

Moorehead Family's First Trailer Vacation

The Moorehead Family of Columbus, Ohio, bought a travel trailer and took its first, quite long, trip in it the summer of 1959.

The Family included: Lee, father; Betty, mother; David, oldest son, age 13; Debbie, oldest daughter, who turned 11 at the end of the trip; daughter Becky, age 6; and son Timmy, age 2. Lee was pastor of Indianola Methodist Church in Columbus, Ohio, and the only way to really enjoy his summer vacation time was to really "get out of town." Long summer vacations became the norm and the trailer was gretly used, and the family even upgraded to a bit bigger model with a bathroom, in a few years. The family station wagon (first blue and white, later yellow and white) was the means to convey the trailer. It was never an easy feat to back the trailer into the campground parking slot. Especially when it was often in pitch dark. The Moorehead arrival at each campsite was probably quite a disruptive affair to the rest of the campers.

The family departed on Monday, July 13, 1959, at 1:45 PM, and spent their first night at Natural Bridge Park, near Slade, Kentucky.

Their next night was spent at Pine Mountain State Park, near Pineville, Kentucky. They stayed in a secluded area up on the mountain, and that night, a bunch a hot-rodders came a drove around and around the trailer and really frightened the family for a while. This experience is still remembered and related often.

The family's main destination was Key West, Florida, where Lee's sister, Rosemary, lived with her family and where her husband, Captain Joe Barnwell, was Captain of the Naval Base there.

On the way, they visited the Cumberland Gap area, as well as Gatlinburg, Tennessee, the Great Smoky Mountains, and toured the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

The final stops before Key West included Ocala, Florida. Running late, they stayed their last night in Florida City in the parking lot of a facility that Captain Joe arranged, before traveling onto the Florida Keys in daylight and to their destination on Sunday, July 19th.

Thanks to a very detailed letter that Aunt Rosemary wrote to the whole family afterward, the activities and food consumed are well documented. The family stayed for a whole week, and left on the rest of their trip on Monday, July 27th.

The entire Barnwell family was in Key West that summer. It included: Rosemary Moorehead Barnwell, mother; Captain Joseph Barnwell, father; Joseph Barnwell, Jr., oldest son; Dial, oldest daughter; Rosemary Jane (later changed to Laurie), daughter; and son, Robert.

From Key West the Moorehead family went to Miami, Ft. Pierce, and Callahan, Florida; and then on to Fayetteville, North Carolina, West Point, New York, and Washington, D.C. The family was in Washington from August 1 to 6, before heading home.

Following are a number of things from this momentous trip.

Sat. morn. July 31

Dearest Mother, Lees, and Everyone, (copy direct to Lee),

Never would I have dreamed it would take this long to get a letter off to you but I hope enough news was crammed on my card to hold you. Your typed letter just arrived. Bravo! I have 3 letters from you to answer. We have loved Lee's two cards and the one from Becky; we bet he looked long and hard to find just the one of the Florence Library!

Our mind all week has been on the Lees as they traveled up the coast. After my minute examination of the trailer I know they could make their odyssey in comfort, once they shook down. I hope Washington presented them with some decent weather. Key West certainly did - there was always a breeze and not a minute too hot that cooling off via cool drink, fan, or swim wasn't possible. However, this nice summer we are pestered at times with mosquitos and flies (we didn't feel a one last summer) because of the heavy, daily or nightly rains which has bred them faster than they can be controlled.

I have thought so much about little Timmie being happy back in his house on wheels after his having to suffer guard all the time here in a house with 7 doors and next to a pool. My fondest memory of him is his delight in jumping off the edge of the pool into anyone's waiting arms, just as my fondest Xmas memory of him was the bag of oranges and clothes pins. The pool misses all of the Moorehead children, as do the baseball games. Joe Southard spends every aft. and evening with Robert and R.J. and wishes we would produce another visitor of David's caliber.

There were so many things left undone and unsaid during the Lees' visit but as I look back on it now I wouldn't have changed one second of it -- even to the missing of the Mill's garden. I do hope everyone had enough to eat and drink, though I have my doubts about that. I am enclosing my recipe for beef stroganoff for Betty since everyone seems to like that so much. Here, for Mother, is a blow by blow account of the nine days, as closely as I can remember.

Sunday -- arrival of Our Family about 10:00 with very early lunch of the Cuban food prepared for the night before. Many loads of laundry washed and dried and much swimming in the pool. 11 chicken halves broiled outdoors that night.

Monday -- all the Mooreheads ride the Conch train. Children have winners and grown-ups go to Admiral's for dinner along with large group of visiting high ranking Airforce officers and engineers who have been building the missile tracking range up the Keys. We eat broiled dolphin there but food is pretty sparse so we come home and eat cucumber and avocado sandwiches in our garden while we chat under a full moon.

