

Thehma and Louise of the Geriatric Set

BY NATASHA LUBIN



No, we didn't go over a cliff. Actually, I never saw the film, but I'm assuming it was about two vibrant women whose adventures or misadventures, make the film. Also, we didn't kill anyone....we just drove from Sonoma, CA wine country, to Los Angeles, the big city. Before I go on, I'd like you to meet Jackie, a vibrant almost 80, years young woman with a lust for life and a will to go on no matter what. Jackie, at this point in time had just placed her cousin in a nursing home. She was too much to care for with advanced Parkinson's and just simple aging...she's 91. When they moved into my

complex....55 and over...we quickly became drinking buddies. To Jackie, the sun over the yardarm is whenever she decides it is. I think they know every restaurant in Northern California and have favorite bar tenders in several. In short, this merry lady with a can do attitude, took me up on my suggestion that we drive to Tarzana (Southern California) to stay with my friend Nancy for four glorious days. For me, it was a trip of necessity. For Jackie, it was a get away from the tension and sorrow dealing with her cousin Iris who no longer really knows what's happening to her.

It was Jackie's car that took us there. I mean, my red 1992 Mazda 323 with 167,000 miles on it, wasn't quite up to the job. It could have made it, maybe, but it would be really uncomfortable after an hour or so. I could just see the engine smoking and coughing at the exertion. Maybe someday I'll see if I'm right.