

TRAVEL

Livonia family goes 'hunting for bear' out west

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER
hgallagher@home.comcast.net

Bob the Bear stands quiet sentinel on the deck of Jerry and Jenny Reale's Livonia home. Bob used to be a beech tree, growing up through a hole in the corner of the deck.

But the tree was dying when the Reales moved in and someone suggested preserving the tree as a sculpture. Ken Boshell carved the friendly bruin and Jerry Reale stained him a pleasant golden honey color. He now holds a bouquet of flowers in summer and is appropriately decorated for Halloween and Christmas.

And, no doubt, Bob has been an inspiration to the Reales in choosing their vacations. This past year they went searching for bear in Montana and Alberta.

"We went three years ago to Yellowstone, the Badlands, the Tetons and Glacier and we liked Glacier so much that we wanted to go back and this time we wanted to experience Banff and Jasper," said Jenny Reale.

This was a first for the Reales sons, Nick, an eighth grader at Livonia's Holmes Junior High, and Jonathan, a fourth grader at Marshall Elementary.

The Reales stayed at motels near the parks but recommend staying at the parks if you can.

"The accommodations are sparse, no TV, no radio but you don't miss it," she said. "It's nice to wake up in the park and not have to drive a distance to get there."

She recommended contacting the parks at least five months in advance to get accommodations.

The Reales flew into Montana and rented a Jeep, on which they racked up more than 2,000 miles during their 11 day trip in August.

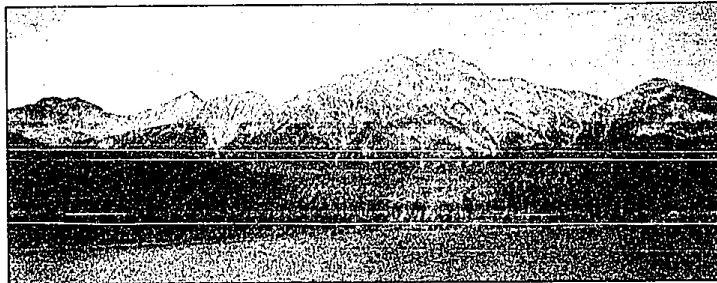
The Reales tried horseback riding a Glacier, but their favorite activity was hiking — long trails and short, through woods and up steep mountain slopes in search of wildlife.

"We would look everywhere for animals," Jenny said. "We saw a lot of mountain goats."

They also saw marmots, elk, squirrels, coyotes and many birds, but only one bear.

"On one trail we spotted a grizzly, but fortunately... or unfortunately for my husband, because it was to find a grizzly bear. My husband is a veterinarian," she said, as if to explain his odd search.

Son Nick wasn't so sure.



Rockies: The majestic mountains connect the U.S. and Canadian national parks at Glacier, Jasper and Banff.

"I wanted to see one, but not too close," he said.

The Reales checked the internet before traveling and were well informed about bears and other information about Glacier (www.nps.gov/glac).

The site gives these bits of information about the grizzly. When it stands on its hind legs it rises six feet tall, sometimes weighing up to 1,400 pounds (though 300-600 is average). It's claws are four inches long and though its vision is "mediocre" it has an excellent sense of smell. And it's omnivorous, which means it will eat just about anything!

And don't even think about running away. The big grizzly could take on Michael Johnson as it sprints 180 feet in three seconds!

The park advises that you don't surprise bears, make noise and let them know you're coming, don't get close, avoid walking around blind corners, back walk slowly (unless it agitates the bear) and, whatever you do, don't look a bear directly in the eye because he doesn't like it.

Fortunately, most of the bears the Reales encountered were cousins to Bob, carved out of trees and very popular western souvenirs.

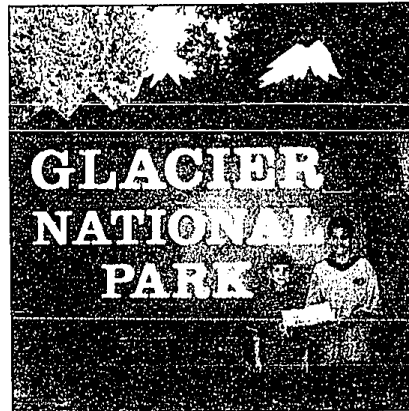
"We saw them everywhere we went," said Jenny, who bought a small one to keep Bob company on the deck.

What the Reales did see, were some of the most beautiful scenery in the United States and Canada. They hiked up to the Columbia Ice Fields. Jerry went trout fishing on Maligne Lake, considered one of the most beautiful in the world. One Web site says it is even more beautiful than its more publicized neighbor, Lake Louise.

"The mountains are breathtaking, so different from what we're used to," Jenny said.

The Reales made their first trip west on their honeymoon in 1975 to California's Crater Lake and have been going back ever since.

Jenny said a sign she saw summed up her feelings about the mountain west: "The mountain shall bring peace to the people."



Glacier fans: Jonathan (left) and Nicholas Reale show off their Observer at Glacier National Park.

Mountain resident: Goats were a common sight on the trails at Glacier and Banff.



GREAT ESCAPES

Great Escapes features various travel news items. Send news leads to Hugh Gallagher, assistant managing editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (313) 591-7279.

A TASTE OF TUSCANY

The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center is holding "A Taste of Tuscany: An Evening of Art and Food," 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, to help promote interest in a tour of the Tuscany April 22 to May 2 with art historian Deborah Kewsky and BBAC executive director Janet Torno.

The cost of the evening of Tuscan delicacies is \$25 per person and implies no obligation for the trip.

For information, call (248) 644-0866.