Tuesday - everyone spends time on Conch Beach with Joe taking each by turn in Janthina, his boat, which now has a fine sail. Grown-ups go to Weirs' "at home".

Wednesday - fishing trip on the big Navy AVR with Lee and Albertha staying home to mind Timmy, Becky, and Robert (the latter two go to summer recreation at Harris School in the morn.). We catch almost every kind of fish except a Sail, though I lost my dolphin. Debby gets a strike from a 39 lb. Wahoo and as it nears the boat it swallows David's bait also so they land it together and are much puzzled as to who to claim it. David gets a 13 pound Amberjack which he really has to battle. I get a large Kingfish which is definitely out of season and we have him broiled for supper, though Lee's children are unhappy about it but hamburgers at the pool take care of that.

Thursday - rain all day which is mostly ignored but the birthday party has to be moved indoors. I have baked two angel food cakes and two small yellow cakes which we decorate with bars of music (the latter we gave as prizes for the musical games). Everyone of the 18 children performed at the party with Becky doing beautifully on the piano, Debby on R.J.'s violin, and David on Joseph's French horn. Dial played the cello, R.J. the flute, and Robert the uke. David decorated all the napkins with musical instruments. Right after

the party we fed the 8 children spaghetti and the grown-ups departed for the Sauers. I knew Lee and Betty would be much interested in that unusual house and Martha's paintings and Bob's orchids, and they were. We stayed quite late and then drove by Tennessee William's home and the house where "The Rose Tatoo" was filmed and got hot "bolos" to eat on the way home from Mother's joint. Then we ate spaghetti and ~~Mom's~~ birthday cake.

Friday -- everyone goes fishing again on the AVR while I stay home with Albertha and the 3 little ones whom I spend all morning with on Conch Beach. R. J. stayed home too and took almost full charge of Timmie while I made Beef Strogoneull, two Key Lime pies, and Danish pastries for Sat. breakfast. Betty is the champion fisherwoman of this trip with a 25 lb. Washoo and a bull Dolphin of the same weight. Both "ahoos" are now being smoked - I wish the Lees could have taken home some of their own fish but I gave them several packages of smoked fish from our freezer - all the Lees liked smoked fish. And none of them got seasick though the water was plenty rough on both voyages. That evening while Lee and Betty suffered with their sunburn and weariness Joe and I slipped out to see "Auntie Mame".

Saturday -- there is a high wind so Joe takes me sailing; we really flew. Lee and Betty go to see some former friends from Ada who are stationed at the hospital here and then Joe takes them to Matcovitches for shell - they are fascinated with the chambered nautilus and buy them for gifts. Joe buys Betty a large pink horse conch. That evening the grownups go to a Spanish dinner outdoors at the Legros' whom have been entertaining 4 houseguest in that tiny apartment. The Legros have had complications. Barbara stuck a needle deep into her kneecap which required a severe operation to remove. Last Wed., just after their guests left, Cathy entered the hospital with an almost paralyzing and mysterious back trouble. I have taken them flowers and plants and food these last few days.

Sunday - we go, 11 strong (we couldn't get Joseph up) to the 9:00 service at St. Paul's. Joe and I really feel complimented that Lee would want to go to our church, rather than to the Old Stone Methodist. Coffee hour after the service goes on and on and on because Lee is interested in talking to the Key Westerners and to Father Church. That night we cook 12 delectable sirloin steaks outdoors and all the children have a last swim. The trailer is brought up to the back door for packing. That aft. I had taken Betty and David back to the shell shop for more purchases. I buy David some interesting shells and give all the children some from our collection at home.

Monday - The Lees are gone by 10:00, loaded with shells, sea fans, coconuts, fish, and lunch.

I haven't covered all the things we did; the talking was the best of all. R.J. and Debby had lots of fun shopping down town through the private gate, and Robert and Becky were as sweet together as they were at Christmas. All Lee's children enter into everything so nicely.

Monday I gave 4 music lessons, did 7 loads of washing, and was in bed by 8:00, after getting all Joseph's belongings ready for the Marquesas Islands. Joe took him to his tug at 6:00 Tues. morn. and I was up early baking Key Lime pies, making potato salad, ~~fixing~~ Hollandaise sauce for broccoli and marinades for dolphin and Cuban bread. I also went grocery shopping - it seemed odd to buy only 8 quarts of milk instead of 15.

