

SKY RANCH DIARY

1973

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FRIDAY

JUNE 8

Arrived at Madison after a very smooth trip, to be met by Wayne and Florence, both looking fine as usual. Our baggage was missing but Wayne assured us and said that North Central was very good at delivering baggage to the home. We received it later in the afternoon.

Found everything perfectly beautiful at Maple Bluff. Lawn, flower beds, trees, everything lush and green. The renovation of Maple Bluff has been completed and it really is a beautiful, comfortable home. What a job they have done on it! Here's hoping you all get a chance to see it in the near future!

The Rikkers had us all over for dinner with Bernie Mautz. A very enjoyable evening.

SATURDAY

JUNE 9

Woke up to a beautiful June day. Walked around the property before breakfast. What a heavenly place to live! There were about six boats fishing along in front of the Bluff and they were really pulling them in!

After breakfast had a good talk with Wayne in his office concerning business matters, estates, wills, etc.

Off to Reedsburg at 4 o'clock for a delicious picnic dinner with broiled chicken at the Peter Conlins! Catherine and the Jimmy Conlins were there. Marge looking very frail but insisted she is feeling much better, although, she had just gotten over a bout with the flu. All the cousins seemed to enjoy themselves immensely. It's hard keeping track of those youngsters they are growing up so rapidly - young Jimmy Conlin is sporting a beard!

Sat around after dinner enjoying the youngsters and catching up on family news.

Home and into bed about 10:30.

SUNDAY

JUNE 10

Another gorgeous cool day - Maple Bluff at its best.

Had lots of fun putting on Uncle Wayne's Putting Course.

Yesterday Stanley Dwinell called from Lodi where he was visiting and Uncle Wayne asked him down for dinner to-day. He arrived about 11 o'clock. We sat around the living room catching up on family news, Stanley Dwinell doing most of the talking!

Over to the Maple Bluff Country Club for a delicious Sunday dinner. Then we took Stanley to the airport where he was headed back to Minneapolis.

MONDAY

JUNE 11

Got the 12:30 plane to Chicago where we were met by Dorie, who was late because the excessive heat had buckled the pavement on the approaches to the airport and the traffic jam was terrific. Arrived at Winnetka and were greeted by Teton who seemed to recognize us and put on quite a welcome! We are very enthusiastic about the J.C.B.'s home and the neighborhood. The schools are within walking distance and they are only a few blocks from the lake and enjoy walking on the lake shore. We were amazed at how well they were settled - it looked as though they had lived there for a couple of years. Dorie really has the homemaking touch and all their furniture and belongings seemed to fit in very well.

The children all came in after school and they look fine. They love their schools and have made a lot of fine new friends. Kathy brought home a report card with all "A's"!

A delicious dinner a la a Dorie, and a walk along the lake shore. Much talk about the oncoming backpack trip in the Teton Wilderness!

TUESDAY

JUNE 12

It was terribly warm during the night but started to cool off towards morning as the wind shifted and is now blowing off Lake Michigan and it is very comfortable.

Dorie drove us around Winnetka this morning and then we stopped at a big shopping center and had lunch at Marshall Fields.

At 6 o'clock guests started to arrive for cocktails - an all Dartmouth party! We were particularly glad to see Jim and Elaine Bouveaird and Pete and Jean Henderson. A mighty attractive group of young people.

During the evening we heard voices outside and were amazed to find out that Dave, Peter and Mike were at the front door! Had a good chat with them and made plans to meet them at Sky Ranch!

WEDNESDAY

JUNE 13

Caught the 1:05 to Billings - a very smooth easy trip. Had an hour's wait in Billings for the 4:39 Frontier to Jackson. We sat around and arrived at the departure lounge at 4:30 and the plane was nearly full!

Had a fairly bumpy ride over Yellowstone Park. Saw lots of snow and put down at the Jackson Airport right on time - Ray waiting for us with the news that everything was fine at Sky!

Drove in over the cattle guard with the big bell ringing to be welcomed by Anna and the two doggies. Boise did not growl!

Found the Grand polished up and shining - everything in perfect order. This was our 21st arrival at Sky - it's getting to be a habit!

The grass around the cabin looked very dry. Ray hasn't been able to get the irrigation system going as yet and there has been no rainfall for six weeks.

It is unusually warm here and the bleaching oil smell still penetrates the house!

Muffy and I both slept very fitfully during the night - Boise barking a couple of times but we could not spot any animals outside.

THURSDAY

JUNE 14

Ray got the irrigation system started this morning and wouldn't you know it - it then started to rain and rained all morning!

Finished unpacking and off on a shopping trip, stopping at Wilson at Mrs. Mills Upholstery - Muffy had some cushions she wants covered. Picked up some rolled barley and fertilizer. Back by way of Moose to pick up the mail at the post office. Who should we run into but Mary Ellen Roloff (Florence's granddaughter) and her husband - a very attractive young couple. They are camping up at Jenny Lake. We asked them over for cocktails this afternoon.

moving picture people. I liked him very much.

During the winter Vern bought a drag line and spent most of the winter building large holding pools in the Spring Creeks to allow the big fish to stay there and spawn. We went down to one of these Spring Creeks about 11 o'clock and by lunch time I had four beautiful cutthroat, which Vern told me I could take home, and Harry had caught several, one weighing over 3 pounds which he turned back. This fishing is not unlike the fishing at Oliver's Ranch. Vern claims it will be much better. They are going to limit the membership to 125 people. The initiation fee is \$2,500 and the dues are \$1,000 a year, of which \$400 can be taken out in trade! Vern says that a membership will include the privilege of issuing guest cards to your family, so I think the whole family will be able to enjoy the Club. They are going to negotiate for controlling other waters in this area, possibly Harry Barker's set-up will be included, and they have already negotiated beaches on the New Fork River over by Pinedale and will run one day and two day float trips on the New Fork and the Green.

Vern advised me that Don has already opened negotiations for a similar set-up in Montana and hopes to start negotiating in Idaho also. The membership will include privileges at these other locations. It all looks like a terrific set-up.

End of this dictation.

SUNDAY

JUNE 17

Rained during the night, still cloudy. 42 degrees. Have put up the rain gauge and we had a half inch of rain during the night, which is a lot!

During the morning Anna went up to the garbage pit and came back white as a sheet. She said the lid of the garbage pit had been ripped off by a bear. We all went out and sure enough Mr. Bear had gotten his teeth in the lid and had broken the hasp. I will get a hasp that that rascal can't break!

This is Father's Day and Big Dad had the pleasure of opening many wonderful Father's Day cards from all the family. What a wonderful group they are! Had several telephone calls during the day from Sue and Nelson, Ele and Joe, Bill and Ruth. Decided that it certainly pays to be a father!

Mike and David out to-day. The three boys rode this morning looking for the "Big Rock". The trails are badly overgrown now and many windfalls. They didn't find the Rock but they saw twenty-five elk and a mother moose and calf!

Ray and Anna off to-day. We had planned a cookout with the boys but the weather was too cool.

Mike and David were invited last evening to the Buckenroths for dinner and they had delicious trout!

Talked with Bill re the pack trip for the Gianninys. They are anxious to go off on a trip after they leave here and I believe we can work something out with Jerry Abercrombie.

We had a great game of Shanghai after dinner. Peter came out at the bottom of the list. He is really killing - he gets so excited when he gets the right card and nearly dies when we gets the wrong card!

Boys off for their room in Jackson at 10 o'clock. We watched their lights down thru the trees to be sure that their car did not flood on the way out. We advised them to drive out in low gear. We saw the lights and knew that they were well on their way.

MONDAY

JUNE 18

It surely looked like winter this morning - 4" of beautiful white snow. Temperature 30 degrees. When the sun finally broke thru Buck Mountain was a sight to behold - dazzling white against a deep blue sky.

We don't know what gets into Boise during the night - he barked practically all night long. Maybe we'll have to put him up in the outdoor bathroom!

To-day is the day that the Shirleys are to drive Ken down from Montanna to Sky Ranch. We wonder about the roads in Yellowstone Park. Talked to Doris Hartgrave and she said nothing will stop Betsy!

Peter out this morning in his high boots looking for the horses. Finally found them up in the timber where they sought shelter from the snow.

Muffy and Big Dad in to Jackson shopping. Muffy with a list a mile long. Picked up the T V set, stopped at Lamb's for a number of things, and left the Jeep to have the brakes fixed. The brakes were practically flat! This bothers me a great deal because I had Ted take the Jeep in before we got out and he gave them instructions to make a complete check of the car.

Peter stayed at the ranch this morning carrying out a number of jobs.

Home for lunch amid snow flurries!

The car from Montana rolled in at 3:30, Ken looking fine, Betsy and her daughter, Elaine. Elaine is a raving red haired beauty. Her hair is a natural deep chestnut and she has beautiful complexion and features. She was recently elected Appaloosa Queen of Montana! She has wonderful social poise for a girl raised on a ranch. We were very impressed with her. She is to be married in August. Betsy says the young man is a splendid fellow, having recently graduated from the University of Montana at Bozeman receiving a degree in Range Management.

This is the first time that Betsy has really visited us here and Muffy took her thru the house and around the property. She was very much impressed with Sky Ranch!

The Hartgraves, Ted, Doris and Cheri Lee were up at 6:00 o'clock for cocktails around a roaring fire with Sky Ranch Specials, then a wonderful dinner which everyone seemed to enjoy.

Much talk after dinner, both Ted and Ken telling many interesting and funny stories about old timers!

The Hartgraves, Betsy and Elaine off at 10:15. The Shirleys are spending the night with the Hartgraves and they intend to drive back to Montana to-morrow.

TUESDAY

JUNE 19

30 degrees last night. Clear as crystal! The mountains are a dazzling white this morning and we sat at breakfast admiring Buck Mountain against the blue, blue Wyoming sky.

After breakfast Ken, Peter and Big Dad off to the Sagebrush Flats to get some pictures of Sky Ranch in its spring-winter garb!

With Peter's help, we got the boat hitched up and trailed it in to the Sportsman Center, south of Jackson, to have everything checked over prior to our big trip to Henry's Lake.

On into Jackson to inspect the fire damage. The Wrangler Cafe and the Drug Store next door were a complete loss. It is still a mystery to me how the Volunteer Fire Department held the fire in check.

In to the Jackson Drug to pick up some items and ran into Moosey. She was overjoyed to see Ken - apparently they have been close friends for many years. She is working at Jackson Drug, having been let out of the hospital!

Over to the Wort Hotel for lunch. The dining room was very busy, although reports were circulating in the valley that the tourist travel was down from last year.

Back to Sky in time for a good afternoon nap. I find that Ken enjoys his afternoon nap just as much as I do.

Cocktails on Bill's terrace in the glorious warm sun, followed by a delicious fish dinner, which Ken particularly enjoyed.

A big game of Shanghai after dinner which developed into a neck and neck race between Muffy and Peter. Muffy nosed Peter out by a few points on the last game!

Had a call from Norm Dabel this evening telling me that he was terribly upset over a conversation he had had with Ted Hartgrave. I had held back \$175.00 on the contract for oiling the cabins until the work was finally accepted. Ted claimed that some of the shutters were not done on both sides and Dabel claimed they had been done. After looking at them I decided it didn't make too much difference one way or the other and in order to avoid an argument, I had previously mailed the check to Dabeo which he had not received.

WEDNESDAY

JUNE 20

38 degrees last night - beautiful and clear this morning.

Something stirred Boise up at 6:45 and he barked his fool head off!

Ken and Big checked up on the tackle for the big trip. Peter walked to Taggart with his fishing tackle and lunch to-day. Had only minor luck, a few small ones.

Muffy, Ken and Big Dad rode over to the Wesleys Cabin this morning. I think it is quite an emotional experience for Ken to see the old cabin. Things looked terribly neglected and very forlorn up there. It must bring back many memories for him.

After getting the Jeep back the brakes gave out again and I had to take it back this afternoon. I really gave Garry Jones a piece of my mind. I don't think they have a mechanic in the place! Had to drive a Ford pick-up back. They promised to work overtime and have the Jeep ready for the trip to-morrow.

Mike and David dropped in for dinner. Galeys over for cocktails - they really look fine, both of them. This is the 60th year for White Grass and they are giving a big party on the 4th of July to celebrate!

A call after dinner from Garry Jones saying that they can't fix the brakes because they do not have a certain part in stock. So, we have to shift our plans and will take the station wagon.

Shanghai with David winning by a long margin!

THURSDAY

JUNE 21

46 degrees low, 70 degrees high - clear.

Off in the Ford station wagon at 8:15. Stopped to pick up Ted and his gear. Stopped at the repair shop to leave the Ford pick-up. Garry advised me that they did get the Jeep fixed up after all and we could take it. I don't think they know which way is up! On to the Sportsman Center to pick up the boat and then we headed over Teton Pass arriving at Wild Rose Ranch at 11:30 - a 2½ hour drive.

We found that Don Flower has given up his purchase contract on the ranch and it has reverted back to Gil Day, who is now running it again.

We had the same old cabin #6 with three very good beds in one big bedroom. Ken looked in and said the first one to snore would be dropped in the lake. I didn't tell him but if we had carried out that ruling he would have gotten awfully wet!

On the lake from 4 to 7 - a beautiful evening but not a single strike!

FRIDAY

JUNE 22

On the lake at 7:45. We tried to get out earlier but I guess we were too sleepy! Learned later that the time to be on the lake is about 6 o'clock!

A cool clear beautiful morning. We worked every angle but no one even got a strike and I was about ready to throw in the sponge!

Took a long sightseeing trip down the outlet - very interesting. Back at the dock at 11:00 o'clock to be greeted by fishermen who all had pretty good catches! We did a little detective work and found that the answer was - WORMS!

Decided to go down to Macs Inn. Found a service station who had worms for sale. Had quite a talk with the manager who does a lot of fishing on the lake and he gave us a number of suggestions, one being that we use worms and hardware. We have been blanked for the last three years and I finally gave in that we would use worms and hardware!

The service station manager recommended a place for lunch called Joannas. We had a delicious lunch there. The food at Wild Rose is not so good. We asked the girl at the cash register if she was Joanna - she said no and pointed to the cook in the kitchen, whose looks were no measure of her culinary ability!

An early dinner at Wild Rose and on the lake by 6:15 with our worms and hardware. Soon found it was impossible for three men to fish from the boat, keep the hardware out of the weeds and not get tangled up. Had a couple of bad tangles. Ken keep getting strikes and finally hooked into two beautiful cutthroats. Ted got no strikes and no fish. He was very disappointed!

End of this dictation

SATURDAY

JUNE 23

The Old Timers around Henry's Lake have told us that the best fishing is around 6 o'clock in the morning. They open the dining room at 5:30, so we got ourselves out of bed promptly at 5:30 and to the dining room at 6 for a good breakfast (breakfast is the best meal in this dining room), and on the lake by 6:45. Weather cool, lake like a sheet of glass, the sunrise was beautiful.

Speeded out to the best trolling area. Ken and Ted put in their flashing gear and Big Dad ran the boat. Yesterday we had several very bad tangles when we tried to fish three from the boat, so I decided not to try to fish three at a time. Yesterday we broke off two sets of trolling gear at \$2.85 per each after getting caught either on some big weeds or submerged logs! This morning we put 6-lb. test mono filament on the hook so that if anything was going to break we would only lose the hook itself. Rode along very slowly. The trolling plate on the motor works splendidly - I think we were down to about 2 miles an hour.

In about five minutes Ted, who had gone blank all day yesterday, got a beautiful strike, handled it well and Big Dad netted a beautiful 3-lb. cutthroat. These fish are fat and put up a good fight!

Before 8 o'clock Ted had four beauties and Ken had another 2-3/4 pounder.

On the road at 11:15 headed back to Jackson via Teton Pass. When we got to Ashton we were supposed to turn left and Big Dad drove straight thru, so we got off the route and wound up in St. Anthony for lunch probably 40 miles out of the way! The compensation was we did get a delicious lunch and a view of the Teton Range coming out of St. Anthony was spectacular.

Dropped Ted off at his house - he would only take two of the fish and we arrived at Sky at 3:30 with a great welcome from Muffy and the doggies. Anna very pleased with our catch of fish!

Big Dad took his usual afternoon nap in the middle of which Muffy rushed into the room and said:

"The Allans' are here - they got the wrong day -
Sonny had a very bad fall!"

I put on my bathrobe, rushed out on the front porch and here was Sonny sitting in a daze with a big gash over his eyebrow where he had struck on the steps. We planned a cocktail party for Ken to-morrow and Esther got mixed up. It was rather embarrassing but everything straightened out all right and they promised to come back the next day if Sonny was all right.

The boys came in from fishing on the Gros Ventre - no luck. It did not take much persuasion to get the boys to stay for one of Anna's delicious dinners.

Boys back to Jackson and everybody to bed early.

SUNDAY

JUNE 24

Cool this morning - some clouds on the horizon.

After breakfast Ken and I saddled up, Ken on Monty, Big Dad on Nibbles and we head for the Overlook above Hartgraves. The horses behaved very well. On the lookout for game but no luck. Arrived at the Overlook for a thrilling view of the valley - big white clouds piling up overhead. Back to Sky.

Muffy having raked the parking area and the paths around the ranch and Peter parked all the family cars over by the Sky Bunk to make room for our guests.

Had a surprise call from Jim - they are at Pinedale at 2:15 and will arrive here in time for the party!

The J.C.B.'s rolled in at 3:45 with the big ranch bell ringing a welcome. They made it here from North Platte, Nebraska! The first one out of the car was Teton who, (according to J.C.B.) will now take over the ranch.

Jim unloaded a tremendous box which he explained contained steaks, hamburgers, etc. for their pack trip and dry ice to keep it frozen. Wondered how we were going to pack that amount of meat on old Monty!

Our guests started to arrive at 5 P.M. and fortunately the clouds had disappeared and we were able to have our cocktails on the lawn. Superintendent Everhardt and his wife, Maggie Course, the Allans, the Hartgraves, the Moselys, the Fred Johnsons, the Curtises, all came to welcome Ken back to the valley. We had invited the Fabians but Harold is very frail and Josephine felt it was best for him to stay home.

