

# BEST WESTERN ZODER'S INN NEWSLETTER

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## HEROES REALLY DO EXIST!

She stared out across the ocean, alone, and watched as the waves crashed angrily in the surf and then rolled gently onto the shore. The fierce rip tide pulled the water eagerly back out to sea, and she wished the aching in her heart could be taken with it.

Just then, she heard her name whispered behind her. The familiar voice had as much strength and gentleness as the ocean itself. She turned to face him. His eyes were filled with fury as he stared down at her. "Don't you ever leave me again. Don't you know how much I love you?" he asked.

Her eyes welled with tears that had been kept inside her for far too long. "No," she whispered.

His hand reached out to gently tuck her windblown hair from her face. "You little fool," he said as he crushed her to him with a passionate kiss, sealing their love and their fate.

"Oh, brother!" she said aloud,

as she tossed the paperback onto the library cart. "Who writes this stuff? If you read enough of these sappy romances, you might actually believe that heroes exist!" she said scornfully.

She looked at the clock and sighed. Only ten more minutes until closing time, and then she had the entire weekend off. She mentally reviewed her exciting weekend plans: Laundry, clean the bathrooms, vacuum, iron.

Just then the door opened and a tall, dark, handsome man with a familiar face entered the library. He crossed the floor with an air of confidence and walked directly to her desk, where he casually dropped a red rose in front of her. She stared up at the man in amazement, her heart was pounding with excitement.

Smiling daringly, he reached out to her and whispered, "Come with me."

She slowly put her small hand

in his strong, gentle grasp, and shyly asked, "Where are we going?"

"How does the Honeymoon Haven Cottage at Zoder's Inn sound?" he asked looking down at her.

"You really are my hero!" she exclaimed. "Oh, but wait—I've got to pack!"

"It's already been done," he stated firmly.

With more than a little fear in her eyes, she asked incredulously, "You packed for me?"

"I'm your hero—not a miracle worker," he laughed. "Your mom and sister had the honors."

"If I weren't already in love with you, she said through her laughter and tears, "I swear I'd fall in love with you!"

He pulled her gently to him and kissed her tenderly, "And now, my dear wife, your chariot awaits to carry you off to the Great Smoky Mountains."

## FUN-FILLED FACTS FOR RUNNING ZODER'S INN

In the year 2005, the following number of items were utilized:

- ◆ 8,928 bowls of Frosted Flakes Cereal
- ◆ 6,408 Danish
- ◆ 5,240 pounds of Bananas
- ◆ 15,520 packages of Coffee
- ◆ 16,320 Chocolate Chip Cookies
- ◆ 1,260 Gallons of Milk
- ◆ 7,680 Rolls of 2-Ply Bathroom Tissue
- ◆ 26,392 Double-Sized Sheets Laundered
- ◆ 24,602 King-Sized Sheets Laundered
- ◆ 39,857 Pillow Cases Laundered



This year, the Grande Dame of Gatlinburg turns 65 years old! And Zoder's Inn wears her age proudly because she is better and more beautiful than ever.

The staff has rolled up its sleeves and scrubbed and cleaned the inn from top to

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY ZODER'S INN!

bottom.

Fresh paint and wallpaper grace the walls. New bedspreads and dust ruffles cover the many new mattresses. Decorative blinds and colorful framed pictures accessorize the rooms. Each of the accommodations now boasts a brand new mini-refrigerator.

Updated desks, chairs and lamps have arrived and been put in place on beautiful new carpeting now adorning many of the rooms and suites.

So the stage is set, your room is ready, and Zoder's Inn looks forward to your arrival to Gatlinburg and the Great Smoky Mountains.



# "TIM-BERRR!" DOLLYWOOD OPENS NEW AREA AND RIDES!

Dollywood 2006—Dollywood opens up its newest area, Timber Canyon, a fun-filled design sure to entertain the entire family. Themed to resemble a once-thriving turn-of-the-century lumber camp, Timber Canyon's star attraction is the new \$6.5 million Timber Tower, the first and only ride of its kind in North America.

