

de Stolfe

Journal ●●●●●●

Summer 1 | June 30, 2020 | 9.2





Circa mid 1970s

Miriam M. de Stolfe

1946 - 2020 (73)

Mom

Contents

Summer I | June 30, 2020 | 9.2

Covers activities from April through June 2020

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On The Cover



This nice red amaryllis was blooming when we first came to Mom's house in early May. There were other similar ones planted around the house.

We live in the 21st century! Anywhere you see a web link like this, click it to go automatically to the webpage that it references! (Try it now!)

www.tophandgraphics.com/rg/journals



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Comments by RG



Producer, RG de Stolfe

Sigh...

When I originally started the journal way back in 1986, I wanted to put together a newsletter that included whatever I wanted to put in it and print and mail it to family and friends. (This was 1986 after all, so the newsletters were glued up and photocopied.) My goal generally has always been to provide stories, photos, and various other interesting and fun stuff as an alternative to the trash that seems to bombard us from every direction whether or not we like it. I never really wanted the journal to be detached from reality, but rather to include the more interesting and for the lack of a better word “safe” things I could determine to include. Well, sometimes, there are some things that are just necessary to include no matter how good or how bad they might be.

In early April, I got a call that no one really wants, and most people would rather not get. But eventually, most people do get a call or a visit about this event, and that event is about a death.

I got the call from Dad (who probably was the “best” person to make that call) that Mom had died. At that point, we did not know much information other than the circumstances showed that she had died. Over the following weeks, we got more information about what happened and about what we would need to do next. I won’t go into the exact details in this or any journal issue, but Dad and I decided that we needed to travel to Florida to “take care of things”.

So let’s clarify something. I live in Texas, Dad lives in Colorado, and Mom lived in Florida. So with that clarified, I needed to travel up to Colorado from Texas, and Dad and I would need to drive from Colorado to Florida. We decided to do this starting at the very end of April. Long story short, we ended up driving round trip to Florida from Colorado twice, and I did not get back home to Texas until six weeks later in mid June (not that long ago)! We did not expect to have to drive twice, but that is just how it ended up working out!

So, for this issue of the journal, that means I have LOTS of content to tell about the drives! Each way, we took three days to drive the distance, nearly 2000 miles each (that’s a total of 8000 miles for the two round trips), and we changed the route a little each time. I have so much content to include, in fact, that I’m splitting the content for the journal over two issues. This issue will include the first trip and activities, while the next issue will include the second trip and activities. The next issue should be out in about a month from now (or possibly sooner).

Fortunately for us, we were in circumstances where we could do this traveling. Who else can say that they took a trip across the country—twice—during a pandemic!

In case you want it or need it, my contact information is below.



*Shasta Daisies
Taken in Lubbock, Texas
(Mom’s favorite flower)*

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Word for Life

In the last issue, I started a new series to present ancient Biblical cities. I started with Ephesus. The next city in this series of ancient Biblical cities is **Philippi**.

The city of Philippi is found in the New Testament in the books of Matthew, Mark, Acts, briefly mentioned in 1 Thessalonians, and in the book of Philippians, of course.

Philippi was a city currently located in the modern panhandle of Greece just south of Bulgaria and east of North Macedonia. At the time, the city was part of the Macedonia region.

Two of the Gospels mention Jesus and His disciples being in the region when He asked the well known question of “Who do men say that I am?” to His disciples.

Paul and Silas sailed to the area as told in Acts 16 (refer to the next page). Many things happened there to them for good and for worse, as briefly referred to in 1 Thessalonians 2:2. The book of Philippians is four chapters of a letter Paul wrote to the people there after his visit.

(Verses from New King James Version)

Matthew 16:13

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

Mark 8:27

Now Jesus and His disciples went out to the towns of Caesarea Philippi; and on the road He asked His disciples, saying to them, “Who do men say that I am?”

