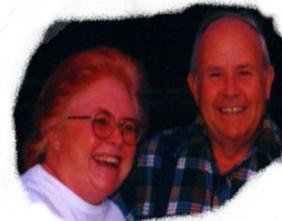


## Letter to our Grandchildren-Alaska 13 May 1997

By Gaye Bateman

We started in St. George last Tuesday the 13th and went on I-15 as far as hwy 20. We turned there and went over on 89 and went as far as Circleville where we turned East to Otter Creek.

3 nights (Tue., Wed., & Thurs.) resting and playing in Piute County gave us a good rest. Nedra & Alan & Brian drove down and visited on Wed. Grandpa really enjoyed fishing with Brian and Alan. They fished he watched. Not great fishing there, but they did get some carp fish.



On Fri. we traveled through Richfield and Aurora to Scipio and North to Provo. We stayed with Russell and Family Fri. night and were able to go to Russell's last Concert for this season. It was really great and a good time for us. On Sat. we went to Orem to Randy's and enjoyed the night there. We then traveled to SLC and dropped Randy off at the Airport, then went into the rest home and visited with Aunt Othel and Uncle Maurice Jones. Then stopped by Alice Greens and visited with her.

We stayed at the Hill AFB Fam camp Sunday night. We did our laundry and cleanup ready so that we can last 3 days without staying in a camp if needs be.

Well, after leaving Ogden we went by way of Logan up Sardine Canyon. Beautiful country. Grandpa pointed out many interesting things through Cache County. Where his family lived in Logan and

Oh, yes! We stopped at Gossner Daries and picked up some cheese (curd) and milk. The milk is the kind that does not have to be refrigerated. We wanted this because milk is one of the foods that is sky high in Alaska, and we wanted to have a little for when we can't get any. Of course we had an ice cream cone. It was really great. When your Mothers or Dads as the case may be went to Logan with us when they were little we always stopped at Gossner Dairy on the way to Lewiston.

Well, G-Grandpa Van Orden owned a farm on the Idaho border just north of Lewiston, and Grandpa pointed that out. We went through Richmond where GG Grandpa Merrill owned much of the land. He had 54 children, and was President of the Logan Temple when it was visited by Satan.

We crossed over into Idaho just East of gg Vans farm at a town called Franklin. This is the oldest town in Idaho.

We passed through Whitney. This is the home town and burial place of a recent Church President. His initials are ETB. Can you name him? When was the President?

A note of interest, just above the present town of Preston, Idaho is the sight of the Idaho Massacre. This was back in the early days, and it was a band of volunteers from Calif. that came to Utah and up into Idaho and killed all the Shoshones in the village there. That is all but 2 Indian women and an Indian Boy. These were taken by the settlers of Franklin and cared for and they lived out their lives in Franklin. Do you think they had a right to do this? I wonder. There is a case of a massacre in Utah about the same time. Do you know about that?

Well, tonight (Monday) we are in Pocatello. We wanted to come here hoping to find Grandpas Aunt Mabel Vitalis, but find that she passed on just last Sept. and we hadn't heard about it. That makes it so that all (to our knowledge) of Great Grandma Batemans generation of her family have passed on. That means on that line Grandpa and Uncle Orden's generation are the ones left. We will leave here early in the morning and head north.

Hope you enjoy marking your map with our route. Have fun with the puzzles and games and coloring them. Please keep them so we can enjoy your work when we come to visit.

Welcome from the land of Jewel (Kelcher) Otherwise called Homer Alaska. Most of those our age don't know much about Jewel. Jewel is on her fifth CD with her first CD's being very successful. I don't like her music, but it is popular as we hear her at Stores background music and over radio stations (lower US, Canada and Alaska). Jewel was raised in here in Homer. We are staying at her Grandmother's home who is also Gaye's Sister. Jewel is normally here in Homer this time of year, but Her Grandmother "Arva" received a telephone call from her saying that she wouldn't be up this summer as she was in New York on her way to Europe on tour. Just interesting to be related to the rich and famous. I guess that she is my grandniece in law.

Arva will spend time on the road with us showing us around Alaska.

Homer is a small town of 5,000 but well known for its Fishing. While driving around town last evening, we saw three Moose wandering around the streets. Arva says that is normal. I saw a sign stating that 204 Moose had been hit by cars this season. The signs say "keep our Moose and you alive, watch for Moose on the road." When you hit a Moose, you know that have hit something.

We have seen a lot of Moose, Alaskan sheep and several Black Bears.

Costs are very high in some areas and low in others. We went to Costco and Sams Club in Anchorage and the costs were about the same as in Utah/Nevada. Gas is about the same here as in Utah. However, in Canada, We paid as high as \$1.85 per gallon of gas and \$5.00 plus for a gallon of milk. Vegetables are high.

The highest we have paid for RV Parks on our trip was Otter Creek at \$13.24 per night. In Montana, Canada and Alaska it has been \$10.00/night or less.

We did have two Flat Tires. One tire was destroyed with the side wall cut.

Sleeping is hard. The sun goes down about 10:30 PM (12:30 Utah time) and comes up about 4:30 AM. In our three room mobile apartment, our full sized bed is in the Van and we can close the curtains, but is still hard to keep the light out. In the other two rooms found in our 16 foot trailer, even the blinds and shades don't keep the sun light out.

Fish Report 06-04  
From Homer Alaska

My nephew Glen was not able to get his 55 FT Commercial Fish boat back in the water as repair work was not completed before the tide went out. He called up a friend and scheduled us on a Sport Fishing Boat. We left early this morning and went south to an area toward Kodiak Island. The first place that we stopped, no one got a nibble. The next place where we stopped, each time I got a hook in the water, I had a Halibut Fish on the line. Gaye caught four fish and the largest fish of any one on the party. I caught seven, several large ones. I caught more than anyone else did how that is for beginners luck. My last fish was a large one and it was a hard fight to get him in. We were over limit and had to let him go. On our way back we stopped at Saldovia, a small fishing village that is only accessible by boat. There we cleaned the fish and then came back to Homer. I think that we ended up with about sixty pounds of Halibut which we are freezing.

Tomorrow. Clam digging.

( Jewel Kilcher, Born 23 May 1974 in Payson, American singer and actress. Gaye's Sister Arva's Grand Daughter)

I don't know how many CD Jewel has released. It was my understanding that she had released four and was working on another. Your Mother tells me that this was not correct and says that I cause problems because you have now spent a lot of time looking for the CD's. As a disclaimer, I will not be responsible for the accuracy of things that I say.

In answer to your questions, Jewel's Mother Name is Nedra. Heard that name before? Her Father's name was Atz. I met Atz's Father(Jewel's Grandfather)yesterday. Atz's Father was the only member of the Church in his family. They were married in the temple (St. George I think). However, due to the lifestyle of Entainers , they decided to divorce and ask to have their membership taken of the church records(an attempt to dissolve their Temple Marriage. Atz has since been married three or four times. Jewel was never Baptized as she wanted her Father to do it and he had left the church. She then has left the church also and lives the life style of her parents. Her mother and brother lives in Ranco Santafe, near when we use to live in San Diego. She and her mother lived in a car in San Diego before she hit it big.

She called Arva from New York and said that she was on her way to Europe on tour and may not be up to Homer this summer. Disclaimer, these may not be the facts, but only as I understand it.

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We stayed up last night to see it get card(really we was watching a movie. The Sun went down about 1230, but it never got dark. Night before last, there was a large Moose in Arvas Yard.

Love,

Dad

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Subject: trip report 06-02

Greetings from Homer. The Homer Ward extends for forty miles in all directions. Home teaching is done by car, boat, airplane and Celfone (Speakerfone). JJ Carol (my nephew) us a high counclor in the Soldoina Stake. To get to the Kodiak Ward, he has to fly to anchorage on Saturday and then to Kodiak Island. Speak at meeting Sunday morning and them flyback the same way that he came. Some of the Ward members have to come to church by boat and they have "Mini Sacramant Meetings at home during bad weather. The bishop told about when he was in another ward, he flew out to a remote family monthly to Home Teach.

My Sister-in-law Arva had a family get-to-gether yesterday. It was nice. One of my Nephew (El Ray) and family was on the other side of the bay and didn't make it. They live over there in the Summer. Some time we will take a boad over to see them.

JJ and some of his family was here.

