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OHIO'S FOREMOST
NEWSMAGAZINE FOR
BOOMERS & BEYOND

DECEMBER 2013

Volume 31 - Issue 12

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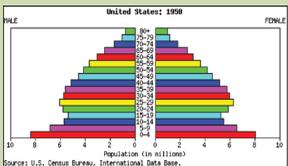
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61 YEAR OLD VOCALIST

Grammy to four crowned Ms. Senior America

(AP) - A Tennessee woman who sang with the Charlie Daniels Band has won the Ms. Senior America Pageant in Atlantic City.

Carolyn Corlew competed with 33 other women in the pageant, which featured talent and evening gown events.

The 61-year-old sang the Etta James song "Tell Mama."

Corlew shares her journey to the crown:

I have resided in the beautiful state of Tennessee for 33 years. I just celebrated 30 years of marriage to my husband David and have one wonderful daughter, Taylor 27, and am step-mother to 2 daughters and Grammy to 5.

I have been in the music business for most of my working life and continue to stay active after 17 years on the road with The Charlie Daniels Band as a vocalist. After I retired from road life and got off the bus, I became certified in several business and accounting programs and now serve as director of finance and consultant to a record company, a film company, music publishing, and 3 other businesses.

I was born in New Jersey. Though we moved to California when I was 5, I have fond memories of my beginnings in Chatam, California was where I was raised. My mother was an actress and very involved in church and service work. We were raised to be active!

I became a model at 15, being a staff model for *Teen Magazine*, and professionally modeled in Los Angeles and San Francisco for 10 years, doing commercials and print ads for Kodak, Revlon, Polaroid, Carnation Instant Breakfast, Ford, Chevrolet, etc. etc. I acted in a movie, directed by Peter Fonda, as a 2nd lead, with Keith Carradine, titled *Idaho Transfer*. It was a fun time...but I loved music.

I landed a job sing-

ing with the legendary blue eyed soul singer Bonnie Bramlett, from the Delaney & Bonnie group. I toured and performed on records with her for years, allowing me to sing with such groups as Little Feat, The Guess Who, Pablo Cruise, and countless others, until I landed a job with The Charlie Daniels Band after seeing a small add for a summer tour in the *Hollywood Reporter*.

I started with Charlie in 1979 and toured the world, meeting my future husband, and actually performed 8.5 months into my pregnancy and was back on the road with my 2 month old baby girl, Taylor! Thanks to Hazel, Charlie's lovely wife, I was able to



work for years on the road as Taylor would go to their bus and stay until the show was over.

Then it was time to get off the road and allow my daughter to be home and enjoy her life as a teenager. I was and still am able to perform with Charlie today, and have the opportunity to still get on stage and sing with such a living legend. It was the formation of a record company with Charlie and the interest in the business side of music that landed me in the career I have today.

Being a performer all my life I knew I had to continue doing something, so I became a certified personal fitness trainer to further my knowledge of physical activity and I worked with clients for a year at a local gym.

Home is now a 110 acre working cattle ranch in Mt Juliet, TN. We have 50 head of cattle, 7 horses, 5 dogs, 6 cats and a partridge in a pear tree! Yes, it's a lot of work for me and my husband but it keeps us fit!

I look at each day as a complete blessing as I continue my active life in music, fitness, and the with love of my family, friends, and precious animals.

If you are a woman who has reached the "Age of Elegance," 60 years and older, Senior America is looking for you. Visit www.senioramerica.org and fill out the contact form. Meet women from all over America, become part of the Cameo Club, stay involved with your talent and make new friends. Senior America is nationwide.

Western National Parks

A unique experience awaits the adventurous

By Aaron Leventhal

It is still possible to experience unspoiled wilderness in America. For your next vacation, consider forgoing a chaotic and often expensive trip to a city destination for the exquisite natural beauty and tranquility found in the national parks of the American West.

This past September, my wife Beth and I flew from Columbus to Kalispell, Montana near the Canadian border, where we rented a car and for nine days explored Glacier, Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons.

