

## Views Around The Lake

by Cindy Klopsteck

With a furry kangaroo hanging onto the Lincoln hood ornament and a cuddly koala bear tightly grasping the rear antenna, Australians Linden and Nathan are making their way across the United States, enjoying the ride as they meet new people and create memorable experiences.

This latest "mission" of theirs - to tour America - brought them through Eagle Lake in mid-January.

I first thought it was a hearse. When the car stopped in front of our bottling unit, I wondered if a hearse driver was going to exit with a cylinder to fill with propane.

I was more curious than frightened of that fact, when two bodies erupted from the front seat and I realized they were exiting a

Lincoln limosine equipped with a British Columbia license plate.

"A 1988 Lincoln limo, to be exact," one of them informed me in his quick, clipped British accent. "We're on a mission - to tour your country - and the limo runs on propane."

This was a first - we've had an assortment of different and diverse vehicles, tractors and RV's getting filled these past thirty years, but this was our first limo, manufactured to run on propane.

Introducing themselves as Nathan Slawinski (that sounded Polish to me!) and Linden Hicks from Australia, Perth and Managatan respectively, they gave me their story as Jim checked out the limo and gassed it up.

Co-workers and friends for

some five years, the two "bad Aussies", as they grinningly refer to themselves as, work six straight months in gas/oil and construction and then enjoy six straight fun months in whatever their particular mission is at the time.

This one started about two months ago in Vancouver, British Columbia with a month's worth of snowboarding.

They planned to buy a van and go south to explore the states, but when they saw the Lincoln sitting pretty in a car lot, Linden said the decision was made.

"We knew this was the right vehicle to be seen in crossing the states." They crossed into various states, moving south, destination California, most days and nights actually living out of the limo. "We were just going to make a few days in California, but wound up staying three weeks," explained Nathan. I decided not to push for details. Then it was east and on through Vegas.

I could easily depict these two friendly Aussies enjoying the night life, and they shared pictures of their visit there.

It confirmed what I was learning from their descriptive talks: these two were enjoying their geographical tour of the country.

After a questionable number of nights in the city of lights, they consulted their well-used map of the continental states and aimed for El Paso by New Years Day.

They never made it. Linden explained that they got caught in a little New Mexico town on New Years Eve, out of propane, businesses closed. "We spent New Years in a little hamlet of a town and pushed on through San Antonio, exiting I-10 to take a rounding country tour into Houston." Alas - Eagle Lake. I asked if they have a problem finding propane. "Just New Years in New Mexico," Linden confirmed.

They shared that many vehicles in Australia, including most taxis, run on propane, at about 40 cents a liter.

I tried to compute, but figured either way we're higher priced here in the States and Canada

too. They liked the look of Eagle Lake, and it reminded Linden of his small hometown in the state of Victoria, Australia.

Where next, I asked. After Houston, it's on to New Orleans, destination Miami, Florida. After a visit there, it will be north to Tennessee and some snowboarding, perhaps eventually extending the joy of that sport into Colorado.

When's the end of the six month vacation? "We want to be back in Australia by January 26th, Australia Day. It's like your 4th of July," Nathan explained. "You'll have to sell your home, I mean, your limo before you head home," I sadly commented. "We're really thinking of shipping the car back home," they insisted. I didn't ask how many months' worth of construction work that would take.

I could have visited with this energetic twosome forever, but by late afternoon I cautioned them of the traffic they'd encounter approaching Houston. "Oh, we don't mind the traffic. Near San Francisco we visited along the freeway - people are friendly to talk to when they see us in the Lincoln," was Nathan's answer. And the commuters obviously get entranced by those very British/Australian accents.

A few minutes of videoing and they were on their way. They're considering making a movie of their historic trip.

I got their addresses, shared some information and wished them well as the Lincoln pulled out onto Hwy 90.

The two Aussies were back on their mission, and I had no doubt in my mind that their next stop would provide them with continued memorable experiences of our country.

The little koala bear, hanging on for dear life at the Lincoln's rear end, just bobbed its head in agreement as they pulled away.