Timber Tower stands 65 feet tall upon a base that measures 26 feet in diameter. The 2.5-minute ride experience features dual rotation, both from the tower and the passenger carrier. Situated in the middle of a 5,100-sq. ft. pond, Timber Tower takes passengers high into the air where the ride carrier rotates 11 times per minute as it approaches the top of the tower. Once there, Timber Tower "drops" passengers almost within reach of a sawmill blade, a bear cave, a water geyser, a beaver dam and a treacherous log jam. With a 40 passenger capacity, Timber Tower will accommodate 565 riders per hour.

The new attraction area, Timber Canyon, will also feature Lumberjack Lifts, which has two 30-foot-tall towers where passengers control the ride experience in twin-seated, kid-powered cars by drawing a cable, lifting the car as high as 25 feet. Passengers can release the cable for an incredible, kid-friendly "free-fall".

In addition, Timber Canyon will open Lil' Loggers' Landing, an exciting, interactive



play area created just for children 48" and under. Little ones can test the waters at the Beaver Creek Boat Float and wade into the ripples of Beaver Creek.

Also, Timber Canyon features Lumber-Camp, a rustic-themed, 150-person capacity restaurant with a gigantic skillet from which hand-battered chicken tenders and catfish are served.

Timber Tower marks Dollywood's latest expansion. The park's 2005 season welcomed a \$5 million renovation in the Country Fair area, bringing 10 new family rides.

For more information on Dollywood and Timber Canyon, visit [www.dollywood.com](http://www.dollywood.com) or call 865-428-9488.

## TIMBER TOWER FACT SHEET

Cost	\$6.5 Million
Ride Height	65 Feet
Passenger Rotations	11 RPM
Complete Dips	6
Passenger Gondola Diameter	27 Feet
Passenger Car Capacity	40 Per Ride; 565 Per Hour
Minimum Height Requirement	48 Inches
Ride Duration	2 Minutes, 30 Seconds
Required Power	1,000 AMPS
Ride Weight	411,400 Pounds
Counter Weight Size	93 Tons

### Manufacturer

HUSS Maschinenfabrik GmbH & Co. KG located in Bremen, Germany (founded in 1919), originally manufacturing ship equipment.

Materials/Equipment—500 yards of Concrete, 40,000 pounds of Rebar Steel, 300 tons Crane Capacity.

Crews from Tennessee, Georgia, Missouri, Ohio, Hungary, and Germany are involved in Timber Tower's construction.

*For kids, spring tonic usually meant stomaching a mixture of equal parts of sulfur and molasses, thought to thin or purify the blood and "get rid of that lazy feeling."*

## MOUNTAIN DOCTORS

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park—The folk who called the hills and hollers of the Great Smokies home faced their everyday ailments with self-doctoring, folk remedies, and treatment by local herb or "yarb" doctors and "grannywomen." Many viewed doctors with suspicion and only called them as a last resort, choosing instead to risk complications of illness rather than calling in a "furriner toting a little black bag."

Travel was difficult for doctors on a good day and dangerous more times than not. One stormy evening upon returning from a house call, Dr. West of Bryson City crossed a flood-swollen river in his buggy and was swept away and drowned. Dr. Bob Medford's feet often froze to his stirrups while riding many a frigid night into Cataloochee on his trusted horse, John.

These mountain physicians toiled tirelessly,

yet expected little in return, often accepting chickens, honey, and even the occasional quart of moonshine as compensation for their services.

Organized healthcare came to Gatlinburg when the Pi Beta Phi medical clinic opened. German-born Dr. Charles Hoffman held classes at the clinic and trained local women in midwifery in assisting him in his "kitchen-table surgeries," holding down patients or administering ether, drop by drop, onto a cloth for anesthesia.

