

July 30 - August 1, 1999 EXECUTIVE WEST HOTEL LOUISVILLE, KENTUCHU

louisville's Denultimate SF & Fantasy Convention!

Guest of Honor ESTHER FRIESNER PAT & ROGER SIMS

# ARTIST GUEST GARY WILLIAMS LAWRENCE WATT-EVANS

RiverCon XXIV memberships are just \$25 until July 15, 1999 (\$35 afterwards and at the door). Children five and under are admitted free. Hotel rates are still a low \$62 per night for single through quad occupancy; reservation cards will be sent to advance members, or call the Executive West at 1-800-626-2708 Join us for a weekend filled with SF programming, huckster room, art show & auction, masquerade, gaming. videos, parties, fun, and a whole lot more. Plan now to attend the next-to-last of one of the region's best conventions!

FAN GUESTS OF HONOR

TOASTMASTER

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## CELLEURS FROM THE CANE

Welcome to Concave 20! Looking back over the last 20 years it seems impossible that the group of geeky (myself included) college students that founded Concave could have started something that could continue for so long with so much success. I keep getting asked if Concave will be ending anytime soon. My answer to that is that I have no plans to stop organizing it as long as y'all keep coming! I think that this is a great year to look back at where we've been in the past. I have expanded the program book this year, and have included a history of Concave that I wrote a few years ago for the Southern Fandom Handbook. l hope vou enjoy it.

It is very satisfying to hear all the comments made as to how different and enjoyable our convention is. There will be a lot of people working hard this weekend to make Concave a success. Take time to thank them, or better yet, sign up for a shift as a helper in the consuite! WE LOVE VOLUNTEERS! Helpers in the consuite, art show, art auction, and drivers are always extremely welcome. There will be a sign-up sheet posted on the cabinet doors on the Barn Room kitchen for anyone interested in working. It's a great way to meet people.

I agree that the room lottery is less than perfect, but it's the best way I have been able to come up with to equitably assign rooms. There are room lottery forms for Concave 21 at the registration table and in the consuite. Be sure that you fill out one of these forms to be included in next year's drawing. Here's a hint on lottery strategy: you can associate up to three names with your entry. This means that a single entry counts four times when we do the drawing. If you are entering the lottery, pick someone to be the leader of your group, and fill out one form with all the names on it. I, do examine the entries and erase



any duplication. Please keep your name on a single entry because this helps me a lot when it comes time to do the drawing.

If this is your first Concave, we are glad you could make it. We pride ourselves on carrying on the traditions of SF cons from the 40's and 50's. This means that Concave is unstructured weekend an. of socialization between SF fans with no planned activities beyond what's in the schedule. With limited space and staff, we won't be able to please everyone, but please bring problems to our attention. I should be easy to recognize--look for the guy in the strangest shirt!

We will hold the Art Auction in the Barn Room on Saturday night. I am sorry that we have to close it down for the auction, but there isn't another room large enough in the hotel. If you help us move the furniture, the interruption will be that much shorter.

Most of you should not need an introduction to the Park Mammoth Resort by now. Once again, we will have the famous Saturday afternoon banquet. Seating is limited, and admission is \$10 per person, so buy early and often. There always seems to be something that makes Concave memorable-the weather, the people, or the place. We have adapted to the changes and, hope, have continued to make Concave a better convention for all of us. Just expect the unexpected, and in case the power fails again, we'll have Concave matchbooks at the registration table. Go and enjoy!

Gary R. Robe

CONTRACT 20 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday February 26, 1999	
12:00 5:00 pm	Registration Opens - Hotel Lobby Consuite Officially Opens - Barn Room & Patio Room (1. Huxter Room Opens for Dealer Setup - Blue Room Art Show Setup - Rooms 134 - 136. Huxter Room, Art Show and Gaming Rooms (234-236)
7:00 pm	& Video Room Open (2. Opening Ceremonies - Patio Room
11:00 pm	Registration Closes. Late Registration in Barn Room
Saturday February 27, 1999	
10:00 am 12:30 pm 1:00 pm 6:00 pm 8:00 pm 10:00 am 11:00 am	Registration, Art Show, Huxter Room and Gaming Reopen Registration Closes. Late Registration in Barn Room Banquet & Guest of Honor Speeches - Hotel Restaurant Art Show Closes to Bidding Art Auction - Barn Room Art Show Checkout - No Sales After 11:00 am Business & Site Selection Meeting - Room 266
	Sunday February 28, 1999
12:00	Hotel Checkout, Gaming Room Closes, Taking Reservations for Concave 20 - Room 266
ТВА	Huxter Room Closes when the Huxters have made enough money to pay for the weekend. Dead Dog Party for survivors. Volunteers working on teardown will get a pizza dinner on Concave's lab.