Our 1,000-mile journey took us through the rugged Rocky Mountains where we saw immense canyons, thermal geysers, pristine lakes, waterfalls, rushing rivers, colorful wild flowers and an abundance of wildlife from bison and bears to bighorn sheep and wild eagles. It was a spiritual experience never to be forgotten.

We dined on delicious fresh lake trout, beef and bison as well as fresh local fruits and vegetables. We hiked well-marked mountain trails, took a guided float trip down the Snake River, played golf and had the option of dozens of other popular outdoor pastimes including biking, boating, kayaking, horseback riding and fishing. In the winter, downhill and cross country skiing, snowboarding and snowmobiling reign supreme.

More than 3 million tourists descend on these national parks annually. Avoid the crowds by visiting from mid-May to mid-June or after Labor Day until early October when the autumn foliage is in full bloom.

Senior Pass: Anyone age 62 or older is eligible to purchase a \$10 pass that admits the holder to any national park, monument or federal museum for life. What a deal!

Lodging at the parks is under the authority of the National Parks Service and managed by Xanterra Parks & Resorts. Most of the historic lodges are in wooded surroundings and have a rustic Old West ambiance. Comfortable common areas often have overstuffed couches, chairs and massive stone fireplaces. The lodges are on the pricey side, but provide value with their scenic charm, central locations and excellent dining rooms. Book early, since the lodge accommodations usually are sold out by April.

Glacier National Park, established in 1910, is noted for its extraordinary mountain scenery and was home to the Blackfoot Indians for more than a millennium. We stayed at Lake McDonald Lodge on the eastern shores of Lake McDonald. (406-892-2525). Scenic boat cruises depart daily from the lodge dock, and Glacier's famed, historic Red Buses take visitors on four-hour scenic interpretive tours along Going to the Sun Road, a 50-mile paved highway designated a National Historic Landmark. The beautifully restored 1930s vehicles have rollback canvas tops, giving all 17 passengers excellent views of the spectacular mountain scenery along winding, steep passes.

We particularly enjoyed our short hike at Trail of the Cedars, where 200-foot towering trees have flourished for more than 1,000 years. Glacier is linked to the Canadian Watson Lakes National Park and is officially known as the International Peace Park World Heritage Site with more than 1,200 species of plants highlighting the biological diversity of the region.

Recommendations for dining, in and near the park include the historic 1891 Belton Tap Room, Two Sisters Cafe, the Isaac Walton Inn and Russell's Fireside Dining Room at Lake McDonald Lodge.

After three days in Glacier we left for a 500-mile drive through absolutely gorgeous natural scenic landscape to Yellowstone National

Park. We had a brief stop in **Missoula, Montana** for lunch at the Catalyst Cafe, a popular locals' hangout. The historic town center is enlivened by art galleries, boutiques, restaurants and cafes, and we met residents who had been drawn here from across the country by the area's clean water and air and abundance of outdoor activities such as skiing, biking and hiking.

Yellowstone National Park, in the northwestern corner of Wyoming, has the distinction of being the first national park in the world. The park is gigantic with more than 2 million acres so plan to stay a minimum of three days to just scratch the surface of this American icon.

Half the world's geothermal features and two-thirds of the world's geysers are concentrated in Yellowstone. The most popular and famous geyser in the park is Old Faithful, erupting approximately every 90 minutes to heights of up to 180 feet. A short hike up Observation Point Trail provides a panoramic view of the geyser basin. Nearby Mammoth Hot Springs and Mystic Falls Trail are worthy of exploration.

Don't miss the breathtaking sights of Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, with a 1400-foot trail to the roaring river below. There are more than 1,000 miles of hiking trails throughout the park, and other popular outdoor activities include fishing, boating, sightseeing and wildlife viewing. The early morning hours and late afternoon provide the best chance to see bison and elk herds, bighorn sheep, moose, black bears and an occasional grizzly.

Stay at the historic Old Faithful Inn (866-439-7375). Built in the early 1900s with local timber and stone, it is steps away from the famed geyser and the American fare in the inn's Dining Room is excellent. The inn also offers complimentary guided tours for a glimpse of the experiences of early explorers.

