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# **The Montana Vacation Experience Part 2 – Interview Summaries**

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Research Report 2003-7  
March 2003

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# **The Montana Vacation Experience Part 2 – Interview Summaries**

by  
Norma Nickerson, Ph.D.,  
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&  
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## Preface

This document contains narrative summaries of 53 interviews conducted with vacationers to Montana during the summer of 2002. Each summary is identified as RV (repeat visitor) or FV (first time visitor) followed by a number. The number simply reflects the chronological order in which the interviews took place. Within each summary are numbers within parenthesis (Pg 2 Ln 20). Pg refers to the page number within the transcription and Ln refers to the line on the page where the information was pulled. Each summary represents the researcher's interpretation of the significant themes within an interview.

The information within this document is part 2 of the Montana Vacation Experience. Part 1 (RR2003-1) provides a full analysis of the interviews with a description of themes that emerged from the interviews and recommendations based on the data collected. Part 1 can be accessed by visiting [www.forestry.umt.edu/itr](http://www.forestry.umt.edu/itr) and clicking on research reports.

**Methodology Brief:** Between June 19, 2002 and July 25, 2002, ITRR staff intercepted 53 visitors throughout the state. Interview sites included spots in or near national parks, monuments, forests, historic sites, museums and towns. The interviews were conducted in comfortable settings at nearby picnic tables, benches, or tables and chairs provided in the facility. Vacationers were asked if they would be willing to be tape-recorded and all respondents agreed. The tape recorder was set on the table or bench within close proximity of the respondents and interviewer.

Response rates for the interview were not a factor since the ITRR interviewer was never rejected by a potential vacationer. In contrast, ITRR rejected potential respondents when they did not fit within the criteria set for a vacationer (group type and visitation level).

Interviews lasted between 25 minutes and 1.5 hours with an average length of 35 minutes. The interviews were conducted with the group type. In other words, if they were a couple, they both contributed to the interview. If they were a family, all family members were part of the interview.

## INTERVIEW SUMMARIES

### **RV#01 Lynn & Mark**

Lynn and Mark are repeat visitors from Wisconsin who were intercepted in Missoula at the Smoke Jumper Center. The couple flew into Bozeman and then traveled to Wallace, Idaho to attend a Mining History Association Conference. They will return to Bozeman where Lynn plans to go fishing with a guide.

Mark began by commenting on fishing. He said, "the bad day of fishing is better than a good day" (Pg 2 Ln 5). Lynn associates fly-fishing and mountains to the state and inquired "is there anything else to life?" (Pg 2 Ln 20) Mark describes Montana as "Colorado without the hype" (Pg 2 Ln 30). He feels development pressure has ruined Colorado while Montana has been less spoiled and remained more in its "raw" state than other states.

Mark and Lynn find the west very hospitable and the people open to visitors. They find people more open here than east of the Mississippi. Both enjoyed the city of Butte with its mining history and culture. Mark describes the area as a time capsule of history and culture (Pg 4 Ln 39).

Mark's father first exposed him to the Rocky Mountains as a child. His father had a passion for history that he passed on to Mark. He remembers as a youth seeing Virginia City and visiting Lewis and Clark sites.

Lynn describes Montana as beautiful, friendly, and a wonderful destination to visit (Pg 6 Ln 41). Mark feels there are great opportunities in the state if you enjoy the outdoors. He describes the experience him and Lynn look for as "for it to be Montana and nothing else" (Pg 7 Ln 34). They both come for Montana and the unique experiences the state provides. Its essence is difficult for either of them to describe. Mark feels Montana is more laid back than Colorado. Lynn always feels welcome and has the opportunity to do many different activities.

Mark enjoys the open spaces in the state because at home he doesn't have a definitive horizon (Pg 9 Ln 2). Trees and lack of relief in Wisconsin don't allow for the same viewing experience as in Montana. Mark feels that mountain terrain adds to any experience. Both he and Lynn enjoy geology and the rock outcroppings they can see in the state. Mark finds the mountains very comforting and the relief as something spiritual and visceral to him (Pg 12 Ln 8,14). He feels mountains and bodies of water are two things that bring the couple a peace that he cannot fully explain.

Lynn and Mark describe fishing as a passion. Lynn finds serenity in the surrounding nature. She feels catching a fish is secondary to the relaxing, stress-free experience (Pg 13 Ln 34). Both Mark and her agree that the motivation to fish in Montana is because of the unique surroundings and different species of fish to catch.

Lynn discussed having an interest in Lewis and Clark history and their expedition. Mark continued by explaining his interest in the American frontier and how it has changed. He feels Montana is a place where you can immerse yourself and connect with the frontier "geographically, physically, and spiritually" (Pg 15 Ln 12).

Lynn used the Internet for much of the trip planning. She does a lot of research on visitor sites and locations prior to the trip, but never feels locked into an itinerary. They both describe themselves as very flexible travelers. Lynn continued to add that the Internet helped her find fishing guides, reserve hotels, and find Lewis and Clark attractions. She starts pulling information together a few months prior to any trip with their destination usually planned six months in advance. Lynn collects many brochures while traveling and keeps a file cabinet at home full of old brochures to use for planning (Pg 18 Ln 35).

Both Lynn and Mark said that they would change nothing about their trip. Mark suggested asking visitors if there was anything negative about their experience or how one could make it better.

### **FV#02 Vernon & Mary**

Vernon and Mary are first time visitors from England who were intercepted at the National Bison Range Visitors Center. The couple flew into Billings and has spent time in Butte, Bozeman,

Bannock, and Virginia City. They planned to visit Whitefish, Big Fork, the Museum of the Plains Indians in Browning, CM Russell Museum, and Helena.

Mary was surprised by the open spaces and the warm welcome they received from local people (Pg 1 Ln 25-26). Everyone they met was wonderful and happy to give suggestions and offer advice.

Mary describes Butte as a scar, but an absolutely beautiful one. She was impressed by the city's efforts to maintain the town and found it to be a very cleverly marketed town (Pg 2 Ln 28). In contrast, they both found Missoula very commercialized and described it as a large retail outlet. She was impressed by the mountains and the Missoula valley, but felt the town was very materialistic (Pg 3 Ln 5).

Mary purchased a book called *Hidden Montana*, which provided them with tours of the area. She found it very helpful and like a bible for their vacation. Vernon used the Internet to reserve many of their accommodations prior to the trip. Both feel they have adapted to traveling in the United States.

Mary anticipated that Montana would be like Wyoming, but she has found it to be much greener (Pg 4 Ln 27). Vernon feels there are more hills, mountains, and geologic variation in Montana than Wyoming. They have felt very relaxed and feel the local people are amazing and made their vacation better (Pg 6 Ln 2). Both enjoyed the open spaces very much. Back in London, they feel one can get claustrophobic with the underground railways and traffic. Homes are on top of one another a do not give one much space. Vernon mentioned one could not drive for twenty minutes in England and go without seeing something in the countryside (Pg 7 Ln 15).

Vernon has found their experience very peaceful and calming. Mary feels it brings her back to reality. Vernon describes traveling for hours without saying a word because neither of them can describe the beauty of the surrounding or scenery (Pg 7 Ln 29). Both were interested in history because Americans seem to have a greater interest in history. Mary enjoyed Bannock and understanding why people migrated to the States and what culture they brought with them. Both enjoy studying the link from their own history to that of America's.

Mary described her interest in Native American culture stemming from reading *Bury Me at Wounded Knee* and other experiences on past vacations to Arizona. She felt a connection to memories of western movies she had seen as a child (Pg 9 Ln 10).

Both anticipated visiting Glacier NP. They were excited at the possibility to see snow and experience the Going to the Sun Road. Vernon feels mountains are different in Montana compared to Europe. He had difficulty explaining how the mountain ranges differed.

Trip planning began ten months prior to the trip. Mary mentioned the idea has been around for five years, but about ten months ago they decided to plan the vacation (Pg 12 Ln 33). Library books and the Internet provided Mary and Vernon with most of their travel information. They planned all of their accommodations in advance and consider themselves very scheduled travelers.

Both enjoyed interactions with the people of Montana and their willingness to provide information to vacationers. Both would return to Montana, but commented that at their age there's too many places to see and they just won't have time to return.

### **RV#03 Neil, Louise, Audrey, & Kate**

Neil, Louise, and their family are visitors from Minnesota who were intercepted at the National Bison Range Visitors Center. Louise is a repeat visitor and for the rest of the family it is their first time in Montana.

The family entered Montana from the north entrance of Yellowstone NP. They planned to visit friends in Polson, spend a day at Glacier NP and leave the state to the east.

Louise described Montana as beautiful. She loves the ruggedness of the foothills and mountains (Pg 2 Ln 16). She was surprised to see sprawl moving into the foothills. She questioned whether she would like to move into these areas of expansion if she chose to relocate to the state.

Neal describes Montana as big country with a big sky. He felt a connection to the sense of the earth in Montana (Pg 3 Ln 2). Both he and Louise live in woodlands with rivers, but Montana offers a unique quality that he enjoys. Louise describes Montana as different from other

Rocky Mountain states because of the ruggedness. She gets a feeling like the earth is still being formed and molded which Louise finds very moving (Pg 3 Ln 19-20).

Neal believes that history is alive in Montana. He feels history seems very recent since people only began living here a few generations ago and that Montana provides a sense of the country's history.

Louise feels Montana has a greater variety of terrain to experience compared to Colorado (Pg 3 Ln 44). Montana offers valleys, foothills, mountains, and plains whereas Colorado seems like only mountains and desert.

Both describe Glacier NP and encouragement by friends as motivation for visiting the state. Wildlife is more easily seen, which is an aspect Louise enjoys. Neal described that the rivers are gorgeous and lovely. He is looking forward to visiting Glacier NP because he feels he will have a chance of immersing himself in the mountains. He feels they have a "sense of drama" which he looked forward to experiencing (Pg 5 Ln 31).

Louise explained her interest in backpacking as an opportunity to live a more simple life for a brief while. She enjoys seeing animals more readily, getting exercise, and just being outdoors. Backpacking reinvigorates Louise in many ways (Pg 6 Ln 6). Neal feels it renews him deeper inside and reminds him of being on this earth.

Planning for the trip began in December when previous plans for a family visit to Italy fell through. The opportunity then emerged to visit friends in Polson, which motivated Neal and Louise to come to Montana. Information came from the Internet and the National Park websites. Louise also used library books and *National Geographic* magazines for information about particular destinations. The family was also an AAA member and used travel information from them as well.

Both Neal and Louise describe themselves as very flexible travelers. Vacationing with their young daughters has made them reserve more lodging in advance, particularly in the national parks. Most of the time, they feel they travel by "the seat of their pants" and are not locked into an itinerary.

Neal describes Colorado as a Rocky Disneyland (Pg 9 Ln 44). It seems very trendy and commercialized. He feels Montana is a "real deal" place with a real sense of western daily life.

Finally, Neal recommended asking visitors about surprises or negative impressions. Both remarked again about being surprised with the amounts of sprawl and expansion. They were expecting less development.

#### **RV#04 Ken & Brenda**

Ken and Brenda are repeat visitors from California who were intercepted at Holland Lake. They have spent time biking and hiking in the Missoula and Kalispell areas. Their original plans were to bike in Glacier NP, but time did not permit them to visit the park.

Brenda describes Montana in a nutshell as populated and beautiful (Pg 2 Ln 4). She found more sprawl and a larger population than she expected. This was most evident in the Flathead Valley area.

Both describe meeting great people and having an amazing experience with them. Ken commented that people at local bike shops in Missoula suggested good rides and were very helpful (Pg 3 Ln 1-4).

Ken explained how magazine articles and newspapers have prepared him for visiting certain areas. Over the years *Outside*, *National Geographic*, and *Men's Journal* have provided him with many attractive locations. He also added that he and Brenda have changed their vacation plans a lot just by talking to local people in Montana (Pg 3 Ln 26). Ken feels they are very flexible vacationers and adapt along the way.

Brenda explains their attraction to Montana was for biking, hiking, and camping. More importantly, she was looking for undisturbed, open wilderness and just being outside (Pg 4 Ln 20-21). Ken also was looking for possible places to relocate away from their urban environment in California. Brenda enjoyed being off main highways and getting into wilderness areas. Her picture of Montana is of quiet areas that are less disturbed. Ken was expecting Montana to be wilder and was a little disappointed that it was not (Pg 4 Ln 46). He commented that the real surprise has been the people that have provided for a wonderful, positive experience.

Ken explained the route they chose was based on the Nez Perce trail and the Lewis and Clark Trail. Ken had read many books by Montana authors, which gave him a connection to the region and its history (Pg 5 Ln 36). Brenda commented again on open spaces and her desire to see untouched America. She would like to believe that there are still areas that are the same as when Native Americans lived on the land.

Ken and Brenda did not reach Glacier NP. They were hoping to see big rocks and rugged mountains. Ken feels his experience in Montana is not uniquely different from other mountain states. From a preservation and land use perspective, he feels Montana is way behind California (Pg 6 Ln 46). His opinion of a western mentality is that, "its' mine, I can do what I want with it" (Pg 7 Ln 29). This has been disappointing to him.

Brenda feels that if they would have had time to get into the Bob Marshall Wilderness or Glacier NP that they would have found what they were looking for in Montana (Pg 7 Ln 42). Both enjoy the amounts of wildlife that they have seen. Brenda expected more due to the fact she had visited Yellowstone NP and Glacier NP as a child. Ken has hoped to see more wildlife while on the trail.

Trip planning began about seven months ago when Ken hurt his leg. This prevented them from climbing Mt. Rainier and Mt. Hood. A year before, the couple had planned a trip of the Nez Perce trail with another couple, but had to back out due to a move. So Ken felt this trip had been brewing for some time (pg 11 Ln 25). Maps and magazine articles were the primary source of planning information along with a Montana guidebook the couple purchased. Brenda mentioned how often the couple takes the advice of local people about interesting areas to visit (Pg 11 Ln 43). They avoid mainstream tourist attractions, which offer no appeal to them.

Ken suggests asking visitors if their experiences matched the fantasies they had prior to their vacation. He was surprised that one of his best experiences was playing pool and drinking beer in a local bar. Brenda explained how at first Missoula was not that attractive, but they found something special there and decided to stay another day. She had not found an area during the vacation where when they arrived she had an instant magical feeling (Pg 14 Ln 23), but once she settled in to a location, she found some places to be really fabulous. Ken was surprised that the open spaces he was hoping to see didn't materialize for him. He questions whether his vision of remoteness is present anywhere in the United States anymore. He emphasized that it was the surprises, such as a nice ride from Whitefish to Columbia Falls that made the trip enjoyable. In the end he wasn't disappointed, the trip was just different than what he expected.

#### **FV#05 Dan, Patty, Andrew, David, & Katie**

Dan, Patty, and their family are first time visitors from Colorado who were intercepted at the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in Missoula. They have been in Montana for two days, spending time at Three Forks and Missoula. They plan to leave the state in another day, but are considering visiting Glacier NP.

Dan and Patty describe themselves as flexible planners who prefer accommodations such as campgrounds. Patty explained how the family stays in national parks, state parks, and KOA campgrounds.

One of the children describes Montana as a beautiful state with lush, green mountains (Pg 2 Ln 15). Dan has enjoyed the snow-covered peaks and the friendly people he has met. He finds the state very similar to Colorado and because of this his family is attracted to Montana (Pg 2 Ln 34). Another motivation for the vacation was to determine whether Montana would be a place the family would like to move to. Patty explains she was drawn to the mountain culture that also exhibits a city feel (Pg 3 Ln 4). In her mind Montana offers the best of both worlds.

Dan describes his family as an outdoor family. They enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking, and other outdoor activities. One of the children feels that hunting is a chance to get away from the city. To Dan, hunting and fishing means freedom, solitude, freshness, and no responsibilities (Pg 3 Ln 39).

Patty describes the open spaces of the state as a feeling of something bigger than themselves (Pg 4 Ln 8). It is a feeling of grandeur and power bigger than man and beyond all humans. The children describe it as not being cramped or stuffed up. Open spaces give them the ability to see for miles and not view a skyscraper or exhaust hanging over their heads (Pg 4 Ln 14).



Dan feels Montana differs from other Rocky Mountain states because more elk habitat is present. Patty feels the state is sparsely populated and the children feel the people are more outdoor orientated.

Trip planning began ten months ago when the family specifically was searching the Internet about Missoula (Pg 5 Ln 12). Patty found the Montana website and travel planner extremely helpful in providing vacation information.