The opening times for these functions are approximate and depending on the speed of setup. Volunteers are always welcome. The closing times for these functions are not set and will be determined by the people running them.

Concave has few rules, but there are some we insist upon.

1. The minimum drinking age in Kentucky is 21. You will be asked for **ID at registration** and wherever alcohol is served. Wear your badge visibly while you're here. All alcoholic drinks taken from the consuite must be transferred into cups. The consuite personnel ARE THE BOSS. If you are refused service, you are probably doing something wrong. If you have a problem with any of the staff come to me. I'm not hard recognize-look for the guy in the strangest shirt.

2. Drinking age rules also apply to open room parties. I have asked all of the party hosts to check ID also. Treat them as if they are convention staff.

3. The Barn Room is a **NO SMOKING Area**. The Patio Room will be the overflow consuite and smoking area. 4. Confine weapons, toy or real to sleeping rooms.

5. Please heed all posted rules of the hotel. The watchman is an Edmonson Co. deputy sherff. Unruly behavior can land you in the county jail. We hope it doesn't come to this, but we will eject disruptive elements from the convention.

6. Finally, when you leave, do it sober. For anyone staying outside the Park Mammoth Resort, we will provide transportation on request.

7. The pool will once again be open for the duration except for cleaning periods in the wee hours. Remember that the pool is a public area and anything you do can show up in somebody's video collection.

### CORCENTE 20 GUEST OF HORROR - YOL HALLER

by Ruth M. Shields bomas Robert Feller was born in Monroe, Wisconsin, on September 28, 1954. He and his younger brother grew up nearby on their parents' farm. One is tempted to associate Tom's passion for the Green Bay Packers with his early years on the dairy farm, but he has not



actually been seen wearing a cheese on his head.

After achieving his BA in philosophy (with minors in political science and German literature) from Ripon College in Ripon Wisconsin, Tom attended graduate school at LSU in Baton Rouge. He was not happy with graduate school, however, and after an assistantship expired, he took a job as a desk clerk at a Holiday Inn in Baton Rouge. He did well in the hotel business, with promotions to night auditor, front office manager, and then a transfer to Jackson in 1981, where he became internal auditor at Mississippi Management, the firm which operated many Holiday Inn hotels in the region. Tom has continued to work for that firm (now MMI Hotel Group) and was recently rewarded with a Caribbean cruise for his twenty years of employment with them.

In September 1983, Tom followed up on an ad in ANALOG magazine which had made him aware of the existence of a local science fiction club. He attended a subsequent meeting of the Chimneyville Fantasy & Science Fiction Society (CESES), and he soon became a very active member of the club, proving bimself a responsible volunteer despite the travel schedule required by his job. Work-related travel allowed him to attend numerous conventions throughout the

South in the next few years, as well as those he attended with fellow CESES members. During those years he also held office in the CESES and became editor of the clubzine, SMART-ASH. When a local Star Trek club was formed. Tom joined, and although he found its rigid official structure less congenial than the laid-back CESES, he attended meetings and promoted an idea for a Jackson convention to be organized by people from both clubs. Although ultimately the combined committee proved unworkable (ask him to tell about the dramatic public meeting in which he stopped an

attempted coup by the officers of the Star Trek club), Tom became chairman of the tirst one-day convention that the CESES successfully sponsored.

Later, as the CFSFS gradually lapsed into inactivity due to membership attrition, Tom expanded his own level of involvement in national and regional fandom. He joined the N3F, became involved in various apas, and published his own zine The Reasonable Freethinker. He worked as a volunteer at several Worldcons, and then was recruited to run the Southern Fandom Confederation at the same time that he was bidding to hold a DeepSouthCon in Jackson. (Ask him for the story of the bizarre genesis of that bid.)