Another Nephew Glen and his family were there. Glen is a Baptist Minister and has built up his church here in Homer. Having been brought up a Mormon, he beleives in being a working Minister and has he own Commercial Fishing Boat. In that he is gone a lot, he has an other minister take over when he is gone. Last evening, he took us over to see his boat which at present is in Dry Dock. We was planning to use it to go fishing this week, but missed high tide and didn't get it back in the water.

6-03

I don't know how many CD Jewel has released. It was my understanding that she had released four and was working on another. Your Mother tells me that this was not correct and says that I cause problems because you have now spend a lot of time looking for the CD's. As a disclaimer, I will not be responcebively for the accuracy of things that I say.

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Love

Subject: Clam Report 0606

Some of you know about digging for Razor Clams. We have always heard about Clams, but never knew much about them. We were up at 5 AM (the sun had been up for about an hour) and headed north driving up the highway to Ninniltk, (previous Russian village that dates back to when Russia owned this territory). We parked the Van and road up the beach several miles in my nephew's four wheel drive Pickup. The sand was slick I was afraid that we would get stuck. We had checked the "Tide Charts" and arranged to be there just before low tide. We followed the water line out to the sand bars. We started looking for little "dimples" in the sand. Next we would take a shovel full of sand out and then quickly start digging with your hands for the clam. The clam is a very fast digger and goes deep quickly. Many times we would be a full arms length down in the sand trying to catch the clam. We tried to catch them within a foot of the surface. We got over 100 clams in about three hours. There were about three hundred people up and down the beach. We watched others digging and tried things they did. It seems everyone has their own way to dig clams. Glen is a commercial fisherman (cod, salmon, octopus). He has only dug for clams a couple of times and admitted that he didn't know exactly how, but liked to eat them and we would have a great time anyway. We really did. However, by the end even Glen and Jeanie were getting tired and stiff. Getting your arm in a hole of sand up to the arm pits is wet and tough. Even if you catch them you have to pull them out and that is tough, too. They just seem to suction right down, and the sand gets heavy and wet as you try to pull.

The next step is cleaning them. If you put them in salt water (sea water) for a time they will pretty well clean themselves. They road home in 2 Buckets of water. Then we started cleaning. That consists of cutting them in half, using a knife taking them out of the shell, and then scraping all that wasn't good to eat out of them. We accomplished this in about 2 hours. They are now all clean and cared for and we are ready to cook a pile, and Freeze the rest.

This evening, we had a "Clam Bake" dinner with many relatives helping us Consume a part of our catch. There was a great time had by all. Even a Couple of the boys that just arrived from Montana tried them and one of them gave up the hamburger, that had been made for him just in case, for the clams.

Well, two very stiff and tired old fogies came back to Gaye's Sisters to take a bath. Now after the bath we are about ready to drop into bed. It is 10:00 here. That means that it is 12:00 in St. George, and normally we would have been in bed since about 9:30 or 10. The sun isn't set yet, it isn't dark yet and won't be until after 1(local). We have a good bed in the van with the curtains darkened so that we can shut them and it seems darker for sleeping.

Date: Sat, 07 Jun 1997 18:36:31 -0600  
Subject: In Pursuit of the Great King 0607

We drove up to Ninilchik (same area where we went clam digging) last night so that we could be ready to head out in pursuit of the Great King Salmon at day break. That meant that we needed to be up and going at 3:30 AM as that was daylight. The window set by the Alaskan Game Commission of midnight, but day light was better than twilight. There are fewer people at daylight also for some reason. The Midnight fishing is called Combat fishing. Elbow to elbow.

The stream was wide with some deep spots. We used Salmon eggs for bait. Gaye was the first to get her fish (however it was a small one only 25" long, but weighing about 25 lbs.) with Russ taking some time longer. The regulation only permits one King per day with a maximum of five total per year. This time, Russ got the largest fish of the group. It was 34 ½ inches long and would weigh 30 to 40 pounds. It does take a little effort to get them in. You have to play them up and down the stream until you tire them out, or until you can beach them. There were a few people with nets, but not many.

There are a few rules that everyone follows. Such as saying 'fish on hook', 'Coming down', or 'going up'. Coming down means that his fish is pulling down stream, and everyone pulls their lines out and lets the one with the fish go past without delay. Same for going up only they are going upstream. They are really tight on these rules, and everyone follows them. One really appreciates it when you have a fish on line.

For the Grandchildren that are following our map. Ninilchik is about 70 miles back up from Homer toward Anchorage.

Tue, 10 Jun 1997 22:34:19 -0600  
Subject: The Halibut Cove Venture0610

Today we went to Halibut Cove. If you look on the map of Alaska you will find Homer. Across the bay is a city called Saldovia. You will remember that Russ and I stopped there on our way back from Halibut fishing. Well, if you follow the line of the bay on the same side as Saldovia, you will find a nice island (it is 3 miles long and 1 mile wide and has lots of birds, Puffins, gulls, Etc. We even saw an Eagle) but behind it is a cove on the land. This is Halibut Cove. We will eat lunch there at the Saltry (The owner of the Saltry is also on the marine board and just a week ago we saw on the news that she had been brought 3 seals to raise. We were able to go and see them. No one else was allowed into the area, but Mariam lived with my sister Arva one school year while her father was in the State Senate and Arvas daughter went to Juno with them to study the State Legislature) We are going over primarily to visit with my nephew Alrays wife Janet and daughter Valerie. Then we will go to Janet's Studio and see her work. She is an artist and does ceramics, watercolor, and other things. Her studio is on the water. They have it on a floating raft, and can pull it from Homer to Halibut Cove). Then we will come back here. The other thing that they do is to take Valerie's horse over to the Cove in the summer. Valery is 14. Because of a mix up, there wasn't a place for on the regular boat.. They called and got another boat to take us over. It turned out to be the owner of the Halibut Cove Area and a great friend of my sister Arvas. They had known each other since Fairbanks days back in the 40's. He and Diana his wife moved down here a short time after Jay and Arva. But because we had the boss we could get a bit more of a personal touch. There were 7 of us on the boat, and we traveled around the area a bit more than the big boat. We didn't even come straight back, but went over the sand Bourges and into the other side of the cove. It was exciting. The big boat would have had to wait for the tide to come in . We had just about 1 foot of water that we went over. By going that way we were able to see merlins and dolphins. The sea was rough on the way back as the wind came up.

Subject: trip report 0615

>From Anchorage, Alaska

We finally got the radiator replaced and 2 new tires on the van, and started out of Homer on Friday the 13th. It was raining in Homer and we traveled in rain, with a couple of minutes now and then of sun. On a map we traveled back up the coast through Eagle River, Ninilchik, and went to Kenai. We went further on the coast past Kenai to Nikiski where the refineries for 76 and Tesoro (Alaska Oil) and a few others are located. They are very big. The road seemed to be getting rougher at this point so we turned around and went to Soldotna and back on to the main road to Anchorage.

However, at this point we decide to go to Seward, and so further up we turned off and went down to Seward. It is on the Sea Coast, and there is a lot of shipping out of there. Also, Arva (Gayes Sister) lived in Seward for about 7 years back in the early 50's before moving to Homer and so it was very interesting to see it with her. The mountain behind Seward is called Mt. Marathon (3000). On the 4th of July every year they have a race up this mountain to see who can climb it and come down the fastest. The record is 25 min. up and down. When we saw it I couldn't believe less than ½ hr. . I did notice that it is a slide down rather than a climb. It starts in the morning and most of them take all day to go up and back. She said that they are pretty dirty when they get down. It is about ½ covered with foliage and the other half bare hill. Don't know why it is bare except it is slake rock over it and maybe nothing can grow through that. Also in Seward we saw 2 different cruise ships loading and unloading passengers. One of them was called the Sun Princess. Of course this is the Princess Line. It looked a bit like I imagine the ark of Noah's time. Very interesting ship. We stayed overnight in the Seward Air Force Fam Camp. We enjoyed breakfast then started back up the road and turned off at the Portage Glacier road and went out there to see that. It is really interesting. The ice of the Alaska Glaciers isn't white, but is very aqua blue. This was really interesting, and be picked up a video about it Glaciers that they show in the theater there.

