

My other son Ken, is still living near San Antonio with a friend, so I just get to visit with him about once a month. He has been without a car for two years, so recently I began looking for a car for him. Martin found a 2010 Volvo, which was in very good condition with relatively low mileage, so he is enjoying being mobile again.



We celebrated my 81st Birthday in August. As usual Martin spoiled me, with many wonderful gifts. Long time friend, Mike Murray, joined us at Pappadeaux to celebrate.

From Aug 12th to 15th, we headed west, first to Grape Creek to see our niece Karen,



her husband Tim & nephew Karl (left). Then we drove on to Midland. It was a very special trip for Martin as we were able to connect with ex Brewster County Sheriff Carl Williams & his wife Alice (right). Carl has been a good friend & mentor to Martin since the late 1950's.



We made a second stop in Midland for Martin to reconnect with long time friends Jackie & Bruce Carter. Bruce worked with Martin at the Ector County Children's Services (Child Protective Services) in Odessa in the '70's. It was great catching up with friends. From Midland, we drove to Alpine.

We spent a day in the Big Bend National Park. The park was supposed to be closed for renovations for 2 years beginning in June '25. However, that has been put on hold until



2026. We wandered around without the usual crowds. We made it to the cottage that Martin's family frequented when he was growing up (right). It overlooks the BBP Window. It began to rain and Martin said, "I could just stay here." We took Sophie with us. She just loves going on long trips, this one 7 hours one way.



We have an amazing amount of wildlife passing through our property. We have a mother deer and two babies that have been coming almost nightly, so we have been able to see them grow. Here are more of our critters.



Our neighborhood held the annual Halloween Hayride event. Gary, a neighbor, drives his tractor pulling a trailer with hay bales for all the kids to sit on. They stop at driveways to get goodies. It's a good opportunity to catch up with folks we don't see very often. When our grandsons were small, they came to participate in the neighborhood hayrides.

We hope that you have had a lovely Holiday Season

and 2026 is good to all of us.

Love, Chris and Martin



Cheers Y'all
Sophie & Sable