Post Script: I'm wondering if the duo returned to Australia by Jan. 26th and if the Lincoln, kangaroo and koala intact, sailed the Pacific.

I'm sending greetings and a copy of this article to their Australian addresses, so keep tuned in for an update.

## Obituaries

### Tommy Ray Kionute

Memorial service for Tommy Ray Kionute, 51, of Binger, Oklahoma, was called home by the Lord, Sunday, February 11 at Lawton.

He was born July 1, 1955 to Steve and Pearl (Williams) Kionute in Winnarnaka, Nevada. He moved to Oklahoma early in life and was raised in Binger. He married Judy Stewart, she died February 15, 2006.

He enjoyed fishing and spending time with his grandchildren.

He worked in environmental engineering and was a security guard for many years. He was also a member of the Binger Baptist Church.

He was survived by two children, Tammy Smith, of Binger and Kevin Covington of Austin; three brothers, Raymond Kionute and Mike Kionute of Gracemont, and Mark Kionute of Loveland, Texas; two sisters, Sissy Kionute of Frederick, Oklahoma and Kay Kionute of California; one nephew, Bobby Joe Gonzales of Anadarko, four grandchildren, Ashlie Smith and fiancé, Tyler Davis, of Binger, Tyler Smith of Binger, and Jacob Covington of Austin.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, February 16 at 11 a.m. at Binger Baptist Church in Binger with the Bro. Dennis King officiating. Final arrangements were under the direction of the Binger Funeral Home.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.



### Mary Lee Johnson

On February 27, 1949, a baby girl was born to Rev. Rance and Willie Lee Johnson and they named her Mary Lee.

At an early age, Mary Lee gave her life to Christ. She was the seventh of 11 children. She attended E.H. Henry High School.

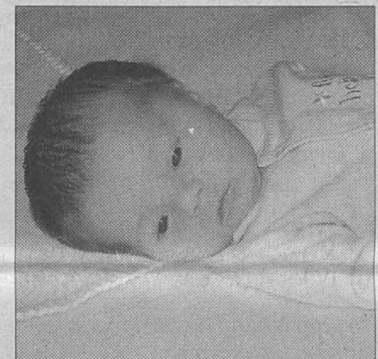
She leaves to cherish her memory a devoted mother, Willie Lee Johnson; a daughter, La-Shasta Harris Pickney; four sisters, Iva Lee Johnson, Annie Lou Johnson, Arizona Johnson Davis and Willie Lee Johnson (Willie); five brothers, Oliver Johnson, Sr. (Pam), Roy Johnson, Sr. (Katie), Clemon Johnson, Sr. (Evelyn), Robert Lee Johnson (Melody), all of Eagle Lake and Rance Johnson, Sr. (Marie) of Palacios and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, 10 at 11 a.m. at the White Cloud Baptist Church in Eagle Lake with the Rev. O. Rhodes, officiating. Interment followed at the Union Hill Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to Ben Davis Funeral Home in Columbus.

Pallbearers were Rance Johnson, Jr., Clemon Johnson, Oliver Johnson, Roy Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Justin Johnson, Jason Edwards, and Harold Davis.

Honorary pallbearers were Clemon Johnson, Sr., Oliver Johnson, Sr., Rance Johnson, Sr., Lucious Davis, Larry Davis, E.L. Hill, George Johnson, Willie Stovall, Roosevelt Carson, Robert Johnson, and Audrey Carter.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.



### Gunner Bradley Grigar

Lance and Carrie Grigar of Sugar Land are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, born January 9, at 1:04 p.m.

Gunner Bradley Grigar was born at Oak Bend Hospital in Richmond, and weighed six pounds, two ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Brad and Judy Engstrom of Garwood.

His paternal grandparents are Michael and Melody Grigar of Eagle Lake.

Great-grandparents are Eldin Wied of Garwood, Louis Grigar of Eagle Lake and Bill and Helyn Farris of Eagle Lake.

Gunner also has a great, great-grandmother, Evia Hobbs of Columbus.