Dan feels the wilderness and access to public land will draw him back to Montana. The children enjoy how close the cities are to the lakes and mountains. The family has not experienced anything negative on their trip and reiterated that local people have been very hospitable and friendly.

#### **RV#06 Jack**

Jack is a repeat visitor from Oregon who was intercepted at the Grant-Kohrs Ranch. He had been in the state for a week. During this time he visited Glacier NP, the Plains Indians museum, the Chinook county museum, Fort Benton, the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, and now the Grant-Kohrs Ranch.

Jack is very fascinated by history and has a great interest in Native American culture. One of his reasons for coming to the state was to see the sites associated with the Nez Perce Trail. Jack describes himself as a very flexible planner who doesn't worry about where he'll end up each night (Pg 2 Ln 10).

He describes Montana as big open country with open plains. He feels that there is history everywhere and enjoys being surrounded by it. Montana was not necessarily different than other states Jack had visited, but he did have unique experiences in the state. The opportunity to experience the Big Hole battlefield and the mining history in Butte were opportunities he enjoyed (Pg 3 Ln 6). Jack re-emphasized his interest in Native Americans and specifically the Nez Perce. He had spent a lot of time reading about Native Americans and their culture.

Jack's primary attraction to Glacier NP was the nice scenery of the park. The Going to the Sun Road was an unbelievable experience for him.

Jack describes himself as someone who typically avoids the crowds and looks for the off the beaten path attractions.

Trip planning for Jack began two months prior to the trip. His motivation was to visit sites on the Nez Perce trail he had missed in previous trips and to spend more time at the locations he had enjoyed (Pg 5 Ln 6). Jack utilized maps primarily for his trip planning. He also used a guidebook for the Nez Perce trail that he referred to as "his bible" (Pg 5 Ln 18). Newspaper articles and information from friends provided additional ideas for sites to visit.

The main reason Jack would return would be to bring his wife. He would like her to be able to enjoy the scenic areas he has visited. He enjoyed the Gates of the Mountains and seeing the views that Lewis had described on his expedition. Jack has had difficulty expressing his feelings about the open spaces and scenery but concluded by stressing that he really enjoyed the state.

#### **RV#07 Lori, Barb, Kathleen, & Rachel**

Lori, Barb, Kathleen, and Rachel are an adult family group from Oregon who were intercepted at the Sweet Palace in Phillipsburg. Their party is a mix of repeat and first time visitors to the state. They have spent one night in Missoula and are traveling to Yellowstone NP.

Lori understands why Montana is called big sky country. She finds the state very beautiful with colors, mountains, and a blue sky filled with puffy clouds (Pg 1 Ln 20). Rachel enjoys the sky being all around and feels Montana has more greenery and trees than Oregon. She feels Oregon has too many clear cuts. Kathleen agrees that the environment is very green and describes it as "green suede" (Pg 1 Ln 29).

Lori feels Montana is not as dry as Idaho or eastern Washington. She and others in her group have been hoping to see wildlife that they do not often see in Oregon.

Barb found the local people in Montana to be much nicer than people in Oregon. She feels everyone says good morning and has a smile on their face (Pg 2 Ln 21). Kathleen

compared her interactions to the Old West where everyone said hello and asked how you were doing as they walked by.

Lori would describe Montana to friends as similar to Oregon, only better (Pg 2 Ln 42). Barb feels Montana is not as populated or urbanized as other states; she feels you have room to breathe.

Yellowstone was the main motivation for the group on this vacation. They have come expecting to see wildlife and share experiences of the park that the first time visitors in the group have not experienced before. Rachel feels traveling through Montana has been a bonus because it allows her to see western territory from the car that she has never viewed before. Lori wanted to visit Montana again because she is part Shoshone and wanted to see the region again.

The group has used KOA campgrounds for their accommodation needs. Lori was able to use the Internet to map out their trip from one KOA site to another (Pg 4 Ln 15). She explains that part of the plan was to stop in Phillipsburg for the Sapphire gallery where she purchased some gemstones.

The group is also interested in Native American culture because there is some Shoshone on their side of the family and they are interested in exploring this aspect more (Pg 4 Ln 28).

The trip had been planned as part of Barb's twentieth wedding anniversary. However, when her husband became sick, she decided to take her relatives with her instead. Barb explains how she had booked reservations in January or February for the trip. She feels one has to be organized and plan ahead if you want to have space in areas like Yellowstone (Pg 5 Ln 31). The group does feel flexible in their itinerary and explains that the Sweet Palace was an interesting place that was not originally planned. The Internet provided information for the planning process. The group also collected brochures as a visitor center once they entered Montana.

Rachel mentions that mosquitoes have been a complaint for her on the trip. They have been more numerous than she expected (Pg 7 Ln 2). Barb mentioned that the group has followed the Lewis and Clark Trail quite a bit because they have the same ultimate end of the trail in Oregon as the expedition did. Lori commented on how lucky the expedition had been in finding the shortest route through the mountains.

The group agrees that the people of Montana have been a pleasant surprise (Pg 8 Ln 1). Eating huckleberries and saltwater taffy has been another positive surprise for the group. Lori suggests asking visitors if they would return, to which the group agreed they would like to. Lori also suggests creating websites that have more roadside attractions listed and linking the websites to the KOA website. Barb suggests promoting seasonal attractions like skiing to attract visitors at different times of the year (Pg 9 Ln 3).

#### **FV#08 Sally & Linda**

Sally and Linda are first time visitors from South Carolina who were intercepted at Phillipsburg, Montana. They are two single adults who have been in Montana for about ten days. They entered the state from Yellowstone NP, have traveled to Whitefish and Glacier NP, and now are heading to Colorado where Sally has a conference to attend.

The couple's main effort has been to visit Whitefish to camp and go fly-fishing. They began following the Lewis and Clark trail once they realized they would be in the area (Pg 1 Ln 21).

Sally has difficulty putting into words her impressions of Montana. In her log she keeps using the words like wonderful, spectacular, marvelous, and lovely (Pg 1 Ln 45). The people have been very nice and are always helpful. Linda finds the experience more wonderful than she hoped for and would return in a minute.

Sally really enjoys the people of Montana. She and Linda have had nice chats with local people in many different settings. Red Lodge and the Beartooth Pass blew them away when they traveled into the state (Pg 2 Ln 22). Linda has reminded Sally to be grateful that these areas are in the United States and that this is part of their country. It has been a fabulous experience for the both of them.

Sally feels she will leave Montana with the impression of a very big country. Linda expected Montana to be barren, sterile, and harsh, but has found it gentle and friendly with green rolling hills (Pg 3 Ln 9). Sally has enjoyed the forests with their mountain streams and lakes. She

has been impressed by how accessible areas are and that it doesn't cost anything for the experience (Pg 3 Ln 19).

The two were unable to get across the Going to the Sun Road in Glacier NP, but that was not a disappointment. Yet, Sally was unimpressed with the cities. She has found them unorganized and not very interesting. Specifically, in Great Falls they had difficulty finding the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center or finding other visitor information (Pg 4 Ln 3). Both were looking for more tourist information on Flathead Lake, Lolo Pass, and directional signage in general.

Trip planning began about a year ago. The motivation was initially to visit Sally's nephew, who lives in Montana. The Lewis and Clark Trail and fly-fishing added incentives for the trip as planning progressed. Sally purchased a road atlas and read *Undaunted Courage* prior to the trip. Linda used the Internet to research their camping equipment and print off information about attractions. The two did not have a set itinerary, but the Lewis and Clark Trail and fly-fishing helped them decide on the locations they chose to visit.

Sally has enjoyed the Native American attractions and the national monuments. They have been camping and found the state parks impeccable and wonderful. Both have enjoyed the facilities and the flexibility of accommodations.

Sally describes "big sky" and open spaces as a sense of freedom. To Linda, it reassures her that there is still undeveloped land in the West. Both are interested in fly-fishing in the state. Sally describes it as an art and culture all its own (Pg 9 Ln 44). She feels the solitude of the experience and being out in nature is the primary draw of the activity.

Linda describes the mountains of Glacier and the Beartooths as spectacular and exquisite. Sally notes the pair has enjoyed the wildflowers and spent a great deal of time identifying different species. Both also enjoyed the plains of eastern Montana. Sally enjoyed the alternating strips of green and brown (Pg 11 Ln 34). Linda describes the plains as a *National Geographic* picture.

To Sally, the recent settlement of the west and the struggle of the lifestyle have been very powerful to her. The history of the land is very compelling to her. Linda feels the culture is solid, real, and caring about the right things.

Sally has enjoyed the people very much and the small town atmosphere. She describes Phillipsburg as a "little kingdom that has got absolutely everything" (Pg 13 Ln 13). Both women already have plans to return to the state for more fly-fishing. Both feel that this vacation has been wonderful with only positive experiences. Both women would recommend visiting the area to friends. However, Sally concluded with stating she will not tell many people about her vacation because she doesn't want too many of them coming to Montana and wrecking her experience.

#### **FV#09 Jon & Jean**

Jon and Jean are first time visitors from Georgia who were intercepted at the Big Hole Battlefield National Park. The couple has been camping along the Lewis and Clark Trail and has stopped in Bozeman to visit family.

Jean understands why Montana is called big sky country (Pg 1 Ln 36). The landscape has been beautiful and both have found the state amazing. John wishes he had a horse and a bedroll so he could travel from one end of the state to the other (Pg 2 Ln 13).

Jon describes the couple as very flexible travelers who plan from day to day. Planning for this vacation began about a year ago after Jon read *Undaunted Courage* (Pg 3 Ln 6). The couple used the Internet to request travel information from Montana's official site. They received books and a map that helped in the planning process. The couple decided to visit the Big Hole Battlefield when Jon noticed the Chief Joseph Pass on a map. He has always had an interest in the Nez Perce and they decided to include the battlefield as part of their itinerary (Pg 4 Ln 8).

To Jean, uncrowded areas mean not having bumper-to-bumper traffic on the highway. The sizes of towns have been nice and they have impressed her. Jon enjoys the mountains because they are rugged and raw in comparison to the Appalachians (Pg 6 Ln 12). Jean has enjoyed the smells of the evergreen forests and their contrast to the forests of Georgia.

The couple enjoys camping because it is less expensive. They often stay in national parks and have found state parks to be very nice. The state provided a very nice book on state parks and campgrounds.

Jean is a history teacher and has been extremely interested in relating her experiences of Native American culture to her students (Pg 7 Ln 13). Jon has always identified with Native Americans ever since he was a little kid. Again, the Lewis and Clark expedition and the aspects of that amazing journey intrigue both of them.

Jon thinks he is most likely to tell friends about the scenic beauty of Montana. Jean emphasizes the contrasts of the state to Georgia and feels her son would really enjoy visiting. Jon concluded by suggesting that visitors be asked if specific items or types of shopping attracted visitors to the state. He feels that the unique stores and products, available in Montana, such as wool, leather, and sheepskin, intrigue visitors.

### **RV#10 Gustaf, Tarin, & Karl**

Gustaf, Tarin, and Karl are repeat visitors from Norway that were intercepted at Bannock State Park. They have visited Great Falls, Helena, and Deer Lodge. They plan to visit Bozeman, Billings, and the Little Bighorn Battlefield before leaving the state.

The family uses motels and hotels as their primary accommodations while in Montana. Tarin thinks about wide-open valleys, ranches, and farms when she thinks about Montana (Pg 2 Ln 31). Gustaf enjoys the rivers and lakes since they are major spots for bird watching. Birding is the major motivations for the men on this trip. Gustaf feels birding takes you out into nature (Pg 3 Ln 7). He enjoys how it calms him down and allows him to interact with other bird enthusiasts. Karl first developed the interest in birding and the family has joined the Norwegian Ornithologist Union and the Audubon Society.

Tarin's passion is history. She has devoted much time to reading about Western and American history. Montana provides many historic spots like the Bozeman Trail where she can interact with places she reads about (Pg 3 Ln 38). Tarin feels that America has taken better care of preserving its history and historical sites than Norway. She feels Montana has made good efforts to provide signage and interpretation for historical areas (Pg 4 Ln 17). Gustaf connects with history because it reflects how European settlers brought their architecture, traditions, and politics to a new environment.

Tarin enjoys the atmosphere of the people in America (Pg 5 Ln 4). She feels they have had a determination to press on and not give up their dreams. Gustaf had a memorable experience at the White Sulphur Springs lodge talking with the owner about his genealogy, work and life. The family has found the people of Montana to be warm, friendly, and very helpful. Gustaf emphasized how the owner of a motel in Townsend went out of his way to provide help and offer suggestions to the family (Pg 5 Ln 38).

Tarin received Montana's travel planner via the Internet. She found it very useful by allowing her to investigate events and activities going on in the state. The family tried to attend special events that were taking place during their trip. The family had some interest in the Lewis and Clark journey, but has not visited any sites on this trip. Both Tarin and Gustaf came to see the eastern plains of Montana. Gustaf was attracted to the big sky (Pg 8 Ln 8) while Tarin finds the plains full of sounds, life, and color.

Private landownership and trespassing laws have surprised Tarin and Gustaf since in Norway, private landowners still allow access in many areas. At times the family was nervous as to whether they could be in certain areas and often their requests to go on private property were rejected (Pg 9 Ln 4). Gustaf describes an occasion where a lady from the lodge they were staying at was nice enough to bring them to her home. She also took them on to her neighbor's land, which allowed the family to see some areas that would not have been accessible. He felt this really made a difference to them.

Planning for the trip began about a year ago. Friends had returned from America and told great stories that inspired the family to go visit, in addition to their previous visits to Montana. The family tries to be flexible in their planning, but has found some difficulties with motels and hotels being booked when they arrive. Tarin planned many of the sites the family would visit ahead of time. She balanced her interest for history with the desire of the men to find good birding locations.

The family would like to return to Montana and could think of nothing that would discourage them from doing so. They concluded that signage could be improved to help travelers know the distance between locations and other directional information (Pg 11 Ln 1).

### **RV#11 Joyce & Wolfgang**

Joyce and Wolfgang are repeat visitors from Washington who were intercepted at Bannock State Park. They have been retracing the Lewis and Clark Trail from Montana to Oregon. Along the way they visited a jazz festival and several museums in the state.

Joyce describes Montana as beautiful and having a laid back, old west feel. Wolfgang feels Montana has beautiful scenery and he visualizes his favorite places in Montana when he cannot fall asleep at night (Pg 1 Ln 18).

The couple has visited the Rosum Museum in Great Falls and the Montana Museum in Helena. Both find these sites very interesting and have returned to them numerous times. Wolfgang first became interested with the Lewis and Clark expedition when he received and read their journals. His passion has been passed on to Joyce who appreciates the lengths of the trip, the hazards, and what the men had to go through (Pg 2 Ln 18).

Wolfgang feels the beauty of the country is his primary attraction to Montana. He feels it is restorative to his body, soul and spirit (Pg 3 Ln 12). He feels we are all part of God's creation of nature and that Montana is an extension of that beauty created for us.

Neither of them finds fishing or hunting a motivation to travel to Montana, but Wolfgang has spent time fishing in the state. He made a special trip to the Blackfoot River to spend time fly-fishing with his 16-year-old son. He described it as a truly marvelous experience to be out with his son in that area.

Wolfgang finds Montana more open and with bigger sky than the other Rocky Mountain states he has visited (Pg 5 Ln 36). He feels that the old west, small town, personalized feel is still present in the state. Joyce describes the cities as having a different quality that is not like a large urban area. She feels more of an old west quality in the state.

Wolfgang describes himself as a person who meets people very easily. He has had very positive experiences with meeting local people and having very good conversations. Joyce feels more introverted and does not interact as much with people.

The couple has been to both national parks, but enjoys Glacier NP much more. Joyce feels Yellowstone is full of crowds and everyone trying to see things makes the park very congested (Pg 7 Ln 32). Wolfgang and Joyce tend to shy away from tourist areas and like the camping in the state. They enjoy the solitude that the national forest campgrounds provide as well as the affordable camping rates.

Trip planning began about a year before the trip. The summer prior the couple had traveled the Lewis and Clark Trail from St. Louis to Great Falls and decided just to complete the route. They did not request any information because they have made numerous trips to the state to see the many ghost and mining towns. Wolfgang wishes that a comprehensive book of campgrounds would be made to make finding sites easier (Pg 9 Ln 19). He also wishes information could be more concise and consistent for accommodations in the state.

