



Jo Anne Taylor visited Bryce Canyon, Utah, where she shot this photograph



Mel Smith's "Falling Spring"

# Travel Far, Near

that I did this year."

To capture the photo she entered, Corne withstood an abundance of perils including flood, earthquake, volcano eruption and fire. However, she said it was the best vacation that she, her husband, Virgil, and daughter, Lorinda, had ever experienced.

"It was sort of like the perils of Frances," she laughed as she described the vacation recently.

After flying to Seattle, Wash., and renting a four-wheel drive Ford Explorer, the Cornes began driving north to Alaska via the famous Alcan Highway which this year is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Along the way smoke from forest fires in British Columbia shrouded the way for some distance. It also created an unusual appearance for the snow-capped mountains.

"The snow was black from the soot and ashes of the forest fires," she explained.

After reaching Anchorage, Alaska, the Cornes stopped at a mall. While inside an earthquake, measuring 4.9 on the Richter Scale, struck.

"The mall shook but everything was all right with us," she said.

Undeterred, they traveled farther north and the next day found themselves covered with the ash from a volcanic eruption. Mount Spurr, 80 miles west of Anchorage, belched lava and ash some 10 miles into the sky.

However, nothing would keep them from their vacation.

Traveling near Haines, Alas., they saw warning signs to be prepared to stop. They were told that melting glaciers had caused a river to rise out of its banks and over the road. They also were told that a vehicle would lead them and the other vehicles through the flooded area -- apparently a routine procedure at this time of the year (August).

"As we got about half way across we realized that our vehicle started to float," she said. "But we were lucky that the wheels caught and we made it across."

When they arrived in the next town a few miles away, they learned that a car had been washed down the river after they crossed

and that the road had been washed out by the flood.

"We were just lucky to get across when we did," Corne said.

Amid all the perils, the Cornes enjoyed the beauty and solitude of Alaska.

"I had never been anywhere that you could not hear a jet, a car motor or some other man-made noise," she said. "But there it was just the sound of nature. It was just beautiful."

During their nearly 8,000 miles of driving during the August 12-23 sojourn, they saw moose, caribou, grizzly bear, black bear, deer, beavers, foxes, doll sheep and porcupine, among other animals.

They visited Fairbanks, Anchorage, Skagway, the Yukon Territory, Denali and North Pole, Alaska, as well as British Columbia. During their trip they camped or slept in their vehicle most nights, which were very short at that time of the year. Darkness came about 11:15 p.m. and it was again light by 5 a.m.

"We could drive for a long time with the daylight and we didn't sleep much," she said.

They traveled the full length of the 1,500-mile Alcan Highway and received a certificate denoting that since it was the 50th anniversary.

The perils of the trip were not over, however. When they returned to the airport in Seattle, they were ready to board their airplane when the adjacent concourse of the airport caught fire.

"I got that on video tape, too," Corne added. "The fire was shooting through the roof at one time but they got it out pretty fast. But after that happened, I wondered whether we ought to get on the plane."

They did return home safely and now are planning for another vacation sometime that will take them to Nome, Alaska, and to the Arctic Circle.

"We've been to Europe, Canada, all over the United States, but this was the time of our lives," Corne said of her Alaska vacation. "It was the best trip we have ever had, even with all the perils."

Third place winner Eva McKenzie took advantage of the

view of a snowcapped Bavarian Alp with her 1967 Niko 35 mm camera during a visit to her na-

(Continued on Page 8)



Above, singers perform in Nashville, Tenn., in Frances Payne's photo, "Rockin' U.S.A." Below, visitors at the Biltmore House in Asheville casually stroll through a wisteria-covered arbor as Jane Beach's photo shows.