Philippians 1:1-2

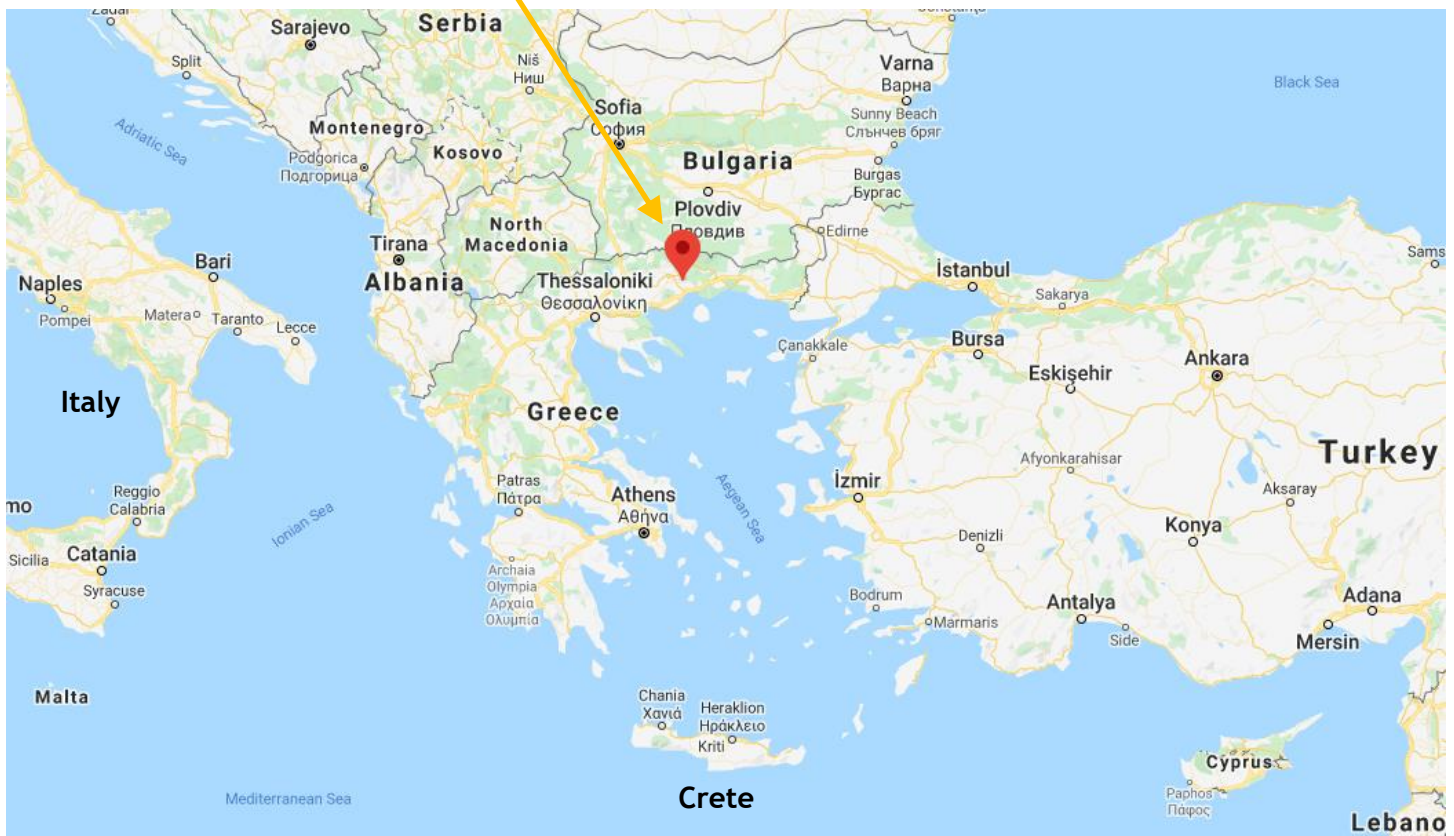
Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:2

But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.

[refer to Acts 16:16-24 on the next page]

Philippi



Map by Google Maps

Word for Life

Philippi was at the base of a hill, but the city walls (shown in red) went on top of the hill and around a temple. City gates are shown in cyan. The shaded yellow area was the main part of the town while the yellow lines show the major roads. The thickest line is the main road connecting various cities called Egnatian Way (or Via Egnatia). Much of the ancient city is buried, barely with the walls or foundations showing. Some of the area was excavated or preserved above the dirt. Of course, the town continued long past the time of Jesus on the earth and the time of Paul. It is unknown the location of the marketplace where Paul and Silas were beaten. It is likely in the area that is excavated. The city was likely abandoned in the later 1300s after attacks by the Turks.

Read More

- Bible: www.biblegateway.com
- Philippi: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippi>
- Bible Place-Philippi: <https://www.bibleplaces.com/philippi>
- UNESCO World Heritage Site: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1517>

(Verses from New King James Version)

Acts 16:16-24

16 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination* met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." 18 And this she did for many days.

But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. 19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.

20 And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; 21 and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." 22 Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. 23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. 24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

**A type of prophesy that is worldly and pagan, not from God.*



Maps by Google Maps

Random Things

As you go through these pages, count the squirrel photos! Here is number one!



Neat Story

Over that last several years, I came across this variety of coffee by Seattle's Best Coffee. It is called Henry's Blend, a smooth dark roast. I tried it one time a few years ago and thought it was quite good for a regular flavor of coffee. But even more than that, the package tells a neat story about how they named this variety.