Tom has a great love of classic films and is an able competitor in movie trivia contests, he reads widely on a variety of subjects as well as science fiction, and he is often seen participating enthusiastically in convention dances. It was at one such dance that he came to the attention of Anita Williams, who was to become his wife.

1997 was a very busy year for Tom: he was SFC president and editor of the SFC Bulletin, chairman of the Chimneycon DSC in June, and he moved to Nashville and got married in July to Anita. In addition, he worked on the committee of the Worldcon in San Antonio in August. It Tom had a secret plan to become a BNF, 1997 was the year it was achieved. But he is not resting on his laurels; although he has passed the torch of the SFC to others, he continues to be active in Nashville fandom, to publish his zine (now The Freethinker), and to volunteer at various conventions. What follows is not precisely the speech I delivered, since I'm not transcribing a tape but my notes for the speech. Also, there is one big difference: while I announced a list of 7 items, I only gave 6: that error is rectified here.

#### HOW I KNOW I'M IN KENTUCKY: GOH SPEECH FOR CONCAVE'97 by T.K.F. Weisskopf

|First I thanked Gary & Corlis & the committee for inviting me.| I bet when you asked me you didn't quite reckon on getting not 1 but 5 Weisskopfs |my daughter Katie, my mother Vera, my sister-in-law Wendy and my nephew Max all joined mewe could have played Family Feud....]. It is a real pleasure for me to be able to share a convention with both my families, my blood family and the family of Southern fandom.

I did wonder why, at such a relaxed, laid-back con, you bothered to have the guest of honor deliver a speech at all, but now I realize that it's only fair to give the GOH a chance to rebutt the program book profile. [written by Gary Robe which nevertheless contained enough truth to be dangerous.]

I could tell stories on Gary and Corlis, but I've learned a lot from Jim Baen and he says it's one of the duties of a GOH to leave the con alive, or it reflects badly on the committee, so I'll refrain....

This is my first time at Concave, and it's great to be here. I've been hearing wonderful things about the con for years - it's been around one year longer than I've been in fandom - but I was beginning to worry that I'd missed blown my chances and I'd never be able to get a room. My first thought when Gary asked me to be GOH was "Great! Now I don't have to sleep at Wigwam Village if I want to go!"

Uh-oh. I just realized I have to sign up for the lottery for next year....[1] hand Corlis my lottery form.

Since this is my first time ever as GOH, I put a lot of thought into what I should be talking about to you guys. After all, I've been around fandom for some time now, and 1 have lots of important things that I feel the rest of fandom should listen to. Since this is my first Concave, though, 1 thought I'd learn what I could about previous ones and tailor my brilliant insights to fit the occasion. Thus, I have prepared a learned study. Its title: A Socio-Political Psychosexual Longitudinal Investigation into Genre-Inspired Deviant Behavior at Concave.

And here it is. All 208 pages, I will read it now... I bring out a thick sheaf of papers in a folder - the latest Honor Harrington manuscript, as it happened. No, I won't. You may all breathe a deep sigh of relief. I will tell you why you have been given a reprieve. It's because when I got here, I kept running into folks who knew me. "Looking forward to your talk at the banquet. You are going to keep it short, right?" So glad you're here, Toni, Can't wait to here what you have to say on Saturday. You are going to keep your speech short, right?" "Toni! Don't forget to come to my little soiree tonight! And you'll want to keep your speech short to save your energy for partying!" Uh huh. I get the picture.

So I'm ditching the long version. Instead I'll do an update on a piece I did for KAPA [the Kentucky Apa]. As Gary mentioned in the program book, I based membership in KAPA on the travel time I spend on 1-65 driving home from college. [Note: Park City lies almost exactly between Louisville & Nashville on 1-65.]

Driving home to Huntsville from college in Cleveland, Kentucky was a sight for Ohio-numbed eyes. The big thrill of the drive was not only confirmation that the earth was not completely flat, but the weird Indian place names and colorful billboards for odd tourist traps. I used to look forward to hitting them like old friends. I was very pleased to see this )rear, as we drove up from Nashville, a number of new ones!

So I thought I would share with you the Top 7 ways I can tell I'm not in New York anymore. It would have been 10, but everybody said to keep it short....