Joyce really enjoys coming to Montana for the solitude and ability to get away from populated areas. She suggests increasing advertising in the Northwest. She feels that the jazz festival the couple attended was amazing, but she never would have heard about it in Washington. She feels the state needs to focus on specialized events other than Yellowstone and Glacier (Pg 11 Ln 20). Wolfgang feels more coordination of special events need to take place so overlap does not occur and visitors can attend multiple special events.

### **FV#12 Tanya & Clint**

Tanya, Clint, and their family are first time visitors from Arizona who were intercepted in Montana at Virginia City. They have spent about five days at a cabin along the West Fork of the Madison River and have made small trips sightseeing around the area.

Tanya simply describes Montana as heaven. Clint feels Montana is beautiful and a whole different territory than what they have in Arizona (Pg 2 Ln 4). He sees Montana as still wide open and understands why it is called "big sky" country.

Clint describes their home in Arizona as in an area where fires were burnings, so Montana provided for fresh air and escape. Clint's brother runs cabins in the Virginia City area, which allowed them to visit family. Fly-fishing was another reason for visiting. Their children are

learning to fish and it gives them time to spend together (Pg 3 Ln 9). Tanya feels fishing is an opportunity to get away from work and enjoy herself.

Wildlife is another attraction for the family. They have wildlife at home, but not as plentiful or with the variety that Montana provides (Pg 4 Ln 9). Tanya explains the excitement of viewing wildlife as a chance to see something different from what is at home.

Despite trip planning beginning about a year ago, Tanya feels this trip was very spontaneous and a last minute decision. Clint received all the information he needed from personal contact with his brother. The family has not searched for attractions to visit. Clint feels that on a return visit they would investigate more possible attractions.

Tanya has found the green environment particularly beautiful. It is something they do not experience in Arizona. Clint agrees that seeing green is very nice and something he treasures (Pg 6 Ln 7). At home vegetation is all brown. Seeing green vegetation is something they have learned to value and appreciated when it is present.

Tanya concluded by describing themselves as people who travel "by the seat of their pants."

### **FV#13 Leslie, Taylor, & Cameron**

Leslie, Taylor, and Cameron are first time visitors from Tennessee who were intercepted at the Grizzly Discovery Center in West Yellowstone. The family has traveled from Missoula to West Yellowstone and plan to spend time in the park. The primary reason for visiting the state has been to attend a wedding.

Leslie's first impressions of Montana are wide-open, uncluttered, beautiful space (Pg 1 Ln 21). Cameron enjoys all the animals he has been able to see. The family has taken a tour of Yellowstone and saw a diversity of animals including elk, bison, and eagles.

Leslie enjoyed the drive from Missoula to West Yellowstone. She thought it was very beautiful with many pretty sights (Pg 2 Ln 4). She feels the family has not met many local people, but the service people they have encountered have been very nice. Cameron commented that restaurants in Montana are different than in Tennessee. He noted that water is served to you in Montana, whereas in Tennessee, the restaurant places a pitcher and empty glasses on the table (Pg 2 Ln 28).

The family is primarily in the state for a wedding, but would like to return for an extended vacation. Cameron would like to see more of north Yellowstone and experience the park in the winter.

Cameron feels Montana is different from Tennessee because of the mountains and the ability to readily see animals. The size of the towns and the small population of the state surprised Leslie. She expected Missoula to be larger than it is (Pg 3 Ln 39). Leslie finds the towns more laid back and rural compared to the "yuppie" feel she has back home. In Montana, neighborhoods are spaced farther apart and homes do not feel on top of one another.

In Montana, Leslie feels you have to be prepared for traveling long distances without seeing gas stations or rest stops. She feels to be safe you must plan your stops and be aware of the distances. Leslie thinks Montana is comparable to Colorado, but with more of a wild west, cowboy atmosphere (Pg 5 Ln 4).

The Internet was the primary source of information for trip planning. Leslie visited the state's websites and called the Chamber of Commerce in the Virginia City area for recommendations on tours. Visiting Yellowstone was a primary motivation for visiting Montana from the beginning of the planning process. The family has some flexibility in their schedule, but with the wedding they are limited in the time they have.

The family has planned to go white water rafting in the state and all are looking forward to it. Leslie is interested to compare the experience to the trips she has had in Tennessee (Pg 5 Ln 38). With family now living in Montana, Leslie believes they will visit again and devote some time to visiting Glacier NP. She concluded that despite a bad recommendation for dinner, the family had not had any negative experiences.

**FV#14 Larry, Terry, Cody, & Heather**

Larry, Terry, and their family are first time visitors from California who were intercepted at the Grizzly Discovery Center in West Yellowstone. The family has traveled south from the Glacier NP to visit Yellowstone NP.

The children have enjoyed seeing animals from the road and viewing the ranches of Montana. Larry has enjoyed traveling through the small towns of the state and experiencing their culture (Pg 1 Ln 39). Terry likes the old western feel of the towns.

Larry feels that Montana has very good dinosaur exhibits that interest him. He would like to investigate state access regulations via the Internet and then return to spend more time in these areas (Pg 2 Ln 39). Terry has appreciated the lakes and streams and how they flow through the mountains. Similar to western Montana, large mountains are found around where they live in California.

Larry has a good feeling traveling through Montana. He describes it as being 50 years back in time (Pg 3 Ln 25). Terry describes her attraction to Montana as the open spaces, which means a lot of room and not having houses on top of other houses. She does not feel crowded in the stores and has a sense of privacy.

Fishing is an attraction for the family. Terry enjoys being out in nature and relaxing while reading a book. Likewise, it allows Larry to get away from his life and be out in the open. Larry is also attracted to the Badlands because of his interests in dinosaurs and paleontology.

The family has found the mountains in Montana much more striking than the Sierras. Terry and Larry agree that the Rockies have more trees and are much greener than the mountains they are accustomed to (Pg 5 Ln 44).

Larry tends to plan trips years in advance, but primary planning for this vacation began only three months ago. He used the Internet to investigate many details of their trip. The family is staying at KOA campgrounds that they booked prior to the trip. Larry knew the family needed to be at certain places at certain times so he booked the reservations. Yet during the day the family plans to remain flexible for visiting attractions. Larry requested brochures from the states that the family planned to visit. He suggests creating a comprehensive travel book that provided ideas for attractions, lodging, and other activities.

Larry has enjoyed traveling the back roads of the state. He feels you learn a lot more along the back way than you would on major highways. He also feels you are able to get into new and unique areas that have their own appeal.

The family has not experienced anything negative in the state and would like to return. They were disappointed that the Going to Sun Road was closed which limited their access in Glacier NP. Larry is interested in the Lewis and Clark expedition and someday would like to follow the trail.

**RV#15 Chet & Diane**

Chet, Diane, and their family are repeat visitors from Florida who were intercepted at the Big Sky Resort. The family flew into Bozeman and has spent time in Virginia City interacting with the local people and visiting the museum. They plan to go to Sheridan and are looking for a location for a vacation home.

Chet feels that returning to Montana is like coming home (Pg 2 Ln 4). He has found the relaxation and enjoyment to be just tremendous. Chet has an interest in local history because his father owned a mining operation in Montana when he was young. He finds a wealth in the people, the communities, and the environment (Pg 2 Ln 29). He has a desire to enjoy the beauty, the trees, and the wildlife in the area.

Chet enjoys the view that the horizon provides. He finds the mountain ranges magnificent and they provide a sense of peace and tranquility. The family chose to stay in cabins off the beaten trail and enjoy the quiet and relaxation found there.

Open spaces are important to Chet because of the relaxing atmosphere they provide. He makes the analogy that if you have ever been to Disneyland and experiences the crowds and lines, you then know the value of open space (Pg 3 Ln 33).

Visiting the rivers is a new experience that Chet is gaining a new appreciation for. He is planning to go fishing with his son on this trip and believes his attraction to the rivers will intensify after this experience.

History has been an attraction ever since his father brought Chet to Montana. He likes to study the people and understand how the culture of the region developed (Pg 4 Ln 5).

Trip planning began six months ago when Chet and Diane's daughter-in-law told them that they were planning a trip to Montana. Their daughter-in-law did most of the planning and research for the family on the Internet. However, Chet found accommodations in Virginia City by searching the web for bed and breakfast locations.

Chet finds the people of Montana very reflective of the culture in the frontier days (Pg 5 Ln 24). He feels that local people are not that far removed from the culture of generations past. Diane does not think they have met a rushed or rude person their entire time in Montana.

Chet characterizes the family's itinerary as a core plan with fill-ins. Major attractions such as Yellowstone NP, Big Sky, and the family mine were planned, but they have been flexible in adding other locations and attractions.

The family would definitely like to return to Montana. Chet expressed that it would not hurt him to spend a little time in the state each year (Pg 6 Ln 45). He would like to invest in a business or start a company, but he understands the economy is tough. He views the winters as difficult and people need more than one job to survive in his opinion.

Chet suggests asking visitors to describe their sunrises and sunsets. His answer to the questions was that they were awe-inspiring and filled him with the breath of life (Pg 8 Ln 4). He finds them peaceful, relaxing, and a whole new thing to discover every time. He very poetically described these experiences as something of great importance to him.

#### **FV#16 Kevin, Pam, & Chelsea**

Kevin, Pam, and Chelsea are first time visitors from Illinois who were intercepted in Gardiner, Montana outside Yellowstone NP. They have traveled across Interstate 94 and are spending some time in the Yellowstone area.

Chelsea feels that there are no words to describe Montana because it is so beautiful (Pg 1 Ln 23). The family did not think much of the eastern part of the state until they reached the Rocky Mountains. Kevin says that mountains are the reason they came, to see something they do not have in Illinois. Chelsea describes the scenery as so much different from their home in Illinois. Kevin finds the scenery awesome and just like how God's creation was described in the Bible (Pg 2 Ln 42).

The family has found Montana to be much more laid back than at home and the people to be very friendly. Everyone says hello and Kevin enjoys getting away from the hustle and bustle of the city (Pg 3 Ln 23).

Kevin was attracted to Gardiner because of the access to the park and the opportunities such as horseback riding and rafting that are available. Kevin is hesitant to go rafting due to the cold water and possibility of injury. This vacation has been much more peaceful for Kevin and he has enjoyed spending the time with his family. It has been the first family vacation they have all taken together.

Trip planning began a week before the trip when Kevin woke up and just decided to take the family to Yellowstone NP (Pg 5 Ln 12). It was very last minute with Kevin finding most of his information from a hotel travel guide.

Pam, who entered the interview later, thinks Montana is indescribable. She feels they are in God's country (Pg 6 Ln 38). When she awoke in Montana to see the mountains, she had tears in her eyes. She now feels it is her goal to move to the state.

Since the family's car broke down in North Dakota, they have watched their budget. They still plan to go horseback riding, which is very important to Chelsea. She has a great love for horses and is excited about the possible experience.

Pam has found the people very informative, more so than in North Dakota (Pg 9 Ln 6). They would like to return, but feel more planning before the trip would be beneficial. On this trip they stayed in motels. Kevin feels that motels can provide more amenities and options that other forms of accommodation cannot.

The family has had opportunities to see a diversity of wildlife in the area, including grizzly bears, bison, and mountain goats. Pam was amazed to just see goats standing on the cliffs (Pg 10 Ln 18).



The family feels that motels could be more understanding of travelers arriving late and charging a different rate. This experience has been slightly negative. Otherwise, they have enjoyed the city of Helena. They will go back and tell their friends about the mountains and beauty. Pam feels that before a person dies, they truly need to see this side of the country (Pg 12 Ln 9).

The family concluded by discussing how gift shops and prices vary around the state and a visitor must be aware that quality and price can vary in different locations. They discussed whether that would be a business in which they would like to become involved in.

#### **RV#17 Anna Marie**

Anna Marie is a repeat visitor from Washington who was intercepted in Montana at Three Forks. Her vacation was approximately a week long and her intent was to visit Yellowstone NP, Big Sky, and explore the Gallatin River.

Anna Marie describes Montana as "the most beautiful place in the world" (Pg 1 Ln 17-18). To her it brings a sense of peace, safety, and she feels "we can come into our humanity here"(Pg1 Ln 23). Montana is attractive to her because of the physical beauty and remoteness. She views the state as still untouched and has not been invaded by urban sprawl.

The people of Montana were described as delightful and Anna feels that they are "living in a more natural way, closer to the earth" (Pg 2 Ln 25). She also found them very protective, especially as a woman traveling alone. Individuals seemed concerned for her safety.

The choice of accommodation for Anna Marie was camping. She "didn't go to the resort type places" (Pg 3 Ln 6), but preferred the national forest areas that gave her a sense of privacy.

Open spaces were a motivation for Anna Marie to visit Montana. Having lived near an urban center, Anna Marie was happy to "not see skyscrapers or another house in her face" (Pg 3 Ln 35). She also enjoys the lakes and rivers that brought her a sense of peace in what she described as a clean and glorious surrounding. She found the rivers of Montana to have a magical quality that she could not adequately describe (Pg 4 Ln 11).

When talking about wildlife experiences, she explains how she gets excited seeing a rabbit. She doesn't see animals as easily where she comes from. She has a great love of animals and places value in seeing them. Montana provided a wonderful place to see game (Pg 4 Ln 21). Anna Marie has mountains in her home state of Washington, but describes the mountains of Montana as bigger and wilder. She feels that they are "touched, pristine and formidable" (Pg 4 Ln 36).

The fact that Anna Marie was traveling alone was addressed. In her career people everyday constantly surround her. She feels it is divine to get away and be alone. She feels safe but also added she is not foolish in her decisions.

The trip planning for this vacation began a week prior. Anna Marie was looking for a place close to home where she could get away for a week and thought Montana was the place. She used maps as her primary information source for possible destinations (Pg 5 Ln 34). She also used visitor information along the way and a friend in Stevensville that gave her additional information about locations. She describes the pleasant surprise encountered on this trip was finding "unparalleled beauty that never failed to amaze her" (Pg 6 Ln 29).

A question she would ask visitors would be how Montana changes the visitor in any way. Her response to her own question was " it just takes me to a higher place. I think I come back [home] more peaceful" (Pg 7 Ln 7). Montana helps her get very focused again on what is important.

#### **FV#18 Leo & Patricia**

Leo and Patricia are first time visitors from Colorado who were intercepted at the Copper King Mansion in Butte. They are exploring the northern parts of the United States, specifically Wyoming and Montana.

Patricia characterizes Montana as beautiful with great scenery. She has found the people of Butte to be informative and hospitable. The architecture of the town has been fascinating and she has had a very enjoyable experience (Pg 1 Ln 24).

Leo characterizes Montana as having small towns with open spaces in between. He appreciated the expansiveness of the big sky and feels the state is not overrun with development

(Pg 1 Ln 31). He has not been “blown away” by the state, but has felt very at peace and has had a pleasant experience.

The couple lives in an area of Colorado where a lot of growth is occurring. Leo feels Colorado was like Montana before all the people came. Patricia enjoys the green and openness of Montana and describes the land as how home used to be (Pg 2 Ln 38).

Patricia has enjoyed the rivers being full of running, rushing water. The couple has experienced a drought near home and appreciates the vegetation that the rivers support and the beauty of the watersheds.

The couple was attracted to Butte for its historical aspects and the connections it has to their Irish heritage (Pg 4 Ln 10). The mountains and forests are another attraction for the two of them. Leo feels the mountains are similar to Colorado but less developed. He reiterates the need to keep Montana from attracting too many permanent residents and, therefore, losing its appeal (Pg 5 Ln 15). Patricia finds the mountains of Montana very peaceful with a green, velvet appearance. She feels they have a very soft appearance that adds to the great scenery and views.

Trip planning began about one week before the trip. Patricia describes herself and Leo as very spontaneous travelers who are flexible with their plans. The couple uses maps and information from local people when planning their next destination. They like to interact with local people and spend time with them (Pg 6 Ln 38). The couple recounted an experience where the customers and staff at a local diner sang happy birthday to one of the elderly customers. They found that experience very touching and something that you do not see often when you are in the city (Pg 8 Ln 1). Patricia feels people have time to enjoy life in Montana and that their lives are not so rushed.

As she leaves, Patricia takes away an understanding of the people and the state that she did not have before. Leo takes away from Montana the comfort that there are still areas that have not been spoiled in the United States (Pg 9 Ln 9).

#### **FV#19 Rick, Austin, & Cobe**

Rick, Austin, and Cobe are first time visitors from Washington who were intercepted at the Lewis and Clark Caverns. They have been in state for two days, visited Garnet ghost town, and are working their way to Yellowstone NP.