The J.C.B.'s added a lot to the party, the two girls making quite a hit serving the hors d'oeuvres.

Talked with Vern Johnson about the Golf Club Estates. When the Rockerfellers bought the golf club they closed the sale of the remaining locations around the golf course, however, they decided to put them back on the market this year and Vern thought they would sell very rapidly. He promised to send me some brochures which I will send on to the family. Vern advised me that Ray Lillie had a stroke in the east and is in the hospital in Virginia seriously ill.

After the guests departed the family all had a delicious buffet on the front porch.

MONDAY

JUNE 25

Clear and cool this morning. Great excitement in the air - today is the first day for a practice run on the great back pack trip into the Teton Wilderness!

Ted arrives at 9 o'clock with a Jeep full of gear, pack saddles, picket ropes, tanners, etc, etc.

Monty is to be the pack horse for the trip and Ted wanted to see how he behaves on a picket pin. We took him down into the field where all the clover grows and staked him out for a couple of hours with the boys watching to see that he didn't get tangled up and rope burned. He behaved very well and it looks as though Monty will be o.k. on a picket line.

Ted gave the two Jims instructions on packing Monty with the double diamond hitch - packed and unpacked him about three times.

Peter complained of a stomach ache and took Pepto Bismal this morning. Here's hoping he is o.k. for the big trip!

Ken, Ted and Big Dad in to the freezer locker to make plans for carrying in the fresh meat which Jim brought from Winnetka. The girl at the freezer locker advised us that it would take about 50 lbs. of dry ice to keep all of Jim's steaks frozen thruout the trip! He decided right away that he did not want to take that amount of meat and we worked out a program which looks very practical.

Up to Jackson Lake Lodge for dinner with Ken, leaving Peter in bed with a temperature of one degree!

TUESDAY
JUNE 22

Beautiful morning, somewhat warmer. J.C.B. over for coffee on the front porch to discuss pack trip plans further.

Peter's temperature sub-normal this morning.

After a conference with Muffy we decided that Peter shouldn't attempt to go on the trip. He was a very good sport about the whole thing!

J.C.B. off in to Jackson for the final shopping before the trip.

Ken and Big Dad ride again - this time up beyond the Trail Ranch on one of the early trails that Ken was looking for. We got lost and had to bushwhack up to the Lake Trail. Back in time for a martini on the front porch.

Dave arrives just in time for lunch. He is off duty to-day.

At the cocktail party for Ken yesterday Jim was reminiscing with Maggie Course about the Penn Charter baseball game. Bill Ross (her son) played second base and Jim played short stop. Jim laughingly told Maggie that every time they had a chance for a double play he would throw the ball to Bill on second and usually dropped it! Maggie vehemently defended Bill's baseball playing and didn't see the joke! She previously had asked all of us for cocktails Tuesday evening and when Muffy called up to find out what time she wanted us up there, the housekeeper told her that Mrs. Course was gone for the day and that she knew she had made other plans for the evening! Maybe she took that baseball business too seriously and was really mad!

Intense preparations all day for the big trip. J.C.B. back from the city with 20 lbs. of dry ice cut down to fit the panniers. At 3:45 Ted came up and loaded the panniers so they balanced exactly - Monty will carry about 250 lbs. The back packs for the family will be relatively light!

Ted stayed for early cocktails on the front porch. He is in a fine humor and seems to be enjoying training the family for packtripping!

Conference between Muffy, J.C.B. and Big Dad. We decide Peter is o.k. to go on the trip.

Happiness is when you think you can't go on a back pack trip and then you find out you can go!

Everybody to bed early. The coyotes howled during the night. Boise answers them with barks from the kitchen!

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 27

Clear and warm.

Breakfast at 6:30. Jeep and station wagon loaded with gear. Loal here with the truck at 7 o'clock and was off with Monty by 7:15. When Nibbles saw Monty leaving in the truck he whinnied and dashed around the corral - he is going to miss his pal!

The five J.C.B.'s, Peter, Ken, Ted, Muffy and Big all head for Pacific Creek. During the trip up Peter became sick at his stomach again and the poor guy couldn't make the trip after all!

Arrived at the staging area at 8:30 and J.C.B., Jr. packed Monty throwing expert double diamonds under Ted's watchful eye. However, when the job was finished Ted tested the cinch and it was too loose, so the packing had to be done over again.

There were two grandparents with misty eyes and lumps in their throat as that little cavalcade headed by J.C.B., Jr. leading Monty, headed into the Teton Wilderness and our prayers went up for the safety of our beloved little family.

Back to Sky Ranch for lunch and a nap. Ken takes about a two or three hour nap after lunch, so we did not get our regular ride in as we had planned.

Teton misses his family. We decided to put him up in the Sky Bunk at night. He seems to be happy up there with the smells of his family all around him!

THURSDAY

JUNE 28

Lake.

A cool, clear morning. We wonder about our little family at Grayel

Off to the airport with Ken. He is probably the most appreciative guest we have ever entertained at Sky Ranch. He dearly loves this country and the days he spends out here are precious to him.

In to Jackson for some shopping. While gone Liz McCabe called and said that she wanted to run a "profile" of Big Dad in the Jackson Hole Guide! Called Lynn at Sunswept to mail out some data for this article.

Took the Jeep back to Skeoch Motors - the power steering hydraulic fluid is leaking badly and they, of course, do not have the parts to fix it.

Up to the Jackson Hole Hardware for a new lawn mower. The old one is getting a little rickety and we wanted one with power drive so Ray would not have to push so much.

Peter and Big Dad to the Barber Shop for haircuts. Big Dad needing one almost as much as Peter!

Muffy bought a pair of attractive bookends as a present for the Galeys on their 60th anniversary of the founding of White Grass Ranch and the 3rd anniversary of their marriage.

FRIDAY

JUNE 29

50 degrees low - 72 degrees high - cloudy this morning.

Three deer on the salt during breakfast. The coyotes had a real chorus going last night. We were thrilled at breakfast to see a humming bird on the humming bird feeder - the first this season!

Muffy off with Ellen Dornan, Helen Woodward, and Woody on their annual trip to the ranches up the valley. They had lunch at The Heart Six and had a grand time - lots of talk!

Big Dad worked on painting one of the mahogany chairs while Peter stacked wood this morning. Peter has his close-up lenses with him and has been taking some interesting flower pictures.

Heavy showers during the afternoon. We wonder if the campers are getting wet!

Mike out around 5 o'clock "just to say hello". Of course, we asked him to stay for cocktails and dinner.

Teton has not eaten anything since his family left and he seems to be in some sort of rectal trouble. Took him in to the Vets who found he had an infected prostate gland. Gave him a shot and some pills to take.

Shanghai after dinner - Mike winning!

SATURDAY
JUNE 30

Fairly warm this morning. Teton a lot better.

Pete and Mike off to Climbing School. They came back late in the afternoon very enthusiastic about what they learned.

Mike stays for dinner. Shanghai again, Peter winning!

Made plans to fish the Lower Gros Ventre at Spring Creek (Old Baldy's Home) to-morrow. David, Peter, Big and Mike.

SUNDAY
JULY 1

43 degrees last night, crystal clear.

Peter and I assemble fishing gear and off to meet the two boys at the Golf Club and then on to the Hansen Ranch.

Talked to the caretaker - told him I was a friend of the Senator's, and he let us drive thru the ranch and down along the dike where we rigged up the rods and started down stream headed towards Old Baldy's haunts.

Got down to Spring Creek about 11:30 and spotted the three boys along the creek. Could see the spawners in the crystal clear water. Dave caught two beautiful cutthroats, 1½ and 1¼ lbs. - Peter caught the largest of the day, 1-3/4 lbs. Dave had to be back for a 3 o'clock duty so we ate a late lunch and back to the Golf Club by 3 o'clock.

Back to Sky and then over to see the Galeys and present them with our anniversary present. They are making big preparations for their big shindig on July 4th. Nona looks very tired and I do not think she is feeling too well.

Brewster Rhoads, Jr. called up from Jenny Lake Campground and, of course, Muffy had to ask him for dinner. He is certainly an odd boy with his hair down his back pulled together with a rubber band like the early buccaneers!

MONDAY
JULY 2

38 degrees this morning - crystal clear.

Teton slept in the back bedroom of the Grand last night and was a good boy but Boise barked in the kitchen!

Big Dad worked on the furniture trying to sand out the porcupine tooth marks before painting a dark brown - quite a job! Peter worked on the wood pile.

At 11:45 we got a surprise call from Jim at Turpin Meadows. They came in five hours earlier than we expected.

Much excitement around the ranch. Called Loan Jacobson and just caught him before he was heading off into the fields. He will be up there with the truck at 2 o'clock. Muffy back from Jackson at 12:45 for a hurried lunch and we

all head north at 1:15.

When we got to Turpin Meadows Big Dad missed the turn and we got lost temporarily before we finally found the trail head. What a reunion! We let Teton out of the car and he was the first to greet them. They all looked healthy, sunburned and a little tired. The two J.C.B.'s sporting a week's growth of beard. Everything went off according to schedule, except that they decided not to go into Bridger Lake but stayed on the west side of the Yellowstone River because this would have added another 8 miles to their trip.

J.C.B. has been planning this trip for about two years and he certainly did a great job of it!

The first day after they left Pacific Creek was probably the toughest day on the whole trip as the weather was warm and they were climbing gradually the whole way before they reached Gravel Lake. The steaks lasted for three days and were well worth the effort they made to pack them in. They had several heavy showers, mostly at night, muddy trails, wet feet from fording streams, and several sets of blisters!. The trip as a whole was pretty strenuous. They averaged better than 8 miles per day and when you add the camp chores, cooking, setting up the tents, packing and unpacking the horse, you've done a days work! This left relatively little time for fishing but they did have some pretty good fishing. At one point Monty got loose during the night due to a defective hasp. Dorie heard the horse, woke up the two men, and the two Jims had no trouble capturing Monty and putting him back on the picket rope. All in all they sang Monty's praises as he was very well mannered and did a great job for them. When they got to the Yellowstone River they had planned fording it to save a four mile jaunt up stream to the bridge. Jimmy, Jr. got out part way and the water was way up above his waist and they decided immediately to camp on the west side of the river and forget fording the river.

After the joyful reunion at the trail head in Turpin Meadows, a cool can of beer, everybody including Loal who had gotten there just as we did, the entire party headed for Sky Ranch.

The shower capacity of the ranch was taxed to the limit. J.C.B., Sr. had a hoary six weeks growth of grey beard, J.C.B., Jr. also had a six day growth (not very long) and at 5:45, freshened up and rejuvenated party assembled on Bill's terrace for cocktails in the warm afternoon Wyoming sun. Lots of talk about the trip. Jim pointed out that he was somewhat too ambitious on his planning between packing and unpacking, cooking, ten miles of walking, etc., they had very little time left over to fish. Probably the most exciting part of the trip was the night that Monty got loose due to a defective hasp on his halter. Jim, Sr. was awakened after Dorie gave the alarm that Monty was loose, awakened Jim, Jr. Monty was headed on the trail towards home but somehow Jim, Jr. got Monty turned back and walked him to camp and announced that Monty had been captured! This was certainly a break for the family and Monty got a high mark for being so docile.

Loal explained to us afterwards that he never relied upon mechanical metal snaps - he always tied the rope right to the halter - something for future campers to remember!

A delicious Anna dinner with roast lamb which everyone seemed to enjoy greatly, particularly the backpackers.

Big Dad and Kathy win Bean Bags from J.C.B., Sr. and Nancy.

Everybody to bed early.

TUESDAY

JULY 3

Boise was quiet last night. I think we have the combination - the kitchen warm and remove the box on the back porch that has empty cans in it, as this seems to attract the mice whorattle around and stir the dog up!

The water supply maybe a problem this year - all the streams are down and the spring is doing well at the moment, but we have no great excess of water. Up to inspect the spring and found that the sound end is leaking badly. Will have to repair this to get additional water.

Jimmy and Big Dad off for Jackson - stopped off at Ted's to return his pack gear. We have purchased a new mower, self powered, for Ray to use at Sky Ranch, and gave Ted the old mower which has gotten pretty cranky but which he can keep in good shape. He was very glad to get it!

All of you Diary readers may recall the

"Episode of the Brooklyn Derby"

Jimmy showed up last year wearing a Brooklyn Derby on Sky Ranch. He didn't realize that one of the hallmarks of Sky Ranch was Stetson hats. When Sky Ranch was founded Big Dad bought fifteen Stetsons for all members of the family and are guests that were coming out that first year, and that Big Dad has been a die hard on this matter of giving up Western dress. Hence, the appearance of a Brooklyn Derby on one of his grandsons was a great shock! Shortly after the J.C.B.'s arrival this year, Sr. and Jr. drew Big Dad aside and announced that they had a matter of great importance to discuss with him. The import of the conference was that the Brooklyn Derby had disappeared for good. Big Dad swooned with delight and proudly promised Jimmy that he would buy him the best Western hat in town!

So, o - o - o - o- o-, after leaving Ted's we would up at the Jackson Sporting Goods Store. Jimmy tried on several resistol hats and finally picked out a beauty that fitted him exactly ----- finis THE BROOKLYN DERBY.

When we arrived back at the ranch we were greeted with the fact that there was big trouble with the Sky Bunk plumbing - the sewer had backed up and there was water all over the bathroom floor! With wrenches, wires, and tools, Big Dad and the two boys crawled under the Sky Bunk to open up the sewer line. First, we ran in the worm, with no results. Then, we ran in a stiff wire as near as we could measure as far as the Y near the outdoor bathroom - with no results.

Talked to Ted on the phone and he said he would be up the first thing in the morning, which means that the Sky Bunk will be without plumbing for the night. However, the outdoor bathroom was working perfectly and because of this fact we knew that the trouble was not in the septic tank but in the line at or above the Y. I told Ted that the boys would start digging to find the Y before he got here. When he arrived the hole was down about three feet and no signs of the Y, but finally, after following a couple of false leads, the boys uncovered the Y. Ted drilled a hole in the composition pipe above the Y and it took about half an hour to unplug the dam. At some point someone had put a lot of paper towels in the toilet (not the J.C.B.'s) and we suspect the masons who built the fireplace may have done it last year, although, it is a mystery why it didn't plug up earlier.

A beautiful evening. We all walked down the pasture admiring the alpine glow on the horizon.

Big Dad and Jim had a long talk about his work. He explained the product line of the hospital supply company that they had recently financed, and the very interesting equipment that they are about ready to market - the cardiac assist machine which is used to assist people in shock or with a heart attack to prevent further damage to the heart or the brain. The patient is

placed in sort of a water pak from the hip down and by use of an electronically controlled computer device the pressure in the water pak is pulsated in exact rythm with the heart which forces blood up into the vital organs as well as the heart. Jim has many other interesting prospects he is working on - the whole thing sounds very promising.

WEDNESDAY

JULY 4

Clear and cool this morning.

Boise was quiet last night -apparently the mice didn't stir him up.

Big excitement around Sky Ranch at 10:30. A tremendous black bear moved across the sagebrush in front of the cabin towards the White Grass dump!

Jim received a call from his boss advising him that he was awarded the \$3,500 bonus and had been selected to attend a convention in Boston of Future Capital Bankers. All of which pleased him very much!

Helen and Woody Woodward with their daughter, Jamie McCausland, came to call at 4:30. All three seemed fine. Jamie, a very attractive young lady who is Helen's granddaughter. Dave and Mike appeared while they were here. A very interesting conversation on the front porch.

Off to White Grass about 6 o'clock to attend the fabulous party celebrating their 60th anniversary of the ranch and their 4th wedding anniversary. About 175 to 200 people attended the big cookout which was organized well - the drinks flowed and everyone seemed to be having an immense time. Jimmy wore his new Resistol and found several other old pals from last summer.

Met the very attractive Williams Family from Rochester, who brought us greetings from Bill and Ruth.

Two huge bonfires were started and everyone lined up at the barbecue pit for the most delicious barbecue dinner we have ever had.

J.C.B. drove Muffy and Big Dad home at 9:30. The rest of the Sky Ranch Gang stayed over till about 11 P.M.

THURSDAY

JULY 5

Boise quiet now!

No barking last night. We think we have the combination to keep

Clear and warm this morning but we are still sleeping under two blankets!

Peter was up pretty late last night so we let him sleep and Big Dad wrangled the horses. It is sort of fun to do it once in a while but we are glad to have Peter here to do it every day!

J.C.B., Dorie and Jimmy off for golf this morning. Kathy stayed home to play Scrabble with Muffy. Kathy won!

Big Dad spent the morning working at his desk - the Diary, finances, etc.

At 5:30 we were invited over to the Sky Bunk for cocktails and then a delicious cookout - Shiskabobs - a - la - Dorie. Delicious! It's amazing how efficiently Dorie handles a party like this!

A big Bean Bag Tournament after dinner - Jim and Nancy winning!

A beautiful Wyoming evening - not a cloud in the sky, a brilliant sunset and a lingering soft alpine glow around the horizon.

FRIDAY
JULY 6

Warm and clear, - no barking last night.

Vern invited us down to the Crescent H Ranch for fishing to-day. Big Dad off at 8:30 to leave the Jeep to have the rear glass replaced, brakes checked, etc. Met the family at the Ford agency and on to the Crescent H Ranch where we were greeted by Vern who showed us around.

They are certainly doing a beautiful job fixing up the ranch. The main lodge is almost finished and it is charming in every detail and they have one of the most modern kitchens you could wish for.

Fish Creek has not come in yet. The Spring Creeks are producing promptly at 10:30 Nolan drove up with the Surrey with the Fringe on Top with a spanking team of horses - Mother and Sis drive us down to Spring Creek #2. Fred went along as guide - a very attractive and intelligent young man who teaches mathematics in the Jackson High School.

We all got a big thrill out of riding down over the gravel bars, etc. in the Surrey.

It was a perfect day for fishing - very warm in the sun but a breeze was blowing, but the fish weren't rising! Fred explained that he was down along the creek last evening and the waters were absolutely alive with rising fish. There's a great hatch out in the evening and he thinks the fish were gorged.