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*You carried us for nine months--during that time you nourished us. You delivered us and brought forth life. From a baby to adulthood, you never stopped giving. You made sacrifices for us and made life worth living. There was always this beam in your eyes when you gave... it was with excitement and with great JOY. You didn't stop there...You gave yourself to our kids. They could always count on Granny to come through...even if we said they didn't need it. Because you gave to us unconditionally makes it easy for us to give of ourselves. We Love You and Miss You so much But the love you gave is still in our hearts.*  
*Debbie Mosley-Baines, Debra Mosley-Jones, and Kenneth Mosley*

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GREATER UNION BAPTIST CHURCH: Matthews Community, Co. Rd. 141; Rev. Lawrence C. Robertson, Pastor; 234-2581.  
MT. CARMEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwy. 90-A (Pecan Valley), Eagle Lake; Rev. H.O. Williams, Pastor; 234-5813.  
LIVING HOPE CHURCH: Eagle Lake; Revs. Joe and Mercy Fling; 234-5536.  
BEREA CLADIC: 623 Maple Avenue, Eagle Lake; 234-2130.  
ROCK ISLAND FULL GOSPEL: P.O. Box 232, Rock Island; 234-5840.  
CHRISTIAN CITY FELLOWSHIP: 1140 Meyer, Sealy; Rusty Griffin, Pastor.  
THE DAY OF PENTECOST APOSTOLISTIC REVIVAL RISING STAR: FM 102 South, Matthews; 4 p.m. (at Mt. Zion), Rev. R.L. Carter Sr.  
GREATER NEW FAITH CHURCH: 6406 Guyler, Wallis; Rev. Clay Spears, Pastor; 979-478-2169.  
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PROVIDENCE BAPTIST: 1207 Seaholm, Eagle Lake; Rev. Coby Shorter Jr., 234-3735.  
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH: 306 E. Stockbridge, Eagle Lake, 234-3437.  
ROCK ISLAND BAPTIST: Bob Allison, Pastor.  
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CHURCH OF CHRIST: Sheridan.  
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CHRIST OUR REDEEMER-Charismatic: Jerry C. McKinney, Pastor; 979-478-7534 or 478-6512.  
HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH: East Bernard.  
CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE NATIVITY: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Sanctuary: 308 N. Stevenson, Eagle Lake; 8 a.m. (Espanol), 10 a.m. (English) 6 p.m. Saturday (English), Rev. Robert F. Guerra, P.O. Box 307; 234-2842.  
ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH: Box 97, Nada; Fr. Joe Vrana; 758-3218.  
GRACE LUTHERAN: 408 N. Stevenson, Eagle Lake; Services begin at 10 a.m.; Rev. Clements Richard, Pastor; 234-3381.  
LEHRER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST: Garwood; 9 a.m. worship.  
LISSIE UNITED METHODIST: J. L. Craft, Pastor; 234-2112, Lissie.  
ROCK ISLAND METHODIST: Ken Sellar Jr. Lay-Pastor.  
UNITED METHODIST: 200 W. Prairie; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:45 a.m.  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN: 106 E. State Street, Eagle Lake; 234-3368.  
VINE OF THE LORD: 1300 E. State Street, Eagle Lake; Rev. Paul Aguilar, Pastor; 234-7543.  
CrossRoad ASSEMBLY OF GOD: 510 Wallace, East Bernard; Pastor George Kutach; 979-335-7706.  
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS: 600 W. St., Sealy; Marshall Crosby, Branch Pres.  
CHURCH OF CHRIST: 815 Milam, Columbus; Lynn Wilson, Minister.  
THE SHEPHERD'S WAY: Interdenomination Christian Fellowship, 1225 Eagle Lake Road, Sealy, Frank Lucas, Pastor; 979-885-1225.  
SOUTH POINT BAPTIST CHURCH: 6407 Hwy 71-S, Garwood; 979-758-3039.  
ASSEMBLE DE DIOS HOSANNA: 403 East Main, Eagle Lake; 979-732-1966; Pastor Romero Rodriguez Jr.  
BIBLE TRUTH APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Corner of S. Wharton & E. First St., El Campo; Pastor Larry T. Smith, 979-543-2331-non-denominational.

**Bible Verse of The Week**  
"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh."  
- Matthew 24:44  
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