Austin enjoyed his experience at Garnet ghost town with the old buildings and western atmosphere. Cobe found Garnet to be very open and clean and the family had a beautiful day to enjoy the town.

Rick describes Montana as wide-open, untamed, and beautiful (Pg 2 Ln 28). Cobe find the land not to be ruined and without a lot of development. Austin enjoys the variety of animals the family has been able to see in the state. Cobe believes Montana has met her expectations of being expansive open land and very clean.

Cobe spent two years reading the Lewis and Clark journals and has been fascinated by them. She never realized how far the expedition traveled into Montana (Pg 4 Ln 8).

Fishing is an activity the family has been pursuing in Montana. To them it is the “thrill of the hunt” and just the fun of catching a fish. Cobe describes fishing as the beauty, quiet, and solitude of the experience (Pg 5 Ln 14).

The open spaces of Montana convey to Cobe a land that is untouched. She feels this is how the landscape must have looked to the pioneers over one hundred years ago. Rick is impressed by the fact that large clear cuts are not obvious and care has been taken in the forest management (Pg 5 Ln 38). Cobe agrees that Montana seems more responsible in its resource conservation and she feels that it is nice to see the forests have not been touched.

The family enjoys the Native American cultures present in Montana and how they respect the land. Cobe feels that Montana represents the start of the United States. She feels Montana is different from Washington because the landforms are different. Washington does not have foothills and the land formations in Montana are smooth like velvet (Pg 6 Ln 41).

Trip planning began in January when Cobe began researching the area in the Internet. She found the state websites helpful with links to suitable information. The family typically collects information along the trip and is flexible in their itinerary. They are open to visiting sites that were not previously planned.

Cobe really enjoys how clean the state has been (Pg 9 Ln 43). Rick is impressed by how the highways and litter control are maintained. Lewis and Clark Caverns has been a pleasant surprise on their trip that the family was happy to find.

Cobe feels that Montana changes her. She now appreciates how undeveloped the state is and it inspires her to go home and take care of the land (Pg 10 Ln 37). It makes her feel good to know that not all of the United States is overdeveloped.

### **RV#20 Lynanne & Eleanor**

Lynanne and Eleanor are repeat visitors from California who were intercepted at the Museum of the Rockies. They are old friends traveling with Lynanne's father and Eleanor's husband. They have been in the state for three days and plan to be in the Georgetown area for about two weeks.

Lynanne describes Montana as big sky country. She has lived in the state before and visiting feels like coming home (Pg 1 Ln 40). The climate is cooler than California and she enjoys how beautiful and spacious the state is. Eleanor agrees that the state has a big sky, but it is also green (Pg 1 Ln 45). She explains that big sky means seeing mountains that do not close her in, but go on and on. Lynanne agrees that Montana is expansive and she feels she has "elbow room" when she is in the state.

Lynanne feels the local people are hard working and not pretentious. She feels they accept you as a person and treat you as who you are, not what you have (Pg 2 Ln 34).

Eleanor has a feeling of isolation in the state that she does not have back home. Lynanne believes she has a vested interest in the state when she visits. It is part of her right as an American. Eleanor feels the mountains of Montana are gentler than the rugged Sierras

Both women express that the state's history is important to them. Eleanor feels that Montana is homestead country and not too many generations removed from the pioneers of the West (Pg 4 Ln 40). Lynanne believes it is important to understand history and how people migrated to different areas. Her key interests are the Lewis and Clark expedition and Charlie Russell. Fishing is also important to the group. The men spend most of their time fishing while the women enjoy hiking and exploring the terrain around the river. For Eleanor, fishing means the opportunity to be outside and enjoy nature.

Viewing wildlife is important to both visitors. Eleanor explains that nowhere else can she drive along the highway and see animals such as mountain goats (Pg 7 Ln 39).

Eleanor and Lynanne become more relaxed when they are in Montana. Life is not as rushed and things happen at a slower pace (Pg 9 Ln 2).

Trip planning began about a year prior to the vacation. Both women still spend time looking for attractions despite having visited Montana numerous times. Information at campgrounds provided Eleanor with good ideas. She also uses the AAA magazine for information and ideas. The women describe themselves as flexible travelers who are always open to new ideas. They have found travel information to be adequate to meet their needs.

Eleanor describes cinnamon rolls as a pleasant surprise she always enjoys in Montana. She feels one should not leave this part of the country without trying the homemade cinnamon rolls (Pg 12 Ln 18).

Both of the visitors have concerns about gun control in the state. Lynanne believes the state has more guns per capita and one needs to respect that fact (Pg 13 Ln 38). Both had a scary experience at a campground where local people were firing their guns in the air on one Fourth of July holiday.

Lynanne concluded the interview with suggesting that Montana should promote visiting the state in different seasons. For example, she feels Yellowstone is a winter wonderland and absolutely different as seasons change.

### **RV#21 Warren & Carol**

Warren and Carol are repeat visitors from Colorado who were intercepted at the Arts Depot in Red Lodge. They have traveled up from Cody, Wyoming to visit a friend's ranch where they plan to spend the duration of their trip.

Carol feels eastern Montana is very bare and desert-like (Pg 1 Ln 39). She did enjoy visiting the Little Bighorn Battlefield and fishing in the area. Carol prefers the area around Red Lodge with its rolling hills, more abundant water, and small towns.

Warren was not disappointed with traveling over the Beartooth Mountains. He enjoys having both the trees and big open hills (Pg 2 Ln 31). He feels more comfortable in the unpopulated areas that Montana provides.

The couple likes traveling to Montana because they have the opportunity to visit friends. Montana is also not as dry as Colorado and they find it refreshing to come to areas where it is still green (Pg 3 Ln 4). Warren likes the state parks and feels they are very accommodating for RV travel. The local people of the state have always been friendly and helpful when Warren and Carol visit.

Local history is an important attraction for the couple. Warren explains they have been lured to the Lewis and Clark Trail along with the western, cowboy feel of the region (Pg 4 Ln 28-30). Carol feels the area represents an exciting time in American history. Warren believes the scenery has not changed much over time. The sense of freedom the state provides is very important to him. Warren brings home memories and visions from Montana that he thinks about on a bad day (Pg 5 Ln 27).

This trip was planned when the couple was unable to visit their friend last year. They do not spend much time planning anymore because they have visited Montana several times. They are flexible travelers who discover attractions as they go along. Through the years, the couple has not had any negative experiences while in the state. Also, the couple cannot describe any noticeable changes to the state since they began visiting.

Warren has spent time reading the Lewis and Clark journals along with other historical nonfiction. It is something he has done to prepare for the vacation. The couple concluded by stating they would like to return and snowmobile in Yellowstone NP before the park is closed to that type of activity.

#### **RV#22 Attila, Christie, Olivia, Jon, & Donna**

Attila, Christie, and their family are mix of first time and repeat visitors from Ohio who were intercepted at the Little Bighorn Battlefield. Donna and Jon have visited Montana before, but the rest of the family members are first time visitors. The family traveled across the state and spent a week in the West Glacier area.

Jon describes Montana as absolutely breathtaking (Pg 2 Ln 26). The atmosphere has been very peaceful and he has enjoyed the colors of the forests in western Montana. He sums up his impressions in one word-utopia (Pg 2 LN 31). Donna has had a tremendous experience and describes the scenery as absolutely gorgeous. Christy explains that if she were to live in Montana, she would only want to live on the western border of Glacier NP. The park has been the highlight of her trip. She enjoys the beautiful scenery and the park has the best hiking areas.

Christy was surprised that the people were not as friendly as she expected (Pg 3 Ln 15). She believes they may be inundated with tourists. Jon feels that his overall experience has been great and for the most part people have been very friendly.

Attila would love to move to Montana because of the mountains, rivers, and opportunities to hunt and fish. He feels he needs to come back to Montana to do all the things the state has to offer (Pg 4 Ln 26). Attila and Christy like the outdoors because they feel it gets children involved with nature and away from television. It helps children learn to appreciate beauty. Christy feels that being in nature is a transcendentalist experience (Pg 5 Ln 8). For Attila, it is getting away from work and appreciating natural beauty and what God created. He looks at the mountains and wonders how they were created.

Jon feels the mountains in Montana are more rugged than in other mountain states. Donna feels they have more grandeur and are more spectacular and overwhelming than others she has seen (Pg 5 Ln 41). Attila feels people are drawn to western Montana for the tranquility, beauty, and scenery.

Trip planning began about six months ago. Christy used the Internet to inquire about cabins and accommodations. The group considers themselves very flexible travelers who "fly by the seat of their pants." Christy and Attila have a three-year-old and they believe one has to be flexible (Pg 7 Ln 11).

Attila feels the lifestyle in Montana is very laid back. Cities are different with a lot fewer people than the family is used to. The cities are less congested and move at a much slower pace.

The only negative experience for Donna has been the mosquitoes. She was not expecting them to be as bad. The only negative aspect for Attila has been not having enough time to see the vastness of Montana and explore all it has to offer (Pg 8 Ln 46). In his opinion, one needs a month or more to fully explore the state.

#### **RV#23 Mark, Melissa, & Madeline**

Mark, Melissa, and Madeline are moving from California to Massachusetts and were intercepted at Pictograph Caves. Melissa is a repeat visitor and this is the first visit for Mark and Madeline. The family is spending some time sightseeing during their move out east.

Mark describes the Montana has having a lot of diversity. The western half has big, rugged mountains with open spaces. The eastern half has open prairies. He feels Montana is a state with many elements of nature (Pg 1 Ln 24). Even driving across the state the family has had a great opportunity to see a diversity of wildlife.

To Mark, the mountains provide many recreational opportunities. He is an avid fisherman who enjoys being out in the countryside. Fishing is a way that he likes to relax.

The wildlife experience provides Melissa with an opportunity to see how she fits into the environment (Pg 2 Ln 23-24). It is getting away from cities and technology and back to what is more important.

Mark feels Montana is different from other mountain states because the rivers are bigger and the fishing is better. He feels one has a better opportunity of seeing large game in the state than in other states. Just yesterday, a bull elk crossed in front of him while fishing (Pg 2 Ln 30). This is an experience he does not believe he could have anywhere else.

Hiking is an activity Melissa enjoys because it allows her to exert herself and exercise while experiencing the outdoors. Mark likes getting off the beaten path and having opportunities to see wildlife. Hiking is an opportunity for the family to get away from people, be themselves, and relax (Pg 3 Ln 22).

Montana has a different type of culture for Melissa. She likes the historical aspects of Montana and its connections to pioneers. The family would like to stop at more historical sites but it depends on Madeline and her sleep schedule.

Mark views the open spaces of Montana as a countryside that is untouched. This magnitude of untouched areas is not present elsewhere. Melissa describes Montana as Aaron Copeland's America (Pg 4 Ln 29). The rivers and mountains add a level of beauty the plains do not possess.

The couple planned their stops in the state not only because of the move, but also because of their daughter. With an infant, they feel they need to stick to an itinerary whereas by themselves, they would be more flexible and spontaneous in their vacation plans. AAA and maps provided most of the information for their trip.

The family would like to return to Montana for a vacation and spend more time at the state's larger attractions. On this trip, they have visited the most accessible sites to their travel route. Melissa feels the state has exceeded all the expectations she had before visiting.

#### **FV#24 Julie, Paulette, & Tom**

Julie and Paulette are sisters from Nebraska and Virginia, respectively, traveling with their brother Tom to Billings for a family reunion. They all are first time visitors to the state and were intercepted at Pompey's Pillar will sight seeing.

Julie describes Montana as wide open with cities few and far between (Pg 1 Ln 18). Paulette describes Montana as cowboy country with open range. She feels industry is also present and Montana is a place where people utilize the resources of the land.

Paulette and Julie enjoyed their stay in Billings. They found the city to be clean, well maintained, with nice neighborhoods and friendly people. Paulette feels the Yellowstone Valley is a location she would like to return to on an extended vacation. The history of that region and the multitude of side trips to explore are very attractive to her.

Julie was impressed with the interpretation at the Little Bighorn Battlefield (Pg 2 L n 33). She feels she was more able to visualize what occurred at the battlefield based on the information provide at the site. Paulette also feels that their trip has been educational. She is interested in geology and how the land is laid out geographically (Pg 3 Ln 24-26). She has found herself “soaking the geography in” and attempting to identify all the different types of land use she sees.

Julie understands the phrase “big sky” after witnessing a Montana sunset. She feels the clouds, the clearness, and color create the panoramic effect here that she cannot see in Nebraska (Pg 4 Ln 12). Paulette agrees that the sunsets in Virginia are not as grand because you cannot see the sun approaching the horizon. In Montana, you are able to see much more blue sky.

Paulette and Julie were surprised by the dryness of the climate in the eastern part of the state. Both believe Montana is experiencing a drought. They were amazed to discover that precipitation is very low in eastern Montana.

Paulette senses a strong country western feel in the state (Pg 6 Ln 7). Julie finds local people to be very rugged and athletic. She has not seen very many overweight people in the state. Paulette attributes Julie’s perception to the western lifestyle of the state that encourages people to be active and outside (Pg 6 Ln 30).

If the sisters were to return, Paulette would like to find a bed and breakfast in a small town and spend time making day trips into the hills. Julie would like to explore the lakes and rivers. Paulette feels she would have picked a cooler time of year to visit the state, probably the fall or spring. Julie expressed not wanting to visit in the winter. She believes the winter would be miserable and very cold (Pg 8 Ln 36).

#### **RV#25 Mickey & Jan**

Mickey and Jan are visitors from Florida who were intercepted at the Moss Mansion in Billings. Mickey is a repeat visitor and Jan is a first time visitor. They are part of a bus tour group that flew into Billings and will spend about five days in the state.

Both women chose the tour because they believe Montana will be interesting and both want to see more of what the country looks like (Pg 1 Ln 26). Mickey has been looking forward to participating in some river rafting and spending some time on day hikes. She also hopes to see some of the historic sites in the state. Mickey is a little disappointed that the tour group did not inform them about reservations for activities such as rafting in the area. She does not believe the pair will be able to go rafting because it would be necessary to rent a car to reach the nearest outfitter.

Jan was expecting to see the mountains and to this point has not been disappointed with what she has seen (Pg 3 Ln 3). Mickey was a disappointed with the information the hotel in Billings was able to provide her about the city. She expected them to be more informative (Pg 3 Ln 13).

Mickey made her travel reservations for the tour about four months in advance. Jan followed with her reservations shortly after Mickey. The pair did very little in planning outside of the information that was provided by the tour operators. Mickey did receive a map from AAA and left her itinerary with a friend (Pg 4 Ln 34). She typically requests more information from AAA about what opportunities are available in any given state.

Both women have a general interest in history. Jan is interested in the history of the country and wants to see what the country looks like (Pg 5 Ln 28).

Mickey has always lived in large cities and finds it fascinating to see that there are still open spaces left in our country. She feels Billings is a small city compared to where she is from and that is a noticeable difference to her (Pg 6 Ln 33).

Mickey has seen tourism advertising for Montana on television. She thinks the advertisements are very beautiful (Pg 7 Ln 37). The advertising increased her excitement for visiting the state.

Both women are interested in the farm and ranch culture of the Montana lifestyle. Both coming from big cities, they find it interesting that these farms and ranches still exist and that people can be so far removed from urban life and still enjoy themselves (Pg 8 Ln 33).

Mickey and Jan have found the people of Montana to be friendly and so far have enjoyed interacting with them. Mickey feels that if she returns, she would like to have a car. She feels this is a part of the country one needs to have their car to travel in and allow themselves to be flexible in their itinerary (Pg 9 Ln 41).

### **RV#26 Joe & Tyler**

Joe and Tyler are father and son from California who were intercepted at Pompey's Pillar. Joe is a repeat visitor, but this is Tyler's first time in Montana. The pair has spent time in the Yellowstone NP region and is working their way to Glacier NP.

Tyler's first impression of Montana is the large amount of farmland in the east (Pg 1 Ln 23). Joe has been looking forward to Glacier but his first comments have been about Yellowstone and the state of Montana's decision to kill many of the bison. This has had a very negative effect on Joe. He has a negative impression of the people, on this instance, for allowing this to happen (Pg 1 Ln 42-43). He has been impressed by the amount of interpretation at sites across the state, but feels more can be done to bring back the bison across the state. Both of them were disappointed with seeing less than 50 bison during their entire time in Yellowstone.