For sometime now Big Dad has become convinced that he has been missing a lot of fishing by staying with dry flies when the fish weren't rising and trying to coax them off the bottom, so, this time I changed to wet flies and got three nice fish, one weighing almost three pounds - it was a beauty, and it took me about ten minutes to get him into the net, and then I had a devil of a time getting the hook out of his throat, so I kept him under water. When I finally got it out and tried to start him off back towards the stream, he flopped over on his back and I thought he was going to die. Then I brought him back and tried the old timers stunt of holding him upright in the water and rubbing his belly. Apparently he came to life and swam off like a shot into the deep water.

Muffy did pretty well on dry flies catching three fair size pan fish. J.C.B. and Dorie both caught a few small ones. They were all working with dry flies.

At 3:30 promptly Nolan showed up with the Surrey and a cooler full of beer - boy, was that welcome!

Home at 4 o'clock. A slight rest and cocktails and a delicious fish dinner (the fish from Henry's Lake).

The girls organized a big Shanghai game - Kathy winning by a big margin and Muffy taking the booby price. In the meantime the men sat on the front porch and talked about fishing. Then off to bed early.

End of this dictation

SATURDAY

July 7

Clear and cool this morning.

Peter and Nancy off to Climbing School. This seems to be a great attraction and the kids get a lot out of it and if they are going to climb, they should get good instruction!

Jim and Dorie off to the Golf Course to hit some golf balls. Big Dad finished up the little mahogany side table - it looks fine. It will go beside Big Dad's chair in the living room. The small table which Bob Lewis made with the SKY brand on it will go in the bedroom next to Big Dad's bed. The mahogany table looks much better. This was Muffy's good judgment.

At 4 P.M. promptly Big Dad and Jim got off to West Yellowstone thru the Park for a Father and Son Fishing Weekend. Jim did a great job of driving. Much good talk along the way and we checked in to the Executive Motel around 7 o'clock. Cocktails in the room and then a good steak dinner in the "Snowy Owl" Dining Room (Muffy still wants to buy that Owl).

SUNDAY

JULY 8

Clear and chilly this morning.

We left a call for 6:30. Had a good fisherman's breakfast, packed up, checked out of the hotel and were at the Tackle Shop promptly at 8 o'clock. Greg and Mike Lilley were both in the store when we arrived and Jim remarked to Greg:

"Greg, I have a feeling in my bones that to-day is the day that Old Baldy is going to fall off the wall."

After loading up with ice and soft drinks (no beer because it was Sunday!) we headed off for the Madison following Greg driving the Chevrolet Pick-up with the Hudson River boat in tow!

When we arrived at the launching point at 9:30 there was only one other boat in sight and it looked as though we would have a good day on the river. After unloading the boat Greg and Jim drove down to the take out point near Ennis and left the Chevrolet truck and the boat trailer. Big Dad got all the rods set up and ready for the big launch.

I was simply amazed at the number of salmon flies. They are about the size of a large dragon fly with an orange belly and they were hanging on the willows in thousands. Greg had explained to us in the Tackle Shop that it wasn't a question of the flies being there but it was a matter of how much the fish could eat as they had simply gorged themselves the day before and they usually took a day off after such a feast!

With Jim in the front position, Big Dad in the rear, and Greg at the oars we drifted down with the current with Greg giving us suggestions as to where to cast, etc. In a few minutes Jim got a terrific strike and with his rod bent nearly double, he proceeded to catch the biggest white fish of his career! A few minutes later Big Dad hooked into a beautiful rainbow and J.C.B. howled:

"That's just my luck - I catch white fish while Big Dad hauls in the rainbows."

Well, it didn't work out that way at all. We split the fishing honors pretty even as far as trout were concerned but Jim earned the title

"Jimmo - Fhoa - Nut"

which is the Indian name (?) for Great White Fish Catcher!

The fishing slowed up about 11:30 when all of a sudden Jim got a terrific strike and the fish held to the bottom so long and tenaciously it looked like the boast about Old Baldy's fall was to be taken seriously!

Jim was very modest during the fight but said in an aside to Greg:

"You know, Greg, I'll probably have to throw this fish back because we really can't afford to have Old Baldy really fall off the wall."

Some place east of west of Suez the big fish are still running but gloom settled over our boat as Jim pulled in a 14" trout, hooked thru the back! Old Baldy still reigns supreme!

We really had the greatest fishing day yet and brought home ten beauties ranging from one to two and a half pounds. We turned back, at least, eight small trout and the lord knows how many white fish!

We parted with Greg at the junction near Henry's Lake and headed on down to Ponds Inn for dinner where we had a terrible hamburger.

We had decided to come back over Teton Pass to avoid the traffic in the Park. Jim did a great job driving and we pulled in to Sky Ranch at 10:15 with David, Mike, the J.C.B.'s and Muffy all surrounding the car and admiring the fish and the great fishermen!

Anna came out and was delighted to see a creel full of fish once again!

MONDAY

JULY 9

A beautiful cool morning. Much activity at the Sky Bunk. The J.C.B.'s are packing up for their return to-morrow.

Jimmy and Peter in to Jackson to look at climbing gear, etc.

Cocktails on the front porch at 5:30. It was really too warm on the west terrace.

As we sat there a car drove up with three boys, Earl, Eddy and Jim, all friends of Nancy's. Muffy had planned a family farewell dinner and there was just not enough food for three hungry boys, so, J.C.B. gave Nancy a bill and she took the boys out for dinner!

After some persuasion David stayed to participate in a wonderful farewell dinner for the J.C.B.'s. In view of the fact that the little family is going to leave at 5 A.M. (no sound on tape for the balance of this day's dictation ????)

TUESDAY

JULY 10

Warm this morning. We heard on the radio that Idaho Falls was breaking all temperature records.

Muffy asked the three boys to stay for breakfast. We certainly were impressed with them - they are fine young gentlemen!

During breakfast we had a great talk about mountain climbing. The boys are going to climb the Grand this week and they departed with many thanks for our hospitality.

Ray has been having all kinds of trouble keeping enough water in the wading pool to irrigate the lawn. We assumed that it was leaking thru the regular outlet and tried every way to seal it up and then we started to dig up around the lower end of the pool and found that there was a big crack at the lower end and that it was leaking water like a sieve.

Big Dad got out the cement and carefully sealed the crack and by late afternoon the pool was full and Ray was happy. In the meantime Peter went up to the spring and dug out Pee Wee Creek and put in a couple of new laterals, which greatly increased the flow of water. Water is scarce in the valley this summer and we are anxious not to have a shortage!

Muffy and Big Dad were invited up to Jenny Lake Lodge for dinner with Madeline Hefty and Eleanore Wagner, who are both from Madison. We had a wonderful evening with them - much Madison talk - they are both very attractive and interesting women. Madeline spoke several times very enthusiastically about the Ramseys! They were both very much interested to hear of Uncle Wayne's standing citation by the Wisconsin Legislature, which reads as follows:

MOTIONS UNDER JOINT RULE No. 26

The State of Wisconsin - Citation by the Legislature

Know you by these presents:

WHEREAS, Wayne Ramsay is an outstanding graduate of the University of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, he located his Hanksraft Manufacturing Company in Reedsburg and which is the largest private employer in Sauk County; and

WHEREAS, he took an active part in community projects in his city; now, therefore, THE MEMBERS OF THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE, on the motion of Senator Bidwell and Representative Giese, under joint rule 26, commended Wayne Ramsay for the tremendous help that he has given the City of Reedsburg in the employment of its people.

Read and Adopted

The State of Wisconsin - Citation by the Legislature

We are all justly proud of Uncle Wayne and feel that this Citation is well deserved!

WEDNESDAY

JULY 11

50 - 88 - warm this morning.

Peter and Big Dad in to Jackson on a shopping tour. Among other things we had to take in the bathroom heater in our bathroom which is burned out. We left the boat trailer at the service station to have the wheels packed with grease preparatory to our big trip into Idaho. Also purchased an alarm clock to get Peter up in the morning to wrangle the horses!

Stopped off at Park Headquarters to get licenses for the boats. Saw Cheri Lee there at the desk where she is working. She has matured a lot in the last two years - looks more like her Mother now. Very pleasant.

After lunch Peter and Big Dad worked mouting the aluminum SKY sign down on the road at the Wesley Junction.

Had a call from Sue from Jamestown announcing the arrival of a new pup, "Beau". She told us how Polly and Dick came over with Beau and how happy they all were to have a successor to good old Darby! All the Jamestowners seem to be fine. We sure miss the Greens out here at Sky Ranch!

Just before going to bed to-night Boise jumped up in Big Dad's lap and while I was petting him I got a sharp prick and found a porcupine quill sticking in his throat. Much excitement. There was no problem pulling it out with a pair of pliers and it didn't seem to hurt him particularly. He must have picked it up when he rolled in some porcupine dung!

THURSDAY
JULY 12

Cool this morning with high cirrus clouds.

Hooked up the bathroom heater which worked fine but I couldn't shut it off. There has been some change in the wiring - the shut-off switch does not work - will have to take it back to Jackson!

Peter hauled wood this morning while Big Dad fixed the lamp in the living room and did some other odd jobs.

David called from Jackson to let us know that Josh King and his two friends, were on their way out to Sky Ranch to see us. They stayed for about an hour and then took off for Jackson where they met David again. They are heading up in to Glacier National Park and will be gone from Philadelphia for about two months.

During the afternoon Earl, Eddy and Jim drove up the front driveway to return the mountain climbing book we had loaned them. They brought the good news that they had made the top of the Grand yesterday and were most enthusiastic about it.

Big Dad working on the porcupine furniture trying to get the teeth marks removed by sanding, scraping, etc. and putting on a coat of brown paint.

Big Dad cooked Trout Amondine for dinner = everybody said it was delicious!

Peter and Big Dad walked down thru the sagebrush while Muffy cleaned up the kitchen.

Off to bed after reading War Chief Joseph, an intensely interesting book about the Nez Pierce Indians after they were forced to leave their home grounds Wallowa Valley in Oregon. The Nez Pierce had always been friendly to the whites but were forced to fight and gave the American Cavalry a run for their money as they retreated across the Lo Lo Trail up into Montana. Joseph is credited as being one of the greatest military tacticians in history - an intensely interesting story!

End of this installment

FRIDAY
JULY 13

Cool this morning - 48 minimum, 75 maximum.

Muffy in to Jackson this morning on her usual weekly shopping tour - important guests coming for dinner to-night!

Peter very busy this morning. The Ant Hill sign on the Aspen tree had gotten so crooked with the growth of the tree, Peter decided to take it off and reset it - good job. Peter hauls wood all morning - got a good supply at the Sky Bunk, the Ant Hill and the outdoor fireplace.

Big Dad busy trying to file and sand out the tooth marks that Mr. Porky put in our mahogany furniture!

When we were visiting the Ramsays in Maple Bluff Madeline Hefty came out and told us she was going to be in Jackson's Hole this summer and invited us up to Jenny Lake Lodge for dinner, so, we returned the invitation and Madeline and her friend, Eleanore Wegner came out this evening for cocktails and dinner. Susan also asked the Woodwards and their guests, Rev. and Mrs. McCartney.

The Madison ladies came early and we had a good chance to show them over the place and they were certainly intrigued with Sky Ranch. We were very much interested to learn that Rev. McCartney had been Arch Bishop of Pennsylvania and, of course, knew Bishop DeWitt very well. He also knew Brewster Rhoads and many people from Philadelphia. He and his wife are a very interesting couple.

We had planned on having cocktails on Bill's terrace but the threat of rain drove us onto the front porch where we enjoyed the spectacular cloud effects.

After dinner we were all sitting around the fire talking and Rocky (the Great Ham) put on quite an act attempting to jump up into Big Dad's chair for a nice cozy snooze. He would back away, look around the room slyly to see if everyone was watching him, then dash up towards the chair and stop, would back up again and repeat the whole performance. Everyone was watching him in dead silence and he knew it! Finally, with one desperate effort, our hero dashed towards the chair and with supreme courage attained its heights. Everyone in the room instantly applauded and cheered to Rocky's great satisfaction!

We certainly like Helen and Woody Woodward-they are very good friends and we hope to see more of them this summer. Woody, who, I believe, is about 84, is straight as an arrow - very handsome and subject to quite a few aches and pains which worry him greatly.

Our dinner party broke up about 9 o'clock. The Madison girls wanted to leave while it was still daylight and they could find their way thru the forrest!

SATURDAY
JULY 14

Cool and clear again - 48 - 72.

No horses at the gate this morning. Peter scoured the timber - still no horses. Somehow they must have gotten mixed up with the White Grass horses and were wrangled into their pasture.

Mike out this morning and reported that things are going along well at the hospital. The two boys took halters and walked over to White Grass and

a little later came back riding the horses bareback with halters on, Nibbles following up the rear!

A lazy day for Big Dad and Muffy puttering around.

Peter and Mike spent most of the afternoon repairing the west fence in the pasture. Found it in pretty bad shape and evidence that some of the White Grass horses were getting thru there into our pasture and, of course, we were afraid that our horses might get out. When they got back from repairing the fence, they took the horses and rode them bareback with halters up to Wesleys and reported that they had some trouble controlling the horses on the way home.

Big Dad repeated to them one of the rules of the Ranch:

"No bareback riding on the trails and
no bareback riding without bridles."

During the evening Peter watched his favorite program "Mission Impossible". Muffy busy with her needlework and Big Dad dozing in his easy chair coming to now and then and asking Peter which were the Goodies and which were the Baddies!

SUNDAY
JULY 15
porch.

A cool night for sleeping - 50 degrees this morning on the front

We received a wonderful letter from Eleanore Wegner which I
quote:

Grand Teton National Park
Jackson Lake Lodge
July 14

Dear Bill and Sue,

You gave us a perfect gem of an evening to store away in memory and to be taken out again and again in retrospect! And, on Friday, the 13th! I shall long remember the hosts of Sky Ranch.

I certainly enjoyed your guests and will particularly remember Peter who made a big hit with the social worker part of me. It is so assuring to find a young man with Peter's attributes of poise, honesty, smartness, good looks, plus his obvious interest and pleasure enjoying all of us older generation types in talk and fun. How proud you must be of him!

Thanking you for sharing your beautiful Sky Ranch with me,

Sincerely,

Eleanore Wegner

P.S. Ask Professor Taylor if she remembers Ann Wegner '66.

(Ann Wegner is Eleanore's daughter and attended Wellesley specializing in classical civilization).

A real tribute to Peter and he richly deserves it!

Peter over to White Grass to get two farm seats from the junk heap. He says they are all the rage in the east and he is going to make chairs out of them. The boys worked replacing a couple of the elephant steps going over towards the Ant Hill which have been badly eaten up by the ants, not the Aunts!

Later in the afternoon Muffy and Big Dad walked over to the remains of the Old Homestead Cabin and dug up about 1/2 dozen more Bachelor Button plants. The ones that we took up last year are prospering beautifully and we thought it would be great to have a whole row of them.

Muffy prepared a delicious steak dinner - the steaks, by the way, were given to us by the J.C.B.'s, and were left over from their back-pack trip.

Talked to Bill on the phone this evening. There has been a change in their plans - Ruth and Mimi will come out with him and Biv by plane and will not drive as originally planned.

Frank Hutchins has had a minor operation which will prevent him from riding horseback.

Bill o.k.'d Peter's climbing as long as he climbs with the school.

Peter and Muffy watched a movie on TV, Big Dad finished reading "War Chief Joseph". I hope you will all get a chance to read this book. The last paragraph is entitled "The Trail to the Setting Sun" and the concluding paragraph in the book is:

"So concluded the funeral ceremony of Chief Joseph, warrior and statesman. In the words of Mrs. Eliza Spaulding Warren, "His name will take a place in history with those of Tecumseh, Brant, Black Hawk, Pontiac and Sitting Bull; and by many he is considered the greatest of all Indian warriors." And may his soul find eternal peace in the spirit land!"

MONDAY

JULY 16

David out at 7:30 to breakfast and on to climbing school. Peter had originally planned to make a climb to-day but it has been delayed. Both of the boys have their eye on the Grand Teton, which they hope to climb while their family is out here in August!

Big Dad in to see Dr. Elmore for routine checkup.

As he left the ranch here came the Ant Hillers who had been delayed one day by the talk of a gas shortage on the way out. They both look great and explained that the gas shortage did not develop - it was mostly conversation.

The Ant Hillers over for cocktails, dinner and a great game of Bridge. It was decided that the losers in the Summer Tournament would give the winners a dinner party and buy a bottle of champagne!

David came in from climbing school just before dinner and reported a great school day and seemed to be a little stiff from the vigorous exercise but enthusiastic about the school.

TUESDAY
JULY 17

Cool and clear this morning, minimum 48, maximum 80.

Over to the Ant Hill for a cup of coffee before breakfast to check on the travelers. Puss had a little reaction to the long trip and the altitude but seemed o.k.

Mike out and the two boys worked on replacing planks on the front porch. Eventually we will probably have to replace all these planks, which will be quite a job.

The two boys off on the horses to Taggart Lake after lunch.

Liz and Fred McCabe out at 5 o'clock to take pictures of Big Dad for an article they are running in the paper. Told us a lot about their modern newspaper plant that they have set up in Jackson. They are now equipped to run color. Fred said he thought it was the only weekly newspaper in the west that had that kind of a plant!

Sky Ranch Specials on the front porch. Told the story of the origin of the tin cups and the four drops of Angostura bitters!

Over to Dornans for a delicious dinner. We were treated by Ginny Ballantyne and her husband, Bob. Ginny was formerly Ginny Thomas. She and Bob were married about three years ago and seem to be very happy. They live on 100 acres of ground not far from Ray Rich's ranch out of Tucson. Ellen Dornan served a delicious dinner.

Muffy looked great in her green pants outfit. During the course of the evening Jack Dornan looked at Muffy and said to me:

Bill, I can't get over how charming and lovely Susan looks. She seems younger every year!"

WEDNESDAY
JULY 18

Warm this morning.

Peter out early this morning but he couldn't find the horses and decided they were over at White Grass. After breakfast he walked over with the halter hoping to find them in the White Grass corral. In the meantime Monty and Black Jack came down from the timber and Big Dad let them in and fed them in the corral, but no Nibbles!

