

SUMMER SAFETY

By Cheri George

March 2011 Albert and Rita Chretien left their home in British Columbia, Canada heading for Las Vegas. Armed with maps, GPS and a sense of adventure they took seldom used roads and got stuck. After 2 days Albert left their van and went to find help. Seven weeks later Rita was found with the couple's van in Northern Nevada. She had survived on candy, trail mix and water. Albert has not yet been found.

I keep thinking about Albert and Rita. I don't know their particular situation and reasoning but it also makes me think about our fellow rockhounds.

How often have we as rockhounds traveled 'where no person in their right mind would go'? How often have we gotten into a situation and then enjoyed the telling of it with laughter? Have we given any thought to "what if"? It could even be something as simple as a dead battery or 2 flat tires. Had it not been for rationing that bag of trail mix Rita would have certainly perished.

I know all seasoned rockhounds never leave home without being prepared, but it does help to give it some deeper thought to our preparedness. Are you traveling alone? Are you with a group? Do you know where you are headed? Do others know where you are headed? Do you have enough food to last more than an afternoon picnic?

As this rockhound season starts ramping up and we are all anxious to get out there on the roads not well traveled and still muddy please BE CAREFUL OUT THERE FOLKS!