Tyler has noticed large amounts of tourists while in the Yellowstone region. Joe feels that West Yellowstone is doing a better job of promoting tourism and that Gardiner could do a better job of encourage tourist to spend more time in the area (Pg 3 Ln 17). The pair did comment that they had a better experience camping outside of Gardiner than they did in West Yellowstone. They had difficult finding information about campsites around West Yellowstone and were forced to stay in a motel.

The history of the west and the story of settling the frontier are motivations for the family to visit Montana. Native American culture is also important to them. They live in a community where there are Native American families and the community tries to celebrate the culture. Joe is interested in the possibilities of seeing a pow-wow outside of Glacier NP later in the vacation (Pg 5 Ln 9). He is encouraged to see Native American communities prospering more and feels we as a nation still have a lot to learn from them about being in touch with ourselves and content with living on the land.

Joe feels Glacier NP is different from Yellowstone because one can see the high peaks, glaciated valleys, and has the opportunity for camping and backcountry experiences (Pg 5 Ln 39-40). He feels the mountains are different from California because the Sierras do not have as big of U-shaped valleys. Tyler feels that he can see more wildlife in Montana (Pg 6 Ln 24).

Both men enjoy fishing and the opportunities that Montana provides. Tyler enjoys fishing because of the thrill of the catch. For Joe, fishing is part of the backcountry experience. In general, the outdoor experience for Joe means being in different wilderness areas and seeing how they differ (Pg 8 Ln 39-40). He describes himself as a mountain man and the mountains are his church. It is where he can experience closeness to God and spirituality. He will take away from this experience images of glacially carved mountains and the opportunity to be in tune with nature and himself.

A class project inspired interest in Tyler about the Lewis and Clark expedition. He is interested in just seeing the wilderness and viewing the wildlife. Joe read *Undaunted Courage* and the journals of Lewis and Clark. He feels the allure of Montana is the ability to experience rivers and mountains the same way that Lewis and Clark did (Pg 10 Ln 44-45).

Trip planning began in January and Tyler's school report with impetus for the trip. Joe's interest in Lewis and Clark also drove them to visit more sites on the trail. Both feel they would come back to Montana to vacation. Joe finds himself falling in love with the Rockies and native people (Pg 12 Ln 20). Joe has used AAA for information and Tyler received a travel planner for his birthday, which has been very useful on the trip. Joe also had a friend's sister send him information from the Chamber of Commerce near Little Bighorn.

Joe found the IMAX Theater in West Yellowstone a surprise. He found the area more developed and touristy than he remembered from his past trip (Pg 14 Ln 14). Joe suggests asking visitors more about their accommodations and how they budget for a trip. The pair has been camping most of the time and prefers the more natural national forest campgrounds, but Joe has found private campgrounds very accommodating as well.

### **RV#27 Dan & Jean**

Dan and Jean are repeat visitors who were intercepted at Pompey's Pillar. Dan is from Washington and Jean is from Arizona. They have been traveling as a couple and have spent about two weeks in Montana.

Dan describes Montana as very big and very mountainous (Pg 1 Ln 26). He feels the eastern part of the state has more mountains than some people believe. Dan feels that Montana has everything someone could want in life, except terrific winters. He feels the Mission Mountains and the surrounding area are spellbinding and just fantastic (Pg 2 Ln 43). He recommends people visit Glacier NP because it is just unbelievable and beautiful.

Both agree that Montana has the friendliest people you will ever find (Pg 4 Ln 9). Jean tells of meeting man who remembered Dan as a little boy living at the Chaplain Ranch. He drove the couple out to the old ranch and let Dan and Jean collect wooden boards from the old farmhouse.

Montana history is an attraction for the couple. Jean's mother was born in the Bitterroot Valley and she wants to see the area. Dan is interested in the history of the railroad and the pioneers who came to settle the west. He also has many family and friends living in Helena and Billings.

Jean describes Glacier NP as beautiful scenery. Dan thinks the park is unbelievable. Both enjoyed their experiences in the park.

Dan has many books about the Lewis and Clark journey. He is interested in how the expedition came about (Pg 6 Ln 35). He tries to visualize the hardships the men encountered. He relates to the challenges they faced and is intrigued by the discoveries they made. The new experiences they had with wildlife and Native American cultures are all parts of the journey that fascinate Dan.

AAA provided the primary source of information for the couple's trip planning. The couple does not have a fixed schedule and is very flexible in their route. They may spend time around Three Forks, Helena, and Big Hole before their vacation ends.

### **FV#28 Jay**

Jay is a first-time visitor from Maryland traveling with his wife and they were intercepted at the State Historical Society Museum in Helena. They are attending a high school reunion at a former classmates ranch and visiting attractions along the way.

Jay's picture of Montana has been shaped by conversations with his former classmate Monty. Monty chose to move to Montana after high school. He worked for relatives and fell in love with the state. Monty then decided to move to the state. The enthusiasm Monty has expressed about the state has shaped Jay's early image of the state (Pg 2 Ln 1).

Looking at Charlie Russell's' artwork, Jay has a sense of the harshness and ruggedness of the land. He feels people had to be very self-sufficient and able to adapt to the environment.

The Lewis and Clark expedition and the railroads are two aspects of Montana history that interest Jay. He feels we don't appreciate the lifestyle involved with the construction of the railroads (Pg 3 Ln 6-7).

Jay has had experience with the Appalachians, but feels they are not as magnificent as the mountains of Montana (Pg 3 Ln 26). The Rockies are more rugged and have less tree cover compared to the mountains out east.

Uncrowded areas and open space allow Jay to step back and slow down from the fast pace of urban living. He enjoys being outdoors and feels Montana provides vistas and scenery that are not interrupted by telephone polls or turnpikes (Pg 4 Ln 5). The "big sky" elements to Joe means being able to see the stars without smog and haze interfering with them.

Jay is looking forward to his ranch experience because it will give him an opportunity to get in touch with nature and reconnect with himself. Because of discussions with Monty, he has cancelled his plans to visit Yellowstone NP and now will spend the rest of his time in Glacier NP.

Jay is struck by his smallness in relationship to the mountains (Pg 4 Ln 35). In the Helena area, he feels the mountains are graceful with rolling hills that blend with the rugged peaks.

The population of Helena would be comparable to the college football game attendance back in Maryland. Jay finds this aspect nice because he was raised in a small town in Wisconsin.



Seeing wildlife and fishing are experiences Jay is looking forward to. Fishing is attractive to him because it is a struggle. It is having the human ability to have the knowledge to catch a fish (Pg 7 Ln 16). Harvesting game gives him the pioneer feeling of being self-sufficient.

Plans for the high school reunion began two years ago, but the vacation began coming together a few months ago. Jay spent time reading the AAA guidebook about the major cities and attractions within them (Pg 8 Ln 26-27). He also spent time on the Internet looking at the two national park websites. He is looking forward to the Going to the Sun Road, spending time in the Flathead Valley, and the opportunity for side trips as they travel.

### **FV#29 Greg & Donna**

Greg and Donna are first time visitors from Maryland who were intercepted at the State Historical Society Museum in Helena. They had been in the state for six days when interviewed. Their trip to that point consisted of visiting Missoula, Helena, and Glacier National Park.

Greg first commented that Montana has ever-changing scenery (Pg 1 Ln 19). Both were excited about seeing Glacier NP and enjoyed driving on the Going to the Sun Road. Both were surprised by the amounts of snow in the park for early June.

Greg and Donna mentioned they were pleasantly surprised by "just how pretty it has been all over" (Pg 3 Ln 9). Being from the east coast, Montana was entirely different scenery for them. Donna stated that compared to other mountain states Montana has been a lot less congested and easy to travel around. Greg commented that in other mountain states or other countries like Austria, remote areas to drive are not present like they are in Montana (Pg 4 Ln 7).

Donna mentioned that viewing wildlife was not the primary attraction. She focuses more on beautiful scenery. Donna also commented on the wide-open spaces present in Montana. She stated that you are able to drive for miles without seeing another car or home. This aspect is very unique for them since they live on the east coast (Pg 5 Ln 9).

Greg was interested in the changing sights of the glacier-fed streams on the sides of mountains. He enjoyed the sound the streams made and just watching them flow.

Greg stated that the couple's expectations for Glacier NP were very high. Each agreed that their expectations were met. The mountains were of particular interest for them. Donna stated that they live in a really flat part of the world. She feels that it's nice to see different landscapes. Montana is wide open, with a great big sky without a lot of buildings (Pg 7 Ln 25). Greg and Donna felt that once you were up on a rise, you could see for miles.

The primary accommodations and lodging used by Greg and Donna were campsites for their recreational vehicle. Donna felt one must interpret the information available about sites to fit with your needs. She would much rather have nice sites with a view than a campground that provides entertainment and activities in the evenings (Pg 9 Ln 11).

Planning for their vacation began a year and a half ago. Greg and Donna had traveled cross-country in the southern United States before and this visit to Montana was part of a northern cross-country trip. Both felt Montana was not as well organized in travel information as other states. They were accustomed to crossing the state line and receiving maps and information from tourist information centers (Pg 9 Ln 42-44).

Greg and Donna used a *National Geographic* book that provided information on attractions along the interstate. Both considered themselves very flexible travelers that did not have a scheduled itinerary. Both commented they would like to return to the state for an extended visit where they could park in one area for a month's time (Pg 13 Ln 15).

The people of Montana were seen as very friendly. Donna saw them as very laid back and not in a rush. The couple felt towns were very rustic and had a very rural feel to them. Both had a sense of life slowing down and becoming more laid back as you traveled.

### **RV#30 Elaine**

Elaine is a repeat visitor from Illinois who was intercepted at the Gates of the Mountain. She is in the state to visit friends in Helena and visiting attractions along the way.

Elaine describes Montana as awesome, majestic, open, clean, and beautiful (Pg 1 Ln 18). Where she lives is crowded, polluted, and congested. Montana clears her mind and gives her a sense of hope. She misses the state when she returns home to her everyday life.

The open spaces of Montana represent freedom to Elaine (Pg 2 Ln 8). It means not having a lot of people around and being able to move around freely. The term "big sky" means openness with beautiful colors and freedom, both of which Elaine just loves.

Rivers and lakes are another attraction from Elaine. The rivers and lakes of Montana are very clean and clear compared to the water Elaine is near in Illinois. History is also a motivation for her. She has read a lot about women of the west and finds a connection with the toughness and willingness to take risks that the early pioneers had. She feels the women did not have the luxuries that others did on the east coast and had to start from scratch (Pg 3 Ln 27).

Elaine has enjoyed visiting Helena and thinks the city is beautiful. She feels that a great effort has been taken to keep it clean and as immaculate as it is. She respects the people of Montana very much and finds them very down to earth and straight shooters (Pg 4 Ln 22). Elaine feels more comfortable trusting people here than she does back in Chicago.

Mountains are not something Elaine can experience at home, so she feels herself trying to absorb as much of the experience as she can. The experience brings a sense of inner peace and clears her mind (Pg 5 Ln 16-17).

Trip planning for this vacation began back in January. Elaine had a set idea of places she would like to visit and used information from her friends to fill in the rest of her itinerary. She picked up information from the Helena Chamber of Commerce to find information that would aid her decision to possibly relocating to the state someday. She definitely feels she will visit the state again.

#### **RV#31 Andy, Deb, Nick, & Jean**

Andy, Deb, and their family are repeat visitors from Pennsylvania who were intercepted at the Gates of the Mountains. They have been in Montana for four days and have spent their vacation primarily in Glacier National Park. The family is visiting the Gates of the Mountains on their way to Butte and then will leave the state. The family has visited the Lewis and Clark Caverns, Miles City, Virginia City, and the Little Bighorn Battlefield on previous vacations.

Deb has two different opinions of the state. On her first trip to the southern part of Montana she was disappointed. Towns did not seem very prosperous and she did not like seeing all of the casinos (Pg 2 Ln 34-35). On this trip to Glacier NP, she feels the vacation has been 180 degrees opposite. She thinks Glacier NP was beautiful and absolutely loves it.

The family commented that people they have met while in Montana have been very nice. The children commented on how nice people at the grocery store have been. Deb explained the example of a hotel clerk taking the time to look through quarters to help her find the specific state quarter she was looking for (Pg 4 Ln 23).

Deb and Andy made comparisons to the mountains in other western states that they have visited. Deb explained how Colorado was a disappointment because it was so dry (Pg 5 Ln 5). The entire family stressed the fact that Montana's mountains are very green. This is one reason the family prefers Montana to other mountain states. Deb also commented on the fact that Colorado is a mixture of down-to-earth people and "yuppies" which she did not seem to like.

Deb commented that she expected Glacier NP to be beautiful and green. She felt her expectations were met. She enjoyed the scenery and views from the Going to the Sun Road (Pg 7 Ln 19). Both Deb and Andy mentioned how the park was busy, but once they were able to get away from crowds it was very peaceful and relaxing.

When asked what images they would take home the family commented on how dramatic the mountains are. One child felt Montana "gives you a sense that America has more to it than just our [own] back yard" (Pg 8 Ln 20).

Planning for the trip began nine to twelve months prior. Deb had always heard about Glacier NP from her parents and it was a place she always wanted to visit. Deb has perceptions of a western feel to the state. She felt "Montana is what I expected from the west" (Pg 9 Ln 31). She did not have that same western feel in other states the family has visited. Andy made comparisons to the Ponderosa and Ben Cartwright images.

The family used AAA books and a National Parks guide for their trip planning resources. Andy describes the family as very structured in their travel plans and locations are decided ahead of time. He feels with the amounts of driving between attractions, time does not allow for getting off schedule by a couple of hours (Pg 11 Ln 44).

Andy enjoys the opportunity for a family experience that camping brings. He feels Montana provides a wonderful, beautiful environment for his family. The family did comment on the scale of population. Living near a major city such as Philadelphia, they were surprised how small the towns were and wondered if they were run down. Andy suggested a more coordinated tourism program between transportation, such as railroads, and communities to connect attractions separated by large distances (Pg 15 Ln 44). Deb suggested improved signage for attractions with better descriptions of activities available in the region.

### **RV#32 Steve, Shirley, Gary, Mary, & Meagan**

Steve and Shirley are repeat visitors from Minnesota. They are traveling with Gary, Mary, and Meagan who are also from Minnesota and first time visitors to the state. The group was intercepted at Giant Cedars in Ross Creek. They are visiting friends in Troy and plan to visit Glacier NP before returning home.

Shirley thinks Montana is breathtaking with incredible scenery (Pg 2 Ln 14). She feels Montana makes you slow down and be less busy. Steve has enjoyed the friendly people and the fresh air. He feels that Montana is very peaceful and one can leave their cares behind (Pg 4 Ln 20-21). Mary has enjoyed the "purple mountain sunsets" that she has always heard about, but now has been able to experience them in Montana (Pg 2 Ln 26). She feels the atmosphere is very relaxed and a person does not feel like they have to rush. Gary agrees that the lifestyle in Montana is much slower and relaxed. Meagan has loved her vacation and has enjoyed the scenery.

Mary's impression of local people is that of people at peace with themselves (Pg 4 Ln 31). They live the way they want to. Shirley believes that Montanans enjoy life more than other people do. Steve finds the people very friendly and always helpful to others.

Gary feels the towns in Montana are different than back in Minnesota. He has not seen as many shopping malls as he does back home (Pg 7 Ln 19). Mary feels the shopping is not as focused on tourism and gift shops as back in Minnesota. She has seen more variety in the types of stores in the Troy and Libby areas.

The mountains are an attraction for the group because Minnesota does not have topography like Montana. The open spaces are an attraction to Steve because he does not feel boxed in like he does back home (Pg 8 Ln 26). He feels that crime and neighbors do not create a concern for residents in Montana. Montana is just a simpler way of life in his opinion. For Gary, open space means room to grow and breathe (Pg 9 Ln 1). He enjoys the open country and the ability to see for miles.

The group is anticipating their visit to Glacier NP. Mary expects it to be cold. Steve is looking forward to jagged, snow-covered peaks. The entire group is excited about the possibility of seeing wildlife. For Mary, it is the chance to see animals that are not found in Minnesota (Pg 9 Ln 32). Gary feels Montana provides a more natural setting for viewing animals, with them roaming free on the landscape. Seeing wildlife in Montana is not as artificial as a zoo experience is (Pg 10 Ln 26). Being in Montana reassures Gary that all our natural resources have not been used up or thrown away.

Forests are important to Steve and Shirley no matter where they live. Montana provides the opportunity to see big pine forests and be outdoors. Steve is concerned with the forest fires and hopes management efforts are being taken to control fire and boost the economy (Pg 11 Ln 13-14).