Later Nibbles came down from the timber with a girl friend from White Grass. Peter called Eleanore and she sent a wrangler over for the intruder!

Left Sky at 3:15 to pick up Harry and on to Crescent H Ranch to fish the Spring Creeks.

Found Vern Bressler in a very good mood. His work and fixing up the place is progressing very well. I just can't understand how they are ever going to make this development pay off as they are spending money right and left in fixing the place up. All the power is going underground, the big lodge has been completely redone. They have a modern kitchen which would put most any hotel kitchen to shame and they are planning all kinds of developments. I haven't as yet been able to find out where all the money is coming from, although, local people think it is mostly from Don Albrecht. Up to date they have not released the write-up on the membership, dues, etc. I am afraid if they are going to try to make

a return on their invested capital, the memberships are going to be pretty expensive.

Harry and I drove down to the first Spring Creek, parked the Jeep, and had a ball casting to rising trout. Harry, who is one of the great pros in this sport, hooked about two fish to my one. As a finale I watched him land a 3-pound cutthroat which was a beauty.

I had a "monster" follow my fly several times but he would not take it. He had a dorsal fin the size of a small sailboat! At another point I was fishing wet with a 5x leader and just as I went to recover my fly for another cast, a big lugger struck it and it snapped right off! (the old alibi)

Harry is a wonderful fishing companion and is quite enthusiastic about the fishing club. I think he hopes that they will take in his 180 acre stretch along the river on the Skyline Ranch which he wants to develop as a fishing area also.

Harry is a director of the Jackson State Bank and he had just come from a directors meeting and he talked quite a bit about the bank and how it is growing. I think the directors feel that Felix is taking on too many outside activities and are trying to encourage him to concentrate more on the local bank problems.

End of this dictation

NOTE: This edition of the Sky Ranch Diary is being dictated after our return from Red Fish Lake over in Idaho.

THURSDAY

JULY 19

Quite warm this morning. The horses were way up in the timber. Peter had to wrangle them out!

A call from Bill this morning saddened all the Sky Ranchers - our dear friend and lovable "outlaw" passed on last night to be with his beloved Mary how we will all miss him, but I know that the whole family will be sustained in the knowledge that he lived a long and successful life, leaving behind him many loving hearts!

Between Peter and Ray we are certainly getting things fixed up around Sky Ranch. Peter worked on the floor of the front porch, replacing some of the rotten boards. Big Dad painted the shays and stained the tripod for the telescope. The front porch will soon be a symphony of brown.

Received news this morning of the terrific storm which blew down the great oak in front of the Maple Bluff house - what a tragedy! It must have been a terrific shock for Florence and Wayne to drive in the yard and find the beautiful place in such chaos. The letter from Madeline Hefty told us that the damage ^{to her place} was quite severe and that her daughter's car had been crushed by a falling tree.

The Ant Hillers over for cocktails. We talked about the leaking porch roof and it looks as though we are going to have to replace the roof sooner or later but Peter and I will try to repair it for the balance of the summer.

Continued the Bridge Tournament after dinner, Peg taking the lead

There was a big cow moose on the salt all evening.

It rained all night - completely socked in!

FRIDAY

JULY 20

66 degrees this morning - still raining.

Horses waiting patiently at the gate to get into the barn.

Emory Anderson, from the Jackson Hole Guide, was out this morning to interview Big Dad and Muffy about Sky Ranch. We told him a lot of anecdotes about the ranch - how it was founded, etc., etc., which he intends to use in his story.

Peter and Big Dad into Jackson shopping, - Peter, the Mountain Climbing Store, - Big Dad, various errands.

We enjoyed a lovely evening of cocktails, dinner and Bridge with the J.B. Moseleys. We played for twentieth of a cent a point and Muffy won over \$2.00!

Getting home about 10:30 we ran into one of the worst rain storms we have seen in this country!

SATURDAY
JULY 21

50 low - 62 high - cooler this morning with clouds.

Had a call from Emory Anderson this morning saying that the Sky Ranch story and my experience at Jackson Lake were too good for one article - wants to run some of the Dam building stories later in separate installments.

Down to the service station to find out if we could stop the grease leak on the left front wheel of the Jeep. They recommended that we take it in to the dealers and have him put on a new hub cap.

Stopped at the post office and picked up some very welcome and interesting letters from the family. It is always the brightest time of day when Muffy and Big sit down on the front porch and Muffy reads all the wonderful family letters that you send us. We were so pleased to learn about the Greens new dog "Beau". What a nice thing for Polly to do and it was just the right thing I remember when our first Casey was killed - Muffy said she never wanted another dog, and then Dave Odell showed up about a week later with Tuffy whom we cherished for many many years! We get the biggest bang out of Sue's stories about how young Will is practicing finger painting on the walls of Sunswept! We get very wonderful letters from Lynn telling all about what goes on at Swunswept but up to date she hasn't mentioned the finger-painting process! After receiving all these wonderful letters from the family, I feel that I should be writing personal letters to each and everyone of you, but I think you all know what my writing looks like and I am therefore offering the Diary as a readable substitute!

The Sky Ranchers play Bridge this afternoon at 2:30. Think of that! Big Dad wound up with a small lead!

The Elmore family out for dinner this evening, Bill, Evelyn, Shawn and Erin. Shawn is a junior in college this year and is a very fine student. She is helping her Dad in his office during the summer. Erin is about 12 and a very up and coming young lady!

It was a little cool this evening but we decided to have cocktails on the front porch anyway because the sunset was so beautiful. Everybody wore light jackets. After a delicious dinner Big Dad and Shawn stood Peter and Erin in a big Bean Bag game; then, we showed the African pictures - a very delightful evening. They are quite a family! Evelyn has taken off twenty pounds and she says she is going to take off forty more!

SUNDAY
JULY 22

48 degrees - 60 degrees.

Talked with Harold Schimm this morning. Things seem to be moving along well in Carefree in spite of the stock market! Harold thinks that people are turning to real estate because there have been so many ups and downs in the stock market lately and this maybe true. He has just sold our Lot #99 and advised me that the Meyers, from Madison, bought Lot #8A and is planning a \$320,000 home on it!

Peter and Big Dad worked on the Ant Hill porch during the morning, stretching a piece of plastic under the beams to catch the water from the leaking roof, - a temporary expedient!

Bridge again this afternoon at 2:30 - Big Dad in the lead!

We were invited this evening up to Jenny Lake Lodge by the Bob Rancks. We met there at 6:30 and had a delicious buffet - too much to eat. Both of the Rancks look to be in excellent health. Bob advises that he is still

working out in his gym every day. He recently was back in Madison at the reunion of 600 former Wisconsin boxers! He said he visited with his old coach, John Welsh, of Madison, and they talked at length about the trip we all had into Heart Lake several years ago.

During the course of the evening we talked about St. John's Hospital - Bob is very active there and has been president for a number of years. He advised us that Bill Elmore has been made emeritus on the staff. I know that Bill is not in sympathy with many of the things that are going on in the hospital now and I really believe he plans to retire in the near future.

MONDAY
JULY 23

Clear and cold this morning.

Dave and Mike out to go riding. Dave is anxious to get back up to Lake Surprise but Big Dad had to veto the idea because neither Monty or Black Jack are capable of the climb. Last fall the Vet told me that both horses should be confined to level trail rides and not too much running!

Muffy in town for shopping and lunch. Big Dad working on some repair jobs. About 11:30 Jan McDonald, (daughter of Don McDonald, our tax attorney) drove in with her friend "Becky" to say hello and presented us with a bag of beautiful fruit from the Jackson Lake Lodge where she is working as a waitress. Of course, we asked the girls to stay for lunch as Anna had some extra food on the stove, thinking that Peter and Mike would be here. They are very interesting and attractive young ladies and after lunch I left them with Peter to entertain them as I had to go in to see Dr. Elmore. He had removed a growth on my seater a week ago and was to take the stitches out to-day and to get the biopsy report. He had sent the biopsy into Portland and the report had not come back. While he was removing the stitches his nurse called Portland and took a telephone report. He sat me down in his office, looked at the report and then glanced up at me and said:

"Well, it was a malignant tumor, but I got it all out!"

I fell through about three stories and then Bill handed me the report which I read and it said there was no malignant tumor. Bill has misread the report and gave me an uncomfortable two or three minutes!

Dave and Mike back from their horseback ride just in time for cocktails and dinner.

Bridge after dinner with the Ant Hillers - Big Dad maintaining a lead. During Bridge Mike dozed away in the big chair while David pressed some wild flowers, which he did very artistically. He has inherited some of Ruth's artistic qualities!

TUESDAY
JULY 24

Clear and cool this morning - a good day for driving.

In order to give Muffy some real rest this summer I tried to plan three open weeks in July, during which time we could make a trip over into Idaho to see the Sawtooth Wilderness and do some fishing. After much correspondence in the early spring, we made reservations for ourselves and Peter at the Red Fish Lodge on Red Fish Lake in the Sawtooth Wilderness area. I had visions of this being a remote mountain lake in the wilderness area in the Rockies and Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho - probably very few people penetrated. Was I ever surprised - more of this later.

This is the day we shove off for the Red Fish Lake vacation. We pulled out of Sky Ranch at 7:30, over Teton Pass and made Arco, Idaho for lunch. Arco is the first city in the world to be completely energized by nuclear power!

As we were pulling into Arco Peter kept saying that he smelled something in the back seat. When we stopped he took a deep whiff and said:

"That smells like whiskey."

Frantic unloading and upon opening one of the duffel bags Big Dad found that a brand new bottle of Grant's Scotch had leaked out into the duffel bag - what an odor! Fortunately, most of the boots and wading gear were packed in this particular duffel bag. We had to air them out in the bright sun during our lunch hour.

At 2:30 we stopped at Craters of the Moon National Monument so Peter could see the unusual and weird landscape. He found it extremely interesting and at one point he picked up a "rock" that should have weighed about twenty pounds and it was light as a feather. Took a picture of him holding the "rock" at arms length.

On to Sun Valley where we had very nice accommodations in the Lodge. The place was jammed packed with summer tourists. A convention was going on at the Inn. We hadn't been there in a good many years, but, what a change! Gambling going on all over the place - it is now an all year around resort. I think they have about 30 tennis courts and 2 golf courses.

We greatly admired the beautiful landscaping and flower gardens around the Lodge and, of course, talked quite a bit about Charlie Davidson, who had done the original landscaping for the Sun Valley Company.

Ate dinner out on a beautiful terrace overlooking the ice skating rink. The Dude with a chain around his neck came by and we had to tell Peter that story on Uncle Jim - he got a big kick out of it.

End of this installment

WEDNESDAY
JULY 25

Sun Valley, Idaho.

After a delicious breakfast we checked rooms in the Sun Valley Lodge and headed for Red Fish Lake, 65 mi. The road runs along the Big Wood River for about 15 miles. As we left we were very much impressed with the beautiful homes that are being built along the Wood River. I think it was in 1906 that the Balderston family came over from Boise and spent about a month in Geyer Hotsprings, just a few miles out of Ketchum. At that time Ketchum was just a little cowtown at the end of the railroad which connected with the main line at Shoshone. I remember fishing with my Dad on Big Wood River above Ketchum and the valley was a wild western valley and the only traces of civilization would be an occasional sheep herder's wagon - what a change in 60 years!

After leaving the Wood River Valley we climbed to the top of Galena Summit. The road was excellent and we made good time. The view from the summit was breath-taking. Off to the north were the jagged Sawtooth Peaks - named because they looked like the teeth of a crosscut saw - and, stretching out for miles ahead was the Sawtooth Valley. As we progressed up the valley, we were amazed at the number of trailer camps, shacky looking real estate developments. This is exactly how the Jackson Hole valley would look to-day if it hadn't been for the Rockefellers back in 1928! As a matter of fact, since the formation of the Sawtooth Recreational Area and the Sawtooth Wilderness area, the Government is trying to work out a program to acquire the land in the Sawtooth Valley and make it a part of the recreational area. Of course, this presents many problems but here's hoping they can work it out to save the valley as it is basically beautiful and should be preserved for future generations.

Arrived at Red Fish Lodge about 11:30. It is beautifully situated on a white sand beach overlooking a magnificent mountain lake with the water clear as crystal. We met Mr. and Mrs. See, who manage the property and own the Forest Service lease. They purchased this lease some two years ago after visiting the Lodge. The Forest Service does not sell property to individuals, but make these long time leases - thirty years - for people who want to develop the property under their direction. The Sees are very attractive people from California and have a large family - 8 children, all grown, and several of them are married and all of them are working in the Lodge. A very attractive, good looking group!

We were shown to our cabin and it looked pretty small and crowded after our deluxe accommodations of Sun Valley! We were able to work out a program so Peter stayed in the main lodge except for the last two nights when they put in a roll-a-way bed for us.

The launching spot for the boats was around the lake, a short distance. After unloading and getting our room straightened up, we all three drove around, Peter and Big Dad launching the boat and driving it back to the dock, while Muffy brought the Jeep and the trailer back and parked it next to the cabin.

After a good lunch in the dining room we decided to take a sight-seeing trip in the Sky Lark. It was certainly a most beautiful trip. The lake reminds us very much of Leigh Lake, here in Jackson's Hole, with the exception that Red Fish Lake is open to motor boats and water skiers. There were plenty of the latter tearing around at high speeds and you can be sure this does not help the fishing!

THURSDAY

JULY 26

Peter and Big Dad up at 6:00 A.M. to try the early morning fishing, which proved to be a real flop. Returned to the Lodge about 9 o'clock and met Paul Anderton, who is to guide us to-morrow on the lake. He told us that Red Fish Lake was not a "early morning lake" and that we might just as well sleep late in the morning because it was useless to try to fish at that time of day.

Had the dining room put us up a lunch consisting of three lettuce, tomato and bacon sandwiches, three overripe bananas - cost \$5.45, which made Muffy really mad!

We found a beautiful beach at the far end of the lake where we had lunch watching the water skiers who are all over the lake. When we planned this trip last winter, Big Dad had visions of going to a remote mountain lake surrounded by wilderness areas where the fish are big and hungry and practically jump into your boat! Not so! The people from as far away as California had discovered this beautiful spot and are all over the place like locusts! Three quarters of Red Fish Lake is in the newly formed Sawtooth Wilderness area but a concession was made to allow motor boats all over the lake, which, of course, will eventually ruin it as a fishing lake.

After lunch we trolled on the way back to the boat dock and Muffy breaking the ice by catching a 10" rainbow!

Decided to drive up to Stanley a few miles away where we found an excellent restaurant - the Casino Club - Steaks and French Fried Potatoes. Every place you go the question is always asked: "Fries", or "Fries or Baked". In Idaho they always push potatoes and we will all gain weight!

Had a good look at the Salmon River before we returned from Stanley and it looks like a great trout stream and reminds me somewhat of the Madison in Montana.

FRIDAY

JULY 27

A clear beautiful day. Everyone overslept this morning. Big Dad up and built a roaring fire in the fireplace as it is pretty cool.

Talked to Paul after breakfast and decided to go out on the lake at 5:30 to fish the upper inlet. He says it would be better to fish the lake to-day rather than to-morrow as the weekend water skiers will be very much in evidence!

Took off from the boat dock about 5:15, Paul running the boat, Muffy and Peter trolling. The trolling on this lake is a good deal like it is on Jackson Lake, deep with hardware and WORMS!

Paul said we could do some spinning at the inlet but when we got there there were three boats anchored right in the middle of the fishing hole - all this on "this remote mountain lake in the Idaho Wilderness". Well, we gave up the spinning idea and started to troll around the west end of the lake nearest the mountains, and just as we were getting some good strikes a motor boat going about 25 miles per hour with a girl water skiing shot in between us and the shore and just as she past us, the girl turned her skies on edge and gave us a shower bath. The kids apparently thought this was very funny, but we were furious - Paul nearly bursted a blood vessel!

We got four small fish, one Kokonee Salmon. The so-called salmon never get bigger than 14" but are true salmon and never run to the ocean.

Got home for a late dinner and the dining room was a riot.

There were twenty young people at one large table in the center of the dining room that had just completed a 3-day float on the North Fork of the Salmon and this was their evening celebration before the party broke up to-morrow. They were very noisy but we had a good time watching them and enjoyed our steak dinner.

Mr. See told us that three years ago he and his family made the float down the North Fork and stopped at Red Fish Lodge for a couple of days. As they were leaving the clerk at the desk said to him:

"You know, Mr. See, this place is for sale.
Why don't you buy it?"

On their way back to California Mrs. See and the seven children all expressed great interest in purchasing the place. So, when they got to San Diego he called up and bought the place over the telephone!

Peter took our six fish into the kitchen to be frozen so we could take them back to Sky. Paul gave him a special formula for smoking fish which is as follows:

Filet the fish
Shake 1-cup of salt and 1-cup brown sugar together
and thoroughly coat the fish with this mixture
and allow them to stand all night
Smoke small fish for 2-hours with hickory chips
" large fish 4 to 8-hours, and then allow
them to dry in the bright sun.

He says they are delicious, and Peter is going to try it out.

SATURDAY

JULY 28

Peter and Big Dad plan on fishing the Salmon this morning with Paul. However, right after breakfast Paul came in and said he had been sick all night and could not go with us. He apparently suffers from high blood pressure.

We drove off to Stanley and then down below to fish in the Salmon where Paul told us we should have pretty good luck.

This is the area where rainbow abound. Really swift water, not too deep, dashing over the boulders creating lots of oxygen in the water which the rainbows love. Peter in the water a few minutes after the Jeep stopped reminding us of the Messlers the way they used to have their fly in the water before you could say "Jack Robinson". Peter certainly casts his line very well and before long he had hooked three rainbows of pretty fair pan size.

Back to the Lodge for a late lunch with Muffy and a good nap!

Later in the afternoon we got the boat loaded on the trailer and packed up our belongings preparatory to an early start to-morrow.

The Lodge grounds are inhabited by many golden mantled ground squirrels. They are very tame and terrific little beggars - they come right up, sit on your lap and eat out of your hand. Peter made friends with one particular ground squirrel who drove off all competitors and we had a perfect circus sitting on the porch of the cabin watching Peter feed this little fellow. He would even let him stroke his back. He would fill up his paunches to the breaking point and then dash off under the house and in a few minutes would be back again looking thin as a rail and ready for more! Got some good pictures of Peter and his friend!

