WEST COAST HOLIDAY AND BEYOND

By David Patrick

SEPTEMBER 2-6 THE Rocky Mountain 356 Registry Club hosted the 2025 West Coast Holiday. Patricia and I signed up early as it was held in Colorado Springs. We have spent some time there when our children and my brother were in Boulder. The sight was the Cheyenne Mountain Resort located close to the Paralympic Training Facility. It was a great location with great rooms and services.

This was our first long trip in the 356 so we gave ourselves plenty of time to get there. Our journey started on August 30 with our plans to take 4 to 5 days to get to the resort. Well our first day was comfortable enough for us to make it to Springfield, MO and we ended up in Colorado Springs in 3 days, a day earlier than planned. We avoided the interstates as much as possible and enjoyed the scenery and the uniqueness of the small towns.

When we arrived and checked in there was a grinding noise coming from the front end. I checked and found the RH brake drum was hot and there was grease all over the wheel. Suspecting a worn out wheel bearing I ordered a set from O'Reilly's down the street. I got up early and pulled the brake drum off and found that it was a broken brake shoe return spring that was causing the noise. Luckily O'Reilly's had a VW brake hardware kit that had a spring that would work. So I cleaned it all up, packed the wheel bearings and put it back on the road.

On Tuesday we got registered for the Holiday and went to explore the town some. We checked out the downtown area including the Olympic Museum. We found a great pizza place just around the corner from the resort for lunch. We also stopped at the Porsche dealership to see if they would have the correct brake spring since they are a Classic Center. Unfortunately they didn't have the spring but the VW part worked fine the rest of the trip.

Wednesday morning we were up early to participate in a tour to the Royal Gorge Bridge. Literally a bridge to nowhere. Built in 1929 as a tourist attraction and not meant for heavy transportation. At 955 feet above and spanning 1260 feet over the Canyon Floor it offers great views of the gorge with the river and railroad line beneath.

Our groups drove over the bridge then looped back to cross back over it. We stopped on the bridge for about 20 minutes for pictures and test my reaction to the dizzying heights. After this we headed to Guffy, CO for a fun lunch stop at the Wild Spirit Mountain Lodge. The starter on the 356 started to not operate intermittently at this point and eventually stopped working all together. I did some trouble shooting every day without finding the cause. Patricia is now a professional at popping the clutch as I pushed to start the car. Luckily it is a very light vehicle and as long as we were on a flat surface or a little downhill grade it wasn't a big deal. Wednesday evening was the welcome reception where we met some new friends and caught up with some old ones. I started "networking " with the 356 Registry President Jim Wayman and Trustee Michael Branning about hosting an East Coast Holiday next year in Lexington.

Thursday we decided to do a self guided drive up to Deckers. It is a small town about an hour and 15 minutes northwest of Colorado Springs. This was a nice drive with some beautiful scenery. Carving our way up a valley to the town was relaxing and fun. Tech sessions were held in the afternoon on various subjects. In the evening Porsche of Colorado Springs hosted a reception for the group. Wow what a dealership. They have one building for new car sales and one for Classic. They have a huge inventory including 356's, 944's, 911's of all kinds