

I met Bob and Marilyn at the start of our semi-annual Mexico trips in the KOA campground in Chula Vista. Their truck and camper were new. What strikes me each time I meet them is their contribution to the group on trips: Bob with his Leatherman at the ready to pull a cactus spine from an aching butt or to cut the cable lock on a spare tire; Marilyn making rounds with rolls or tortillas, anecdote always at hand. Accompanying that is their commitment to carrying their fair share of the load - and more. Those there remember Bob showing his gratitude by replacing cables and straps that were damaged extracting the camper [in 1998] from the estuary in Mexico *and his commitment to fix any vehicle damage that might have occurred in process.*

While we were on the recent [1999] trip to the Copper Canyon in Mexico I had my transmission rebuilt and clutch replaced. The clutch had a lot of miles on it and, of course, I wouldn't expect Bob and Marilyn to replace it. But, there is a casting on the front of the transmission which houses the power shaft and seal as well as the throw-out bearing and sleeve. That aluminum casting was fried and had to be replaced. Although it required a genuine Nissan part, the \$475 + 13% tax (CDN) was a bit of a surprise to me. The mechanic said it was likely as a result of overheating and overloading from some very violent single event. Its damage messed up the bearings in the transmission and all had to be replaced; that was an additional \$500. I should be able to get most of the taxes back. I have to admit that the clutch and transmission never did work right since that weekend. Just last week Bob offered to assist me in my repair if I could show that my Nissan 240SX and I were there helping out. I hope the enclosed picture will help you refresh your memory. It is a pleasure to travel with you. I know you will do right by me.

Congratulations on your 50th Anniversary.
Paul Ferry