Shirley feels the mountains in Montana are different from other mountain states because they are more lush and rolling (Pg 12 Ln 9). She believes she could stay in these mountains forever. Steve agrees that in Colorado the mountains are a different color. The colors are more gray and brown. He feels that the mountains in Montana can humble someone and put into perspective how small anyone is in the scheme of things.

Shirley's home in Minnesota is in a housing development. She would love to sell her house and move to Montana to experience being out of town (Pg 13 Ln 15). Steve feels safe from crime in Montana. He feels this way because he jokingly remarks that "everyone has guns in Montana and everyone else knows it." He believes that Montana does not possess the urban elements that cause crime to a great extent like Minnesota does.

Trip planning began a year ago when Steve and Shirley returned from vacationing in Montana. At that point the families decided to return to Montana the following year as a large group. Shirley did not do much in the way of planning because her friends in Troy have always provided them with information. Mary did order AAA books for the vacation, but never looked at them (Pg 17 Ln 1).

The interview concluded with Gary describing seeing a thunderstorm in Montana. He felt it was very dramatic with lightning strikes hitting the ground relatively close to where the group was. The experience was a memorable part of his vacation.

### **RV#33 Mike**

Mike is a repeat visitor from South Dakota who was intercepted at Kootenai Falls. He is on a business trip, but is exploring the northwest part of the state for the possibility of a future family vacation.

Mike believes that Glacier NP is a real secret that many people have not discovered (Pg 1 Ln 21). He feels the park has been unbelievable and fantastic. He describes the snow he has encountered in the park as decoration for his visit. Glacier NP has met all expectations Mike had before visiting.

Mike has been exploring different parks in the area for a possible family vacation next year. He also enjoys fishing and would like to take some time and learn to fly fish on his next visit to Montana (Pg 2 Ln 27).

The feature of the mountains that sticks in Mike's mind is how green they are despite being so steep (Pg 2 Ln 34). He did not expect to see vegetation so abundantly. Mike also believes the mountains of Montana are more accessible than the mountains of Colorado.

Mike is looking for locations that will keep his children interested. He prefers to find locations where his children can physically wade into rivers and underneath waterfalls to interact with the environment.

Despite few opportunities to interact with local people, Mike describes the people he has met as very friendly and informative (Pg 3 Ln 44). Mike would prefer to fly into the western region of the state instead of driving. He believes the long trip from South Dakota would make it difficult to entertain his children.

Mike has enjoyed the smells of the environment. Coming into the mountains, he has rolled down his window and appreciated the smell of pine trees (Pg 5 Ln 16-17).

Mike concluded the interview by reiterating his impressions of the mountains. He loves all the different colors from reds to greens that are present (Pg 5 Ln 39). Working in construction, he has an appreciation for the efforts it took to create tunnels in the rock for the highways to pass through.

### **RV#34 Jeff & his family**

Jeff and his family are repeat visitors from Virginia who were intercepted at Bigfork. For the past seven years they have had an annual family reunion in Bigfork. On this trip, the family will be in the state for about a week.

Jeff believes a summertime visitor can be deluded into believing the climate is the same year round. Having grown up in the northwest, he understands that winter can be cold and bitter. Having said that, Jeff feels the summers are gorgeous. He and his wife find the people in Montana more relaxed, more outgoing, and friendlier than people on the east coast (Pg 1 Ln 27-28).

Jeff lives near Washington D.C. where people are busy and the region is crowded. In Montana, he believes the people are more patient since they are not as densely packed together. He would consider living in the Montana if the economic base were not as limited (Pg 2 Ln 9-10). If an information technology component to the economy were available, Jeff would have a better opportunity to make a living and settle in the region.

The Flathead Lake Lodge is a large reason the family returns every year. Jeff feels the amenities provided by the lodge, such as water sports, horseback riding, and golf, are difficult to duplicate anywhere else (Pg 2 Ln 25-29). The lodge provides a place for Jeff's family to get unplugged and experience the outdoors.

Jeff cannot understand why property is so expensive in western Montana. He is surprised that people are spending large amounts of money for property that would be less expensive in other states. If he could figure out why they are willing to do this, he would own property here as well.

Jeff describes the people of Montana as very insular (Pg 4 Ln 2). He feels that they are not aware of other attractions in the northwest region of the United States. If he were involved with the economic development of the state, Jeff would want Montana residents to have a broader view of the region (Pg 4 Ln 16-17). He feels the state would benefit if intellectual outlets were developed and the horizons of the citizens broadened. Unless Montana can understand how to market tourism similar to how countries like Switzerland do, he does not believe there will be a very bright future for the state.

Jeff understands that the lure of Montana is the simple life and the lack of urban pace. He reemphasizes how visitors do not understand how dark and cold winters can be. He feels people have a tough life and despite technological advance, life here is still no picnic (Pg 6 Ln 34).

### **RV#35 Larry & Bess**

Larry and Bess are repeat visitors from Minnesota who were intercepted at Whitefish, Montana. Their son lives in Libby and they are on vacation to visit him. The couple has been visiting Montana for 30 years, even before their children moved to the state.

Bess enjoys the "big sky" aspect of Montana. To her, this means openness and not being surrounded by big crowded cities (Pg 1 Ln 28). She likes the fact that Montana has features, such as mountains that are not present in Minnesota. Larry feels the people of Montana have been wonderful. He explains that the night before he had a flat tire and two people were kind enough to help.

Bess enjoys the state in both seasons. The couple has had the opportunity to go dog sledding in the winter, which was an experience they liked very much (Pg 3 Ln 10). She thinks winters are much milder in Montana than compared to Minnesota. She also believes that the people in the state and the outdoor opportunities available are what keep her children in Montana (Pg 4 Ln 32). They have the type of careers where they could move to any area of the country, but chose to stay in Montana. Larry and Bess's roots in Minnesota are longer, which keeps them from moving to Montana themselves.

The couple does not need to spend time planning much any more because they have been visiting for the past 30 years. They like to travel along the highways because the couple feels they are safer and that makes the trip much easier. Bess does not think they could tell their friends anything about Montana that they have not heard already. She thinks the couple's friends know they like Montana because they return so often to visit.

Larry and Bess have visited Glacier many times and enjoy the western region of the state. Whitefish is one of Bess's favorite spots and she feels there are more things to do there than in her son's town of Libby.

### **RV#36 Jeff & Jane**

Jeff and Jane are repeat visitors from Florida who were intercepted in downtown Whitefish. The couple has been to the state once before to visit Glacier NP, but their trip was cut short. They were motivated to return and spend more time in the park.

Jeff has enjoyed Glacier NP and specifically the Going to the Sun Road. The couple spent the previous day at Logan Pass and introduced their dog to snow for the first time (Pg 1 Ln 34-35). Jane has enjoyed visiting Garnet ghost town and found the experience magnificent. The couple has also spent time in Great Falls at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and the Charles Russell museum. Jane joked that they were disappointed the falls were dammed up and wondered if Montana Power could fix that (Pg 2 Ln 41).

Jeff was very impressed by the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. He did not expect it to be as in depth as it was (Pg 3 Ln 23). The couple also encountered a historical marker of Lewis and Clark's farthest travels north while traveling, which was very interesting to Jeff.

Jeff has found the mountains around Glacier NP very rugged and forbidding compared to Mt. Rainier, which he describes as a "big snow cone." Montana's mountains have a different

landscape. Jane agrees that the mountains in Montana have a different feel than other mountains she has seen.

The Lewis and Clark expedition is Jeff's primary interest related to Montana history. The Ken Burn's documentary on PBS inspired him to come and see the scenery for himself. He has also been interested in the fur trade and frontier lifestyle ever since he was a little kid watching Daniel Boone of the *Wonderful World of Disney* (Pg 5 Ln 34).

The couple's previous visit to Glacier NP was cut short by a family emergency. Despite the wait, the park has not disappointed them. Jane believes the park is magnificent. She feels it lifts her soul (Pg 7 Ln 24). Jeff's experience is difficult for him to put into words. The best words he can use are "mind-boggling beauty."

The attraction of the mountains and forests for the couple is the opportunity to experience an environment that is different from their own in Florida. Some activities, such as white water rafting, also cannot be done in Florida (Pg 8 Ln 9-10).

Jeff and Jane have shifted from hotels to camping as their primary form of accommodation. This has occurred over the years as the couple attempts to move away from people and have more solitude in their experience (Pg 9 Ln 3). Jane feels it is a blessing to have the opportunity to view wildlife in your campsite. Viewing animals in the wild is something she appreciates very much.

Trip planning began three years ago after they were forced to cut their vacation short. Jeff and Jane have not spent much time researching their vacation. The couple is recently retired and this vacation has been very unstructured. The couple used to travel with a tentative itinerary, but now they are more flexible in their trip planning.

This trip has inspired the couple to return to Montana (Pg 11 Ln 12). They purchased a National Parks pass and want to support the continued efforts to maintain our national resources. They also feel that there are many places in the state they would still like to explore, specifically the Little Bighorn Battlefield.

### **RV#37 John & Shirley**

John and Shirley are repeat visitors from Washington who were intercepted at the Apgar Visitor Center in Glacier NP. They have been in the state for one day and the focus of their vacation is to visit the park.

John describes Montana as uncrowded country with open space where someone has a great opportunity to be alone with nature (Pg 1 Ln 20-21). He is attracted to the national parks, the wildlife, and the excellent fishing in the state. Shirley enjoys the opportunity to visit historical sites, especially sites on the Lewis and Clark Trail.

Open spaces are important to John because he lives in a crowded city in Washington. He feels Montana gives him an opportunity to get away from the "hustle and bustle" of city life (Pg 1 Ln 34). The mountains of Montana are attractive to John because they are larger than the mountains in his region. He also feels Montana provides a better opportunity to see wildlife.

Shirley enjoys the rock formations and colors in Glacier NP. She also enjoys the mountains goats, which she feels are something unique to the park (Pg 2 Ln 35). In general, Shirley enjoys viewing wildlife because she feels excited when she sees something out of the ordinary. The couple has had many memorable experiences on previous vacations that involved wildlife. John's favorite experience was seeing a grizzly bear while on the trail to Avalanche Lake in Glacier NP.

Hiking is an activity the couple enjoys very much. John likes the hikes in Montana because of the opportunities to visit and photograph waterfalls (Pg 4 Ln 10-11). It also gives him a sense of accomplishment for his efforts. Shirley feels hiking gives you a chance to see all the things God has created.

Photography is a passion for John. Capturing special images and settings gives him an adrenaline rush. John has had many good experiences with wildlife while attempting to photograph them.

Shirley is a librarian and has a passion for U.S. history. Montana provides her with an opportunity to visit many sites along the Lewis and Clark Trail. Specifically, she has visited the Lewis and Clark caverns and the Three Forks area.

Planning began about a month prior to the vacation. Typically, Shirley plans their vacations more in advance and collects information, but since they had visited the Glacier NP area before she already had some information. The couple likes to make reservations in advance for accommodations because they have had past difficulties where they were not able to secure lodging (Pg 7 Ln 16).

The couple has enjoyed the local people very much and has found them very helpful. When Shirley forgot to bring the map she ordered from AAA the staff of a state visitor center was able to provide the couple with a state map that provided the information they needed.

#### **RV#38 Don & Teresa**

Don and Teresa are repeat visitors from Washington who were intercepted at the Old Eureka Village. They are camping and hiking in the Ten Lakes area and may visit Glacier NP before the end of their vacation.

The couple has found the camping areas very crowded on this vacation (Pg 1 Ln 31). Teresa compares the area they are camping at to Grand Central Station. Teresa's general impression of Montana is an uncrowded area where she can get away from people. Don feels Montana is where one can come to see what wilderness is really like (Pg 2 Ln 31-32). Teresa agrees that Montana provides more of a wilderness experience than the Cascades of Washington can. They are a couple that prefers backcountry camping and the ability to have solitude.

Teresa feels the local people in Montana are very friendly. To her, it is a small town atmosphere similar to small towns in Washington. The people are very relaxed and interact with visitors to a large extent.

Open spaces are important to Teresa because she believes people are getting packed too closer to one another. She compares people to rats in a small space; eventually they go crazy and start chewing on one another (Pg 4 Ln 13-14). She feels Montana gives you an opportunity to be alone in nature.

Don is attracted to the mountain lakes and streams because of their crystal blue quality. He feels Washington streams and lakes do not have that same pristine quality and are more crowded with visitors.

The couple does not see Glacier NP as the epitome of American wilderness because they feel it has been over commercialized (Pg 5 Ln 35). Don feels it is Montana's Disneyland. He thinks Yellowstone is very similar. The experience has become commercialized and artificial. Teresa feels these areas are not her idea of getting into the wilderness and therefore, the couple decides to go somewhere else.

Don enjoys hiking to the top of mountains because of the sense of accomplishment (Pg 7 Ln 17). He subscribes to the traditional reason of "because it is there." The experience of hiking is very rejuvenating to him. He enjoys the smell of the environment and the sounds he is exposed to. Having a rustic feel to their vacation is important, but Teresa feels they are not trying to be macho. If weather is bad, the couple is not likely to try riding out the storm.

Don feels Montana relaxes him and allows him to deal with the pressures of life until his next vacation (Pg 9 Ln 20). Teresa feels her experience can put the rest of life into perspective. It reminds her that enjoying every minute of the day is important in life.

The couple thinks trip planning is too much work. They schedule around work and other responsibilities, but then leave their itinerary very flexible. Don only likes to plan things one day at a time (Pg 11 Ln 17). He feels that schedules are for work and he is trying to relax on vacation. Time exploring a dead-end road is not time wasted, but part of his vacation experience.

The couple feels they will go to a new area on their next vacation because they've hiked most of the trails in the Eureka area. Don would like to take Teresa to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. He feels it is an area that has the qualities of solitude they desire and plenty of land to explore.

#### **FV#39 Jay**

Jay is a first time visitor from Maryland who was first intercepted at the State Historical Society Museum in Helena. He was interviewed a second time in Columbia Falls near the end of his vacation and after visiting Glacier NP.

Jay spent the majority of his vacation with the Montana High Country cattle drive in the Battle Creek area. He has enjoyed the time he had riding in the backcountry and the comradeship of reuniting with high school friends (Pg 1 Ln 28-29). He also has gained a new respect for horses and their ability to maneuver through the countryside.

Jay likes the openness of the country. He found the variety of the scenery and how it changed very enjoyable. It reminded him of images from the film *Dances with Wolves* (Pg 2 Ln 14). While on vacation, he has also visited the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and the Charles Russell Museum. Both attractions lived up to the expectations Jay had and everything he had read about them.

Visiting a tribal dance in Browning quenched Jay's interest for history and Native American culture. He enjoyed looking at the crafts and watching the celebration. He also spent a great deal of time at the Plains Indian Museum, which was a highlight for his time in Browning.

Glacier NP met or exceeded the expectations Jay had before visiting the park (Pg 4 Ln 18). He enjoyed the many day hikes in the park, especially the one to Avalanche Lake. He found the area very peaceful and fantastic. Jay spent most of the time with his wife trying to soak up the experience.

Jay would recommend Montana as a vacation spot to all his friends. He has found things affordable and feels that business owners do not try to take advantage of tourists (Pg 6 Ln 20). He feels the people of Montana are very independent, resourceful, and self-dependent. He believes they just take things as they come.

Jay believes that to enjoy Montana visitors have to pace themselves. Trying to put too many locations into a short time span would not allow them to fully enjoy the experience. Jay feels that to fully appreciate a vacation, a visitor has to plan ahead. He thinks they need get themselves in physical shape and do their homework on what attracts them.

The West and its history have always fascinated Jay. He grew up being exposed to the *Lone Ranger* and Gene Autry. Montana has the fertile open rangeland he associates with a western lifestyle. It also has mountains and multiple vistas that cannot be found in Colorado or Texas. The openness is serene and peaceful for Jay (Pg 8 Ln 20).

Jay's vacation has been an escape from work. He intentionally has tried not to keep up with what is going on in the world (Pg 10 Ln 10). He thinks life is more remote and unplugged in Montana compared to the east coast. Jay feels local people stay flexible for change.

White water rafting was another experience Jay enjoyed. He likes the thrill of the ride and seeing the wilderness of the backwater (Pg 11 Ln 43-44). He also has been surprised by the multiple views one can have from the mountains. Jay feels it is magnificent to have a great diversity of angles and perspectives when one is on top of a mountain.

