I Stanley Lambchop, visited Montana's Capital City, Helena and Yellowstone National Park. Montana is the 4th largest state in the United States. It is about three times bigger than Illinois, but has very few people. There are more deer and elk in Montana than there are people. Montana has lots of wild animals many of which, I saw when I visited Yellowstone National Park. I also met a lot of different people on my trip. Some were American Indians that live in Montana and others were from China. Can you find the picture that has both a Chinese woman and an American Indian, and can you tell which woman is which?

Helena, Montana is located about 1500 miles west of Illinois in the Rocky Mountains. Have any of you ever seen a mountain? It is kind of a great big hill that can be as high as two miles above Illinois. That's as tall as three Sears Towers stacked on top of one another. Because Montana is located high above Illinois the weather is generally cooler and gets lots of snow. It is not unusual to have 2 feet of snowfall overnight and have the temperatures go down to 40 below zero! Everyone there is used to the snow so they do not ever get to stay home because of bad or cold weather.

The city of Helena started when 4 men found Gold Nuggets on the ground. Many people went there to try and find their own gold. There are lots of mansions, which are really big homes and there are log cabins in which pioneers lived. Do you know what a pioneer is? Many of the homes are over 100 years old but are kept like brand new.

Helena is the Capital City of Montana. The State Capitol Building looks like the Capital building in Washington D.C. We got to tour different buildings and tourist sites in Helena. An airplane once flew through the steeplest of the Cathedral (a big church in town). At one place I was able to climb a rock wall. It took me almost all day to climb to the top. Do you like to climb rock walls?

The city of Helena has over 400 deer living right in town. There are deer everywhere you look. They are in people’s yards, on the streets, and even in the school playgrounds. Can you think of any problems that a very large number of deer, in a small area, might create?
In Helena, my family got to go to a special restaurant called the Staggering OX where they make special sandwiches into which I can fit.

I got to play in the chip rack and was almost mistaken for a bag of potato chips! While at the Staggering OX, I was allowed to play some songs with a band. I got to play the drums, a harmonica, a saxophone, and sing songs with a microphone. Everything I sang came out flat! Why do you think that happened? I had trouble playing the saxophone because I can't blow long notes or loud ones because I am flat and cannot hold much air.

We took a ride to Yellowstone National Park while visiting Montana. Yellowstone Park is so big parts of it are located in three states: Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho. The elevation of the park is very high it is almost as tall as six Sears Towers. Yellowstone Park has lots of really cool things and has lots of wild animals too.

The Park Rangers told us that a giant volcano formed Yellowstone Park many years ago. Parts of the Park are located just above very hot molten rocks. Molten rocks are rocks that are so hot they have melted and are like syrup below the earth's surface. The heat is so hot that it causes water and mud to boil and turn into steam. There are many areas in the park where water and steam boil right out of the earth. The areas, which turn into steam, are called fumaroles and geysers.

The most famous geyser, located near the Yellowstone Inn, is known as “Old Faithful” because of the regularity at which it spouts steam and super heated water. It spouts or goes off about every hour and one half no matter what time of the day it is or what time of the year. It spouts up to 100 feet into the air. I thought I would be frightened but it was just cool!

Many of the rocks in streams and rivers throughout the Park are colored bright red, orange, blue, white and gold. The color comes from tiny no, teeny tiny organisms or animals that live only at high temperatures. I like those a lot!
We stayed on a ranch at a friend’s log cabin that was built in 1907. I had my own room and got to play with some deer and ducks near a stream that is located behind the house.

Speaking of animals, the Spring is the best time to visit Yellowstone National Park because all the large animals are still at lower elevations and have not yet headed up into the remote areas of the park.

Look at my pictures and see if you can identify all the animals I saw. Can you identify the buffalo, elk, deer, mountain sheep, mountain goats, bears, aunt and uncle?

Weather and climate are very important factors in Yellowstone. It is responsible for many of the unusual rock formations as well as many of the geysers. How does the weather affect the land in Yellowstone? What is unusual or different about some of the weather conditions in Yellowstone verses the weather in Illinois?

Yellowstone is America’s first and largest national park. I think I know why. It is a place I would like to visit over and over again. I strongly recommend you ask your mom, dads maybe even your grandparents to take you and me to visit Montana and Yellowstone National Park because I know you will have as much fun as I did!