After dinner in the Lodge we thought we would celebrate our last meal at Red Fish Lodge and Big Dad asked for the wine list. Peter then began to expound on wines, etc., and then Muffy said, very quietly:

"Peter, do you know you are talking to a Commandeur with the order of the Medoc?"

Peter replied:

"A what?"

Muffy said:

"Big Dad, you better tell Peter the story of the order of the Medoc."

So, Big Dad expounded in great length about our experiences when Big Dad was given this very signal (?) honor. Peter got a big kick out of the story and while Big Dad was at the height of his tale he was pouring wine in Peter's glass and inadvertently spilled some on the table. This from a Commandeur of the order of the Medoc - Peter was hilarious!

SUNDAY

JULY 29

Set the alarm for 6:00 o'clock this morning. Having done all our packing last night and tried to be quiet not to bother people in the other end of the cabin. Breakfast and sweet rolls, coffee and orange juice in the cabin and then over to the main lodge for Peter to pick up his frozen fish. The girls could not find Peter's fish, but Paul was in the kitchen and said he would give us some of his fish, which he did - more about these fish later.

Breakfast at Sun Valley in the Pancake House. Peter had so many pancakes at Red Fish Lodge he went on strike and wouldn't eat any breakfast!

This was a beautiful day to drive. The sky was somewhat overcast and the air was cool and refreshing. Made Arco by 11 o'clock and by this time Peter was pretty hungry, so, we decided to go to our old stopping place at the Truck Drivers Lunch Room where we again had delicious lettuce, tomato and bacon sandwiches.

Headed over Teton Pass, the Jeep doing a great job of pulling the boat up the steep grade.

Incidentally, I kept track of our mileage per gallon on this trip, pulling the boat with the Jeep, and it came out exactly 10 miles per gallon.

As we descended from the summit, Big Dad put the Jeep in second gear and used the foot brake only occasionally when necessary. Peter was sure that Big Dad was overheating the brakes and coached him on how to drive in the mountains!

As we came up the road from Wilson, whom should we pass but Jack and Margaret Hyler. They stopped and chatted with us for a minute - both seem great!

When we arrived at Sky at 3:15 P.M. we found a great collection of mail which was a real treat for us.

While we were away the Jackson Hole Guide printed Big Dad's picture and profile and misspelled our name "Balderson". However, we thought the article was very good. I am sending copies to members of the family.

MONDAY

JULY 30 Cool and clear this morning. Heavy showers during the night and the road at the bottom of the driveway is full of puddles.

The horses were waiting patiently for Peter at the gate this morning. He usually gets down there about 7:30 and it is quite a sight to see him trudge down the road with the two dogs and the horses standing there with their ears pricked up expecting their morning handout of oats.

This was another lazy day for Muffy and Big, Muffy writing letters on the front porch, Big Dad reading and working on the Diary.

Peter and Big Dad in to Moose for the mail. Peter finally got his package from the mountain climbing outfit and he nearly went wild. Doris Hartgrave reports that she hadn't seen anything like it since Christmas ----- ----- ---- sound too low on tape to transcribe?????

???? and we used 733 galbns of gas, which is almost exactly 10^m miles to the gallon, pulling the boat all the way, which is not bad!

Stopped to discuss the Ant Hill roof which still leaks and it is going to be pretty expensive to put on a new roof. Ted thinks we may be able to stop the leaks by using metal inserts between the shingles. I think when we leave this fall he will put in about 100 metal inserts and this may do the trick.

Big Dad and Muffy down to the lower road in the Jeep where we dug up quite a beautiful clump of Butter and Eggs and planted them on the west side of the house, - they look very perky.

Jean Taylor took the Ant Hillers over to the ChuckWagon for dinner.

Mike and David out at 4 P.M. bringing with them a beautiful redwood table, a gift from their parents for the Sky Bunk! We certainly enjoy having the two boys out with us - they are so easy to have and always very pleasant and helpful. They brought with them a climbing rope and the three of them were down in the big tree where the treehouse is, practicing "belaying".

Another one of Anna's delicious dinners. We walked up ??????? sound too low on tape to transcribe????

Had a discussion with David about the visit of the W.B.3's. It is difficult for the boys to coordinate their programs because they never know exactly what their schedules are going to be but David is going to try to get as much time off as possible while his folks are here.

The boys left at 9 o'clock as they both have to be at the hospital early in the morning.

TUESDAY

JULY 31 Another very sleepable night - cool, clear this morning, electric blankets last night.

Started assembling the redwood table and found two of the table legs missing. I'm sure we can get them at Lambs.

Ted came up this morning to go over some work that we are going to have done this fall. He got up on the roof of the Ant Hill and inserted about 20 metal shingles which helped some, but the roof still leaks! He will plan on

putting in about 100 of them this fall after we have left. Poor Peg has been unable to sleep on the porch during rainy weather because it drips right into her face!

Talked further with Ted about putting a new fence around the pasture on the west side towards the mountains. This fence has been the source of a lot of trouble this summer. Peter, Mike and I explored the fence about a week ago and its in pretty bad shape and actually open in some areas. Decided to order 100 steel fence posts. This will fix about 1,000 feet, which Ted thinks he can get done this fall. He is pretty busy at the moment getting ready for the big hospital barbecue this coming Sunday. Because of the barbecue he was unable to go up to Montana for Elaine Forrest's wedding with Doris and Cheri Lee. They offered to send a private plane down to pick him up and bring him back but he didn't think he should do it.

Muffy in to Jackson on her regular shopping tour. Mike and David over to Black Tail Butte to practice on the rocks there with their rope.

Mike stayed for dinner. We surely enjoy the boys and feel it is too bad that they can't get their time off together. They both seem to be enjoying their hospital work and talk about it when they come out - very interesting. People take an interest in them and they certainly are making a hit at the hospital!

The last game of Bridge before Peg leaves as she is going out to the west coast to meet Sally and make some plans for Sally entering a retirement home. Expects to be gone a couple of weeks.

From being at the bottom of the Totem Pole, Peg jumps into the lead in one evening.

WEDNESDAY

AUGUST 1

Fairly warm last night - no electric blankets. Clear as crystal this morning.

Mike out this morning. He and Peter worked on some jobs at the Sky Bunk. Opened up Suzie Creek which was getting choked up with grass. Peter Falls tumbling down in good shape with quite a volume of water!

The boys rode up to the snow slide this morning and came back with enthusiastic reports about the flowers and the game they saw!

After receiving the brand new redwood table from the W.B.3's, Big Dad decided to spruce up the old redwood furniture so it wouldn't look so bad. Started working on the chairs - they were getting pretty rickety and needed tightening up, screws, bolts, etc. Will also stain them with redwood stain.

Muffy and Big Dad in to Moose for the mail and over to Dornans. Dornans are practically out of meat and say they have no promise of steaks for some time to come.

Liz and Fred McCabe asked us in to dinner at their home to-night and Liz suggested we come in to Jackson ahead of time to see their new plant and to watch them print this week's paper. Met their new editor, Mr. Paul Bruun, a very self-confident and apparently capable young man. They have apparently spent a great deal of money modernizing their plant. They can print the entire paper for one week in twenty minutes!

We had a delicious dinner at the McCabes. Fred barbecuing the roast in his special electrically driven barbecue oven, Liz mixing the salad, etc.

She is a very fine cook and it was a gourmet dinner!

THURSDAY
AUGUST 2

(Moggie's Birthday)

The coyotes were very much in evidence last night and Boise try to match their howling from the kitchen - what a racket! Apparently the dead horse over at White Grass is bringing in all the coyotes from the whole valley!

All during breakfast the big bull moose with the crumpled horn was up at the salt lick filling himself with salt and right after breakfast we were sitting on the front porch and Susan saw something black near the wading pool and suddently it moved and here was the big bull drinking his fill out of the pool! He was there about ten minutes and then ambled off into the timber!

When Peter wrangled the horses this morning he did not notice that Nibbles was on the other side of the wire fence and when he brought the other two horses in Nibbles nearly went into a panic running up and down the other side of the barbed wire. Peter in the meantime had gone into the timber and didn't see the commotion but expected Nibbles to come in any minute. He then put a bridle on Monty and rode bareback out thru the pasture and led Nibbles around thru the north gate.

Peg left for the west coast this morning, Ray and Anna taking her to the airport. Puss is going to be pretty lonesome over in the Ant Hill, but we will close tabs on her.

Peter worked on painting one of the Ant Hill chaises this morning - did a good job.

We had asked the Galeys, the Dunns, and Sukie Matthews over for cocktails this evening. Sukie called in the middle of the afternoon and said that they all had colds and could not come. The Galeys, however, were o.k. and came over for a pleasant cocktail hour. Nona looks quite thin and hasn't got her old sparkle.

After dinner we walked down in the field and avoided the area of the dead horse. It is a grizzly sight and I wish the White Grassers would bury it.

Muffy and Big Dad read after dinner - Peter watching television. The coyotes howled during the evening which is unusual!

FRIDAY
AUGUST 3

Cool last night - electric blanks on. Clear this morning.

Muffy and Big Dad in to Jackson - Muffy shopping and Big Dad to get a haircut.

David out this morning - he has three days off!

Peter and Dave off to Black Tail Butte to practice climbing. Peter insists that he is going to climb the Grand when his Father is out here!

Muffy had a successful shopping tour but the meat problem is getting serious.

Over to Joe Clarks for a very enjoyable cocktail hour. We met quite a few people that we had never met before. Iris was very disappointed that we didn't bring any of our handsome grandchildren!

Joe is having a big argument with the Park and handed me a five

page dissertation which he has compiled criticizing the policies of the Park and claiming that they are turning the Park over to a bunch of hippies and making it difficult for the old timers to carry on their regular pursuits. The principal thing that he is complaining about is the fact that the Park has ruled that certain trails are not open to horses any more. I think he has a legitimate complaint in this connection as we have noticed that also and the Park seems to favor the back packers and the hikers vs. the horseback riders!

Back to Sky Ranch for a nice dinner with the two boys. Had a long talk with them on the front porch about the coming visit of their parents. They are both very excited about the program.

David left for his room at 9:45 but will meet us at the airport to-morrow when his parents arrive.

SATURDAY

AUGUST 4

A wonderful night to sleep. Some rain - electric blankets on all night. Big cumulous clouds overhead this morning.

There was quite a bit of excitement around Sky Ranch this morning anticipating the arrival of the W.B.3's at 12:39.

Got down to the airport about 12:10. The place was jammed. We finally found David looking handsome as ever. We are certainly proud to walk around with our handsome grandsons!

The plane came in and Big Dad got out to the fence to take some pictures. The family assembled around the exit, then the last person got off and no W.B.3's!!!!!! It was the Billings plane, - the Denver plane came in five minutes later. What dummies!

The Denver plane finally came in and the family reunion on the lawn in front of the airport = they all looked simply great. Had an easy flight in. Departed for Sky Ranch in two cars and crossed the Cattle Guard with the big ranch bell ringing its usual welcome to our visitors. Ray, Anna, Puss and the doggies at the back door to greet them; then, a delicious buffet lunch before unpacking. Much conversation, news about Sky Ranch and the family.

After a nap the W.B.3's got in their western clothes and settled in for a good visit!

SUNDAY

AUGUST 5

Cloudy this morning - some rain during the night.

Bill busy getting gear ready for the proposed trip to Berry Creek to-morrow. Peter and Biv hooked up the boat and got it up by the main cabin. The boys plan on getting away from here fairly early crossing the lake with the Sky Lark and hiking up to the meadows on Owl Creek where they expect to get some good fishing.

While we were over at the Sky Bunk this morning Mimi cautioned us about a junco nest on the front lawn. She had put up little signs warning everybody not to step on the Mother Bird as she had two babies!

Biv and Peter up in the upper property with the power saw sawing down some of the windfalls that had jammed up our fence badly. It's great to have these husky boys around who know how to handle a power saw!

Ruth and Mimi off for a ride this morning with Nibbles and Monty. Poor old Black Jack has to stay in the corral quite a bit because of his arthritis!

All the Sky Bunkers and Puss over for lunch. Puss received a call from Peg's brother in Hawaii - apparently, he is trying to contact Peg on the west coast and neither he nor Puss knows where she is! What planning!

This is the day of the big hospital barbecue and just about the time we were ready to leave at 3 o'clock, it came down in sheets! We thought at first that the barbecue would be rained out but then the sun came out again and we all headed for the fair grounds.

They did not plan a rodeo this year but simply had horse races and between that and the threatening weather, the crowd was not as good as last year. Saw Ted at the barbecue pit and took pictures of him and met lots of our friends. The beef was tough but very good - in these days nobody complains about how tough the beef is !

David and Mike were there and we all ate dinner together. Bill and family came home with David and stopped at his apartment to view his spacious (?) living quarters.

Muffy and Big Dad home in time for a walk with the dogs and a quiet evening of reading.

MONDAY

AUGUST 6

Cool and scattered clouds this morning. Looks like rain.

Boise barked a good deal last night - there must be some coyotes working around.

Bill and his three sons off for a fishing expedition up to Owl Creek Meadows. Pulled away from Sky promptly at 6:30 meeting David at Moose and on up to Colter Bay where they put in the boat and speeded up to the north end of the lake, Bivvy running the boat like a veteran. They had a great day and good fishing. They didn't seem to get any of the rain we got here. Coming home the waves in Jackson Lake were four feet high but Captain Bivvy negotiated them in good shape and they got to Colter Bay without incident. Home to Sky at 7:30 after a great day in the open!

The wind during the day was terrific - trees crashing down all around the place - the power went out at 3:30 and the phone with it. Had to drive down to Ted Hartgraves to report the power and phone outage. Talked to a ranger on the way back and he said there were several trees down across the Wilson Road. One, a truck driver was stopped near Lake Creek and while he got out to investigate the problem, another tree crashed in back of him and he was stalled between them!

One very amusing incident when the fishermen returned at 7:30 Peter rushed into the tool room and busied himself doing something mysterious and when Big Dad was out of the living room he came in and mounted his great trophy in Old Baldy's place! The name of this great trophy was: "Old Whimpy", and he was exactly five inches long nailed to an old board which had been lying around the ranch for about ten years! Big Dad innocently walked in and at first did not notice the desecration which had occurred. Finally, his eyes wandered up the wall where his famous trophy usually rests and his eye fell on this sardine. He thought "My God, what has happened to Old Baldy". The room was in hysterics!

TUESDAY

AUGUST 7

Clear and cool - typical Wyoming weather. Slept with the electric blankets on last night!

Bill over for coffee before breakfast. Much discussion about the program for the day - clearing the flower trail, which now has many windfalls across it.

Ted up at 8:45 with his power saw, pevee, etc.

Bill assembled his crew and they were on the trail about 9:30, Biv and Ted teaming up with one saw, Bill, Peter and Mike forming another team of sawyers.

Bill and Ted ran the saws, the boys used axes, hauled off the logs and they walked thru the flower trail in nothing flat!

Big Dad brought his camera along and took a number of pictures of the lumbermen in action!

The two dogs followed along the trail and they seemed quite puzzled with all this strange activity and noise.

The Captain of the Lumbering Crew advisee Big Dad that he thought the crew would enjoy a cold can of beer and would he please return to the cabins and advise his Hand-Maidens to bring out the beer. The Hand-Maidens chatted for a while on the front porch and then started off with the beer, but the crew had worked so fast that they had finished the Flower trail and had come back towards the ranch on the Lake trail where they also found some dead falls. The Hand-Maidens with the beer finally caught up with the lumbering crew, just at the back of the property!

After lunch Biv, Mimi and Puss off to the post office and Dornans in the Ant Hill Ford! This was Biv's idea and it was a very thoughtful one and his great-aunt surely appreciated it.

Big Dad in to Jackson with pictures of the Jackson Lake Dam (which he borrowed from Ted Hartgrave). The Jackson Hole Guide wants to publish some of the pictures with Big Dad's narrative.

Got the papers notarized on Lot 99, which makes the third lot sold this year and the last one we can sell in 1973.

Ruth and Bill over to White Grass during the afternoon to visit with Frank and Nona, while Muffy and Big Dad enjoyed a long nap.

Everybody over to the Ant Hill for cocktails with Aunt Puss. She was dressed up in one of the original western shirts which Big Dad bought for the gang when we first moved into Sky Ranch in 1952 and she looked great in it!

After dinner we enjoyed a walk with the dogs down in the sage brush. So far we haven't gotten any strong odors from the horse out in the pasture. As we walked back the sun had disappeared behind the mountains and we gazed upon a scene that will always be vivid in our memories - "Our Little Grey Home in the West" tucked away against the mountains with a lazy plume of smoke drifting lazily across the sagebrush.

A great game of beanbags followed on the front lawn. Bill and his daughter, Mimi, cleaning up the whole crowd!

The boys off to the Mangy Moose while the Growsns were happy to climb into bed at 10 o'clock.

End of this dictation

WEDNESDAY

AUGUST 8

Very cool last night - electric blankets on all night!

Peter up at 6:15 to bring in the horses - they are always waiting at the gate as they look forward to those few bites of rolled barley!

Bill over for coffee before breakfast to discuss his plans with us. Everything on his program is working out very smoothly. Muffy and Ruth had a long discussion about cookout plans, provisions, etc. They decided to put up the roll-a-way cot, which we originally purchased for Marliese, up in the Sky Bunk for their guest.

Bill has suggested a storage shelf in the hall-way where the crib and high-chair can be stored and it would be a great place for all the empty suitcases. We measured this up and will get 1" plywood and stain it to match the woodwork.

We have decided to call him Beaver Biv because he works so hard. He was out all morning with the power saw sawing up the downed trees, cutt them up in firewood lengths and stacking them very neatly between trees. He sugg ed that we do not have these logs split up until we are ready to use them as he thinks the wood loses its energy content as it stands split up in the wood pile for a long time. We still have a lot of split wood to use!

All the W.B.3's in to Jackson for a big day of shopping and Ruth to get her hair done. Great preparations going on in the Sky Bunk!