#7: In New York, I meet colleagues I want to impress at the Algonquin Hotel. In Kentucky, I meet them at Wigwam Village. [In fact, we did drag Harry Stubbs (aka Hal Clement) to Wigwam Village the next day. He had no idea why I was so excited to finally see the place!]

#6: In New York, I've seen Madonna work out at my gymbefore the baby, of course. She ignored me, I ignored her. In Kentucky-well, on my way to Kentucky--1 saw Naomi Judd-Wynona & Ashley's mother - signing autographs in the bathroom of the Nashville airport. And she even nodded to us!

#5: In New York when there's construction on a road and you have to merge, you zip along the free lane until you are forced over at the last possible second. In Kentucky you meekly wait in line miles before. Astounding!

#4: In New York when you are

stuck in traffic you can amuse yourself by trying to decipher the graffiti - which all looks like gang hieroglyphics done by aliens. In Kentucky, the graffiti is written English, but it's not on the sides of buildings; it's on the backs of trucks! My sister-in-law, in a true-fannish spirit of adventure, crept up close enough to the truck we got stuck behind while merging for the construction for me to get a photo of this sign:

#### LADIES! THINK SPRING! SHOW ME YOUR HOOTERS!

#3: In New York, the giant phallic symbol associated with a museum is an Egyptian obelisk next to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In Kentucky, it's a yellow spike on top of the National Corvette Museum & Gift Shop.

#2: At conventions in New York, the con suite not only is not open 24-hours a day, it doesn't serve beer. In Kentucky, the con suite has many different kinds of beer - on draft no less! - with signs identifying such held up with duct tape.

Finally, the #1 way I can tell I'm in Kentucky and not New York: In New York, you can tell the con chair by his special badge ribbon, his walkietalkie antenna, his beeper, and his trail of acolytes to remind him how important he is. In Kentucky, to find the con chair, you are instructed at opening ceremonies to look for the guy in the loudest shirt.

That's all folks! Thanks again for having me as your guest. Let's go party!

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20 MERS OF COLLENE

#### A Brief History - by Gary R. Robe

cicture if you will, the sleepy little Southern Kentucky town of Park City, population 1,200. During the summer the town is one of the gateways to Mammoth Cave National Park, so it is certainly not deserted. Imagine though, it is late February, and the most exciting thing happening is the occasional rooster crow in the distance. But wait, every hotel parking lot is full, and there's not a room to be had at any of the inns. For this weekend, the town's population has increased by 25%, and what's happening at the Park Mammoth Resort is probably a bit too strange for Bible-belt eyes. It's Concave time!

The roots of Concave really begin in 1977 with the establishment of the Western Kentucky University Speculative Fiction Society (WKUSFS). In those first few years, Rickey was Chairbeing of the WKUSFS, and the roster read like an early Concave committee listing: Pat Molloy, Jim Woosley, Annette Carrico, Tony Cannon, Billy Ridd, Gary Robe and others. The club began to reach for connections outside of Bowling Green when Rickey got hold of one of Meade Frierson's SFC Bulletins, and called Cliff Amos, the president of FOSFA in Louisville to inform him that a fan group had started in Bowling Green. "That's nice", said Cliff, "Don't start a convention for at least five years." It is one of life's little ironies that Clitt was instrumental in the foundation of Concave two years later.

In the spring of 1979, Clif Amos and Shelby Bush were driving back from Tennessee when Cliff's car broke down near Bowling Green. Outside the hotel where they stayed while



repairs were underway there was a sign guaranteed to draw the attention of a meeting organizer: Convention Space Available. Cliff revived Irv Koch's idea of UpperSouthClave (USC), a companion convention to the big Deep South Con. Cliff and Shelby announced USC 10 would be held in Bowling Green in March, 1980.

The first that any of the Bowling Green fans heard about these plans was the appearance of fliers on the freebee table of Kubla Kahnception. Rickey wrote to Shelby to ask what role the Louisville organizers of the convention had for the locals. Shelby wrote back a rather blunt letter that explained that the WKUSFS members could send in membership money, and volunteer as gophers at the convention. We did that, but until Thanksgiving weekend at Chambanacon, USC 10 was lost in the excitement of NorthAmericon.

