them all the time.”

The seven women grew up together and were members of a small class at Central Lyon High School.

“We all knew each other in high school but we weren’t all friends together,” Gloria said. “A couple of us ran together and a couple others but we didn’t really hang out all seven of us together until much later.”

Although the Boji Queens keep in contact through e-mail mostly throughout the year, they said they are always surprised with how easy their friendships are when they get back together.

“We just pick up right where we left off the year before,” Rollys said. “It’s just always so relaxed there are never any uncomfortable

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