FLORIDA CONDO CENTALS

Leisure Link International offers two bedroom resort condos for as little as \$449 a week in the Disney World-Orlando area. The condos are not "hotel-style suites" but actual two-bedroom apartments with kitchens and living space. Swimming pools and play areas are also featured. Openings available now until winter 1999; call 1 (888) 801-8808 for brochures or reservations.

SOUTHERN FRANCE

Marty Figley, Observer & Eccentric's At Home garden columnist, is leading a visit to "Dream Gardens of Southern France," April 17-27, 1999. Garden styles include medieval, aroma, stone and sculpture. There will be plenty of free time for shopping and learning about the area, great food, wine tasting and more. Two cities will be the home-base so there will be little packing or unpacking. An English-speaking escort will accompany this trip. For a brochure, call Marty at (248) 644-2178 or Chuck Randolph Travel at (248) 645-5050 or (800) 336-1490.

NEW ZEHLER'S FEATURE

Zehnder's of Frankenmuth recently opened its \$1.2 million Zehnder's Marketplace & Z Chef's Cafe, a 7,000-square-foot interactive dining experience on the lower level of the 1,500-seat establishment. Zehnder's Marketplace and Z Chef's Cafe in the first phase of a multi-phase food store renovation, a \$2 million redevelopment effort.

The new facility will offer a 100-seat casual food service environment that features an open kitchen framework when the Zehnder's culinary team greets and serves up made-to-order

selections from Z Soup station to Z pizza station.

Zehnder's of Frankenmuth is 90 miles north of Detroit. The Bavarian town of Frankenmuth is one of the state's top tourist destinations with more than 3 million visitors each year.

BACH FESTIVAL

The Village Bach Festival returns to the Thumb communities of Caro and Cass City, Nov.

VOLARE TRAVEL

TOURING EUROPE

Britain 8 DAYS	\$394
German, Austria, Hungary & Czech Republic 10 DAYS	\$699
Spain & Portugal 14 DAYS	\$790
Greece 10 DAYS	\$799

Land-only prices are shown. Higher prices during certain seasons. TRAFALGAR'S Unbeatable Vacation Bargains

Volare Travel, Inc.
42500 Hayes, #400
Clinton Twp. MI 48038
810-263-4500

24, 27-29 for its 20th and final season. Members of the Festival Orchestra and vocal and instrumental soloists have gathered for the annual Thanksgiving holiday to rehearse and perform the

music of J.S. Bach and other baroque, romantic and modern composers since 1979. Performances are held in the First Presbyterian churches of Cass City and Caro.

Other composers featured this year are Brahms, Bernstein, Haydn, Mahler, McMichael, Loeffler, Strauss, Respighi and Mozart. For more information, call (517) 872-7223.

SUGARLOAF'S 4TH ANNUAL NOVI art fair

OCT. 23, 24, 25, 1998

Novi Expo Center

NOVI MICHIGAN

AT EXIT 162 OFF I-96

325 ARTISANS WITH OVER 38 CATEGORIES OF FINE ART & CONTEMPORARY CRAFTS...

gold & silver jewelry • leather handbags & briefcases • silk & hand woven clothing • custom hardwood furniture • clay & porcelain pottery • blown glass vases & leaded glass panels • metal & wood sculptures • fine art originals & prints • wildlife & scenic photography • forged iron accessories • and much more!

NEW! Visit our Specialty Foods section including salsas, vinegars, garlic, pasta, bread/soup/dip mixes, smoked salmon, breads, old fashioned candy and more!

FOR EXHIBITOR LISTINGS & MORE DETAILED DIRECTIONS VISIT www.sugarloafofcrafts.com

FARMER JACK **HOME TOWN**
Observer & Eccentric

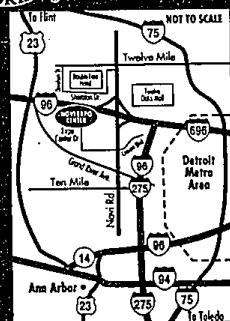
SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN WORKS, INC. • www.sugarloafofcrafts.com

FRIDAY - SUNDAY 10-6

Craft Demonstrations
Entertainment
Specialty Food
All Indoors
No pets please
Strollers not recommended
Daily Admission \$6
Under 12 FREE
PARKING FREE
COMPLIMENTS OF SUGARLOAF

DIRECTIONS: Located on I-96 northwest of Detroit at Exit 162. Go south on Novi Road. Turn right onto Expo Center Drive.

During fair call (248) 380-7003



DISCOUNT ADMISSION COUPONS AVAILABLE AT FARMER JACK, FROM OUR WEBSITE, OR CALL 800-210-9900

In Association With

THE BATTLE OF THE BLUES BANDS III 1998

BLUES BANDS OF DETROIT WILL COMPETE FOR CASH AND THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF GEAR FROM COMPANIES LIKE:

Fender audio-technica DW Zildjian

OCTOBER 25 NOVEMBER 8

FINALS NOVEMBER 22, 1998

THIS SUNDAY OCTOBER 25

AT MEMPHIS SMOKE

THE REEFERMAN TAMPA TED & THE BLUE KNIGHTS BLUE ROSE

WIKOM SUM NOTEBENDERS

GUITAR CENTER ROSELVILLE • 30250 ORATON AVENUE • ROSELVILLE, MICHIGAN • 810-394-4141
GUITAR CENTER SOUTHPFIELD • 30250 NORTHWESTERN HWY. • SOUTHPFIELD, MICHIGAN • 248-334-8079
A LIFETIME OF CUSTOMER SERVICE