The chairs which Muffy ordered from Chestnut Hill came in and look great. They are very comfortable and will fit into the terrace beautifully. Big Dad had reservations about these chairs when we ordered them but they have now all disappeared!

Shoppers back from town just before lunch with a big load of groceries!

Aunt Puss, Muffy and Big Dad in to Woodward's for cocktails and a delicious dinner such as only Helen can prepare. This is Woody's 82nd birthday. A delightful evening. Got into a discussion (argument?) with Jack Dornan about the Park. He is very critical of the Park, as are a great many people around the valley. When he started criticizing Lawrence Rockefeller for reserving 4,500 acres (out of a couple of hundred thousand) for his own use, I took issue with him. I don't think I convinced him and he certainly didn't convince me - we parted good friends and shook hands at the table, to everybody's relief!

Peter received in the mail English Vocabulary Words which Sue and Nelson sent out. Nelson advised us that he used these vocabulary words with his children and found them very effective. Muffy and Big Dad have been quizzing Peter on them and he is doing very well and we are, incidently, getting our vocabulary enlarged too!

THURSDAY

AUGUST 9

Clear and cool this morning.

Great activity at the Sky Bunk. Put in the new storage shelf. Peter very busy stocking the different cabins with kindling wood and firewood.

I think I mentioned in the Diary earlier that Chuck James, Jim's boss in Chicago, is up at the Jackson Lake Lodge. The Vern Johnsons asked

us for dinner one evening when they were having Chuck but we were unable to go. Called several times at the Lodge trying to get in touch with him (found out later he was on an all night backpack trip). Finally got in touch with him and he said he would be delighted to have cocktails and dinner with us Friday evening.

Mary McCarthy and her husband are also in the valley and they called up and we are going to have them all at dinner Friday evening. Mary McCarthy incidently, has sold six of our lots at Carefree. She is a very able real estate woman and certainly one with whom we want to maintain a close contact. They live in the Highlands and she is very enthusiastic about them!

Biv and Mimi move over to the Grand to make room for the guests who arrive this afternoon. Ruth and Bill off to the airport. Back soon with their Rochester friends.

Mike and David out, so, the Gangs all here!

Muffy furnished a delicious salad for the dinner to-night. Everybody over to the Grand for cocktails - Mike and David acting as Assistant Bartenders to Big Dad (Ray and Anna off this afternoon).

Next, everybody over to the Sky Bunk for a very delicious dinner prepared by Ruth. Everyone eating out on the terrace under a beautiful evening sky. The new redwood furniture came in very handy for the Oldsters!

FRIDAY
AUGUST 10

Light cloud cover this morning - cool.

This is the day that Bill planned taking his group up to the Upper Gros Ventre for a picnic. While everybody was busy getting ready to leave Mimi called that she saw a beautiful pine marten in the trees not far from the house. She was attracted to him because the birds were making such a fuss - he was probably robbing their nest! A beautiful little animal - much excitement.

When I saw Emily Oliver at the Clark's cocktail party she asked me to come down fishing again, so, I accepted and took Biv and Peter with me. It was a gorgeous sunny day when we started out but some storm clouds came up during the day but we got no rain. Peter caught one very nice fish; Big Dad caught one peewee which he had to keep because he was hooked so badly; Biv had no luck at all, but we had a great time together.

Home at 4 o'clock for a quick nap and up in time to welcome our guests, Chuck James, Mr. and McCarthy from Carefree, for cocktails and dinner. We found Marie McCarthy a very interesting and attractive woman. She was in the real estate business for many years in New Jersey before they retired (?) to Carefree. Built a beautiful home on Lot 3A and apparently became bored with their inactivity and applied for a job with the Desert Forest Realty Group and has been one of their star salesman. She certainly has done a great job on our lots. We told her about Sue and her real estate activity and I know sometime they will meet and have a great time talking about real estate!

We particularly enjoyed Chuck James, a very likable and attractive man. He said many complimentary things about Jim - he said that Jim had brought knowledge and know-how into the organization which was greatly needed!

A big game of Beanbags after dinner - everybody participating. It was great fun. We will always be indebted to the J.C.B.'s for bringing out the Beanbag game!

After the Beanbag tournament we all sat around a roaring fire

and had scotch and soda.

Bill came in about 9 o'clock and said: "Hello" and reported they had a fine day on the Gros Ventre, saw a coyote, a cow moose and her calf - fishing poor!

I was interested to find out how Chuck James became to be such close friends of the Johnsons and found out that Chuck at one time worked for Nelson Rockefeller as did Vern, and that is the way they met initially. They seem to be very close friends.

Thanks to Muffy's good planning, a successful evening which everyone seemed to enjoy!

SATURDAY

AUGUST 11 Cool and crystal clear this morning - a great day for Peter's Ascent of the Grand Teton!

The coyotes howled all night - very close in. Boise responds readily from the kitchen. Kept Muffy awake all night. I don't know what we are going to do with that little white mutt!

At the last minute Peter scurried around and found that he had no back pack to put all his gear on but then found he could rent a good pack over at Dornans, so, everything was serene.

This afternoon the Sky Bunkers are all going to float the river with Francis Johnson. Jerry Abercrombie has quit the floating business and recommended Francis Johnson for the job. Bill, however, wanted to make a fishing float this morning with Frank and Bob so we had quite a complicated transportation problem to start off with. Muffy drove Peter to the climbing school to begin his ascent to the saddle where they will spend the night in a quonset hut. Muffy described her feelings as she left Peter off at the climbing school. There must have been a lump in her throat as she saw the first member of our clan start off on this eventful climb.

Big Dad drove the fishermen to Schwabkers Landing. The plan was for the fishermen to float in to Moose where they would meet the Johnsons and then go up the river again with the girls and start their scenic float about 3 o'clock. We all got over to the Moose Landing Place promptly at 2:15 and found the Johnson driver and anxiously awaited the fishermen to come in. They came in about 2:45 and we saw them off headed north again! A perfect day for climbing and floating!

Muffy saw Mr. Exom at the post office and he said that we would be able to see the boys on top of the Grand to-morrow morning between 8 and 9 with our binoculars, so, we are planning to go over to Wesleys - what excitement!

Vern and Ramone asked Muffy and Big Dad over for dinner at the Crescent H this evening, leaving poor Pussy alone on the ranch, but she didn't seem to mind. They have the big lodge on the Crescent H pretty well finished and furnished now, and we sat down to a very delicious dinner and numerous cocktails. John Albrecht, the owner and promoter, was there and had dinner with us - a very attractive man. He apparently has unlimited finances the way he is spending money! We sat next to a Mr. and Mrs. Summers - he is one of those men who always has to top your story and if half of what he said is true he is undoubtedly the champion fisherman of the world and I know he is the greatest name dropper!

Home at 10 o'clock. The floaters were all in bed when we got here!

SUNDAY
AUGUST 12
Teton!

Cool and crystal clear - what a day to assault the Grand

Muffy admitted at breakfast that she didn't sleep very well thinking of Peter up there in that quonset hut and what's in store for him this morning!

Over to the Wesleys at 8 o'clock with two pair of binoculars and our telescope, followed by all the Sky Bunkers. Got set up in the yard beside the Wesley cabin and trained our glasses on the tip of the great mountain! Finally, after about half an hour, Jean Hudgins electrified everybody by saying that she saw movement on the top. We all had a good look and sure enough you could see little tiny dots moving around about the size of a pin point. We watched for about half an hour. Big Dad could not get any pictures of Peter on top of the Grand but he got a lot of pictures of his parents looking thru spy glasses at him! A dramatic moment in the history of Sky Ranch and many silent prayers for Peter's safe return!

The boys off to the golf course. Joan and Ruth ride to Taggart.

Peter is to call when he gets down to the climbing school cabin and there was suppressed excitement all around Sky Ranch when the phone rang at 3:30 - a call from Bill at the golf club to know whether we had heard from Peter. He and Ruth are going to meet him.

Finally, at 4:45 Bill drove in to the ranch and parked out in front with the hero of the day - Peter the Great, now King of the Tetons. Great rejoicing all around. Peter seemed pretty tired - said his legs felt like chunks of lead, and I can well imagine!

Mimi planned a great celebration at our cookout this evening for Peter. A throne at the head of the table with garlands of papers streaming in every direction and Peter with a beautiful crown with pictures of the Tetons pasted around it. Joan Ginini made a certificate (she is quite artistic) to be presented to Peter by his Father. We are going to frame this to hang in the Sky Bunk. It reads as follows:

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT FOR EXTRAORDINARY MOUNTAIN CLIMBING
awarded to
PETER RAMSAY BALDERSTON
on August 12, 1973
in the event of
THE FIRST BALDERSTON ASSAULT OF THE GRAND TETON

Peter was very modest during the whole ceremony. His Dad presented the certificate with a very complimentary speech for his youngest son. Big Dad pinned on him a paper star with the legend "Peter, the King of the Tetons" made by Mimi. It was all great fun.

The Sky Ranchers will recall that when Big Dad caught Old Baldy back in 1958, Jim presented the ranch with a sterling silver cup engraved as follows:

SKY RANCH SPECIAL CUP
7/2/58 W.B. 5-0

The thought being by this time - 15 years later - the cup would be covered with record catches by the second generation. It has been a long wait but so far those monstors have not shown up, so, we decided (and we hope that this meets with Jim's

approval) to inscribe on the other side of the cup the following:

8/12/73 - Grand Teton - 13,766 feet - P.R.B.

Mimi was too cute for words during this entire performance. She dreamed up most of the ideas and then went around very quietly prompting the different participants as to when they were supposed to make their talks, etc. It was great fun and at the same time a very important event in the history of Sky Ranch.

When Muffy and I started Sky Ranch back in 1952 little did we dream that we would live to see the day when our youngest grandson scaled the Grand Teton!

Big Dad cooked Trout Almondine for the first course served with white wine, (which everyone said was delicious), followed by delicious steak, salad, etc., with red wine (furnished by Bill).

A great day which will always be remembered!

MONDAY
AUGUST 13

A wonderful coyote chorus again last night. I guess we will keep getting these choruses as long as the dead horse lasts!

The two Hudgins drove up to Yellowstone Park as they had never seen it, while Bill, Ruth, The Gianinis and Biv, took a picnic lunch and had a beautiful trip on Jackson Lake with the Sky Lark, with Biv running the boat and doing a great job!

The W.B.3's planned dinner at Jenny Lake Lodge to-night and included the Buchenroths. Frank Hudgins was late getting back from Yellowstone Park and called from the lodge asking Bill to bring up clothes for them so they would not have to run all the way down here to change.

Mr. Steinle, the manager of the Lodge, told us that we could bring our own liquor and have cocktails in the main lounge, which was very nice, but when we got there we found that the Lodge was giving a champagne party for their guests and Mr. Steinle told us we would be welcome to join their party or we could have our own private cocktail party in another corner of the lounge. We decided to do the latter and when the big party broke up he moved the hot hors d'oeuvres, which were delicious, over into our corner and two couples (Jewish) followed the hors d'oeuvres over into our corner and started to help themselves to our liquor, which was on the table. Just at that time Mr. Steinle came up and advised them that this was a private party!

We sat down at a table for ten and had a perfectly delicious dinner with some very special red wine which Bill had purchased at Dornans!

In the meantime Biv, David, Peter and Mimi all went to the Calico Pizza Parlor which they enjoyed very much.

End of this dictation

TUESDAY
AUGUST 14

A cool clear night - beautiful morning.

The four visitors at the Sky Bunk over this morning to say good-bye - what a fine group of young people! They seemed to enjoy their visit and we certainly enjoyed them!

Bill, Ruth, Muffy and Big off at 11:30 to the Jenny Lake Lodge for the luncheon given by Kenneth and Jerry Berol. Cocktails in the main lounge and then we sat down to a delicious luncheon with a very interesting group of people. Alfred Berol was not there but Madeline says he is going to come to our party!

Bill and Ruth certainly make a big hit with all our friends in Jackson's Hole!

Home at 3:30 for a nice nap!

Bill and Biv out with the power saw which Biv had sharpened up this morning. The way those two work their way thru great logs and fallen trees is amazing!

All Sky Ranchers, including Puss and Mike, off to the Bar B C for an evening cookout. Maggie's cookout parties are always delightful on the river with the Teton Range silhouetted in the western horizon. Maggie's son, Bill Ross, and his wife Cassey, was there with their boys. Bill and Cassey have bought 40 acres over near DuBois and are building a cabin on it.

A full moon rose in all its glory about 9 o'clock and all the Moonlight Fairies came out and danced on the river for our enjoyment!

Home about 10 o'clock for a good night's sleep.

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 15

Another clear, beautiful, Wyoming day.

Bill and Biv off to the Crescent H for a Father's and Son's Fishing Day. They had a good day on the water but the fishing not too good.

Ruth and Mimi on in to Jackson shopping. Muffy and Puss in to Jackson for hair appointments. Big Dad up back of the tool room painting a chaise for the Ant Hill!

Dave and Mike out for cocktails and dinner.

We listened to the President's television speech. How the man has survived the political vendetta of the American press and the liberal Democratic party, I will never know! My feelings in this whole matter are pretty well expressed in the editorial by Franklin B. Smith, of the Burlington Free Press of Vermont, which is attached to this copy of the Diary. (Nelson very kindly sent us a copy of this editorial with his recent letter of August 19th).

David making plans to climb the Grand with friends of his. Now that Peter has paved the way, we suspect there will be quite a bit of mountain climbing in the future among our grandchildren and we devoutly hope that they will all follow Peter's example and take two days of training in the Exom Mountain

Climbing School and then climb with one of Exom's Registered Teton Mountain Climbing Guides!

A game of Beanbags on the front lawn and then an exciting (?) game of Hearts!

THURSDAY
AUGUST 16

Clear and warmer this morning.

Bill, Biv, Peter and Mike float the Snake from Moran to Dead Man's Bar - all codfish-Biv getting the largest!

Big Dad back to his painting job. Muffy busy with correspondence.

During the afternoon we were sitting on the front porch and spotted Nibbles coming across the sage at a gallop with a rider whom we thought we recognized as Ruth. However, as the rider and horse drew near, we realized it was Mimi herself. At a distance she looked just like her Mother, a good horsewoman, erect in the saddle and in complete control of the situation.

Ruth, Bill, Muffy and Big Dad in to the Alpenhoff for cocktails and dinner with the Wagstaffs. The children all in town to see "Annie Get Your Gun".

FRIDAY
AUGUST 17

Clear and warm this morning. The coyotes gave us a terrific serenade early this morning.

Everybody busy straightening things up and getting ready for the Hoeffels arrival this afternoon, and the cocktail party to-morrow.

Big Dad got in the horses this morning to let Peter sleep. Pete busy raking up the parking area and driveway.

To the airport to meet the 3:40 plane and the Hoeffels! Both looked great - Eleanore just made it as it was pretty bumpy between here and Denver. Crossed the Cattle Guard with bells ringing and all the Sky Bunkers, Ant Hillers, Ray and Anna, and the doggies out to join in the welcome.

Quite warm. Lemonade on the front porch and later cocktails on Bill's terrace. A rousing "HERE WE ARE" at the dinner table for the Hoeffels, and then a big Beanbag Tournament on the front lawn, which Peter and Big Dad won with Bill and Mimi as runner ups!

Immediately after dinner Biv drove Aunt Puss in to the airport to meet Peg and to pick up Hoeffel's baggage, which did not arrive on their plane. We were thrilled when we opened one of the suitcases and found it full of delicious Sunswept vegetables which George had carefully packed for us!

Everybody to bed early. Lightening and thunder during the night but with very little rain, but plenty of serenades from the coyotes!

SATURDAY
AUGUST 18

This is the big day for the cocktail party and it looks 50 - 50 as far as the weather is concerned.

Peter up at 6:50 to wrangle in the horses and then off with his Dad, David and Julie to float the Snake.

Betty Anderson over with a gorgeous bouquet of hot house

flowers, from which Muffy made several artistic arrangements for the cocktail party! Betty also brought over an additional supply of vegetables - boy, are we going to enjoy vegetables from now on!

Bill and Ruth presented Muffy with a special gift of two lovely plants for the ranch, which pleased her very much.

After lunch we decided to wait until the last minute to decide whether the cocktail party would be in or out. Everyone helped carry furniture around and we then decided to arrange both the inside and the out so we can make a quick change at the last minute.

It looked very threatening at 4 o'clock but by 5 the sunshine came out and we had the party in the back yard in the warm sunshine. Before the party was over people were wearing their jackets. Everyone seemed to have a great time. We were particularly pleased that Alfred Berol came to the party. He cannot walk by himself and was practically carried to his chair on the lawn by his ranch manager and his nurse. Everyone made a point to speak to him and he was particularly alert and has lost very little of his old sparkle.

During the afternoon Evelyn Elmore called and asked if her two daughters could come to the party in their mountain climbing clothes as they would just be coming in from a long hike down Death Canyon. They did come looking very nice in their mountain climbing clothes. The whole Elmore Family stayed late, long live Ted Hartgrave, and didn't leave until after 8 o'clock.

Bivvy and Ted struck up a great friendship during the cocktail party - Ted telling the story of the axe handle a number of times during the evening! (During the lumbering operations one of the boys broke Ted's axe handle and then Bivvy purchased another one to replace it and took it to Ted. Ted took one look at it and it had a terrible "Wow - Wow" on the handle. Ted explained that an axe handle like that was dangerous, so, Bivvy got another one for him. I think Ted's conscience bothered him a little bit and he went on to explain at great length that it as more or less a lesson for the boys. When Ted left he said:

"I really love that boy, Bivvy. Him and I are going to be great friends!"

SUNDAY
AUGUST 19

Unsettled weather - thunder and rain last night.

The Sky Bunkers all over at 7:15 for breakfast. All packed and in their eastern clothes. This is always a sad time and the donning of eastern gear is always a signal of departure. Always have to think of what Kathy said some years ago:

"Remember, Big Dad, you have to leave in order to come back!"

Off to the airport in two cars - a fond farewell to our beloved Rochester Family.

Joe and Peter carried the furniture back to the fireplace and helped rearrange after the cocktail party.