On to Anchorage. We arrived here about 4:00, had supper and played Skipbo. Russ and I taught Arva how to play this game and she beats us good. We relaxed and went to Church on Sunday and enjoyed a nice day. Everyone at the 4th ward of the North Anchorage Stake were great. Made us feel just as welcome as could be. The 1st counselor has only been a member for 4 years. He was put in as 2nd counselor when he had been a member just 19 months. Today we went to the Alaska Zoo. Very nice, but it is early and the animals are losing their fur and getting ready for summer, so they aren't really sleek right now. Arva and I found a really neat dress shop today also. What a great lady that runs it. The name is "Just for Me". Actually we were waiting for Russ to go to an electronics shop. At the store, they gave us a nice bottle of cold water. She had some great outfits. Her sizes started at 14 and went to 20 so you skinny gals wouldn't want to go in except to meet a great lady. We will be leaving here tomorrow and heading up toward Fairbanks. The planned stop will be at Denali Park. This is the Eskimo name for Mt. McKinley. Alaska still calls the mountain that, but they call everything around it Denali. Means Big Mountain.

Date: Sat, 21 Jun 1997 12:03:59 -0600  
From Fairbanks, Alaska.

Wow, it got to over 80" today. As you can see, we are in the Great Northern

City of Fairbanks.

When Arva Carroll (Gaye's sister) came to Alaska in 1941 this is where she came. The Carroll family most all came up in the 40's. Some went back to the Southern 48 but lots stayed in Alaska. We are here at the home of the youngest son Art who is Gaye's age. He came to Fairbanks when he was just 8 yrs. old and except for 20 months in the service he has remained here and raised a nice family (7 boys and 1 girl). He is a Senior Account Manager for Allstate Insurance and is doing very well. He has one of the nicest homes (including a swimming pool) in Fairbanks and from what I have been told, a very nice Cabin up in the Mountains. He also owns a nice home in Palm Springs California and spends six months a year there. Last night he took us out to the "Turtle Club" to eat. Fairbanks finest place to eat. We left Anchorage and went as far north as Denali National Park by way of Wasilla, & Talkeetna (this is where they do most of the sled dog training). We stayed at Lynx just north of the entrance.

To stay in Denali Park you have to make arrangements about 2 days in advance, and you can only go a short distance into the park anyway. It is a very tightly run semi-wilderness park. There are a lot of hikers and campers (tents, etc.) but not many RV's in beyond the information area. To see the park you arrange for a tour. They have several kinds. We took the 6 hr tour to Tolat. It lasted about 7 hrs. The number of hours is dependent on the number of animals you see and how long you stop while viewing them. We did see 3 grizzlies, several caribou, a moose, a herd of Dull Sheep, several marmots, and the largest red fox I have ever seen. When we spotted it, it was lying down curled up. It really looked like it had a pup with it. The face was yellow with red around it. When it stood up and we saw that what had been moving like a pup had been the bright yellow tail. When stretched out it was every bit as large as a collie. It was a really beautiful fox. We also saw the largest mosquito ever, and these we were given the right to kill. And as they love to land and take a bite, many people (including you know who) did go in for the kill. Russ and Gaye each missed one. Got a bite on the left arm. Why the same arm, who knows, they just liked that one. Taking a long trip over gravel road on a bus is rough, and we were tired and excited and still awake and not ready to settle down so since it was only 9:00 P.M. we decided to head North until we were. However, we didn't get tired very early, and it was hard for any of us to sleep but we stayed just short of Clear Air Force Base. Rested the night, then went into Clear the next morning and looked at the Radar Early Warning System. Great big installation. We will probably go back to Anderson (the city created to support ClearAFB) in July for the Annual Blue Grass Festival that they hold each year. The little town of 100 swells to 2500 for 3 days at that time. After Anderson we traveled through Nenana. This is a coal mining area, and is known for the ice thawing contest. Each year before the Tanna river freezes they put a tripod in at a certain point and then in the Spring they take odds on when it will thaw. If you should happen to be the lucky one to guess, it means upwards of a \$20,000 gain. As we entered Fairbanks, we saw the beautiful U of Alaska up on the hill.

It is a truly large University. It was started as a school of mines, but it has much more now. There are experimental farms, and geology, and even a pre-med, and all in between.

We went to Alaskaland. This is a pioneer village right in the heart of Fairbanks. It is really fun.

I think Pioneer Village, in Salt Lake, might be similar to, but each old house is a shop. Arva remembers some of the cabins from when she moved there in 1941.

To-morrow night is the longest day of the year. They have "Mid-night Ball".....with no lights. And it never gets dark. The sun does go down, but is daylight all night. Just north of here in the Arctic Circle, the Sun stays up 24 hours. We are considering driving up, but it is a long rough road with no services available such as food, fuel etc.

Today our plan is to go pan for Gold, and learn about the Mother-Load. Then tomorrow night we are going to go on a 4 hour boat ride. It is on the Chena river that runs through Fairbanks. We feel right lucky to go tomorrow night, because that is the "Mid-night Run" the time of the big celebration in town.

0620  
Strike it Rich

We struck it Rich at the El Dorado Gold Mine where Alaska's gold history comes alive. . We took an adventure into Fairbanks Gold Mining. We visited a modern working Gold Mine with mining equipment and techniques being demonstrated by the actual miners who work the claim. We rode the narrow-gauge rails into the permafrost tunnel and learned about underground mining methods from the past and viewed prehistoric bones up to 30,000 years old. The Eldorado Gold Mine is located in the original gold fields. We watched them pan for gold which produced \$179.00 of gold. Then Gaye and I had our chance of panning for gold and actually recovered a small amount which we were permitted to keep. All told added together our GOLD would be only very minor grams. The gold mines are still very active and still producing a lot of gold. There is no "Gold Fever" as the price of gold has dropped and to make money at it, you must have a very large operation. We really had a great time, and our conductor on our train played the fiddle and strummed the guitar and sang to us as we were waiting for everyone to arrive that was going out to the mine, and as we waited for everyone to board and go back to our cars. Great entertainment.

I thought that I was seeing things when I saw a B-17 flying around. It is on view at the Air Port. It is part of the "longest day of the year" celebration that is going on. Tonight we are going out to the Midnight PX Solstice sale and party at Fort Wainwright Army center.

Midnight trip report 0622

It is about midnight and we just got back from a River Trip. We will not get much sleep as Fairbanks, Alaska is alive with all kinds of things going on. The first of the "10K Solstice" runners have just gone by and I am told that this will continue for a couple of more hours. They pass by here just a couple of house away. I understand that there are about 3700 runners this year. The serious runners are in front, and then the costumes and families. One just went past that was part girl and part horse. One a Jester. Such fun. They don't win anything, but they really have a great time. All along the run are the cheering sections. The couple behind us have taken their couches, a rug, and a live Ficus tree out and are serving drinks. Russ ran with the runners .....only a few feet however.

We went on Fairbanks Premier Attraction River boat Discovery 3 tonight for its midnight Sun Cruise. It started at 6:30 and ended in time so that the crew could get back and see the run and or play in the midnight softball game and other midnight activities. This is a paddle boat ride down the Chena river, and into the Tanana River where we could see the glacier flour that makes the Tanana look like gray gravy. The fine silt that is created when the glacier moves is washed into this river. It is so fine that even though the Salmon swim up through it & their gills aren't affected by it. We made stops to see bush piolets take off and land (in less than 100 ft), Native Alaskans fillet and smoke salmon, visit a native village and become acquainted with things as it was and as it has become. We saw Alaska's Richest Gold Mining Stream called Cripple Creek. They pumped the water out of the Chena into the creek to make it faster and better to service the slouce boxes along it.

We saw demonstrations of dog teams that run in the bob sled races. We visited the Dog Team Kennels, and saw Susan Buther's winning Iditarod Champion Sled Dog Team. We went past "the Senators Homestead" where President Regan stayed when he was in Alaska to meet with the Pope. President Bush stayed there also. We visited old and new Log cabins.

We exited the boat and spent an hour at the Chena Indian Village where we were told how it really was by true Eskimo Native's. They were of the new generation, College Educated students who are dedicated to their forefathers history.

The boat & the tour is operated by the Binkley Family. The Binkley family has operated stern wheel river boats in Alaska since the Gold Rush of 1898. Capt. Jim and Mary Binkley first offered riverboat tours in Fairbanks in 1950. The three sons are all licensed riverboat captains. The youngest Binkleys join the crew at the age of five and continue the family tradition started by their great grandfather, Charlie Binkley.