We stayed for a night in **Cody, Wyoming**, about a 90-minute drive east of the park. This vibrant western town is home to the Smithsonian affiliate Buffalo Bill Historical Center. Through innovative technology, video and fine art, the museum documents the life and times of the legendary buffalo hunter William F. Cody, who attained world-wide celebrity status with his touring Wild West Show. We stayed at the charming, historic Chamberlin Inn (888-587-0202), just around the corner from Sheridan Avenue, the town's main street with half a dozen blocks of souvenir shops, art and antiques galleries, restaurants and cafes. Dining recommendations include Peter's Cafe and Bakery, Wyoming's Rib and Chop House and Shiki Japanese Restaurant.

Heading back through Yellowstone, a 200-mile drive took us southwest to the **Grand Tetons National Park** in Wyoming. Established by Congress in 1929, the park offers more than 96,000 acres of majestic mountain ranges, valleys, rivers, lakes and abundant plant and wildlife.

Our Columbus friends Rick and Peggy Kaplan, who have a second home in **Jackson Hole**, provided us with an excellent orientation prior to our departure. Exploring the the park and the culture and dining in Jackson Hole turned out to be the highlight of our trip.

We stayed at The Hostel (307-733-4515) in Teton Village, just outside the park. If you can accept Spartan accommodations, this rustic 1960s inn, with exceptional mountain views, is a great bargain alongside some of the swankiest ski resorts in the country. A short stroll from The Hostel to the Mangy Moose Restaurant and Saloon provides a great night of dining and live music. The Aerial Tram in Teton Village offers sensational views from a 13,000-foot mountain summit.

Barker-Ewing Float Trips (800-365-1800) follow a scenic course down the Snake River through 10 miles of spectacular wilderness. For three hours, Grant Bishop expertly steered our large rubber raft through rushing rapids past dense woodlands and green valleys dominated by



Aaron and Beth on the Red Bus Tour along the Going to the Sun Road, Glacier National Park, Montana

the towering Tetons, as he explained the diverse ecosystem and pointed out wildlife and natural features.

Jenny Lake Boat Company (307-733-9227) offers hour-long scenic boat trips several times daily. Our guide Kyle shared the area's history and personal stories as our boat passed some of the most beautiful scenery on Planet Earth. We learned how glaciers from the surrounding young, peaked mountains carved out the lush valley about 12,000 years ago. Inside the park, Jenny Lake Lodge (800-628-9988) is the ultimate, but expensive, mountain resort.

The most popular of dozens of hiking trails include Colter Bay's Lakeshore Trail (2 miles) along Jackson Lake; Hidden Falls and Inspiration Point Trail (1.8-5.8 miles) at Jenny Lake; and the challenging Signal Mountain Summit Trail (8 miles) for incredible mountain vistas.

The National Museum of Wildlife Art (800-313-9553) proved to be our favorite cultural experience. This exquisite architectural gem is on a hillside overlooking the National Elk Refuge, and the internationally acclaimed collection of more than 5,000 works includes art by masters such as John J. Audubon, Charlie Russell and Georgia O'Keeffe. Its Rising Sage Cafe is a charming setting for lunch.

We found Jackson to be a hip, vibrant resort community. In fact, Ski Magazine recently named it the number one ski resort in the nation. Third Thursday is an art enthusiast's dream, with more than 25 galleries, many near Jackson's Downtown Square, holding receptions and openings from 5 - 8 p.m. We especially enjoyed the collections at the Brookover, Tayloe Piggett, Grand Teton and Rare galleries.

For dining, we highly recommend the Bunnery for sumptuous breakfasts; Bubba's Bar-B-Q for beef brisket and ribs; Lotus Cafe, popular for organic, gluten-free and vegan specialties; and Nani's Cucina Italiana, for memorable, authentic dishes from 20 regions.

Columbus-based travel writer Aaron Leventhal occasionally organizes and leads small group trips. Check it out at LeventhalTravel.com.

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