By 1:00 Tuesday I was at the motel to pick up our Finnish Colonel whom we had met at the Admiral's last year and brought home to give him shells. He had called Joe last week saying he and his wife and children (boy 13, girl 10) would be in Key West and like to say hello. So Joe took the aft. off and arranged for one of the Underwater Swimmers' big boats to take us to Papy's Island for an aft. of skin diving. All the Leinonens are expert swimmers but had never worn fins or masks. They soon caught on and were so fascinated that we could hardly get them out of the water and around the island to meet the boat when it returned for us at 4:30. We found quite a lot of shells and gave them more here. They swam in our pool here until a late supper was ready outdoors.

Our children were so fascinated by the Leinonen children and vice

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versa and we by the adults that we couldn't part till almost midnight. We have seldom met more charming people. They speak perfect English though the mother and children didn't speak any till they came to Washington $\frac{1}{2}$ years ago - he is military attache to the embassy. They were so interested in our house which they wanted to see every detail of - thank heavens it was spic and span because of Albertha and full of fresh flowers. They brought us 3 bottle of fine whiskeys.

Wednesday I was so tired I could scarcely move, and I didn't, not even to write this letter. Thurs. I did a lot of errands and went to a coffee and we had caller that evening. Joseph got a ride home on a tug and had to go back at 5:30 yesterday morning. He is on a tough, tough job and his feet and hands are covered with creosote burns and all his clothes were in shreds - I pitched every one into the garbage. He got back again last night, after having earned \$42.00 for the week, and has nothing to do this weekend but fun and sleep. This job is already doing wonders for him.

Yesterday I took my two daughters for a four hour shopping trip. Key West's annual sales are on but they are so worthless that we didn't buy one single thing on sale. We got Dial new shoes, patterns and material for two dresses which she will make herself, and an early birthday present - the most beautiful crinoline of pleated nylon with rows and rows of lace over nylon taffeta and horsehair. But it should be beautiful because it cost \$10.00. R.J. and I came out with absolutely nothing. We went into every store in town and there is not one hat to buy for her to wear to church. So, Miami, here we come after the Putts leave.

Bryan and his family will get off the plane in Miami a week from Monday and rent a car to drive down here. They will keep the car for the time they are here (we have no idea how long) because 12 people will not fit into ours.

Our Jade Vine is suddenly putting out many new sprouts so it has survived its long journey.

I could hardly read Aunt Ruth's letter but gleaned enough to know that there is a sari coming. Wonderful! I am sure you did indeed buy out the shop in Homewood. R.J. and Robert would love to have an early Smas present. I won't be able to sew or buy for R.J. for school because Joseph will take every second of shopping possibilities. We must buy for him bedding and spreads and lamps and luggage and trunks, plus all clothes from underwear outwards.

The dictionary that Lee and Betty gave Joseph is the height of all gifts in that line - heavy red leather, gold embossed and indexed. It is a book to display and use in the center of one's living room for an entire life.

I have loved all the clippings you have sent and all your letters, but I must stop now and put this in the noon mail. Betty and I both felt saddened over Aunt Deed's letter. I shall write to Adele.

The cheeses arrived and we ate part of ours and sent Lee's full box off with him. That was such a thoughtful and useful gift, and delicious too, and we all thank you.

Yes, we think it is time that Lee and Bob write a letter to the rushing chairman of SAE for Joseph. Can they find out his name? Joseph has received information and books from 6 fraternities at Sewanee but none yet from SAE.

I long ago stopped taking the pep pills because they kept me awake at night, or at least I thought they did. Now I sleep like a log. Dial made many recipes of cookies last week and sent Lee off with a double batch of peanut butter ones, being very flattered by his compliments. She also baked a double batch for the music teacher this week.

We loved every word you wrote about the days you were all together at AuTrain. I know Bill had a thrill driving that fine little car.

I am enclosing a newspaper article for both Lee and Mother, also the batch of pictures Joe took of the fishing trips - we think they are

dandy pictures. If Mother should want any, please put her name on the back of the picture and send the whole batch on to Lee as soon as possible. Then he can keep these and tell us which ones Mother wants.

Much much love

Rosemary

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Leave July 31

Leaving West
Tiptonville, Tenn.

24,004'

9:20 A.M.

Leave West Aug. 1

24,272

arrive Washington

D.C. at 12 noon

Aug. 1 -

Leave Wash. D.C.

10:10 - Aug. 6

24,000

Leave Ocala, Fla.
22,397
at 8:45 A.M.

Leave Florida City
at 6:20 A.M.

22,784

Arrive Key West
22,914

~~22,784~~

Leave Key West
July 27, 10:10 A.M.
22,934

Leave Miami - 9:40
23,127 July 28

Leave Ft. Pierce, 9:35
23,290 July 29

Leave Collier, Fla.
23,550 9:15 A.M.
July 30

ing and vacationing is Adeline (Mrs. P. J.) Ross. Plans call for a possible session at the famed art school in San Miguel de Allende, where she studied last summer.