Rus

Royal Order of Blue Noses0624

Back in 1951, Russ was initiated into the Royal Order of the Blue Noses when his ship crossed the Arctic Circle Line on his way to Tromso, Norway. He wondered what it looked like on the other side of the earth so we drove up the "Haul Road" to the Arctic Circle. This road officially called the Dalton Highway was built for maintaining the Alaskan Oil Pipe Line between Deadhorse and Valdez. The Arctic Circle Line is only about 180 road miles north of here (Fairbanks). We don't think that we would do it again. 380 miles at 30 to 45 MPH, and then a sharp rock went through a side wall of one of the new truck tires we had just purchased a week before. We had to purchase a another tire to replace it and then we got a rock puncher in the new tire. There is only two places to purchase tires or fuel on the 400 mile road. The lowest price for gas is \$2.05 per gallon and you can guess what the tire costs.

In the Arctic Circle, the sun never sets, just goes around in circles. It is sure hard to get to sleep with all this light. It was exceptionally hot, and Russ tried to find some shade for us to park in so that we wouldn't be as hot. The trees just don't seem to present shade when the sun is right overhead mostly.

We did see a moose and 2 calves, 2 red foxes, many snowshoe rabbits, a lemon mouse, and many kinds of birds. You can find many flowers, dandelion, fire weed, lupus, white dogwood (this is very tiny and hugs the ground) and much more but we didn't know the names of all. And along with this you get your car full of cottonwood. Of course there is that ever present Mosquito. It is the biggest pest, and everyone says that we are welcome to kill as many as we can, but we also read that it is the food for a certain kind of sparrow that flies up here in the summer, so I guess it is an ecology thing again. However, they are not on the endangered species list. They are big and fat up here.

Date: Tue, 01 Jul 1997 09:19:43 -0600

Curing Crippled prospectors

Chena Hot Springs is located 60 miles Northeast of Fairbanks. It is famous for curing crippled prospectors of their aches and pains as long ago as 1905. Until 1911, it took anywhere from one to three weeks to reach the springs from Fairbanks, depending on the weather. After the road was improved, it took only twenty hours to travel from Fairbanks to the Hot Springs by Dog Mushing and later regular runs by the Hot Springs Stage with four-horse double rigs making round trips every ten days. Today, people come from all over the world for the curing waters.

The Department of Agriculture analyzed the water and found it to be different from any American hot springs however similar to the waters of Felsenquelle hots springs found in Carlsbad, Bohemia.

While we were there getting our "curing" at the springs, a Japanese man took his swimming suit off while in the pool. "That's the way they do it in Japan."

The following day, was spent at the University of Alaska Museum and the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics. There we saw a lot of Alaskan History and enjoyed performances of the Natives who are attending College. It was interesting to hear them talk about their life growing up in remote Villages away from city life and with kayak or dog sled for travel. However, they did say that things are changing. Electricity, & T.V. is also reaching them in the very remote areas.

We left Fairbanks traveling along the Richardson Highway to North Pole, Alaska. Very quaint town. They have a school there, as well as a senior Citizens Hall. The streets are Santa Clause Lane, St. Nicholas Road, etc no Main Street, or State Street for them.

Date: Tue, 01 Jul 1997 09:20:09 -0600

The fishing/snow Cabin

We traveled to Summit which is about 180 miles south of Fairbanks driving toward Valdez and are spending a few days at Gaye's sister's brother-in-laws. The cabin is a very modern home specially build for this cold climate. It has a 2x6 outside wall, then a 2x4 inside wall with an R-factor of 32. The power is generated with a Generator and Solar system that provides all the normal facilities that a normal commercial power system would provide. The old cabin is used for visiting "kids". There is one garage for the winter Snow Mobiles and the new large garage/shop for the Summer machines such as three of the new Polaris 500 four wheel ATV's and the eight wheel amphibious six place machine and the boat. The "cabin" overlooks Summit Lake.

We took the three Polaris ATV's and the Eight wheel amphibious machine up into the back country to look for animals and tracks. We went up Gunn creek, crossing the creek many times(I would guess about 25 times). The water was deep enough to come just about up to the seat level where the breather tubes for the ATV was located. We had to chose wide areas where the water wasn't to deep, normally about twenty wide. Once you entered the stream, you had to head up stream to keep the ATV from being caught by the current. I about lost it several times. One time I drove through some heavy brush that was higher than my head and got into a black cloud that turned out to be Mosquitoes.

The next day, fishing on the lake. The lake is large with about a mile across and seven miles long. The lake is above the tree line and the ice on the lake just completed melting two weeks ago. There is still snow on the hills next to the shore line.

We trolled mostly and only Art and Don caught several fish. The trout were only around 15 to 17 inches long and they would keep anything less than 24 inches.

This is a great place for winter Snow mobiling. The lakes are frozen over and you can get way back in the back country in a short time.

Our last evening. some of the residence of the "fishing Village" came over for a Stake Dinner.

To morrow we head for Valdez.

Subject: Whale of a trip tr707

We left Summit Lake (located on the Alaska Hwy 4 just before the Denali Hwy, and traveled toward Glennallen. We have been here before, so just went straight on down Hwy 4 to Copper Creek. When Gaye's Sister, Arva came to Alaska the in 1941, her husband, who was already up here told her to get off the boat at Valdez and get on the bus that would take her up the Richardson Hwy to Fairbanks. Well, the bus turned out to be a 9 passenger station wagon and the Hwy was a gravel trail. They had to watch when someone else was coming that they could pass or backup to pass the other car. Remember those days??!!!!!! The road in those days didn't go over Hwy 4, but went back to Tok Junction and up that way. Much longer travel.

Well, the roadhouse is still there (on the Historical registry) but where it was the only thing around, there is a great deal more to Copper Creek than that now.

We enjoyed Portage Glacier, but we couldn't get as close to it as we did Worthington on our way down to Valdez. You can drive up very close and then walk up within 50' of it. We really enjoyed it. It seems to be melting fast. It actually was a small lake with the galcier coming in a slope to the water. As far as seeing calving, we couldn't see it because of the slope instead of the high break.

We also saw several really great waterfalls that were just by the road and tall and beautiful. Then there was the Horses Tail waterfall. I really wonder how water flows in such a way. It looked really like a horse's tail flying in the wind. Fun.

Valdez is very modern. The fact that the earthquake destroyed it in 1964, and they rebuilt it on higher ground, and then the oil ends at the end across the bay from the city makes it great. There are so many RV parks that we just could have had a great choice, although a noisy choice, but we choose to drive back up the highway to the Billy Mitchell State Rec. Park. It was really cool and nice there, but loaded with mosquitoes.

We arrived back in Homer on Tuesday, and got ready to go to Kodiak.

We took our van on the Alaska State owned sea going ferry, Tasmenyia . This way we could cover the 100 miles of road on Kodiak Island. Also, Arva could go with us because without the Van, she couldn't walk as much as we would have had to do. We could drive on to the ferry and Arva and us wouldn't have to do all the walking-standing in line. And we got an extra ride on the Vehicle Auto Elevator to the bottom of the ship. Besides that, we could take the van for about the same cost as a Hotel and car rental would be. At 50%off for Senior Citizens, Russ's costs was \$24.00 each way while Gaye not being considered a Senior Citizen in Alaska had to pay full

price.

On the 10 hour ride down, we saw a lot of birds and other sea animals. We saw 20 to 30 Baluva Whales. They would blow the water spout in the air, come to the surface and would swim on the surface on both sides of the ship.

We visited the Baronov Museum. The building was built by the Russians in 1808 and is the only building remaining as evidence of the historical continuity from the Russians ownership to the present. The Russians settled this island in 1761. The museum contains the historical objects the pre-history Russian contact period, American era, World War II, and fisheries to the present. We enjoyed the Russian Orthodox Church that was built in 1808 We stepped in on a Services that was conducted for some Russians who was touring Kodiak.. When the earthquake and tidal wave hit Kodiak it also was mostly destroyed. Thank goodness some of the old and historical places were saved.

The Coast Guard has taken over the Naval Air Station, and all the Navy has now on Kodiak, is a winter training station.