A few miles from Gatlinburg, the Pittman Community Center was established and Dr. Robert Thomas, an ordained minister and missionary, arrived in 1926. Dr. Thomas maintained a clinic and on his horse, Old Maud, made countless "cabin calls." It was said that during one 24-hour period, he

"traveled 57 miles, wore out three horses, forded nine swollen creeks, and got soaked to the skin twice, as six of his cases that day were critical."

He often served double duty as preacher and doctor, and when summoned to the delivery of a baby officiated at both the "birthin'" and the "baptizin'."



## OBER—IT'S NOT JUST FOR WINTER ANYMORE

Many of our guests are aware of Ober Gatlinburg—the beautiful ski resort right here in town; however, many may not be aware of the exciting rides and attractions Ober has to offer during the “off season”. Get ready for a fun-filled, action packed day!

Take the trolley to the Tram Station, or drive from Zoder's Inn to Long Branch Road and park in the Pay-to-Park for just \$4.00 for the entire day. This spot is within easy walking distance to the Tram.

The Tram Station is surrounded by quaint little shops offering mementos, souvenirs and decorative accessories—in addition to delectable treats and candies while you wait for the big aerial ride. (Don't worry, there are restrooms for your convenience before boarding.)

Like clockwork, the Tram departs every twenty minutes. Once on board, you will learn that you are riding one of America's largest cable car rides, with up to 119 of your newest and closest friends and one tour attendant. You will travel upwards over 1,300 feet in elevation, at the rate of 17 miles per hour on a 10 minute breathtaking ride overlooking Gatlinburg and the beautiful mountains.

The Tram was designed, engineered and constructed by a company in Switzerland and was completed in 1973 at the cost of

one and a half million dollars.

When you arrive at Ober, you may have a hard time deciding what to do first! You may head directly for the Ice Skating Arena, where you can impress the crowds with your athletic Olympian performance—or your best imitation of “Skating with the Stars!” No ice skates? Never fear; there are over four hundred sets of rental skates for men, women, and children.

Other indoor attractions are the Bungee Run, where two participants test their strength against each other—as well as a bungee cord—running as fast as they can down a 35 ft. x 12 ft. alley until they are pulled back into a 6 ft. high-inflated bag.

The Spider Web Jump is a hoot for older children and adults. While sporting a vivacious Velcro suit, you can bounce, jump, flip or twist onto an inflated Velcro wall.

The Arcade selection is limitless, and offers fun for all ages. You can test your skill with the newest in interactive high resolution screen games, such as Mortal Combat, Virtual Racing and Mad Dog Shoot-Out or for the nostalgic—Air Hockey and Pac-Man.

There are exciting water rides outside, such as the Lightnin' Raft Ride and the covered Shoot-the-Chute. For the truly daring, there is the Blue Cyclone, an air inflated

bobsled which plunges from 60' into a dark hole pushing “white water” waves as you race down a fully enclosed chute. (You don't need a bathing suit.)

If your ride up to Ober wasn't thrilling enough—be sure to take the Scenic Chairlift from Ober up to the pinnacle of Mt. Harrison—a 15 minute ride; spectacular! Or take the chairlift halfway up and ride down the mountain on the simulated bobsled run called Alpine Slide. For the “wee ones,” there is a “funtastic” playground.

If you haven't had the fortune of seeing a black bear in the wild, be sure to see the Black Bear Habitat. Exciting and entertaining, as well as educational!

In addition to a few shops up at Ober, there are also various choices for food, drinks, and snacks for breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

Couples who are looking for a relaxing night on the town might not want to miss a romantic ride on the Tram with the city lights twinkling below and the stars shining above. There is a wonderful restaurant and lounge up at Ober, complete with a DJ and dance floor. The dinner menu features such delicious options as steaks, chicken and fish, along with wine and beer.

For more information visit Ober at [www.obergatlinburg.com](http://www.obergatlinburg.com).

## LORDY, LORDY, LOOK WHO'S SERVED FORTY!

“Attention! Attention, all units! Be on the look-out for one Barbara Williamson, a/k/a Bobbie, a/k/a Big Mamma'. She is a white 5'2, female, with green eyes who is wanted for her loyalty, dedication, hard work, and tireless energy. Be careful when approaching this suspect, as she is considered to be armed and dangerous with her strength, her faith, and her dead-eye aim at shooting from the heart.”

