

travel

Escaping from it all in the wilds of Wyoming

By IRIS SANDERSON JONES

If Mary Kay Turner ever writes a book about raising a family and running a dude ranch in Wyoming, she'll call it "Please Don't Eat the Moose Pellets." For her husband John, a Wyoming state senator, the title would more likely be "Eagles at Dawn on the Snake River."

Mary Kay and John are part of the Turner family, which runs the Triangle X Ranch in Moose, near Jackson Hole, Wyo. It's a dude ranch that provided the "Vacation of 1979" for the Alan Hibbert family of Birmingham, who went west to rediscover old friends and discovered a new way of life instead.

Hibbert knew Mary Kay when she was Mary Kay Brady of Huntington Woods. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brady, still live in Troy. When Hibbert took his wife, Nancy, and their five children west in August, he found a lifestyle completely different from the "12-hours-a-day, six-days-a-week life of a Detroit suburb."

"If I had stayed there two more weeks, I would never have come back," Hibbert says.

The Hibberts discovered daily horseback riding, floating rafts on the Snake River, overnight tenting. The only thing they missed was a pack trip, traditionally led on the Triangle X by Mary Kay and John.

Mary Kay met John at Notre Dame University and moved to Wyoming when they married in 1969.

"WHEN I WAS growing up in Michigan, the closest I ever got to a horse was at the state fair," Mary Kay said. "And the farthest west I had ever traveled was to South Bend, Ind."

Nowadays she wrangles horses, rafts the white waters of the Snake River, and runs a riding program for children who are guests at the ranch.

It wasn't always easy. Two years ago, when her husband was in Cheyenne on senate business, she and her children were snowed in at the ranch.

"Our oldest son, Tole, broke his leg, and I had to take him to the hospital by snowmobile," Mary Kay said. "We got there all right, but on the return trip I flipped the snowmobile. There, upside down in a snow bank, I cried until the tears froze on my face."

"Later that year, John fell from the hay loft and broke his leg in seven places. He carried 12 pieces of metal in his leg for several months. That was the longest winter of my life."

THE TURNERS ENJOY life in Wyoming for much the same reason that the Hibbert family enjoyed visiting them there: freedom.

"I believe that the freedom you find out here in the west is hidden in everyone's nature," Mary Kay says. "People come here to let that other side of themselves come out."

The Triangle X is one of many dude ranches in the Wyoming mountains. It was started by John Turner's father 55 years ago and is run now as a family business by John's mother and brothers.

John runs the raft floats on the Snake River, but what he talks about, if anybody gives him a chance, is the bald eagle. If you've never seen bald eagles mating over the Snake River, let him tell you about it.

"The two eagles soar together high above the valley and suddenly come together, locking their feet. With their great wings partially tucked in, they fall earthward. For hundreds of feet they rocket downward, plunging and tumbling. Just as they near the ground they separate to swoop upward again with the air currents."

Ranch guests may be surprised to discover that their raftman is a second-term state senator but they are seldom surprised that he holds a master's degree in zoology. He has



John Turner and son Mark navigating the Snake River.

written a book and several articles about the bald eagle.

THE TRIANGLE X is a 1,500-acre ranch set against a mountain backdrop near Jackson Hole. The



Mary Kay Turner takes a break from chores on the Triangle to enjoy the enticingly spacious Wyoming country. (Photos by Alan Hibbert)

postal address of the ranch is in Moose, Wyo., a town Alan Hibbert describes as "one post office, a bar, a general store with a gas pump, two teepees and 75 people, 13 of whom are Turners."

There are 250 saddle horses on the ranch, each bearing the Triangle X brand high on its right flank.

Three motion pictures have been filmed on the ranch: "Shane," "Spencer's Mountain" and "Wind River." The latter stars Charlton Heston and will be released in 1980.

The Turners live in a split-log home with snowshoes, skis and a collection of old kerosene lanterns at the outside door and wall-to-wall western artifacts and wildlife photos inside.

Mary Kay has never quite accustomed herself to the diet and accumulated junk common to a ranch, nor to the moose pellets found nearby, but she is addicted to the freedom she finds on a western ranch.

If you would like more information about the Triangle X Ranch, contact the Turner family at the ranch in Moose, Wyo. For information on Wyoming, contact the Wyoming Travel Commission, International at Elchepare Circle, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82302.

Hithers and yons in 1980



travel log

Iris Sanderson Jones

I spent part of my Christmas vacation surrounded by maps and other kinds of source information, as I planned my 1980 travel schedule. It is a good way to warm up a winter's night.

My first trip of the year will be to Toledo. The last trip presently on my calendar is to Poland in the fall. In between are some definite plans and a lot of question marks about possible trips to western Canada and the Yukon, the canals of England, and closer-to-home places like Virginia, St. Louis, Arkansas and Louisiana.

As an armchair traveler will tell you, half the fun is in the planning and expectation. If you do that part of your traveling well, you can almost skip the trip.

I draw a crude annual calendar in colored pencil on a file folder. It slips into a file cabinet, is ready to hold information and has the whole year color-coded at a glance.

Some destinations are marked in pencil so they can be erased. Others, like Poland, are definitely planned and firmly marked in red.

ALTHOUGH I WILL not visit Poland for nine months, I have started to familiarize myself with the way it looks on a map, and I've already scanned a few reference books for general information. You may know where the mountains are, and where Warsaw is in relation to places called Silesia and Pomerania, but I am not that well informed.

I know how much more fun it is to travel when you know a little about where you are going. Here is a potpourri of information that may help you to plan your travel schedule for 1980. If you can't afford to go, it doesn't cost a thing to read about it or to watch movies about other's travels.

COLLECT THE SCHEDULES for travel films at the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Birmingham Community House and Novi High School. Check your library for available films. Contact the National Audio Visual Center at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. for information on the 8,000 films that it sells and sometimes rents to the public.