We drove out to the Historic Fort Abercrombie. During the 1930s concern over Japanese expansion in Indo-China and Russian expansion in Siberia led to the construction of Navy bases in Alaska at Sitka, Dutch Harbor, and Kodiak. To protect the new naval bases from attack, the U. S. Army created defense posts such as Fort Abercrombie. This includes the reminds of 8 - inch Guns, Spotting and Plotting Room, Pillboxes, Tower Foundations Radar tower footings, generator shed, etc.

Today the fort's ruins are material remnants of a time that anticipated and saw enemy invasion of American soil. Part of what is called : "the Forgotten War" where U. S. Property was invaded and occupied by an enemy. Thousands of lives were lost by U. S. soldiers in recovering the U. S. Owned property. Little is known by the average U. S. Citizen about the War Activity in Alaska.

Russ landed here on his way to Adak in 1949. Nothing looked really familiar to him until we saw a wide angle picture of Kodiak taken in 1949 hanging in the Baronov Museum. After leaving Kodiak Island in a Navy R5d Aircraft, a severe weather front caused major damage to the air craft and it had to make an forced landing on Umnak Island. Adak and other Aleutian islands were part of the United States and considered in the Koran war zone.

We went to the Kodiak Senior Citizen Center which, as several of the other Senior Citizen Centers here in Alaska, is clean, with modern facilities and food that equal the best of Alaskan Restaurants. At the Kodiak Senior Citizens, we were introduced and enjoyed a party like atmosphere with singing, piano playing and a plate full of delicious food, (milk, juices, half chicken, 2 salads, vegetables, & desert, etc.) for only \$3.00 where food at restaurants are \$13.00 & up for lunch and \$20.00+ for dinner.

Greetings from Homer. The Homer Ward extends for forty miles in all directions. Home teaching is done by car, boat, airplane and Celfone (Speakerfone). JJ Carol (my nephew) us a high counclor in the Soldoina Stake. To get to the Kodiak Ward, he has to fly to anchorage on Saturday and then to Kodiak Island. Speak at meeting Sunday morning and them flyback the same way that he came. Some of the Ward members have to come to church by boat and they have "Mini Sacramant Meetings at home during bad weather. The bishop told about when he was in another ward, he flew out to a remote family monthly to Home Teach.

My Sister-in-law Arva had a family get-to-gether yesterday. It was nice. One of my Nephew (El Ray) and family was on the other side of the bay and didn't make it. They live over there in the summer. Some time we will take a boat over to see them.

JJ and some of his family were here.

Another Nephew Glen and his family were there. Glen is a Baptist Minister and has built up his church here in Homer. Having been brought up a Mormon, he believes in being a working Minister and has he own Commercial Fishing Boat. In that he is gone a lot, he has another minister take over when he is gone. Last evening, he took us over to see his boat which at present is in Dry Dock. We was planning to use it to go fishing this week, but missed high tide and didn't get it back in the water.

From TOK

Our E-mail would not work in Canada. So we were not able to send any messages in Canada. This message was held until we would get a WATS line to work.

We left Great Falls and drove to Cardston in time to make the 5:30 Temple session. At the visitors center we had hoped to send the last message, but the WATS lines wouldn't work.

We met a Brother & Sister McGill there and they were so very lovely. Great people. They work 1 night a week at the Visitors center. They are from Nova Scotia originally. But they only have 2 children of 9 left there, and one of them is moving to Cardston so they think the other will follow.

Stayed in the Temple lot tonight.

We will head for Edmonton tomorrow. With the snowfall we are advised to not go by way of the Jaspers and Lake Louise.

Red Deer was a really large city. 58,100 people. We missed the turn and drove through town (I think Russ did it on purpose so we could see it.)

Having seen 1 truly large city we will probably go around Edmonton. It is late anyway.

Glad we did. 616,700 pop. and we hit it in time for work closing.

So the southern part of Alberta Canada was covered with snow. We awoke to it in Cardston, and have had some as we came north.

From Edmonton we headed NW to Grand Prairie. Here they had a Super Store. We got gas at the station, and they gave us \$2.31 credit at the store. We went in and it really was super big. We bought some Canadian bacon for .89 a kg. It takes 2.2 of these to equal a lb. Can you imagine what that kind of bacon is at home? Check it out. I paid less for this than I paid for regular bacon at home. We also stopped at K-Mart there in Grand Prairie.

From here we headed on to Dawson Creek.

Here is the City that is ground 0 on the Alcan Highway. It is really a great city. We went through a museum that Uncle Orden & Aunt Afton would have enjoyed very much. We started on the first floor and wound up a ramp about 5 feet wide that circled (by squares) a tall building and made about 4 - 5 levels around. The walls were just covered with hand weaving. Everything you can think of to make

they did. Sampler quilts, scarfs (I've never seen so many), shirts, stocking (some of them were knit) towels, linens. Well, name it, it was there. Then to get down you went through another door at the top and down a flight of stairs with pictures of the building of the road in 1942.

From Dawson Creek we followed the Alaskan highway to Ft. St. John, Wonowon, up to Ft. Nelson. Most of this is through construction. They are really building the hwy better all the time. However, at this point we didn't know construction. At the area just before Watson Lake known as Muncho Lake we went through so much I won't begin to explain. But my reaction was that they were helping God to raise the valleys and lower the mountains. This was many miles of mud and dirt. Also, it was snowing. We could only see the Mohawk topnot on Indian Mt. and never got to see much else. We traveled through snow and cold. That night was so cold our teeth chattered when we went to bed. Thank goodness for warm covers.

On to Laird Hot Springs. Oh, what a bath we took. The springs are 110. I felt that it was much hotter near the origin, but as it came to the second pond it was great, and we could cool off in the third pond. Wonderful, like a spa. The Sulfur smell was very minor. Not strong at all.

Well, at Watson Lake we crossed into the Yukon Territory. Actually you cross the border 7 times according to the MilePost the official book. We didn't count, but really saw many times that the signs would say BC or Yukon. Finally by Johnsons Crossing we knew that we were in the Yukon.

At Whitehorse we ate dinner at the New Asian Rest. and better Chinese food I have never had. The couple that ran it is from Hon Kong and have been here 8 years. We ate and took what we couldn't eat with us to have when we stop tonight.

We continued along the Alaskan Hwy to Haines Jct. It was here in Haines that we had our first flat. It was a good tire. We called Good Sams and they called someone right there to come and fix it. One of the rocks on the construction had punched the tire. The flat was fixed and we continued on. From there up to Beaver Creek, but guess what, next flat about 3 miles south of Beaver Creek. This time it was the rear passenger tire and Russ had enough jacks to work on it so he did it and we went on into Beaver Creek. The tire was gone. A rock had cut the side and a hole was in it. We picked up a used tire and he put it on the rim. We will buy one in Anchorage at the base or Costco. Either way it is better to get one that we can get exchange on in the states. He also suggested that we not get gas in Beaver Creek, but to go across the border and get it at the Texaco because it would be .50 cheaper. Very nice guy with his heart in his business instead of money. This evening we crossed into Alaska. So you got the e-mail that we had ready to send from the Texaco just 3 miles inside the Alaskan Border.

We are at Tok tonight. It took us 2 ½ hours to wash the van and trailer just to get the dust off. When we get up to Anchorage we will have to really wash it. It is terrible. I will also clean inside the rocks we have carried in and I can't seem to keep swept out and the dust and etc. So we will stop at the AFB there and really get ready to go down to Homer. Don't want to take any dirt there.

Well, Russ has gone to bed, and it is 11:16 our time. (Theirs is 2 hrs. Earlier) but the sun looks like 5 o'clock our time. I'm tired however.

Love ya, all.

## ANCHORAGE

Here we are in Anchorage. We came straight to Elmondorf to get a camping plot and take a bath (the water has been frozen everywhere we were in Canada and by the time we finished washing the van and trailer last night it was so late and we were so tired, we just parked and didn't try to find a place).

We slept a while and then started off again. The road was terrible between Tok and here. That is until Palmer when we hit the freeway.

The drive was beautiful. We came down the Glen Highway. At Glenallen we visited with a gal that gave us a few pointers to look for and we watched for sheep but didn't see any on Sheep Mountain.

However, I FORGOT, in Canada we saw 2 black bears. Numerous sheep (we got out and walked up and took the picture of the herd on the highway. They were just licking salt rocks), caribou, bison, moose and of course horses.