Adeline's Mexican scenes were among the most colorful oils she exhibited at the Little Gallery during the season.

* * *

Ohio Guests Enjoy the Fishing

HOUSEGUESTS OF Capt. and Mrs. Joseph Barnwell are Dr. and Mrs. Lee C. Moorehead of Columbus, Ohio, and their four youngsters, David, Deborah, Rebecca, and Timothy. Dr. Moorehead, pastor of Indianola Methodist Church of Columbus, is the brother of Mrs. Barnwell.

One of the greatest thrills for the family has been deepsea fishing. An exciting experience of one of the trips came when a 35-pound Wahoo swallowed the bait on two of the youngster's hooks in one bite. Undaunted, they landed the fish together.

Another highlight of the visit was a musical party hosted by the Barnwell children. The Moorehead and Barnwell offspring are talented musicians and the 20 guests at the party all play musical instruments. A musical theme was carried out in the games played and prizes were miniature musical instruments. The motif was carried out in decor and refreshments, too.

* * *

Lt. James Baker Goes to Ohio

THE NEXT DUTY assignment of Lt. James Baker is with the Strategic Air Command at Columbus, Ohio. Zola and James are home on leave for a visit with her mother, Amelia (Mrs. Fernando) Camus and the Charles Bakers.

James' brother, Michael, who was spending a summer vacation with them at Biloxi, Miss., returned with them.

* * *

Vacationers Send in Post Cards

MORE NEWS from vacationers includes a card from Ginny (Mrs. William) Truesdell. Postmarked Washington, D.C., she writes that Johnny is now a midshipman. With scads of friends all over the coast, Ginny is having a whirl for herself visiting various ones. She expects to return sometime in August.

In Washington visiting her son, Dr. John Candee Houck and his family, is Marjorie (Mrs. John Walter) Houck. She motored north with Ruth Bowen, who is vacationing with relatives and friends in Malone, N.Y.

NOTICE

THE CONCH TOUR TRAIN

KEY WEST, FLA.

ADULT

FARE .91

FED. TAX .09

007531

TOTAL \$1.00

THE CONCH TOUR TRAIN

KEY WEST, FLA.

GOOD FOR ONE CHILD TOUR
CUSTOMER RECEIPT

009148

ADM. 50c

Personal Mention

Guests of Capt. and Mrs. Joseph Barnwell, are Dr. and Mrs. Lee C. Moorehead and their four children, who arrived Saturday, July 18, for a 10 day visit in Key West.

Dr. Moorehead is minister of the Indianola Methodist Church, Columbus, Ohio. He is Mrs. Barnwell's brother.

WHEN COMPANY COMES

Company dinner service: If service plates are used, napkins should be placed on them. If the first course is at each place before guests come to the table, place napkins to the left of the forks.

HAVE A CAREFREE VACATION

pay those
bills with

CASH

\$25 to \$600

Signature only, car or furniture. Phone first for 1-trip service.

Clifton R. McNabb

524 Southard St. — CY. 6

IT COULD BE SO WONDERFUL!
The luggage compartment is packed to the brim;
We'd be sure of a perfect vacation
If a similar place for storing the kids
Could be found for the journey's duration!
Fannie Faucett

July 13 1959

Left Columbus 1.45 P.M. Went by way of
Chitticothe and Portsmouth. Crossed the Ohio River
~~by way of~~ a new bridge. We were all very excited.
After crossing the Ohio it became very hilly.
Stopped for a while at a roadside park.
Arrived "Natural Bridge State Park" 9:30
Parked trailer ~~after~~ ^{after a struggle} ~~at~~ ^{the} ~~park~~ ^{camp}. We have both
electricity and running water here.
We ate supper for the first time
in our new trailer. Then we went
to bed tired.

July 14 1959

We got up early after our first night in our trailer. We had breakfast and got ready to go on the hike to Natural Bridge. We climbed up to the first place to rest. We took a side path to the balanced rock. We then went to the cave. There was a tunnel which went from one side to the other but we did not have a flashlight or matches so we could not go through. Then we went on up to

the Natural Bridge. I was afraid to look down into the valley and saw below. Finally we went to Pine Mountain park which

not go there

the natural bridge. I was far
to look down into the valley way
for below finally we went
to Pine Mountain park which
was way up a mountain and were
all alone there. We
played games in the twilight
then played games in the trailer
and went to bed that night.
In the night people freshened
up by not making a sound and came
to bed but the single

July 15, 1959

the next day we went through a bus stop that told about early pioneers and Cumberland Gap. Then we went to have a picnic lunch at the Norris Dam, that provided electricity for many states in that particular area. Then we went to Gatlinburg where we had fun.