As Pat Molloy, Pat Shaw, Debra Hussey, and I arrived, Ken Moore pulled aside and explained that Cliff's plans for the USC had fallen apart. Now Cliff needed us to take over the convention. If we had been sensible people we would have told Cliff thanks, but no thanks and gone on with our lives. Instead, we agreed to meet with Cliff the next weekend in Louisville to find out more about what had gone wrong, which turned out to be just about everything. The truth was that USC 10 existed only on paper in the few fliers that Cliff and Shelby printed in the spring. So with three months go before the planned dates, we had to start from ground zero with no up-front money, no hotel, and no help from outside. We returned to Bowling Green more than a little worried about where to go from there.

From that low point, however, the group rallied around the cause. Pat Molloy was appointed as chairman since he had gone to more conventions that any of the rest of the group. The hotel was miraculously available and willing to take our business. Advertising was essential, and we luckily had artist D.P. Shaw on the committee for graphic design. He invented the cave monster and damsel in distress that still are themes for the convention artwork. We liked Cliff's idea of USC being a moving convention. and figured that someone else would want to bid on USC 11. To give our convention an identity, we decided to sub-title USC 10 as Concave.

Considering the break-neck schedule to pull the convention together, USC 10 didn't come off too badly. There were about 80 attendees and minimal financial loss. Most importantly, we were still talking to each other as a committee. At the business meeting for USC 10, nobody else bid on hosting the convention, so it defaulted back to Bowling Green. This time it would be Concave 2, with USC 11 as the subtitle. It was at this point that we decided that Concave would remain a relaxacon with prominent tans for guests and no programming aside from the art auction and siteselection meeting for the USC.

Concave 2 brought us to a point all too familiar to SF conventions organizers: hotel relation problems. We were told in no uncertain terms after Concave 2 that we could not to return to the Executive Inn. In searching for a new home, our first

idea was to look for other hotels in Bowling Green. The selection was not great, but then Rickey remembered the Park Mammoth Resort. We liked the facilities at the PMR, but didn't like the idea of having to haul all that stuff up to Park City. We decided to test the waters by hosting Concave 2.5 at the PMR in December of 1991. That stripped down convention drew almost as many people as Concave 2 had drawn, so we decided to make the move. 18 years later, Concave is still at the Park Mammoth Resort-one of the longest running SF convention/ hotel relationships in the history of SF conventions.

After Concave 3, Pat Molloy got a real job in Huntsville, AL as a rocket scientist at the Marshall Space Flight Center. The chairmanship was passed to Rickey Sheppard, and Concave really began to grow in popularity. In 1980, we were thrilled to have over 80 members at Concave. It took four vears to break over 100 members, and 10 more years to go over 200. In recent years, the attendance at Concave has skyrocketed with 360 members recorded in 1998! By the time financial problems and burnout forced Rickey to drop out as chairman four years later, the hotel was almost selling out. The year after Rickey resigned as chairman. Concave used all 92 rooms in the hotel, and the hotel sold out more rapidly each year. It became a tradition to make reservations for Concave while checking out for Concave. In 1993, inevitable happened: all the rooms in the PMR were reserved before the dead-dog party. In 1994 Concave began the unusual tradition of a hotel room lottery.

In 1991, I changed jobs, and moved to Kingsport, TN. I thought about resigning as chairman, but there was really no need for me to live in the area. Contrary to some conceptions, Kingsport does have mail and phone service, so planning for Concave was really no different in Kingsport than it was in Kentucky. Kingsport also had the advantage of being the home of Gary and Liz Williams. Gary has supplied all of the artwork for Concave since 1992, and Liz started making the unique shirts that have become the chairman's "identification badge" at the convention.

Of course, Concave requires more than a chairman to run it. It would be hard to imagine Concave without Annette Carrico. Not only has Annette run the consuite from the beginning, she has served as the anchor for Bowling Green Fandom. In addition to doing most of the buying and hauling of the goodies served throughout the convention, Annette's house serves as the storage place for equipment through the year, and as the drop point for mail-in artwork. Besides Annette, Sue Francis, Pat and Roger Sims, Bill Cavin, and Dick Spelman are part of the now traditional Thursday set-up crew. Although Pat Molloy resigned as chairman when he moved to Huntsville, he and Naomi Fisher have assumed responsibility for running the art show for many years. Steve Francis has run the dealer's room ever since the convention moved to PMR. John Hans and Patty Teague have jun the game rooms for ten years. John Young and Mike Nunn, now responsible for organizing the LARP gaming at Concave, provided the video program for many years. Finally, Corlis Robe is the mistress of the cash register. She has run registration for 10 years, and is probably a more familiar face to most Concave members than the chairman!