As we were stopped once f to rest we just walked around and looked at the mountains, smelled the fresh pine air, and listened to the river flow along. .

We saw a really big glacier on our way down to Palmer. By the way, we followed Hwy 1 into Palmer. This is the Glen Hwy.

We will probably get the tires and clean the van and trailer tomorrow and head down to Homer on Fri. Well, it is 11:45 our time. 9:45 their time. The sun is still shining and the kids are out playing in the street, but we are tired and headed to bed.

Love ya,

Subject: The Russions 0711

Wet Rainy but Exciting Day at Nikolaevsk, Alaska

It wasn't a long run up to Anchor River and out to the Russian Villiage called Nikolaevsk, a small village established April 7, 1984. The road takes off from Anchor Point (about 15 miles from Homer) and you have a good blacktop road for about 5 miles. The rest of the way it is gravel.

However, this road is kept open during the winter.

This is a village established for religious freedom. Have you heard of that before?! There are 2 of these Russian villages near Homer. The other one is on out East Road (Arva lives on East Road) for about 8 or so miles and then a trail down switchbacks to it. It is not passable by vehicle.

We enjoyed shopping at the Post Office, general store, fabric shop, & etc. store. Do you remember the name of this kind of store is Mercantile. They also have a good school (we met one of the teachers) which goes through to 12th grade. The school is taught in Russian.

We went to a gift shop which is new, and the teacher owns that and runs it in the summer. There are many expensive things there. We could see right away that her students must enjoy her a great deal. She was very vivacious and fun. She is from Russia and came over just a few years ago. Her accent is much stronger than the young girls in the Post Office. They too were fun to visit with and very helpful.

Russ wanted to buy a Russian ice cream (quart sized) bowl and (pint sized) spoon. Gaye talked him out of it. Beautiful, but I'm sure you can guess the price of the finely decorated lacquer ware. However, the bowl and spoon were just the right size, Russ says..

A little on the history of the people. Somehow they got out of Russia about 25 years ago and came to America to live. They first settled in Tennessee, but didn't like it there, so they then came to Alaska. They are good citizens and no one bothers them. They are fishermen and boat builders. They are well known for the Commercial Fishing Boats that they build. They have a Chrch that resembles the Russian Ortardox churches in Russia. One of these type churches in Kodiak dates back to when Alaska was owned by Russia. How would you like to have your country/home sold out from under you by some politations?

Date: Sun, 13 Jul 1997 01:13:45 -0600

Subject: Second language

A mother mouse and her three children crept out of their hole into the kitchen and began feasting on some delicious bits of food. Suddenly, out of the corner of her eye, Mother Mouse saw a cat slinking toward them. The cat was between the mice and their hole. The mother mouse puffed up her lungs and went, "Woof! Woof!" The cat turned tail and ran.

With that, the mother quickly led her children back to safety in their hole.

When they were settled and breathing normally, Mother Mouse said to her children, "Now, what is the lesson from that experience?"

"We don't know," the baby mice squeaked.

"It is this," said Mom Mouse. "It's good to know a second language"

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Homer TR0712

As we depart this beautiful little City of Homer for the last time, It is good to step back and take a second look. A small community of 6,000 that swells to 15,000 at times in the Summer. It is the vacation land that "Alaskans" look forward to going to. For those who know. It is a popular place for those of us from the lower 48 go to. At one time not to many years ago, it was accessed only by boat and sea planes. Still when you pull in to a service station, there is no cement, just gravel and dirt. There are probably only a dozen or so homes that have hard surface drive ways such as cement or asphalt. Very few sidewalks and chain stores. The "down town" area is spread out for blocks with trees and undergrowth isolating between shopping areas. No real Malls, no traffic lights. Many old cars rusted out due to the salt from the Sea collecting under fenders. Most look forward to purchasing a new boat instead of a car. In the nearby Villages, many have boats, but no cars as you can't get there from here, unless you have a boat or a pontoon equipped Airplane.

Every one has a Cellular Telephone, many small villages only have communications by the use of a Cellular Telephone. Cellfones are on boats and in Bush Airplanes.

The "Homer Spit" is world famous. There is no other place like it in the world. Hundreds of boats call it home. At this time of the year, there are hundreds of people camping in RV, Tents and sleeping bags. It has many shops on the "board walk", a hotel and several processing plants..

There are many charters for fishing, sightseeing etc.

Generally, costs are high; some things are in limited supply. Gasoline is as much s \$2.05 per gallon.

Alaska, meaning great land. 2 ½ time the size of Texas, 586,400 square miles. Alaska's coastline totals 6,640 miles point to point and wanders around 47,300 miles of shoreline. It includes over 3 million lakes measuring

at least 20 acres. Temperatures get as high as +100 degrees and as cold as -80 degrees.

The Capital City of Alaska, Juneau, you can't get there from here. Unless you have a boat or an airplane. There are no roads leading to the Capital City. There is pressure to move the State capital to another City such as Anchorage. But then Fairbanks doesn't want that. Some are pushing for Willow and others want Palmer..... So there you have Catch 22. Kodiak was the Capital at one time, then moved to Kiska under the Russians. There is a large controversy as the State of Alaska is just purchasing a large building in Anchorage for State offices. There are presently many of the Departments that have their main offices in Anchorage such as the State Police and Department of Transportation.

At the beginning we said that we were leaving Homer. Our plans are to go to Anchorage in time to go to a concert by the Pop star Jewel. She is Gaye's sister Arva's granddaughter. Then the end of the week we are going to go to Willow for the Alaska Samboree..

Subject: House sold out! tr0715

JEWEL CONCERT - Anchorage, Alaska

After Church Sunday the 13th Russ, Gaye and Gaye's sister Arva traveled from Homer to Anchorage in the rain, and came back to the Elmendorf AFB Fam camp. (Where we will be until Wed. about noon)

Monday night Arva, Russ, and Gaye went as guests of the artist to her concert known as "Welcome Home Jewel". Just a little note here, Russ was able to get us parking just outside the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts Building Stage door where security took us in to "the best seats in the House. ". The 2500, seat facility was completely sold out both Sunday and Monday nights. I was told that the costs of seats as \$36.50. Jewels mother, Nedra, (and Arva's daughter) came down into the audience to greet us before the performance and told us to come back stage after the Concert..

During the performance Nedra sang a song with Jewel dedicated to Arva , Jewel's grandmother. They received a standing ovation for this beautiful song. Her other grandmother Ruth had left Alaska and was living in the South East of the lower 48, she passed away last week, was about 79 years old. Arva is 75.

After the performance, Security took us backstage and we were taken to Jewels dressing room where we met Jewel & Steve Poltz, (he was the performer that opened the evening for her, and her boyfriend). They are very close. We visited for some time with them then we were led to the hospitality room where some of her Kilcher family were waiting to greet her. There we were able to take a picture of her with her mother and Grandmother. (And just

cause Nedra (our Nedra) is wondering we did get her to autograph her cover.)

A little about the performance. Steve opened for her and then Jewel casually strolled on and they sang a song they had written together. They do a lot of writing together. Later in the performance they sang one that they had just written on their way up here. Jewel had to have the words and read it because they hadn't memorized it. The song that Jewel sang with her mother, Nedra, was one that Nedra and Jewels father had written. Nedra's voice is as beautiful as ever, and she still sings without accompaniment. Jewel and Steve sang together on her second encore and we finally got to hear some yodeling.

We saw Jewel on Chanel 11 TV news when The Anchorage City's Mayor gave her the Keys to the city. The Anchorage Daily News carried a half page picture of her both Monday and Tuesday. Her reviews said that she did everything right. Even though she was raised in Homer, all Alaska claims her.

After that we left and believe it or not, the sun was shining, ( It was 20 min. to 11) the level in the sky that Utah's sun would be about 7:30 P. M.. It did cloud up about the time we got back to the trailer.

We put Arva on the plane to go home to Homer today (Tuesday) at 10:00. She was to be in Homer by 11:00. Just a 45 minute ride for her on the plane. Nedra and Jewel also headed for Homer today for a few days of visiting family (they plan a local memorial for Ruth, Jewels other grandmother who died last week, to take place on Wed.) and take a much needed rest. They just completed a tour of Europe and now heading for Japan and the Pacific. This Fall, Jewel is to start a Movie of her own. She has a nice voice, however, it isn't exactly our style of music. But then we are over 50 now!!! She sang a song or something in the latest Batman & Robin Movie. It is fun to have a "grandniece" that is famous.