Puss and Peg over to Antelope Flat to visit some old Wellesley friends of Puss, By Kellum. By Kellum's Mother is one of Puss's classmates!

Big Dad coming down with a cold.

Ele and Joe over to White Grass for dinner.

Bridge with the Ant Hillers.

MONDAY
AUGUST 20

Unsettled weather - unusual for this time of year.

David called at noontime to say that he would not be out for lunch. He is meeting his mountain climbing friends to make plans for the ascent of the Grand Teton.

Ele and Joe off for a walk down the Flower Trail and back to the ranch by the Lake Trail. This is the first time anyone has been able to walk the Flower Trail in a couple of years but, thanks to the W.B.3 Lumbering Crew, the trail is now open!

TUESDAY
AUGUST 21

Joe off to play golf with Sukey Matthews and Mrs. Exom. While they were playing to-day, Sukey told Joe that the Park is trying to buy Frank's life lease for \$550,000! I can't vouch for the accuracy of the report but, if true, it's a devastating figure!

Ele and Muffy in to Jackson shopping and looking around at - you know what - antiques!

Big Dad and Peter in town with the boat and trolling motor. We have had a bracket on the Sky Lark for some years but have never really used the small trolling motor. However, in order to take the young people fishing on Jenny Lake this evening, we have to have a motor under $7\frac{1}{2}$ h.p.

Left for Jenny Lake at 4:30 with the boat and the trolling motor installed. Launched the boat and started out with the trolling motor running perfectly but it was soon apparent that the $2\frac{1}{2}$ h.p. was entirely insufficient to handle the boat in any kind of a wind and, of course, a strong wind came up and knowing from past experience how these mountain storms can come in, I wasn't about to take the youngsters out in the middle of that lake, so we headed for shore and anchored for awhile, hoping the blow would subside. However, it kept up and we had a pretty "rocky" time getting the boat on the trailer. Peter being the only member of the party with boots on, but it was too much for him to handle so Big Dad had to jump in and lend a hand. David, using the crank to wind the boat up on the trailer.

Got home just in time for cocktails and a good steak dinner which Anna somehow stretched out to feed the entire crowd.

Ele, Joe, Muffy and Big played Bridge after dinner - Joe with high score!

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 22

Cool, high haze, very falllike.

Big up early. Peter wrangling in the horses and helping Big Dad move the boat down to the barn. Worked on rigging up tackle for the kids. David wants to take the Jeep up the Gros Ventre to-day for a fishing picnic.

Peter Dillon and Ned Smith - the mountain climbers - out at 9:30 to make plans for a climb to-morrow.

Ele, Joe and Big Dad off for a ride on Huckelberry Ridge and to the Overlook, leaving about 10 and returning at 12:15. A good ride - a little hard on Ele's back. She changed horses and found that Black Jack was much easier for her to ride! The ride along the Overlook Trail was spectacular. We enjoyed

it tremendously, in spite of the wind falls!

Enjoyed cocktails on the front porch at 12:30.

Ele and Joe off for tennis at 2:30.

At 5 P.M. we all met in the Ant Hill to meet Mrs. Kellum and Mr. and Mrs. Dykes. Delightful people and a delightful party!

Ele and Joe entertained the Windsors at the Sky Bunk this evening.

Muffy and Big - Bridge with the Ant Hillers. Muffy is pushing Big for the lead.

End of this dictation

Outrageous Exploitation

By Franklin B. Smith

BURLINGTON, Vt.—The Watergate affair has been outrageously exploited by both the American press and the Congress. It all adds up to a vicious political stunt, an anti-Nixon vendetta which is utterly appalling in its depth of hatred and recrimination.

A large portion of the press (and here we include newspapers, television, radio and magazines) has indulged constantly in sensational reckless and distorted reportage of this unhappy affair, and Senator Ervin's Watergate circus committee has been only too happy to provide the cheap political showmanship that fuels the vendetta for the amusement of the masses.

Our intelligence and sense of decency have been grossly insulted by the double standard, the rank of hypocrisy and the moral put-on so evident in both the official investigation and the press coverage of Watergate. The end result of all this and the real tragedy of Watergate is that there is no perspective about it and little attempt is made to provide this perspective. Hysteria has overcome rationality.

The plain fact is that there would be no Watergate sensation at all if (1) the party in control of Congress were not the opposition party and (2) much of the press were not hostile to the President and his policies.

How otherwise can we explain the commotion over illegal corporation donations to President Nixon's re-election campaign when no mention is made of the massive labor union donations (also illegal under Federal law) to various Democratic campaigns through the years?

Or how can we explain the outrage over the "bugging" of Nixon's White House when it is an acknowledged fact that every President since Franklin D. Roosevelt has done essentially the same thing? Why was there no great wringing of hands when the Kennedy brothers bugged the hotel room of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights march on Washington ten years ago?

Or how can we explain the furor over President Nixon's use of "national security" as an excuse for a

"cover-up" of Watergate when for example President Roosevelt was not pilloried for using "national security" as an excuse for a "cover-up" blaming Admiral Kimmel and General Short for the Pearl Harbor disaster?

Or how can we explain the extreme concern over the amount of money spent on improvements at President Nixon's homes in Florida and California when no great interest was ever shown in the amount of money spent on the Virginia country home built for Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy while her husband was President or in the amount of money spent on construction of the heliport at the L.B.J. Ranch when Lyndon Johnson was President, and so on?

And if the press and the Congress were truly concerned about the sabotaging of national elections, where was their sense of moral outrage in 1960 when "lost" and destroyed ballots in Illinois, Texas and Missouri actually swung the election?

Yet our colleagues in the press and our legislators in Congress keep telling us that never before have the higher echelons of Government, including the Oval Office itself, been involved to such a degree in shoddy practice. But how do they know, how does anybody know when nothing has ever been covered with such expansive hysteria as the Watergate affair?

And thus again the ultimate tragedy of Watergate is the total lack of perspective and the partisan disinclination of the press and Congress to provide perspective.

We can only conclude that the name and the personality of the man in the Oval Office makes all the difference and this is a damning indictment of our public "watchdogs" especially the press whose sense of purpose and responsibility has been mangled.

This anti-Nixon vendetta has long since passed the point of acceptance of indignation of reason and conscience. We condemn this reportage and exploitation of hatred which is vastly more destructive of public faith in our Government of processes than is the overblown Watergate affair itself.

Franklin B. Smith is editor of the editorial page of *The Burlington Free Press of Vermont*.

THURSDAY

AUGUST 23

Dave had a long talk with his Dad on the phone last night and got permission to climb Symmetry Spire with Peter Dillon and Ned Smith.

Dave made a very quiet exit from Sky Ranch at 5:30 on his way to meet his friends for the big climb.

Julie, Peter and Big Dad in to Moose to get Dave's car serviced for the trip home.

Peter busy packing up his dark room equipment, duffle, etc.

Ray and Anna off to-day.

Julie helping Muffy with jobs around the house.

After lunch Big Dad drove Julie and Peter to the service station in Moose to pick up Dave's car. Then they headed in to Jackson to do some shopping. Learned later that Peter stopped at Park Headquarters and inquired about getting a job with the Park in 1974!

At our cocktail party on Saturday Sukie Matthews told Joe that the Park had offered Frank \$550,000 for his lifetime lease. This was certainly a startling bit of news if it is true. I hope that some way I can protect our grazing lease on the north 40 acres.

The mountain climbers back at 5:30 - a pretty exhausted trio. Dave asked if the boys could take showers in the out-back and, of course, we asked them to stay for dinner. Big Dad cooked Trout Almondine.

Apparently the climbers got lost and did not get up Symmetry Spire but climbed an adjoining peak. At one point Peter Dillon lost his foothold and slid 15 or 20 feet but was saved from a serious fall by the rope which Peter and Ned held onto. At dinnertime all three boys stated they had enough mountain climbing for awhile! Both Peter and Ned were very polite friendly young men and we enjoyed them very much.

With Peter in the vanguard we expect there will be great activity among the other grandchildren to duplicate his fete and we hope that all the parents will agree with us to some simple guide lines for climbing in these mountains; namely,

1. Minimum of two days of training at the Exum Climbing School.
2. All climbs to be made with Exum's Climbing School guides.

Soon after dinner Peter and Ned left for their camp in the Gros Ventre Campgrounds. David, after taking quite a bit of salt to relieve his muscles, fell into bed for a sound sleep!

FRIDAY

AUGUST 24

Bill called at 7:30 for a report on the mountain climbers and was pleased to learn that everything worked out so well. He said he had received a letter from Peter in which he said that he was leaving one half of himself at Sky and bringing the other half home!

Muffy, Big Dad, Eleanore and Joe had planned to float the Snake River and fish with Jim Kinker to-day. However, Muffy has a badly swollen leg from a bump she received while walking in the Flower Trail and Ele has developed a cold, so, Big Dad and Joe will float with Jim alone.

We were scheduled to meet Jim at Dead Man's Bar at 8:45 so we had to leave at 8:15. David, Julie and Peter all up at 7:30 ready to start their long trip home. David told us how much he had enjoyed his summer out here and thought his work at the hospital had been very rewarding. We hated to see him go and hope that Sky Ranch will beckon to him soon. We found Julie a very attractive and interesting young lady and she seems to have enjoyed her first trip to the Rocky Mountains West very much!

When it came to saying good-bye to Peter I told him I couldn't decide which half I wanted him to leave at Sky Ranch. Then we finally decided that he should take both halves back with him and come back whole next summer!

Met Jim at Dead Man's Bar and headed north to Moran where we put onto the river at 9:30. A beautiful day for floating. Big white clouds across the sky, strong up-river wind. It was the first time I had floated the Snake on a fishing trip for two years - couldn't believe it!

Jim gave Joe some pointers on casting and pretty soon Joe was fishing out of the boat with Big Dad and did very well. It wasn't a good day for big fish but Joe hooked fifteen fish. We were entitled to keep only two, so we brought home six nice trout!

Jim Kinker is certainly a fine guide - he handled the big rubber boat with a single paddle all the way down the river and got us in to some good waters where we had lots of fun hooking small fish. He told us about his separation from Cynthia. He said it was all on her part and that he would go back at once if he had his way, but she would not have it! He also said that Inga was very much on his side in the controversy. It all seems too bad. They have two very fine children!

Home at 6:15. The girls on the terrace with cocktails waiting for us!

Spent a quiet evening. Muffy's leg very painful!

SATURDAY
AUGUST 25
around 28 down at Hartgraves!

Clear and cold this morning - 38 degrees. It probably was

Peg, sleeping on their front porch, had a visitor - a big porcupine-during the night. She finally pushed him off the front porch with her walking cane!

Muffy and Big Dad had breakfast alone this morning for the first time in a long time - it seemed kind of good, although, we missed our family!

Got a call through to Joe at the Golf Club to bring home some. He is bringing home some antibiotics for Muffy's leg and says she will have to go to bed on Monday if her leg is not considerably better. (This is being dictated Monday morning after Joe left - Muffy's leg is much better this morning - the swelling is down and, although, she hobbles around rather painfully, we are very much encouraged).

Walked over by the Sky Bunk late in the afternoon and found the Sky Bunkers basking on their front terrace enjoying the scenery.

Turned out the horses and took the doggies for a walk down thru the sagebrush.

Bridge after dinner, Joe way out in front.

Coyotes howling all around last night and, of course, Boise had to get into the act.

SUNDAY
AUGUST 26

Clear this morning, quite cool and falllike.

Ray got in the horses. We are all going to miss Peter around here!

The swelling in Muffy's leg is down considerably this morning and we are quite encouraged about her condition. She will be "grounded" for several days yet but Joe thinks she will be o.k. by the end of the week.

Joe, Elè and Big Dad off to Wagstaffs at 11:15. Bob down at the patio to welcome us as we drove in. They were very distressed to learn about Muffy's trouble. Cocktails on their front porch - a beautiful view across their lawn to the swimming pool and patio and the Rocky Mountains in the background - a beautiful view.

One pound delicious hamburgers from Little Jenny Ranch beef - delicious. After lunch Bob took us down to the calving barn and introduced us to two ten-day old twin calves which have put the ranch into a tizzy. Apparently this doesn't happen very often. Both calves were having their noon-day lunch and the mother blinked at us and decided she wanted privacy and promptly walked thru a door into an inner stall where we could not see her, and the calves followed her in!

We then went in the Land Rover across the field down to see the haying operation. As we crossed into the field where the haying gang was working, I remarked that they were putting up timothy. Bob looked at me in wonder and said:

"Bill, you are the first person in ten years that has come out to see this haying operation that knew we were putting up timothy!"

Bob has a great setup with his help. His foreman and his wife have some close friends over in Idaho with a large family of girls and boys who come over every summer to do the haying operation. I think there are about ten children in the family, eight of whom are able to work in the hay field, drive tractors, etc., etc. He pays them 12¢ a bale for hauling and stacking the hay, and they make about \$12,000 for the summer!

As we were crossing the field Bob drove into a harmless looking irrigation ditch and promptly got completely stuck. In about five minutes the big open truck drove up with the whole haying gang, boys, girls and men, and in nothing flat they had lifted the front end of the Land Rover out of the ditch and Bob backed it out without any trouble - great merriment all around. Bob said later that he would be kidded about this for the rest of the summer!

We arrived back at Sky about 4 P.M. and found Muffy and the two Ant Hillers locked in a competitive game of Scrabble.

The Green Bay Packers and the Kansas City Chiefs were supposed to be on television at 7 o'clock this evening but we could not get them, to our great disappointment. However, we had a fine Bridge game and Joe came out the big winner for the summer.

MONDAY

AUGUST 27

Very cool and falllike this morning. A high haze over the mountains. A big double rainbow - very spectacular.

This is the morning Joe returns to Philadelphia - it seems like he was only here a couple of days - too short entirely.

Off to the airport, Ele and Joe in the station-wagon and Big Dad driving the Ant Hill Ford to take it in for a check up. The airport was crowded with youngsters. They have come in from some sort of an expedition. A fond farewell to Joe. The haze lifted and the blue Wyoming sky broke thru before the plane took off. He should have a good flight to Denver! Surely hated to see Joe leave!

On to Skeoch Motors to have the brakes on the Ford Hill Ant (?) checked over. Found there was nothing that could be done. They are old-fashioned hydraulic brakes without a power booster and they seem pretty tough for Aunt Pass to operate.

Stopped off at Ted's on the way home and saw the museum which he is building back of his main cabin. He has logs from one of the earliest cabins in Jackson which he salvaged and he is building this cabin exactly as it was about seventy years ago!

Ele and Muffy back at the Scrabble table after lunch. Muffy's leg seems much better - the swelling has gone down - thank goodness!

Big Dad walked the Lake Trail down towards Whitegrass with Boise. He seemed very nervous and alert during the walk - saw coyote tracks along the trail.

Ray back from a visit to Dr. Elmore, who reported that he was in fine shape. Ray has seemed great lately - he seems to feel much better and is handling all the chores which Peter formerly handled without any trouble, which makes us all very happy.

Too cool to have a cocktail outdoors this evening. Sat by a roaring fire and enjoyed the warmth.

A call from Joe to Eleanore from Sunswept. Everything fine there. Joe's flight uneventful, arrived safely and found the Gadsdens in good shape, especially young Will!

Bridge for five after dinner. Eleanore has been complaining about poor hands and all of a sudden she got a "block buster" and bid and made a Grand Slam!

TUESDAY

AUGUST 28

We have been facing a dilemma - here is poor Muffy, unable to walk, and the Carmines and Richards coming next week!

In to see Bill Elmore who examined Muffy's leg very carefully checked to see if there was any involvement around the groin. When I asked him if she would be able to entertain guests next week, he said:

"Well, she certainly won't be able to wait on them!"

What to do! If we are going to have to call the visit off we should do it as soon as possible, but we know that both couples have really been looking forward to this visit!

Ele came thru with the answer to our dilemma. She volunteered to stay over until Monday, the 10th, and pinch-hit for Muffy where ever necessary. What a relief!

Muffy confined to the couch with warm towels on her leg. She is being a very good patient.

Ele and Big Dad off for aride up to the Phelps Overlook which we had not been up to this year. We must have passed at least five groups of backpackers. It seems that all the camping areas have been turned over to backpackers and horse pack trips have been practically ruled out in Death Canyon and on the High Line Trail.

Ele and Big Dad off to the Alpenhof to meet the Wagstuffs. Cocktails and dinner. Met Bob's Kansas City attorney, his wife and son (don't remember his name). Very entertaining people. A group of twelve for dinner! Ele was a big hit with everyone present!

Talked to Frank about the report we had received that the Park had made him a fabulous offer to buy his life lease. Frank said that no offer had been made but they are going to make an offer, which he said he would probably turn down! During the course of our discussion I told him I hoped he would protect my grazing lease in any deal he had with the Park and I think he will. At one point he said:

"You know I have an option to buy your ranch"

This remark floored me temporarily, but I remember distinctly that he did have an option which ran for ten years to buy from us if we decided to sell on the basis that he would have to meet any price we receive from other parties. I assured him that the option had expired!

Home at 11 o'clock. Took Eleanore over to the Sky Bunk. She seems to prefer staying there because it is so quiet.

Muffy still awake when I came in. Fairly comfortable.

WEDNESDAY

AUGUST 29

Clear, rather cold last night - 50 degrees - Ted advised me yesterday that he had a hard frost at his place yesterday! We hear reports that it is sweltering in the east - temperatures up to 100 with high humidity.

Muffy seemed quite bright this morning. The swelling in her leg is definitely receding, although, it is still very painful.

We have quite a program outlined for our visitors, including a day's fishing with a picnic lunch on Jackson Lake, a float trip on the Snake with the Triangle X, a night at the Pink Garter Plaza for dinner, and then to see "Annie Get Your Gun", a float trip on the Snake River for the three men, a trip in to Yellowstone (the Richards have never been up there), a small cocktail party and a farewell cookout (weather permitting).

This program will be possible only because Eleanore volunteered to stay and act as a substitute hostess for Muffy.

Took the Ford Station Wagon in to Moose to get two new tires,

change of oil, lubrication, etc., preparatory to Ray and Anna's trip home.

