



SWOPE NEWS



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FROM NEIL MCCUTCHAN

It's been one month since we arrived here in Yellowstone. It has been interesting. The first couple of days seemed hectic and somewhat overwhelming with new 'data' to store in my computer (brain). I started out in the fountain fixing sandwiches (prepared elsewhere), getting coffee, soft drinks, and ice cream and trying to run the cash register. Judy trained as a 'rover' helping every where through out the store.

Ice cream is a big 'seller' at the store. There is a waterfall that people can walk to see and it seems that most then want to drink or have an ice cream cone. Tower Fall is at the north end of a drive that people take from the southeast area of the park. The road leads over one of the higher passes in the park, Dunraven Pass (8,000'+). It is in the Mt. Washburn area. At the beginning of our stay it still had snow over the mountain. The last time we drove the pass most of the snow had melted. The road is pot holed and rough and has a lot of DROP OFFS, switchbacks and narrow roads to watch. I drive and Judy looks. When the cars come north off that pass they get to the Tower Store and say, "Whew, a place to stop." Several drivers have

asked Judy if there is an easier way to get back south. The parking lot to the store isn't very big, but there are often a LOT of vehicles in it. Tour busses also make a stop at the lot (for the falls).

I was asked to be dorm supervisor so I'm not at the store now. I have to keep the 'public' areas of the dorm clean, etc. Get linen from rooms weekly. Help residence with problems. Help in the kitchen (bottle washer)one day a week. Launder the kitchen aprons twice a week. This way Judy & I keep the same meal schedule at least. If I had stayed at the fountain my schedule and her schedule would have not been compatible. Most here in the dorm seem to appreciate the clean halls and straightened areas. There sure is a lot of trash that gets picked up.

Our weekend is Wed. & Thurs. We have visited Gardiner, MT (north) and West Yellowstone, MT (west). We went to Cook City, MT to the northeast. When we came we stopped at Cody, WY (east). The only direction we haven't explored out of the park is to the south. That goes into the Grand Teton area (Jackson Hole, WY). We plan to do that next time. We were able to visit my sister, Marjorie and her daughter

(Mary Helen) /husband (Jack) in Missoula, MT.

Marj is in a nursing home (Alzheimer's). She seemed to be as well as could be expected. Had a good visit with Jack (nieces husband) as Mary was at work until later afternoon. We had a good meal and then she took us to the nearest Target store where Judy & I bought some provisions for the dorm.

We aren't able to get onto the internet easily. Newspapers are once-in-a-while things. Although there is satellite TV available it is often being used in the off hours by the younger crew. Radio is almost impossible. I brought my short-wave radio and am able to pickup some things. Short wave tends to fade in and out.

One thing we don't lack. Interesting views. Our dorm room window looks up a mountain valley. When we got here the mountain was still snow covered. The dorm is on a 'hill' above the store. There is a stream that runs down near us and it has been running full although it is slacking off some now. There are PLENTY of bison to be seen. Judy & I say, "Bison we don't stop for. All other wildlife yes." There are bears in the area we are. One female and cub(s) have transversed the campground near us and around the store area. We have seen a couple of them. We were walking around the campground and saw several deer peering down at us.

We had a great 4th of July meal. Prime rib with all trimmings. Bear activity has been strong in the area. There have been three deer around the dorm the past few days.

There is plenty to eat. The dining room has a variety of foods fixed. Noon meal is usually the largest. On the 4th of July we had prime rib. The rangers and campground hosts were invited. We had the usual chicken to fajitas. Evening meals fortunately are usually light fare.

I had a brief stint of food poisoning last week. It included severe gas cramps. That touched off, apparently, a diverticula bleed. I was taken to Livingston, MT hospital for tests and in case I had to

be 'scoped. It turned out OK and I left the hospital after having only an IV. This past Monday the Doctor's office called to tell me the test(s) turned out negative. The nurse said that was good. I'm fine now with my usual 'onery' self. We are on our 'weekend' now. We're in Jackson, WY at a motel. It has a data port. If e-mailing us use this e-mail:

towerdorm@hotmail.com

Put our names in the subject line or it won't get to us. DONOT forward those interesting tidbits that are funny or any cards. The e-mail is picked up by the store manager and he prints it off to give to us. Therefore this is a 'communal' e-mail.