Just a note, the temperature today is 59 degrees, and it has rained quite heavily since last Fri. Evening. Tomorrow we head for the Alaskan Sambree at Willow, Alaska We will return to Elmendorf AFB Sunday in hope to see our Son Randy who will be here for his two week Air National Guard assignment.  
Subject: Anchorage, Alaska 0716

Anchorage is a very modern beautiful City with surfaced roads, side walks and large shopping malls. Costco, Sams Club, Fred Meyers etc. It has a population of over 100,000. Very clean and most roads surfaced. Service stations have paved drive ways and many other features are like the cities in the lower 48. Many nice homes with lawns and surface drive ways. The temperature is more moderate, un like Fairbanks that range from -40 to + 90 degrees. There is so much to see in Anchorage that we will not have time to see. Three month is just not enough time to see all the things that we would like to have seen in this beautiful State of Alaska. We really needed more time and money to have seen all what we wanted to see.

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Subject: Airwaves over Alaska TR719

Airwaves over Alaska TR719A

From Willow Alaska, 1997 Alaska Good Samboree.

Our trailer is parked about 50 Ft from the beautiful Willow Lake located North of Anchorage on the Highway to Fairbanks. Aircraft land and take off from the Lake as well as the Air Port on the other side of the highway. Several years ago, Willow was selected as the place to move The State Capital, but it was defeated on the State Ballot. .

It is the annual get-to-gather for the Good Sam members in Alaska, however, there are more here from the lower 48 than Alaska. Many of the seventy Rigs are in the 100K to 300K. Then there are some us with our trailers, Campers etc.

For those of you who haven't been to a Samboree, We have programs, Seminars, dinners and entertainment. Some of the Seminars include Batteries & Solar Panels, Inverters, Generators. Medical & Vehicle Emergencies, Aviation in Alaska, General RV Maintenance, Etc. There are Craft Demonstrations. Friday night, the "Little Radio Band" performed for us and Saturday was the Greatland Native Dancers. They are different than those in the lower 48.

We ran on to a fellow that had recordings of radio activity during the 1964 Earth Quake. This includes Radio News broadcasts and Amateur Radio. We copied some of them on our Computer. These recordings are very rare and were recorded by many different sources and equipment.

We met Robin Ann Chlupach. She has some position in the Willow Community Organization and was not part of the Samboree. She also owns and operates an outdoor store in Willow, Alaska. In talking with her, she took interest in us because we were into Amateur Radio and Broadcast. She said that it was the area of interest of her Father, Augie Hiebert, who was at times called the father of Radio in Alaska. At least he was an Alaskan Pioneer Broadcaster. He put together the first Radio Station which was located in Fairbanks, Also the first radio Station in Anchorage. He assisted with the building of the station at Nome. He later owned several stations, but

assisted licensing and building of the translators in many Villages and the Aleyska Pipe Line work camps (large oil pipe between the Arctic Ocean and Valdez). He owned the first TV Stations in Alaska starting with Chanel 11 in Anchorage and then in Fairbanks.

He worked with the State of Alaska and the FCC in getting Educational TV in many of the small Native Village. He did some things like translating an AM station to a FM frequency which has only been done in Alaska.

Augie Hiebert was active in the Alaska Wing of the Civil Air Patrol in the position of Director of Communications (Russ held that position in Utah). He was American Radio Relay League State Director for the State of Alaska and very active in Amateur Radio for his many years, noting that it gave him experience that helped him understand Communications. The Military considered him a key man in Alaska and wouldn't let him join the military even though he had volunteered. His war time experiences are exciting, but too lengthy to put in this trip report.

He was a personal friend of Walter Cronkite and Dr. Wernher Von Braun. He received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Alaska. His Daughter brought us a copy of a book that she wrote and published (Airwaves over Alaska) about her father. She had gotten her father to sign the book and she added her autograph and a note to it also. We would have liked to have had a chance to meet him, but felt maybe he was in poor health and we didn't want to take an advantage of the situation.

We will be back in Anchorage Sunday with the plan of meeting Randy (our Son) for church there. He is at the Air Force Base for his two week active duty for the Utah Air National guard.

Then on or about Tuesday we will plan on going on over to Tok junction and North to Top of the World into Dawson City.

Date: Tue, 22 Jul 1997 23:48:06 -0600

Subject: Delay in route

We did the Anchorage thing, Tours, sightseeing, Etc. We spent longer in Anchorage than Planned. Gaye had some Infection and we ended up taking her to an Air Force Doctor on Sunday. The Doctor had be come back for more tests on Monday. So I think that we are now heading out and will be out of communications til we get down to Juneau or Seattle.

Subject: Gold tr0726

GOLD! GOLD! GOLD!

The Head Lines in the News Papers across the country brought thousands of gold seekers to the North land. Over 100,000 to the New Town of Dawson,

Yukon, Canada.

We left Anchorage, and drove towards Tok, Alaska. After stopping over night, we arrived at Tok early in the morning in a heavy rain. We went to the museums and other tourist traps in Tok waiting for the rain to stop. After talking with several who had come in from the loop, we decided to drive into Chicken, Alaska and wait out the storm. It had stopped raining by time we got to Chicken (named this for the Ptarmigan, Alaska State Bird, that they call a chicken). A fellow from South Dakota driving a pickup-camper, stopped us and suggested that I turn around. He said that it was the worst road that he had ever seen and was sure sorry that he took it. We went on anyway as we had researched it and felt okay about it.

After getting a trailer tire repaired at the Gold Panner in Chicken, (the only tire repair facility on the loop) We decided to head on. The road was narrow and a bit muddy. It was not any worse than the "Skyline drive (near Manti), however there was a lot of traffic on it and each time you came to a vehicle driving the other way, you had to work your way past them. We came up on a Bus with a Pickup driving in front with a large sign, (BUS FOLLOWS). The pickup was loaded with tires for the bus. We went on to the Canadian Boarder, arriving there just shortly before they closed. We stopped for the night just past the boarder.

It was strange seeing two buildings on a dirt road, on the top of a lonely mountain top. One is U. S. Customs and the other one was a Redhead gal customs for the Canadians. They provide her with a nice trailer and she lives up there for the 3 months that the road is open. The road is called "Top of the world highway". A 60 mile trail was made along the top of several mountains to supply miners from Dawson, Canada. It was later widened for carts and many years later for trucks. It's certainly a "driving experience". There seems to be a problems between the U. S. and the Canadians. U.S. says that they don't need the road and there isn't much benefit to them, and the Canadians feel that they need it for the tourists who come to Dawson on their way to Alaska. The road on the Canadian side is not bad, but still narrow. The road on the Alaskan side gets very little attention.

The steep drop off for thousands of feet on one or both sides makes some travelers a little nervous. It didn't bother us as most of the time it was so foggy that we had a hard time seeing the road as we were driving about 15 mph. It doesn't stop the Large Motor Homes, Busses. Trucks, cars, & bikes, etc.

The end of the road is at the Yukon River. You stop on the sandy beach and wait for the Dawson Ferry. There are no docks or structures, the ferry just "beaches" itself and drops a ramp and loads the vehicles. At the other side of the Yukon, it drops the ramp on the sand, and does the same thing again.

The City of Dawson was the largest city in the area during the Gold Mining Gold Rush. 100,000 passed through the city and depended on it for supplies. It was about the poorest place that they could have found as all buildings still have to be built on pilings. If built on the ground, the permafrost

melts and the building sinks in the mud. All streets are dirt and side walks are "board walks". There is no cement or surfaced areas in town. Some of the buildings are still there since 100 years ago and the newer ones are made to look like the old buildings to keep the town's character. We dragged main street, walked the town, saw the tourist traps, museums, shows etc.

The show we went to was in the Grand Palace Theater, and was called the Gaslight Follies. It was a good satire and melodrama on the settling of Dawson. A bit of song and dance and audience interaction.

We got out of the show about 10:00 P.M. their time (Pacific Time). The sun was still shining and it was still quite hot. We used our fans in the van in order to sleep. The 3 level bus carrying a load of German tourists, parked next to us, must have been quite hot. These are really interesting busses. They carry their beds, food and kitchen.