Ele and Muffy at the Scrabble table from 1 to 2:30 while Big Dad got a long nap!

Ele and Big Dad off to the Vernon Johnsons for cocktails and dinner. Present - the Otes Harringtons, Gary Weisbrods. A delicious gourmet five course dinner (all brought over from the Jackson Lake Lodge). Couer-de-la - Creme for dessert!

The Johnsons have a seven year old girl and a two year old boy. They came in for just a minute and stood behind their Mother while she introduced them. A darling family!

As we drove up in front of the Sky Bunk great big porky was grazing on the lawn. When the lights struck him he turned, spread out his quills and threatened to lash his tail. Eleanore said:

"Look out, Dad, he's going to shoot his quills!"

I had to disillusion Johanna Colter and explain to her that porcupines do not "shoot their quills"!

THURSDAY
AUGUST 30

Clear and cold this morning - 38 on the front porch. They probably had frost down at Hartgraves!

Nibbles was missing at the gate this morning. Ray had to ride over on Monty and spotted him in the corral with all the White Grass horses. Without getting off his horse, he put on quite a show for the White Grass wranglers by asking one of them to open the corral gate and then he called Nibbles from the crowd. He promptly came out and dutifully followed him back to Sky Ranch!

In to Skeoch Motors to have the air conditioner in the car recharged. Got a haircut, completed a few errands and headed for home. Stopped off to see Ted and he gave me a large bag of rhubarb for Muffy.

Stopped down at Harry Barkers and had a long talk with him about the possibility of going fishing with the Barkers and the Bresslers next April over in New Zealand! Talked about the River Meadows Fish and Game Club program - Harry is on the Board and they are gradually working out what appears to be a pretty good proposition for everyone concerned.

Peg took the boys walking this afternoon and did not know about the dead horse which Boise probably rolled in! Big Dad had to give him a bath when they got back. He seemed to enjoy it!

Bridge for five after dinner - Peg is now leading the pack. Muffy played, sitting on the couch with her leg elevated. Her leg seems much better and she is more comfortable.

Ele asked me to set a mouse trap for her in the Sky Bunk. She said each time she sets the trap the mouse gets away with the bait. When I put the cheese on the trigger, Johanna Colter said:

"Oh, is that where you put the cheese?"

Big Dad replied:

"Yes, - where did you put it?"

Johanna Colter admitted with some embarrassment that she had put the cheese under the trigger instead of on top of it!

This is probably the last dictation I will make till after our guests leave but I will keep my notes so that there will be a closing chapter covering their visit.

End of this dictation

FRIDAY

AUGUST 31

Cloudy and very cool this morning - 42 degrees. Ted reported frost at his place. There is about a ten degree difference between our front porch and his front porch!

Muffy, Ele and Big Dad in to Jackson - Ele doing the shopping at B & W, Big Dad and Muffy in to St. John's for blood test, and then on to Bill Elmores. Upon examining Muffy's leg he thought it had improved quite a bit and wrapped it with an ace bandage and advised Muffy that she could walk around the house some, but to wear the ace bandage, not to stand still or sit around with her leg down. The coagulation test was 75% - should be 30 - can't quite understand this.

Karl and Ann Beyer, and Maggie Corse over for cocktails and dinner. It was so cool outside we could not have cocktails on the front porch but enjoyed them around a roaring fire (we are not complaining about the coolth - we hear that in Philadelphia it is around 100 degrees).

A delicious chicken dinner and then Big Dad showed the African pictures which our guests found very interesting.

Karl has recently retired from work and this is his first experience as a retired person. He is apparently adjusting himself very well and has quite a bit of activity planned in the line of teaching, consulting, etc. We had a very pleasant evening with them.

Piloted Ele over to the Sky Bunk and laid a fire in the grate so she can have a warm fire with her coffee at 10 A.M. to-morrow morning!

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 1

Rained during the night- cool this morning - barometer down.

When the clouds lifted, lo and behold, the peaks were covered with powdered snow - a beautiful sight!

Muffy's leg seems better this morning - the swelling has gone down except for one spot where the original injury occurred. She has been a very good patient. We went on a short walk to-day down in the sagebrush and she thoroughly enjoyed getting out of the house!

Ele and the Windsors over to the Sky Bunk to play Scrabble. The Four Old Timers renewed their Bridge Tournament. At one point Muffy opened with 2 Spades, Big Dad responded with 4 Spades, and she made a Grand Slam! (Big Dad should have responded 4 No Trump as Muffy felt the 4 Spades was a shut out)

By the end of the evening Peg was in the lead, Big Dad had improved and Puss had climbed out of the cellar.

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 2

Rained during the night - quite cool this morning.

The elk are bugling around the place quite close this morning

Big Dad worked on tackle this morning, Muffy with her correspondence.

The Canadian Jays are back in force and scold us every morning if we don't put out bread for them. They are waiting for the Stellar Jay - so far, no show.

Muffy and Big Dad in to Moose for mail and Sunday papers. Stopped off at the Hartgraves on the way home. Ted showed us the cabin he is building for a museum. Took pictures of it with Muffy, Ted and Doris in the foreground.

The Ant Hillers treated us this evening to a delicious dinner up at Signal Mountain Lodge - with all the trimmings, including delicious wine, a very pleasant dining room, delicious food - a very pleasant evening.

MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 3

LABOR DAY

Mildred Carmine called about 10 this morning and advised us that Helen Gubb was in a very critical condition and that they felt they could not come out, so the much planned for visit had to be cancelled out.

Over to the Sky Bunk to talk with Ele about the change in plans.

Talked with Bill Elmore on the telephone and he agreed that it would be risky for Muffy to try a long plane trip until her leg is in much better shape, so we decided that we could not go back to Philadelphia at this time.

In view of the fact that the Carmine party was not coming Eleanore decided that she would return home on the 6th. Got reservations for her and had her tickets changed accordingly. Busy on the telephone cancelling reservations for theatre, float trip, etc.

Cocktails and dinner at the Sky Bunk for all five, and then cut-in Bridge for five after dinner.

The final score for the Sky Ranch Foursome for the summer (modesty almost prevents me from recording these figures) was as follows:

Big Dad	29
Muffy	27
Peg	15
Puss	-71

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 4

1973

1918

55 Happy Years

This is the day the Sky Bunkers leave Sky Ranch - my, how we are going to miss them.

Peg, all packed up, left for Lander at 10 o'clock where she will spend the night with a cousin.

Puss and Big Dad in to the airport to catch the late plane. We reminisced a lot about our family, 1918 in particular, and sang Susan's praises - her ears must have burned. I reminded Aunt Puss about the summer of 1916 when she

came to Madison and met Susan and the Ramsays and how pleased I was that she had approved of my choice! We both agreed how lucky we all were to belong to such a family. I have always said if it hadn't been for Aunt Puss I probably would not have gone to the University of Wisconsin and met Muffy there; therefore, she is really the Godmother of the family!

A gorgeous day in the valley.

Ele put a call through to Jamie at his office in Washington, D.C. and we all chatted with him and congratulated him on his birthday (yesterday). He seemed just fine and quite enthusiastic about what he was doing in Washington.

Ele and Muffy in to Jackson for hair appointments - Ele returning with two bottles of Korbel. Cocktails on Bill's terrace while calls came in from all members of the family. We were delighted to hear from them. A delicious steak dinner with toasts and champagne (we only used one bottle). Much reminiscing about 1918 and what has happened since!

Muffy and Ele locked in a Scrabble game for the evening while Big Dad read "The Best and the Brightest". I think the score on that was

Reading	15 minutes
Dreamland	45 minutes

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 5

Muffy's leg much better this morning.

Cool 42 - 65 - clear.

Elk bugling - coyotes howling most of the night!

Ele and Big Dad left the corral at 9:45 - Big Dad aboard Nibbles, Ele aboard Monty. Down the Flower Trail - it's a pleasure to ride out that way after the W.B.III Lumbering Crew cleared it out. A beautiful 2½ hour ride across the snow slide with the shimmering peaks in the background through the sunlit woods along the Beaver Trails and back along the Old Fire Road. Much to her excitement Ele spotted a cow moose in the beaver ponds - the only one she has seen this year!

In the afternoon Helen and Woody Woodward and Ellen Dornan called on Mother. We all had a very pleasant visit on the front porch.

Cocktails later on Bill's terrace. It got so cool when the sun went down we all came inside and had a delicious dinner and consumed the second bottle of Korbel!

A short walk down into the sagebrush with sugar lumps in our pocket for the horses. Ele feels sorry for Black Jack because the other two horses seem to shun him, so, he got most of her sugar!

Ele noses out Muffy in a fierce Scrabble game by two points!

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 6

A Beautiful clear morning - 38 degrees - 58 degrees.

Over to the Sky Bunk at 6:30. Found Ele all dressed up in her very chic eastern clothes and ready to go!

Muffy, Ele and Big Dad off at 7:15. Found the airport crowded with back-packers, fishermen, and summer visitors! Got Ele through the security guard, bade her a fond farewell, and as we looked back and waved good-bye

we both remarked how well and rested she looked and what a stunning picture she made!

Returned to a very empty and lonely Sky Ranch. The first time this summer that we have been alone on the ranch.

Worked on various jobs on the place. This morning at breakfast Ele said that she had heard some "bumping" noises during the night and wondered what caused them. While I was diverting Suzie Creek into its winter channels I noticed a crushed spot in the long grass by Peter Falls, indicating that some animal had slept there over night. This is being dictated the morning of the 8th and I think we have found the answer to the mystery of the bumping noise. As we were eating breakfast another moose and her year old baby with a red ruff appeared at the salt lick and entertained us for about half an hour. At one point junior decided to lie down while his mother grazed and stripped the leaves off the young aspen. Then the light dawned - the grass bed by the Sky Bunk was made by junior and Eleanore wasn't dreaming when she heard those "bumping" noises!

Put a call through to Buzz Gubb to express our sympathy. I was really surprised when he recognized my voice before I told him who I was! Mother also called Ebitz, who said she was very anxious to see Eleanore and later when Ele called from Lynn's, Mother told her of her conversation with Ebitz. Everything seems to be great at the young Gadsdens. Eleanore is ecstatic over her young grandson - as strange as it may seem!

Muffy and I watched the Cowboys defeat the Dolphins - 26 to 23 - by putting over a place kick in the last six seconds!

End of this dictation

SKY RANCH DIARY, 1973 (Closing Chapter)

FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 7

Cool and a little hazy this morning - quite fall-like. The aspen around the ranch and on the mountains are starting to turn. The coyotes and elk tuned up last night but Big Dad slept thru the whole performance!

During the morning Muffy worked on her correspondence; Big Dad worked on his diary and answered a recent letter from Norm Sheffield, Manager of the Hillsboro Club. Norm has everything all set for our visit - all thirty of us! I will get off a family letter upon our return to Philadelphia giving you all the details. As Peter said when he left:

"Hillsboro is going to be a blast!"

In to Jackson after lunch with Muffy for a blood test and examination by Bill Elmore. The coagulation test was back at 32, which is excellent. Last week's report must have been a mistake (it was made by an assistant). Bill feels Muffy's leg is coming along in good shape, but cautioned her not to overdo.

While we were in the doctor's office we met Frank, Nono and Mopsy Ingersoll. Frank was having severe pains in his abdomen and came in to see Bill to try to get some relief. In view of his past medical history this doesn't sound too good! Nona also has not been feeling too well this summer - she has been on a very strict diet to reduce her cholesterol and has lost nearly forty pounds!

Stopped off at the post office to pick up the mail and talked to Doris. They are very anxious to have good weather over the weekend because Ted is chief cook for the Old Timers' Dinner and Historical Society Dinner over the weekend. Doris asked us for dinner Friday night before we leave!

Read most of the evening. We certainly miss our Bridge partners

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 8

Rain and cool. Lastnight would have been the night we would have been camping out if our guests had come out. It wouldn't have been too good!

At breakfast this morning a hugh cow moose and her calf entertained us on the salt lick. They both looked to be in prime condition. After getting their fill of salt they wandered down between the Grand and the Ant Hill stripping aspen leaves off the small aspen on their way down! Hoping to get a picture, I went to one of the southwindows and here was Mama Moose with her head almost in my face! She trotted off a few feet and then turned and looked at me as if to say:

"What the heck are you doing here?"

Susan had a call from Adelaide Richards this morning inquiring about her leg. She told us about Helen's funeral which was attended by all the garden clubbers and many of her friends in the community.

Bill Elmore told Muffy yesterday that she could walk; in fact, recommended short walks to improve the circulation in the leg. So, we took a short walk down to the dead horse. When we got down there, of course, the dogs had to investigate and we had quite a time keeping Boise from rolling on what was left, and that wasn't very much, except a skeleton and four hoofs. One part of the skeleton had been dragged off about 40 feet - this must have been the work of a bear.

With Muffy's help, Big Dad shuttered up the Ant Hill. It always

makes one nostalgic at closing time and we thought of the many, many happy moments we have had in the Ant Hill!

Cocktails for two by a roaring fire.

After dinner we drove up to the Wesleys to look for game. It is a little depressing to go up there. It is terribly deserted and lifeless. The weeds are growing up thru the porch floor and the porch roof is sagging badly. No game came in!

Back to Sky to watch Nebraska defeat U.C.L.A.!

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 9

Cool this morning - soaked in with a ground fog which started to lift about 9 o'clock. By 9:30 the fog had completely burned off and we enjoyed a beautiful warm Wyoming fall day.

Ray and Anna have been working like beavers closing things up, polishing floors, dusting, cleaning and storing!

Big Dad cruised around the ranch looking over the water system and admired the work that the Balderston Logging Crew did along the Lake Trail mending fences and cutting up big windfalls.

Coiled up all the fly lines this morning, hooks and all, and stored them away for the winter.

Called Sue Green to find out the latest news about Sue Kurth. Apparently everything is o.k. and she expects to go to the hospital momentarily.

Over to White Grass for cocktails and dinner. They have only four dudes at the present time but they have four or five wranglers and their wives waiting around for the horse drive which starts the 23rd.

Frank does not look too well. He is drinking milk and rum instead of gin! Nona leaves for Salt Lake Monday for a check up on her blood condition.

A very pleasant evening and a delicious dinner.

MONDAY

SEPTEMBER 10

Slight overcast this morning - cool.

A bull elk started bugling at 6 A.M. up in our back yard and kept it up for thirty minutes. We had never heard one so close - it is a strange metallic sort of a sound and sends the chills up and down your spine when you hear it in the night!

Ray and Anna finished the Sky Bunk this morning. Everything is stored, the floor polished - neat as a pin.

Talked to Doris at the post office this morning and she reported that the Old Timers' Picnic and the Historical Society cookout was a great success. Apparently the weather at Warm Springs Ranch was good while it rained up here at Sky Ranch most of the day!

The McCabes and their daughter, Anne Ramsay, arrived for dinner at 6 o'clock in the pouring rain. Had a delicious dinner and showed them our African pictures which they were very much interested in.

Liz and Fred are thinking about a trip to New Zealand to get some of the great rainbow trout fishing. They are both ardent fishermen; in fact, Liz bought a big ranch down near Laramie because it had three miles of great trout water on it! Anne is a very intelligent and attractive girl, the youngest of the four. A very pleasant evening.

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 11

Overcast this morning and somewhat warmer.

Muffy's leg continues to improve. We are quite encouraged.

In the morning mail we received a present from the Gianinny's and the Hutchins - a very fine saw filing guide for the power saw. When I thanked them for the gift I assured them that when the Balderston Logging Crew got back here the filing guide would go into full operation!

Over to Antelope Flat to the Schwiering Studio. Connie was not there but Mr. Schwiering showed us thru their beautiful home and his studio. His paintings are now very much in demand and sell for Three to Five Thousand Dollars. We wish we had bought half a dozen several years ago when you could pick them up for Four or Five Hundred Dollars. Bought his book "Schwiering in the West" which tells his life's story and illustrates in color most of his fine pictures. He later autographed the book for us and left it at the Tackle Shop.

Gin Rummy after dinner - Muffy winning by quite a margin!

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 12
12 o'clock!

A heavy ground fog this morning which did not burn off till

When Ray went down to get the horses he was amazed to peer thru the fog and see what he thought was four horses, the fourth turning out to be a tremendous bull elk grazing with them. When the horses saw Ray and started towards the gate, the big bull wandered off into the timber!

Jack and Helen Dornan came over for cocktails this evening and an evening of Bridge. It was a delightful evening - we enjoy them both very much and it was fun to get back to the Bridge table!

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 13

40 degrees this morning (Doris reported later that they had ice on their windshields at their house).

The packing and closing up coming along nicely on schedule. Ray and Anna have everything planned down to the last minute. They will leave Wednesday morning, September 19th, and will put them at Sunswept on the afternoon of the 23rd.

Ray and Anna took a farewell ride on the horses this morning.

Big Dad and Muffy took a picnic lunch and headed for the Teton National Forest starting in just north of the Schwiering Studio. It was a fantastic ride with beautiful views of the Tetons from various lookout points. Found several places for future evening picnics where you can build a fire (this is forest land), and watch the sunset behind the Teton Range.

At one lookout point we found the remains of a moose that had just been dressed out the day before. A little farther along on the road we stopped to talk to a workman who was loading a pickup truck with rails. He was very pleasant

and talkative and told us that the moose had been killed by a young couple the day before. They had stopped early in the morning and asked him where they could find a moose. They had gotten a moose license in the drawing and had no idea where to go. He led them into a little valley where there were several moose grazing and sure enough, the man who was a pretty good shot, knocked down this bull on the first crack!

On the way home we passed Ray and Anna just above the White Grass gate and stopped to receive the

GREAT NEWS OF STEPHANY BOWEN KURTH'S ARRIVAL

Cocktails on Bill's terrace. During the late afternoon the clouds had rolled in over the mountains obscuring our view of the peaks. Suddenly as we sat there hand in hand thinking of the latest arrival in our family, the clouds lifted and a shaft of sunshine struck the tops of the aspen making them sparkle like so much gold in the brilliant light. We looked at each other and decided this was a good omen for our tiny great-granddaughter Stephany!

End of the Sky Ranch Diary for 1973. .

F I N I S