Hope all of you are well.

Neil& Judy

FROM KENNY COOKSEY

Greetings to all from one of the Cooksey's (Alice Swopes) youngest. Kenny

I don't often sit to write a letter and I apologize. Its like the Cooksey's have disappeared from the face of the earth but not true. Here are some statements that might help catch up a bit.

1. Kenny (myself) still lives in Libertyville Ill, same house 25 years an Acre lot and we like the place a lot but there are always maintenance projects to do.

2. My family, David, Matthew, Sara, Gwen and wife Leslie are all doing fine. The kids are 20, 21, 22, 23, 24. Gwen has a child, William, who is "almost three" she is also expecting another child in January. William is a "terrible two" joy and Leslie and I spoil him the way Grandparents should.

3. My brother Randy visited recently and I have attached some pictures of the Clan with this E'mail. Randy has three grand children two of which are included in the pictures. Randy plays his trumpet in the Peoria Orchestra, Band and many weddings as well as giving lessons. His wife Denise joins him in all this as an accomplished flutist.

4. After 30 years of teaching science and computers I have retired !!!!!!! Yeah ! and it feels great.

5. My brother Steve , Professor of music is still at Shenandoa University in Winchester Va. He says he enjoys what he's doing and will only retire when they ask him to. Randy and I see Steven infrequently but we see each other quite often.

6. My kids have jobs and are doing well. David graduated from the Universtiy of Evansville and Matt recieved an Associate degree from a local College just recently.

7. I intend to work on my house. travel, flyfish, build and fly RC aircraft and just enjoy life in retirement. I have more time and hope to keep in touch better so I'll say more at a later date. Thanks Paul Swope for keeping us tied together with the new technology.

Kenny

FROM KATHRYN SOSBE

(granddaughter of Jason and Laura Swope McCutchan)

To all:

Welcome from Pennsylvania! We've made a large adjustment in our lives since the last newsletter. We quit our jobs, packed up our belongings and moved from Florida to Ridley Park, PA, which is between Philadelphia, PA, and Wilmington, DE. We decided to make the shift for several reasons, but most importantly to help care for Victor's mother. We are now settled in and will be looking for jobs, although I just may go back to college. After nearly 25 years in the news business, this is a more than welcome respite. If I'm lucky, I'll write a book or two and if I'm extremely lucky, I'll be published. If only...
Kathryn

FROM THE GLACKMANS

We were lucky to have out two grandchildren from Pa. visit for a long weekend in July. Ted was here also for a week. He also got to visit a little with his cousins Paula and Karen who he hadn't seen for several years. Julia talked her Uncle Grant and her dad into joining

her for a skydive at Carmi Ill. on Sunday morning. It was the first time any of them had jumped so they went tandem with the instructor from the jump school. Gene flew them over while Jake and I went to



church to say a few prayers. All went well and Julia thought it was the most exciting thing she'd ever done.

Grant, Carolyn, Eva and our daughter Laurie were all here for supper that evening to enjoy a sampling of Jakes culinary offerings. He is working as an assistant chef at a restaurant near Ardmore.

Nancy

COMMUNICATIONS THEN & NOW

Elnora France wrote this fact about her Father, A. E. Swope; "He helped start the first telephones in our community, organizing a group to put up poles, string wires, arrange for an exchange and Directory for the numbers of the members. Had party lines & wall telephones that had to be cranked to ring. Four rings for an emergency and the Operator would help with locating stray animals, news of illness in the Ville or other information." Did you know that his grandson, Jim France, took out those same phones, took down those same lines, and installed new dial telephones for McCutchanville? Indiana Bell purchased the local exchange in the mid 50's. The old exchange was located in the white house at the corner of Old Petersburg and Browning Roads...it is still there...and