Flashback to a little over forty years ago, when a young 17 year old girl named Barbara came to apply at Zoder's Inn after working as a maid at the old Howard Johnson's Motel for just one day in 1965—she didn't like it there at Howard Johnson's—and thankfully so, because forty years later, that same girl, Barbara— is still at Zoder's Inn, as none other than Bobbie, the Executive Housekeeper.

Bobbie recalls that fateful day when she interviewed with Mrs. Zoder— “who did all of the interview, hiring, and firing up until she passed on in 1992” for a housekeeping position. “At that time, there were 47 units; 20 were motel units and the rest were all

cabins.”

“Back then, all of the maids had to wear white dresses — except for Marjorie Reed, who was the head housekeeper then, and she wore a green uniform. She was a nice little old lady. Of course, two or three of the other maids and I used to play practical jokes on her. She would like the furniture a certain way, and the girls and I would move it around on purpose just to aggravate her—she wouldn't take it too well,” Bobbie said smiling mischievously.

After all of these years, Bobbie says that her toughest day was when a fire broke out in Room 113, when a guest had put something up against the heater unit. “I was called to come back in to work at around 5:30 that afternoon, along with Pam, to clean the units that were over 113 that had gotten smoky from the fire. We had to move everything out of those units and wash them down and clean them up—after having cleaned all day.”

And what is the best thing she can remember about her forty years of service? “ The best thing was the love and friendship I had

with Mrs. Zoder, who was like a second mother to me. And the love of the staff— like Evelyn, Blanche, Betty, Pam, Lois, and Nancy. We really were like a big family.”

If Bobbie couldn't have been a housekeeper, what occupation would she have chosen? Without missing a beat, she laughs and says, “A stay at home mom!”

Bobbie was married at the tender age of 16 to Jimmy. “We've been married for 43 years—and they said it wouldn't last! Now we spend as much time as we can with the lights of our lives, our two precious grandchildren, Sadie and Bailey.”

Sometimes life makes you look back and think about why things happened the way they did. What if Bobbie had not come to Zoder's after her bad day at Howard Johnson's? Well, Zoder's would never be in the first rate condition it is today without her, and a lot of hearts would be a little more empty for not having known her.

Thanks, Bobbie, for forty years of love, loyalty and dedication.



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Gatlinburg, TN 37738  
Phone: 800-720-5228  
Fax: 865-436-6658

**Business Name**

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Many of our guests are greeted by Caesar when they come into the front office. Caesar is the 30 year old mascot for BW Zoder's Inn.

If Caesar was not the Double-Yellow Headed Amazon Parrot that he is, who or what would he be? That is the question that you will be answering for the 2006 Kids' Contest.

Your assignment is to create a new personal history for Caesar. For example, if you thought Caesar would be a human, you would need to invent his new name, his occupation, his family, where he would live, and perhaps what type of house he would live in.

## THE 2006 KIDS' CONTEST

Or, if you thought that Caesar would be a different kind of animal, you would need to imagine what type of animal he would be, what his name would be, where he would live, and what a typical day would be for him.

Of course, you can add anything to the story that you want! The most creative story-line about Caesar will win a Three-Night Stay in the Tower Suite, so get those imaginations going and the brain waves flowing!

Here are the rules:

1. All contestants must be between the ages of 6 and 12 years old.
2. Make sure you write neatly so that everyone can read exactly what your wonderful story is about.

3. Include your name and your age at the end of your story.
4. On a SEPARATE piece of paper, include your name, age, address, and telephone number so that we can contact you, if you are the big winner!
5. No emails or faxes will be accepted.
6. Mail all entries to:

CONTEST

BW ZODER'S INN

P.O. BOX 708

GATLINBURG, TN 37738

The Grand-Prize Winner will be notified by July 30, 2006. Have fun creating!