We left about 7 this morning and traveled down the highway to Whitehorse. We saw signs on the road telling everyone that animals are not allowed on the road. Somehow I think they didn't tell the Moose that they couldn't come on the road. As we traveled the only animal that we saw was a moose. She (no antlers) was coming up out of the undergrowth and across the road. Russ broke fast (hard to do with a trailer on back) and she got upset and started running. With but a foot to spare she made it back down into the undergrowth. Otherwise she would have given the passenger side of the van a good dent, and maybe relocated Gayes seat a bit.

We came through the old coal mining town of Carmack. There is a coal mine that had an internal combustion fire started inside the mountain in 1981, and it is still burning inside the mountain.

We are now resting here in Whitehorse in a nice trailer court. Tomorrow we will go across the river and go to church. We located it and know just where to go. There is a nice branch here, and they have a really nice log chapel..

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Subject: We road the Malaspina tr0931

### Juneau By Way of Skagway

Our trip started in sunshine, and we got to Carcross in with sunshiney weather so we could look over the railhead town in leisure. It was and we had a marvelous time in a great little town with great people. The Barracks was the greatest. The gals there were in Mounty uniforms, by permission of the Royal Mounties, they wore the jacket and long black skirts. They had a player piano & we sang and had a great time with them. They even put Russ in Jail for playing without a license, and his bail was to cut 2 cords of wood with an old large 2 man saw. Before we knew it they put Gaye in jail

for entertaining without a license, and her bail was to stay the summer and sing. We managed to escape because they forgot to lock (100 year old) door. Next we ate ice worms and ice cream.

We continued to Skagway through liquid sunshine, getting the car dirty on the places they are repairing the road.

At Skagway we had a day to kill. This isn't hard with a car, however, because of the blockade at Prince Rupert which you all may have heard about we were unable to take the van to Juneau. Correction, we could have taken it but couldn't get back with it until Aug. 21st . We traveled to Juneau, stopping at Heines, on the Columbia which is the largest of the Alaskan Hwy Ferry system Ships. For those who aren't familiar with the Ferry System in Alaska, while the ferrys aren't cruise ships, they are ships with cabins, lounges, bars, dinning (on the Columbia with linen and waiters), etc. No one stays in their cars while on the ferry. Some of the ferrys run the year around, but not all. The ones that work on the ferry system manage to work from April through October, but since they don't spend money during their work, they can live quite nicely the other months going to school or whatever. They are state employees and are on State Retirement.

When we arrived in Juneau they announced that there would be no busses meeting us..(it is just 12 miles to town). We found out why latter. They were all busy on the 4 (7000 people) cruise ships that were also in town. We were able to hitch a ride with a nice young family, in their motor home, from Wassilla. They were there with their daughter for a Rainbow (Masonic Lodge) competition. What a great family they are. We cruised around Juneau for half a day with them until we needed to check into our bed and breakfast, and the needed to get their daughter to meet her roommates and other appointed places.

These people joined the Church in May. Started going to church on April 6th. They with another family were golden for a young 13 year old girl in one of the Wassila wards. They are counting days till they can be sealed as a family in the Temple. He had just finished doing some baptisms before coming on this trip. He is a Priest( and a computer expert for the US Department of Interior.

We had a great time, drove a 100 miles around Juneau and Douglas Island seeing as much as we could see. The museums, government houses, homes, etc. The streets in downtown Juneau are as straight up as, or more than San Francisco. One interesting thing on the private docks. They had rows of steel garages for the small, and fishing boats. We of course went to the Mendenhall Glacier. It is out North of Juneau in what the people call The Valley. Stands for The Mendenhall Valley. Mountains jut out so that the road has to go around them to connect parts of the city. There are 140 miles of road in Juneau.

We boarded the Malaspina Ferry to return to Skagway. This is the ferry that was blockaded in Prince Rupert. One of the Stewardesses had pictures of the blockade and told us how things were for them during those dark days.

We had 11 large semi-trucks plus RV's and cars, etc. that boarded with us. That was at 12:30 A.M. We stopped at Haines to off load people and vehicles there— It took 2 ½ hours to do so, and load more. They even left

2 campers there that couldn't be loaded.

We are now in Skagway and want to get this sent before we head back to Whitehorse because we just can't get through there. If the road 120 mile South of Whitehorse has been repaired; we will start down the Cassiar Highway. They has a washout and nothing could get through for several days before we left..

Remember when we were here in Anchorage and tried to find the phone # of the girl that I went to school with as a child and into JR. High. Well, yesterday we finally found her. She lives with her brother here in Anchorage, and here is another thing. She has a daughter and family in Homer. The Mike Tolva family. I think she was Minnie or something like that. Well, when we were in Fairbanks at church there Carol was down in Homer to celebrate her oldest grandsons baptism.

When Carol's father died after leaving St. Geroge (Russes folks bought their pharmacy) and going to Richfield, their mother brought them up here because she had a brother in Homer. They then moved to Anchorage. His name was Balentine.

It is a small world.

Well, on another note. We have not put you on our list for a report on our travels.

Thanks so much for everything. We have really appreciated all our time with you. I can hardly wait until you come out. Get your hip done so that you can come with us on jonts in the states. There is a lot of that State you haven't seen.

At 02:37 AM 7/16/97 -0600, you wrote:

> If you can find the Academy dorms there, or the COMM SQ. you can ask for Gene or someone else from the Sq. They are all there right now. I'll be up on Friday. Are you going to be around before sunday? I just don't know when I'll be working yet. I'll be working at the MetNav shop there though.

Just as soon as we got this we ran over to the Comm Headquarters. Gene Izatt was there, and we arranged with him that we will meet you at Church. He found the same chapel that we did. It is on Baxter and is the Anchorage 4th ward. It starts at 11:00. So now we feel better about how and when. Thanks for thinking of Gene being there. Appreciate that.

We are on the Cassiar Highway,if you can call it a highway. I don't know when I will be able to send this as we cannot send an E-Mail on the Canadian telephone system. They have different connections of some sort and we don't plan to be here long enough to find out. my 800 number does go through now.

We will be up at Acord Lakes for a couple of weeks or so repairing the Wind Damage before winter.

8-that the last we sent on the trip report was from Smithers.

From there we traveled to Hixton, just south of Prince George. That was on Sunday. It was a long day, but we really enjoyed going to church in the Smithers branch and meeting all the people. We parked for the night and then started up very early the next morning. What a day. Clear to Lynden, Washington down the Frazer River Road. That was some road. We wondered where all the people came from. It is a good hwy, but it seemed unusually busy for a Monday. When we finally asked, it turned out to be B.C. days. Equalivant to our 24th of July for Utah. People were having a great time on rafts down the Frazer. This is like taking a raft trip down the Colorado through the Grand canyon. However, the road is something else. Sometimes

you are almost equal to the river then you climb about 700+ feet and run up there looking down (like the grand) and then back down low again. Up Hill and down Dale for a long drive. Especially when everyone else is there too. When you're down there are those that are getting out to swim in a lake close by. Then you go through about 5 - 6 tunnels and over a bridge or two. But finally evening came and we were across the border.

>We stayed overnight at Russ's sisters Helens, and on the next day to Mountain Home Idaho by way of Olympia to Portland and out Hwy 84.

We were at our son's by Thursday evening and stayed over to get a ride on the new wave runner on Utah Lake..

Some have ask costs. We traveled 11568 miles averaging 11.4 miles per gallon (pulling the trailer most of the time) Total fuel cost was \$1594 and we used 1,063 gallons of gas with the average cost of gas at \$1.56. 14 gallons of propane. We purchased six tires for the Van and need one for the Trailer. The highest RV Park costs were at Outter Creek (Utah). We paid a maximum of \$10.00 per night in Canada and Alaska. Some places were full hookup. We did use Military Fam Camps as much as possible. The best RV Camp was at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho where full hook up and services were \$12.00 per night. Total Lodging (RV Parks) was \$219.28. Our three month trip cost less than \$2,000 for fuel. Lodging and food.

We did stay with relatives and other parking lots where there were no cost. As an example, Most Alaskan and Canadian grocery Stores provide up to 48 hours parking free for RV's. However, that is not the case in the lower 48.

This is the last trip report. We will now spend a few weeks at our Acord Lakes Summer home repairing extensive wind damage 10