Finally, there is the elevator committee. The PMR certainly has its charms, but handicapped accessibility is not one of them. Since the hotel was built before the ADA came into effect, it has no provision for getting people in wheelchairs to the second floor. Anyone who has spent much time in the consuite at Concave knows the call "Elevator Committee!" and knows what that means.

So, what is Concave's recipe for success? First, Park City is a crossroads for several cities with significant SF fan populations: Cincinnati, Evansville, Louisville, and Nashville, Plus, the PMR is an almost ideal venue for a small SF convention. Second, it was the willingness of the original committee to stay small. By concentrating on the relaxacon format, we have stayed within our means for staffing the convention and thus avoiding staff burnout. Finally, there is the indefinable quality on ambiance. There is always a feeling that something is about to happen at Concave. From the "incident" on the manager's front yard to the Great Blackout of '97, there's the near certainty that something about Concave will make it memorable. I could go for hours with stories of Concaves past, but I'd rather tell them to you over a bheer in the Barn Room.

The Concave Guests of Honor: P.L. Carruthers-Montgommery-1980 Ken and Lou Moore-1981 Irvin Koch-1982 Dalvin Coger-1983 Mike Lalor-1984 C.L. "Doc" Barrett-1985 John Hollis-1986 lane and Scott Dennis-1987 Lvnn Hickman-1988 Pat Molloy-1989 Howard deVore-1990 Nancy Tucker-1991 Peggy Rac Pavlat-1992 Margaret Keifer-1993 Ben Jason-1994 Judy Bernis and Tony Parker-1995 Bob Rochm-1996 T.K.F. Weisskopt 1997 Bill Cavin-1998 Tom Feller-1999

### A FANYS CUIDE TO THE GAVE AREA



FOOD: The Park Mammoth Resort (PMR) restaurant is perennial а

fannish favorite with excellent home-style cooking their and justly famous cinnamon rolls. If you want to explore, turn left on US-31W (the main road running in front of the hotel), and drive 6 miles to KY 90 in Cave City. Turn left, and you are in fast food Nirvana. If you are looking for something fancier, Bowling Green offers several choices within a 30 minute drive. Ask the con staff

for recommendations, and directions



OHRINK: If you need something that's in the not consuite, you'll discover you are in a desert, and the nearest oasis is

Bowling Green. Just get on 1-65 and drive to either Exit 28 for the basics, or Exit 22 for a larger selection. Since Bowling Green is the only wet area in a 50 mile radius, there are liquor stores within sight of these exits.



SHOPPING: There is an outlet mall in Horse Cave just 10 miles to the north on I-65. Bargains are mixed with the rip-offs, so caveat emptor! There is also an ATM machine

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located inside one of the restaurants in the center of the mall. This is the closest cash machine to the PMR. If this machine is not in line with your current banking system, Bowling Green or Glasgow are your second and third options.

 $\star \star \star \star \star \star \star \star \star$ \* **GASOLINE:** There are two gas stations on KY 255 in Park City. There are other flavors, including a 24 hour Super American, in Cave City



#### CAVE TOURS:



Mammoth Cave National Park is located about 8 miles from PMR on KY 255, and is well marked. The PMR front desk has tour schedules abailable. Tours often sell out, so

reservations as soon as make possible. Advance tickets are available at the National Park site. Plan to get to the Visitor's Center at the Park at least two hours before departure to decide which tour you wish to take and beat the crowds.



#### THE RESORT:

 $\star$   $\star$   $\star$   $\star$   $\star$   $\star$   $\star$ 

The PMR is a big part o Concave's success. It features has many that are unusual for a SF con hotel. The front desk can equip you for the sauna or miniture

golf. Pool cues can be checked out ir the consuite. The riding stables may be open if the weather permits. Follow your nose to find them! The mini-trair is not running, but walking the 1.5 mile track is a Concave tradition ir good weather. Other favorite outdoor activities include a walk to Lookout Point and the Tilt House, plus the tennis courts, playground and the 18 hole golf course.