The only disappointment Jay has had is not seeing any elk, but he has seen a great diversity of wildlife and has appreciated the experience very much. He also was surprised that traffic was not as busy in the national park area. He expected bumper-to-bumper traffic in Glacier NP, but was happy when areas were not highly congested.

Jeff will leave his vacation feeling more relaxed and with a memory of the beautiful sunsets in the state (Pg 15 Ln 29). He has enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with his wife and enjoy the outdoors with her. Both would like to return to Montana and spend more time in the northern parts of Glacier NP.

#### **RV#40 Ken & Alex**

Ken and Alex are repeat visitors from Idaho who were intercepted at Apgar in Glacier National Park. They have been in Montana for four days and have used a motorcycle as their primarily mode of travel in the park.

Alex described Montana as "the last bit of wilderness in the lower 48 and the biggest" (Pg 1 Ln 16). She continued to mention open spaces, beautiful blue skies, and an uncrowded place with no pollution. Ken describes it as a wildness that is close to home where he can see grizzly bears and wolves.

Alex explained that the mountains in Montana and Glacier NP were different from Idaho because they are bigger, more jagged, rugged and beautiful (Pg 1 Ln 3). Ken explains how the wildness of their lakes in Coeur d'Alene has been lost to development and no longer is like areas in the park.



Ken explains their experience on a motorcycle as more close to nature. He feels you can see and experience more on a motorcycle than in a car. He also feels you are exposed to the elements and smell the air much better (Pg 2 Ln 24). Alex added that a motorcycle also makes finding parking easier in busy areas and allows you to stop at all the locations you would like.

Ken discussed how both of them were originally from New Jersey and moved to Idaho about 12 years ago. The motivation for the move was to find a business to purchase. Ken explained how when they first came up to the state that he just “fell in love with Montana” (Pg 3 Ln 4). He found the people friendlier than the population on the east coast. This was one of the points that sold him and Alex on moving to the area.

Alex explains the western lifestyle as much calmer and everyone is not in a rush (Pg 4 Ln 11). Ken commented on how from a business perspective, people are much more relaxed. The concept of owners just closing the store to “go fishing” was interesting to them.

Ken described open spaces as being important because he came from the east coast. He used to live in the country but it still was crowded (Pg 5 Ln 9). Alex states how neither of them are city people. Vacationing to them is not going to a city; it is getting out into nature.

Alex described the mountains of Montana as “the most beautiful mountains in the whole United States” (Pg 5 Ln 31). She found them breathtaking, beautiful, and very natural. Ken is attracted to mountains and forests. Having this type of an environment was a prerequisite for him when looking for a place to relocate.

The name of the state itself was something Alex enjoyed. She felt “there’s something about the name Montana that just sounds so rugged” (Pg 6 Ln 46). Ken felt it was a wild area that made him think of the cowboy way of life. He associates Montana with ranches, horses, and cattle.

Alex described returning to Glacier NP as “coming back to visit an old friend” (Pg 7 Ln 42). To both of them it is the wildness of the park that they enjoy. Ken commented on being a history buff himself and reading *Undaunted Courage* by Ambrose. He was excited to be able to see the same animals that have been around this region for centuries.

Hiking was an activity that both enjoyed. To them it was the slower pace of travel that allows you to experience more. It gives them opportunities to see animals in the wild and get back to nature. Ken described it as a therapy for them (Pg 10 Ln 9). Hiking is a way to forget their responsibilities and have a simpler way of life.

Both explained that trip planning began about two or three weeks prior to this trip. Montana has always been a destination of interest since the time they both lived in New Jersey. Because of their interest in history, both plan to visit more of the state’s ghost towns in the future.

#### **FV#41 Adrian, Caroline, Christine, & Linda**

Adrian, Caroline, Christine, and Linda are first time visitors from Northern Ireland who were intercepted in West Glacier. They have been in the state for nearly three weeks at the time of their interview.

Adrian enjoys the pleasant civility of the people in Montana (Pg 1 Ln 21). He has found the people friendlier than in some other American cities. Christine has found the people to be very friendly and interesting. Caroline feels the attitude of the people is very laid back and they have a very welcoming attitude.

The women have all enjoyed the scenery and the wildlife in the state. They have seen a diversity of wildlife including grizzly bear, buffalo, and skunk. Adrian and Christine have enjoyed the opportunity to relax and unwind. Linda and Caroline have had the opportunity to participate in some water sports such as water skiing and rafting.

Caroline enjoys how quickly the scenery can change. She is amazed how it changes from the plains to mountains and wilderness (Pg 5 Ln 20). In general, the family has been surprised by the size of the towns in Montana. Size wise, Christine does not feel they are like cities at all. The family is also surprised by how much distance there is between different locations in the state.

Open spaces bring peace for Christine and a complete change from the lifestyle she leads (Pg 8 Ln 15). Caroline feels that she does not experience a buzz of people in the cities. Both Caroline and Christine have been surprised by the vastness of the land and how they can look everywhere and see nothing but mountains. Open spaces provide the family with the ability

to get away from everyday life. For Caroline, open spaces are more natural than a city and people have a natural instinct to find them (Pg 9 Ln 34-35).

Linda describes their visit to Glacier NP as picture perfect. Adrian feels there is clarity in the air and the park resembles Switzerland. Seeing amounts of snow they are not accustomed to has also amazed the family. Caroline has enjoyed the weather changes and how dramatic they have been for her.

Caroline explains that seeing wildlife is important because the only other way to experience it is in a cage. She feels that way is very unnatural (Pg 12 Ln 8). Christine also enjoys seeing the wildlife in their natural habitat.

The women in the family have enjoyed the water sports available on their vacation, especially rafting. Caroline describes the experience of rafting as an adrenaline rush (Pg 14 Ln 6). She was amazed to hear that movies such as *The River Wild* were film on the same stretch of river they were paddling on. Christine feels it was a super experience with beautiful scenery.

Caroline and Linda are very excited about the possibilities to return to Montana for another vacation. Caroline wants to ask for tickets back to Montana as a birthday present (Pg 15 Ln 27). The entire family feels Montana is near the top of the list for their favorite vacation location. The package vacations they have purchased before have never been able to meet all of their needs, but Montana provides aspects that each family member can enjoy. Adrian explains that this vacation was not prearranged and they have a large amount of flexibility to meet everyone's needs.

Trip planning began about five months before the vacation. Christine purchased a guidebook and Caroline spent time researching the area on the Internet. Adrian prefers to get out and meet local people where he can get information about unique attractions (Pg 18 Ln 12-13).

Christine feels her opinion of Americans has changed because she has discovered Montanans to be a more civilized part of the country (Pg 18 Ln 36-37). The proximity of wildlife has also been a pleasant surprise for the family. They never expected they would be able to get as close to the animals as they have been.

Montana has lived up to the expectations that Christine had before visiting. Adrian has been impressed by the magnitude of the state and the vastness of the countryside. He has enjoyed the amounts of cultural activities in the small towns, which is a feature he does not have back home in Ireland (Pg 20 Ln 12-13).

#### **FV#42 Dick, Mary, Elizabeth, & Matt**

Dick, Elizabeth, Mary, and Matt are first time visitors from Massachusetts who were intercepted in Browning at the Museum of the Plains Indians. They had been in the state about a week when interviewed. Their planned trip was through Beartooth Pass into Yellowstone NP. From there they traveled to Virginia City, Nevada City, and now Browning. The family plans to continue on to Glacier NP and leave the state after seeing the Little Bighorn Battlefield.

Mary stated the main reason for this trip was to see Glacier NP. She and Dick had been vacationing in Yellowstone NP last year and a person told her "if you think this is nice, you've got to go to Glacier" (Pg 1 Ln 46). That person motivated them to plan a trip to Montana with the whole family for this summer. Her image of Montana is beautiful mountains, beautiful rolling hills, and open spaces where you can get away from people.

Both Matt and Mary commented on seeing wildlife and wanting to see more. This was important to Matt because he did not feel there were as exotic animals in Massachusetts as can be found in Montana. Elizabeth's favorite part of the trip was Yellowstone NP and seeing buffalo. The family associated Yellowstone NP strictly with Wyoming and not Montana.

The family has primarily been staying in hotels, but did have camping gear along (Pg 3 Ln 9). Dick found it hard to camp when they had been staying somewhere new every night. Dick felt reserving locations in the national parks ahead of time was important because he was afraid of not finding room. The family did have an itinerary for the trip. They are flexible to allow deviation from their schedule if different attractions presented themselves, but needed structure if they wanted to visit all their desired locations.

Trip planning began a year ago after speaking to the individual at Yellowstone NP. The internet was a large source of information. The family requested brochures and purchased a

Frommer guidebook for Montana/Wyoming (Pg 4 Ln 1). They also utilized library books and travel information from AAA.

Mary stated both she and Dick enjoy the outdoors and wildlife. This is a reason that the open spaces of Montana are important to them. Coming from the east coast where houses and lots are on top of one another, the feel of open space is something they enjoy (Pg 5 Ln 29).

Dick was anticipating their visit to Glacier NP because he wanted to see the mountains. He previously lived in Switzerland and believes the mountains in Montana are the closest in appearance to what he has seen to the Alps.

The family mentioned they had a general interest in history and that the Lewis and Clark journey was of interest to them. They are intrigued with the people who were on the expedition and the interactions they had with the Native Americans. The mileage the journey covered and how only one individual died on the trip also impressed the family.

Matthew commented on the visit to Yellowstone NP and enjoyed seeing all of the buffalo in the park (Pg 9 Ln 41). The rest of the family was excited about the possibilities of seeing wildlife such as wolves, moose, and bear in the park.

Mary felt that Montana has relaxed her and has been a religious experience. She feels like thanking God for the beautiful countryside (Pg 10 Ln 41). Matt also feels more appreciative of open space, natural wonders, and wildlife.

Dick suggested asking future visitors how tourism and recreation could be promoted more in the state. Mary suggests providing information that would allow visitors to participate in rural events like town picnics and gatherings that are not easily discovered on one's own.

#### **RV#43 Bob & Shirley**

Bob and Shirley are repeat visitors from Oregon that were intercepted at the Museum of the Plains Indians in Browning, MT. They decided to visit Glacier NP and travel through Montana in route to a conference in Regina, Canada.

Bob describes Montana as very beautiful with spectacular open spaces. The couple feels they have experienced the varied beauty of the state from the mountains in the west to the open plains of the eastern part of the state (Pg 1 Ln 34). The open spaces are important to Bob because they help him focus on nature rather than people (Pg 1 Ln 43).

The mountains and Glacier NP are important to Shirley because they spiritually help her get in touch with creation. She also becomes more in touch with herself. Shirley feels refreshed when she is in the mountains and they energize Bob. Shirley feels the environment in Montana is different than back home, but could not describe it any further.

A book he read influenced Bob's interest in Native American history and culture. A Native American woman gave him a book about the Kootenai tribe and their history. The couple also belongs to a book club and has read about the Lewis and Clark Trail and Native American history. It is the Native American's appreciation for ecology and ability to live with nature that appeals to Bob (Pg 3 Ln 34). The appeal of Native American culture for Shirley is the connection with the past and how the land has changed once Europeans arrived.

The Lewis and Clark expedition is interesting to the couple because both are amazed at the accomplishment of the expedition. They are impressed by the conditions the men had deal with to survive.

Trip planning began about one month prior to the trip. Shirley felt it was a logical plan to loop through Montana as part of their vacation to the conference in Regina instead of retracing their steps (Pg 4 Ln 42-43). The couple has planned some locations, but tends to be flexible to options that present themselves.

The Going to the Sun Road in Glacier NP was a pleasant surprise for Shirley. They had done little research on the park and a friend in Libby recommended the road through the park. It allowed the couple to get a better look at the inside of the park that they did not expect to receive.

#### **FV#44 Howard & Sheila**

Howard and Sheila are visitors from Florida who were intercepted at the Old Trail Museum in Choteau, MT. Howard visited the state about 30 years ago and this is Sheila's first time in Montana. They have visited Yellowstone NP and are planning to visit Glacier NP as well.

Sheila feels her experience in Montana has been beyond words to describe (Pg 1 Ln 35). The landscape to her has been very big and larger than anything she has seen on the east coast. Howard wants to encourage his grandchildren to visit because things have changed so much since he was last in the state with information and interpretation improving.

One activity that Sheila has enjoyed was a helicopter ride in the Badlands. She thought seeing the rocks and environment was fantastic from that angle (Pg 3 Ln 3). They both have also enjoyed rafting, which was a first time experience for Howard.

The couple has had a good experience in Three Forks at the motel they were staying at. The owner helped provide them with ideas of locations to visit and places to see in the state. Both are anticipating their visit to Glacier NP. Sheila is expecting it to be very rugged with rocky, ice-covered mountains. She is also anxious to see the valleys and waterfalls. This is important to the couple because they feel features like this cannot be seen on the east coast (Pg 5 Ln 31).

Howard has gained his appreciation of mountains from his mother when the family visited Montana. She found them very beautiful and would wake up in the morning to see the sun rise over them. He thinks that nothing can compare to the Rockies. Howard feels the countryside demonstrates the handiwork of God (Pg 6 Ln 22). The enormous shape of the mountains and their beauty has also impressed Sheila.

Trip planning began about four months ago when the couple's trip to Hawaii was cancelled. They then decided to travel to Montana. Sheila has collected information from AAA for their vacation and Howard likes to stop at visitor centers when he is traveling. They consider themselves very flexible travelers who do not reserve accommodations in advance.

Howard feels Montana is a fantastic part of the country and, if time permits, the couple would definitely return (Pg 9 Ln 7). He thinks a person would not run out of ways to spend their time while vacationing in the state.

#### **FV#45 Dale & Phyllis**

Dale and Phyllis are first time visitors from Texas who were intercepted at Fort Benton. They have been in the state about two weeks and have spent time in Glacier NP and the Bitterroot Mountains.

Dale describes Montana as a beautiful state that is not crowded and has a diversity of landscapes. Phyllis wished they could have accessed more in Glacier NP, but due to the snow and weather, some trails were not accessible. She did enjoy the fact that the park was not very crowded.

The couple has spent time with relatives near Darby and has enjoyed the opportunity to visit them (Pg 2 Ln 20). They have stayed on the back roads or Forest Service roads when they travel because they prefer them to the interstate. The couple has also visited Great Falls and enjoyed the town very much. Phyllis found the museums and interpretive centers in the city to be outstanding.

The couple has found traveling in the state to be very easy. They have been able to find Internet access in town that allows them to take care of their affairs at home. Phyllis has been surprised the roads are in such good condition considering the bad winters the state can have (Pg 5 Ln 30). She believes this is because the roads do not see as much traffic as other areas of the country.

Open spaces for Phyllis is the ability to get away from people (Pg 6 Ln 44). She does not like the hassle that comes with being surrounded by tourists. Staying away from tourists is another reason the couple stays away from the interstate and large RV campgrounds.

Dale has enjoyed the people the couple has met. He feels they are honest, hardworking people who are very relaxed and easygoing (Pg 7 Ln 34). The atmosphere of the people in Montana helps make the couple feel very safe. They are not afraid of items being stolen from their RV or car when they are out. They believe crime rates are lower up north where the populations are not as diverse.

The name "Montana" brings images to Phyllis' mind of big trees, wildlife, and mountains (Pg 9 Ln 4). Dale thinks of big skies and beautiful clouds. He feels the state possesses an openness that is not found anywhere in the southern states.

**RV#46 Donna**

Donna is a repeat visitor from Ottawa, Ontario who was intercepted at the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls. She is visiting the state with her husband for a family reunion and has been in Montana for about eight days.

Donna describes Montana as big sky country. She enjoys the landscape with its river valleys and interesting rock formations. Donna has spent part of her vacation in the Missouri Breaks area on a float trip. She has enjoyed this experience because the area is very wild and uninhabited (Pg 1 Ln 35). She feels it has been a real wilderness experience. The float trip was special because she believes there are not many places left where one can find solitude and have the experience she did.

Donna believes that camping in a "getting back to basics" sense is an experience everyone should have (Pg 2 Ln 19). She was happy her adult children had the opportunity to be part of this trip. After a few days, she was in a rhythm that allowed her to forget about the stress of everyday life and truly relax.

Open space is an important feature to Donna because the landscape in eastern Canada is that of thick forests. She was born on the prairie and appreciates seeing the horizon and having a big view. Open space gives her a sense of freedom. She does not feel closed in and has a boundless, limitless impression (Pg 3 Ln 19-20).