Temple Fielding has introduced a new travel service to buyers of his travel guide book, "Europe, 1979," which is sold in local book stores. Inside the book is a detachable, postpaid postcard to be mailed back to Fielding; you will receive a personal code

number and a toll-free telephone number by return mail.

Card-holders are entitled to make up to 52 free calls a year, not to exceed two calls a week, and ask any travel-related question. The Fielding staff will either answer it immediately or find out for you. That resource is a bonanza for any traveler.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL with an educational slant can also be explored intelligently with information from two organizations: The Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), 205 E. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10017; and the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS), 102 Greenwich Ave., Greenwich, Conn. 06830.

CIEE has just announced its summer travel/study program for a cultural experience co-sponsored by the Japan Society Inc. The program takes place June 30 to July 23, and costs \$2,400 from New York City for travel to Japan plus accommodations, field trips etc. Contact them for details of this and other CIEE trips.

AIFS has 100 education programs for students including special itineraries to the Soviet Union for the Moscow Olympic and to the People's Republic of China. The four-week Olympic program costs \$2,495 from New York and combines the Soviet Union with visits to the European cities.

IF YOU ARE MORE interested in the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, N.Y., you may want to know that a new air shuttle service will be offered from Montreal, Quebec, Canada, during the games.

A De Havilland DASH-7 will fly from Dorval airport to Saranac Lake, N.Y., and bus the 11 kilometers (6.8 miles) to Lake Placid for a round-trip fare of \$100. Flight time on the 48-seat plane is 24 minutes, and there are 10 return trips a day.

You also can take a charter bus at \$24 for twice the travel time. As the closest major city to Lake Placid, Montreal has been officially designated a gateway city to the Olympics. About 600,000 people are expected to use the city as headquarters during the Feb. 13-24 event.

If you would rather grow flowers than shuttle through snow, Montreal has another event of interest, the 1980 world exposition of flowers, called Les Florales Internationales de Montreal. It will be the largest floral exhibition ever staged in North America and will run from mid-May to September.

See Montreal's museums and see the world

Montreal has numerous museums that display not only the priceless artifacts of the region, but many from across the country and around the world.

The Museum of Fine Arts on Sherbrooke Street West is a showplace of international art and artifacts. Within its 34 galleries, superb paintings, sculptures and other objects represent virtually every civilization.

Open since 1860, the Museum of Fine Arts started a major expansion program in 1973 which was completed in 1976.

From 1844 to 1929, Montreal was home to David Ross McCord, a man of eccentric habits who dedicated his life to founding a great Canadian historical collection. These holdings now form the basis of the McCord Museum on Sherbrooke Street West.

McCord commissioned artist W. H. Bennett to paint scenes "destined all too soon to disappear." The result was more than 200 canvases, now displayed in the museum, which provide vast architectural records of the streets and buildings of 19th-century Montreal, Quebec City and Trois Rivières, in the province of Quebec.

The McCord costumes collection, started in 1857, is the only one of its kind in Quebec and one of few in Canada; the decorative arts section includes woodcarving, furniture, wrought iron, china, glass, ceramics and silver; and a large group of photographs, dating back to 1855, forms a pictorial of Canada from preconfederation to the present.

LIKE MANY LARGE cities, Montreal has a wax museum depicting biblical, historical

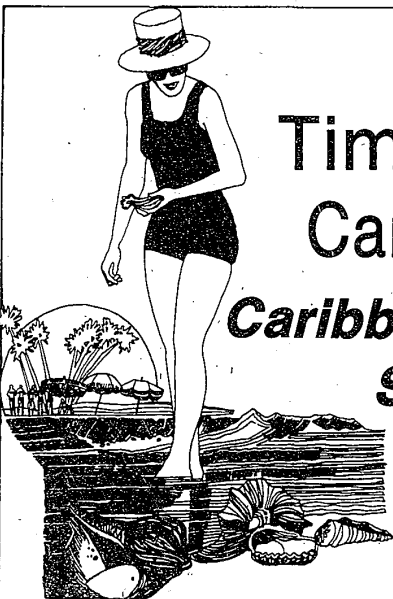
cal and modern scenes and is located on Queen Mary Road, the Montreal Wax Museum takes you through ancient Roman catacombs, past scenes of religious significance to the history section which is mostly Canadian and concentrates on Quebec.

Le Chateau de Ramezay, on Notre-Dame Street East in Old Montreal, is a beautiful old edifice housing early Quebec furnishings, engravings and coin collections. It was built in 1705 as a private residence, but over the years has served as everything from headquarters for English and American troops to a court house, teachers college and part of Laval University.

Also in Old Montreal, the splendid Notre-Dame Church contains little museum of vestments, books, coins and religious art objects. The church itself attracts most visitors. Built in 1679 and accommodating up to 5,000 worshippers, the magnificent main altar, marvelous art lining the walls, woodcarving throughout the structure and chimes that weigh up to 24,700 pounds, make it one of Montreal's most interesting landmarks.

The diversity of Montreal museums is not as impressive as the collections within. The Museum of Contemporary Art displays modern offerings, Maison Saint-Gabriel a heritage house built in 1668, contains antique furnishings, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Museum has mementoes of the force's past.

For more information about travel doings in Montreal and the rest of Canada, write to the Canadian Government Office of Tourism, Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0H6.



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Guide to winter fun

Now in print is "Winterfun in Southeast Michigan," a guide that provides information on downhill and cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, tobogganing and other winter activities.

It describes the latest developments at area ski resorts, and includes information about winter facilities open at area parks and public lands.

For a free copy, write to the Southeast Michigan Travel and Tourist Association, American Center Building, Suite 350, Southfield 48034.