The Ken Burns documentary on the Lewis and Clark expedition has been an inspiration for Donna to participate in the river float trip. Because she was born in the United States, Donna feels that the expedition is part of her history and heritage (Pg 3 Ln 44-45). It has been exciting for her to have the opportunity to recreate part of the expedition.

Donna and her husband are bird watchers and have enjoyed the opportunities for viewing birds in the state. Seeing wildlife is a pleasing thing for Donna (Pg 4 Ln 30).

Trip planning began a year ago at a family reunion. Donna had information on the river float trip from Fort Benton and the family decided to base their next reunion around that activity. She spent time in contact with the river guides and used the Internet to research different aspects of the vacation. Donna considers herself a very flexible and spontaneous person. On a previous trip to Montana, she decided to explore the eastern part of the state without prior planning.

Donna has found the people to be very friendly and polite. Everyone is willing to talk to visitors and share information. The only minor disappointment of the vacation has been the heat, which was not something Donna expected.

The question Donna would pose to visitors would be to ask what is unique about Montana. She feels that Montana is very rich in history and has unique landscapes (Pg 7 Ln 15). She is unsure of the culture and has a few "red flags" about it. This stems mostly from seeing many casinos and individuals intoxicated on the streets. Since she has never lived in Montana, she is unsure if those aspects are problems within the culture (Pg 7 Ln 27).

**RV#47 Mark & Judy**

Mark and Judy are repeat visitors from Pennsylvania who were intercepted at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls. They flew into Missoula and have spent time on the Lewis and Clark Trail and in Yellowstone NP. They plan to visit Glacier NP before flying out again from Missoula.

Mark describes Montana as a state with panoramic views that Colorado cannot match (Pg 1 Ln 20). Judy feels the state has a diversity of terrain and she has enjoyed the opportunities to experience Native American history. She has enjoyed how friendly the people have been and the opportunities the couple has had to visit with local people. They also especially enjoyed Helena. They were surprised how beautiful the town was and the art and culture present in it.

Open space is important to Judy because she feels grid locked in the eastern United States (Pg 2 Ln 23). She finds Montana refreshing and wonderful. She hopes that Montana communities are conserved to prevent urban sprawl so that her grandchildren will have the opportunity to enjoy the open spaces (Pg 3 Ln 3-4).

The couple has become very interested in Native American culture. They visited the Big Hole Battlefield and gained an appreciation for the Nez Perce Indians. Both of them enjoyed the Little Bighorn Battlefield, but Mark wishes more signs were provided in the surrounding areas to explain the battle more thoroughly (Pg 3 Ln 32-33).

Judy is interested in the Lewis and Clark expedition because she is impressed by the accomplishment of their journey. Coming from the east coast, she can relate to the experiences the expedition had when encountering the Rockies compared to the mountains of the east (Pg 4 Ln 15).

The couple enjoys mountains because they find them very powerful and majestic. The beauty of the vistas in the Beartooth range has impressed them very much. The entire experience has been more satisfying than they anticipated (Pg 5 Ln 8).

Mark has taken the opportunity to hike in many of the mountains ranges the couple has passed through. Hiking for him means getting out into the open spaces (Pg 5 Ln 29). He feels the mountains of Montana have large valleys in between one another, compared to Colorado where the valleys are small.

Trip planning began about six months ago with a search for information on the Internet. Mark has also used a travel book for as the major source of his information. The couple has been surprised but very impressed by the friendly people and their polite nature. Judy feels she will take home a greater knowledge of Native American history and memories to share with her neighbors.

Judy was disappointed with visiting the State Historical Society Museum in Helena. She feels it has good information, but needs more funding so displays can be updated (Pg 7 Ln 3-4). In general, the couple has not had any negative experiences in the state and feels Montana is a very tourist friendly state.

#### **RV#48 Kylie & Lee**

Kylie and Lee were intercepted in Lewistown, Montana. Kylie is a repeat visitor from Minnesota and Lee is a first time visitor from Missouri. They are friends on vacation traveling to Glacier NP.

Kylie believes that the phrase "big sky country" describes the state very well. She feels the state is very big and vast. Lee feels Montana is open with terrain that changes very quickly (Pg 1 Ln 36). Kylie has been most impressed by the lifestyle out west. This aspect attracted her to return to the state. She likes seeing people working hard and enjoying the land (Pg 2 Ln 29-30). She feels the people are a little friendlier and more open than back home.

The phrase "big sky" describes Kylie's impression of a sky that is huge and will not end. Lee feels it describes the huge panoramic views that are not seen in Minnesota or Missouri.

Mountains are a different landscape that Kylie enjoys. They give her a "John Denver" spirit (Pg 3 Ln 25). Lee enjoys the mountains in Montana compared to other Rocky Mountains states because they are less populated and more natural (Pg 5 Ln 13).

Another aspect both enjoy is the opportunity for fishing. For Kylie, fishing is the pursuit of the catch. It is also part of the outdoor experience and means just being in nature. Fishing is peaceful and lets one sort out their thoughts. For Lee, fishing is the opportunity to catch species of fish that are different from what he is used to.

The distant between locations has been new for Lee. He has never been in a place where he has to be concerned about when to fill up his car with gas (Pg 5 Ln 25). Kylie has enjoyed the scenery and some day would like to move to the state.

Trip planning began about seven months before the trip. The couple used information Kylie had from her past trip and Montana's state sites on the Internet. They have also used maps to find points of interest to visit.

The western frontier atmosphere and mentality have connected with Kylie. She has always had a love of horses and feels Montana would be a good place to fulfill her aspirations of owning horses some day (Pg 7 Ln 2-3).

#### **FV#49 Shrie**

Shrie is a first time visitor from New Zealand who was intercepted at the Wolf Point Library. He has been in the state for five days when interviewed. Shrie was cycling across North America from Vancouver to Michigan. He has traveled from the mountain area of West Glacier to now the plains in the eastern part of the state.

Shrie commented that Montana is a very beautiful state, especially in the Kalispell area (Pg 1 Ln 28). He feels that you receive a completely different experience when you cycle across

country instead of driving. Shrie feels you experience the sights, sounds, and smells of the country in a unique way that is not so frantic in pace (Pg 2 Ln 5-7).

The planning process for his trip began with using maps and atlases from his local library. Shrie then uses these maps as he travels throughout the states. He used the Internet for information on campsite locations and other aspects of his trip (Pg 3 Ln 1).

Shrie chose camping as his main form of accommodation. This has made his trip difficult because of the distance between locations. Montana and other states are so much bigger than other areas he has cycled in that campsites can be spread far apart. He has found the distance between sites in other countries more manageable. Shrie comments that this problem is strictly linked to his choice of accommodations. He feels if he had chosen to stay in motels that the distance would not have been such a problem because of the many motels available in the state (Pg 3 Ln 29).

The mountains of Montana are a curious mixture of other mountain ranges Shrie has visited. He compares them to the Alps, Picos, and Burnese ranges. Shrie explains that Montana's mountains are quite high and create a wonderful mountain scene (Pg 4 Ln 10).

Shrie describes his experience with people in the United States as "absolutely fabulous"(Pg 2 Ln 16). He found them helpful, generous, and friendly. The impressions Shrie has of people have been a pleasant surprise. Media and American television gave him a "warped view" of Americans (Pg 4 Ln 20). He has found the people to be extremely friendly and open, even more so than New Zealanders, whom he felt had a reputation to be the most friendly and open of people.

Shrie sees Montana as a place with a lot of remote places. He wonders what types of activities people do and how they manage in remote areas (Pg 6 Ln 21). He sees himself as coming back and suggesting activities for his relatives to experience if they were to come to the state.

#### **RV#50 Audrey, Karen, Dixie, Audrey, Gordon & Leland**

Audrey, Karen, Dixie, and Dixie's children are a family from Canada that was intercepted south of Fort Peck Lake at a rest area. The group has both repeat and first time visitors and has been in the state for about eight days.

Karen has enjoyed the scenery of the state, specifically the rangelands and "rough country" (Pg 1 Ln 28). Audrey has enjoyed the historical aspects of the state such as the old buildings.

Dixie and Audrey have found the people of Montana very friendly and helpful. Individuals have taken time to assist the family when they have had difficulty finding lodging. As three women traveling alone with young children, they have felt safe in Montana. Karen feels Montana has an atmosphere like her hometown in Alberta where she does not worry about safety. For the family, Montana also has many landscape features they are accustomed to in Alberta (Pg 3 Ln 17).

The open spaces of Montana remind the family of the rangelands of Canada. They feel a strong connection to farming and cattle ranching. Audrey feels Montana's ranches are different from Canadian ranches because the sizes are much greater. The amount of land and size of herds in Montana are larger than what she is used to seeing (Pg 4 Ln 14-16). Large, open space is important to Dixie because she does not like feeling cooped-up. Because the family has grown up on farms, they prefer the country living to city life.

The children have enjoyed Montana's history in the form of historic battlefields. They enjoyed visiting the Little Bighorn Battlefield and the interpretive programs at the site. Audrey likes how old buildings have been preserved. In Canada, preservation of history has fallen to the wayside of progress (Pg 5 Ln 13). Dixie enjoyed visiting the Charles Russell Museum. In Canada, his paintings are considered a treasure to own.

The Badlands in the eastern part of the state are a feature the family enjoys. Audrey loves the colors of the different formations. Dixie likes pondering how much time it took for erosion to create the landscape (Pg 6 Ln 29-30). The family does not have a great attraction for mountains. Dixie feels cooped-up in the mountains. They are most interested in plains and cattle ranches.

Trip planning began about one year prior to the vacation. Because Dixie had been to the state before, the family used information she had from previous visits and maps for their travel information. They consider themselves very flexible vacationers who do not plan an itinerary in advance. The Custer National Forest has pleasantly surprised Dixie. She was expecting the land to be flatter and without trees (Pg 9 Ln 12). The family feels they would like to return to Montana and spend more time exploring the history of the state. Dixie would like to learn more about the old buildings and little towns in the state.

#### **RV#51 Gary & Katherine**

Gary and Katherine are repeat visitors from Canada that were intercepted at Culbertson Visitor Center in Culbertson, Montana. They are traveling by motorcycle through Montana on their way to Glacier NP and eventually the California coast.

Gary enjoys the open spaces and relaxed atmosphere of Montana (Pg 1 Ln 26). The couple has spent a week in the Billings area. They love the beautiful country and appreciate how nice the local people have treated them. Gary feels the people have been very laid back and easier to get along with than in other states.

Gary feels that the mountains of Montana are not significantly different from the rest of the Rocky Mountains. He feels each range has unique features that he enjoys. In Glacier NP, the Going to the Sun Road is one unique feature he believes is fantastic (Pg 3 Ln 19).

Traveling by motorcycle provides the couple with a unique perspective. Katherine feels one has better visibility on a motorcycle (Pg 3 Ln 32). Gary feels like he is more a part of the road, experiencing the smells of the environment and the weather. The experience is difficult for him to describe, but very important to him.

The rolling hills in Montana represent open space for Katherine. It is a landscape she cannot experience in Canada. For Gary, uncrowded areas mean less traffic on the highways. He feels people are more courteous and respect drivers more on the roads (Pg 5 Ln 17).

The couple enjoys the western atmosphere that Montana has. Gary feels the history of the west more when he travels through Montana. He connects to his childhood images of the west and the cowboy lifestyle. Katherine will leave the state with images of the rolling hills and understanding why the state is called "big sky" country (Pg 7 Ln 35). She has had the opportunity to see a great distance over the land.

Planning for the trip began about three months ago. They used maps and a trip plan from a local agency in Canada as their primary sources of information. They decided on traveling through Montana because they believed it would be the nicest drive to the west coast. The couple considers themselves very flexible travelers who do not plan all their stops in advance.

Katherine has been pleasantly surprised on past trips by how nice people are in the state. Gary has enjoyed the views from the road as they travel west. He concluded the interview by reemphasizing the fact that to fully appreciate Glacier NP, a visitor needs a motorcycle or convertible to be able to view the landscape in every direction (Pg 11 Ln 20).

#### **FV#52 Gary, Linda, & Bill**

Gary, Linda, and Bill are first time visitors from near Toronto, Canada. They were intercepted at Range Rider's Museum in Miles City. They are making a loop across Canada and Montana and have been in the state for about three days.

The family was first drawn to the state to visit Yellowstone NP. Linda has enjoyed the Beartooth Mountains and the valleys spread out over the terrain. Bill has enjoyed the changing terrain as the family has moved across the state. It brings back childhood memories of the West and the historical characters associated with it (Pg 1 Ln 42-43). Linda can picture herself in the old west with covered wagons. The terrain of the eastern part of the state is a type the family has never experienced before.

The Beartooth Mountains have had an impact on Linda. The grandeur of the landscape makes her feel very small and insignificant (Pg 3 Ln 4-5). She finds the deep valleys and glaciers to be magnificent. It is an experience she will never forget. The road through the mountains made her uneasy because it was not always protected with railings as it curved through the mountains.



Gary enjoys fishing, but hasn't had a lot of opportunities to fish in Montana. He definitely wants to return and spend more time devoted to fishing (Pg 4 Ln 18). Fishing for Gary is nearly a religious experience. It is the challenge of harvesting game in a natural way while being out in the environment. Fishing provides relaxation and an opportunity to get one's mind off of the worries of everyday life.

Open space is important to Gary because it means having "elbow room." Life is more relaxed and people have space to move. For Linda, it means not having the pollution that is present in large urban areas. She enjoys being able to smell the fresh mountain air (Pg 5 Ln 11).

The family considers themselves flexible travelers. Taking a couple of hours to visit an attraction is all right because they do not follow a strict schedule. They have just tried to enjoy the changing terrain and the entire experience.

Linda enjoys learning about areas and how historically they have been established (Pg 7 Ln 22-23). She uses a tour book from Canada that gives descriptions about different communities. If the family was to return for another vacation Gary would like to spend more time in Yellowstone NP. He felt rushed and would like to possibly camp in the park. Gary would also like to devote more time to fishing while in the state.

The family has found local people to be very friendly and welcoming. They have had no problems while traveling through Montana. Overall, they have been very pleased with their vacation in the state.

### **RV#53 Georgia & Barbara**

Georgia and Barbara are repeat visitors to the state who were intercepted at Makoshika Park. Georgia is from Chicago, Illinois and Barbara is from Poland. They are traveling to a family reunion in Denver, Colorado and have stopped also to visit Yellowstone NP.

Georgia enjoys the wide-open horizon of Montana and the landscape of the sky (Pg 2 Ln 25). Wide-open spaces have a spiritual connection for her. She feels closer to God and it evokes a sense of poetry on the plains. For Barbara, open space means not having a feeling of being pressed down. She believes Montana has more open space than Europe.

Georgia finds the Badlands of eastern Montana more inviting than the regions in South Dakota (Pg 4 Ln 19). To her, Montana's Badlands are more like an opening in the earth. She feels they are not promoted enough nor distinguished from the Badlands in North Dakota and South Dakota. The Badlands remind Barbara of the Sudeten Mountains in Poland. That region is very ancient and eroded, being the oldest mountain range in Europe (Pg 5 Ln 2). She feels the Badlands have this same ancient atmosphere and give a person a connection with the past.

Yellowstone NP has been an experience both women enjoyed. Georgia believes a person has to accept the fact that Yellowstone has crowds and one cannot experience the park without them (Pg 6 Ln 17). The women decided to visit the park's attractions early in the morning and late at night. This way they were able to avoid the large crowds and have a more positive experience in the park. Georgia describes the colors of the park as artwork. Barbara agrees the colors around the geysers are similar to a painting. Yellowstone makes Georgia feel that she is at the beginning of the formation of the world (Pg 7 Ln 44).

Georgia appreciates peace and quiet because she travels to natural locations to get away from people. Coming from Chicago, the goal of her vacations is not to be surrounded by tourists (Pg 8 Ln 38). Barbara loves the mountains and how they have more variations than the plains. The mountains in Montana are similar to the Tantra Mountains in Poland. They make Barbara feel very much at home.

Trip planning focused on the family reunion in Denver. The pair otherwise considers themselves very flexible travelers without a set plan. Georgia's niece provided them with many attractions to visit and has made the pair to prolong their visit in Montana. Georgia feels that people who love the state can encourage a vacationer to stay allowing them to experience everything Montana has to offer (Pg 12 Ln 22-23).

Georgia concluded the interview by explaining her experience in Livingston. She visited the art studio of Russell Chatham and the grill he owned. The experience was one of the highlights of her trip and she recommends the grill and gallery to other visitors.