"A strong perk-you-up cup of coffee that, ironically, is named after a sleepy cat that used to curl up next to our roaster, soaking up the warmth and aromas."

However this does raise a few questions, such as "Where is the cat now?" and "How was a cat allowed near the roasters for health code reasons?" Ha, ha!

My store stopped carrying all but one flavor of this brand, and I could not find the Henry's Blend anymore. That is until the recent trip when I found it and bought two packages!



Spring Difficulties

As most people know, part of March and April and May was quite difficult to do even simple things and get the basics of things. For me, I did not have a haircut since mid February. I was finally glad to be able to get one by mid May, three months later!



MEDIUM ●●●●● DARK

This blend of Latin American beans is complex and robust in flavor, with a *well-rounded* finish.

A strong, perk-you-up cup of coffee that, ironically, is named after a sleepy cat that used to curl up next to our roaster, soaking up the warmth and aromas.

Random Things

Return of the Bunny

In a previous issue, I reported about this bunny! Occasionally, this bunny (or ones like it) stops by Dad's front yard to chomp on the dandelions. At this point, it was keeping cool underneath the prickly white spruce tree.



Spotted Again!

One day, I heard some commotion outside my window and wondered what was going on. The birds sounded really angry for some reason. Well, I looked through the blinds and saw the squirrel! The birds were dive bombing the squirrel I guess for being too close to them with the tree nearby. I briefly reported in the last issue about this squirrel (I'm guessing it's the same one) that stole and ate my buffalo gourds I had laying outside to dry.



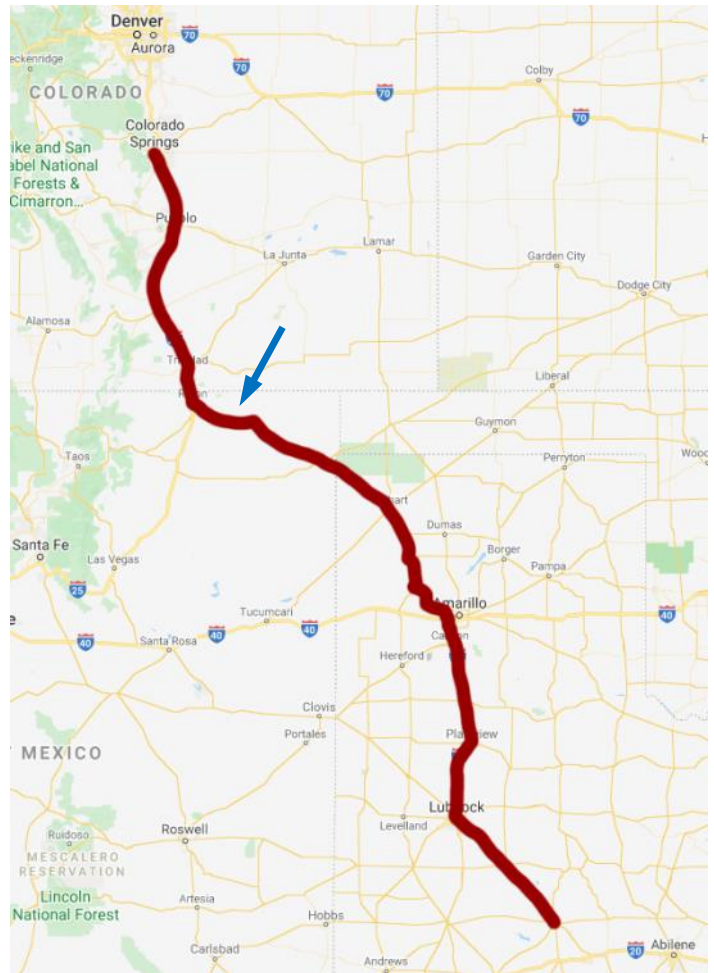
First Trip To Florida

On The Way Up To Colorado

After we found out that Mom had died, we were planning to leave immediately. I was packed, and right about to leave Snyder to go up to Dad's house when Dad called and said to hold off. As we got more information, we determined what we would need to do and when. It would be about three weeks later at the end of April when we finally left.

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

I planned to leave the house around 9:30 AM to 10:00 AM, but I had a couple of delays and did not finally get going until about 11:00 AM. I went to Lubbock and did a few errands, including getting gas and getting some lunch, which I had to take to go because restaurants were closed for eating in. I ate part of the lunch in the car then took Loop 289 around to I-27. I went straight up to Amarillo and got off on Hollywood Blvd which curved around on to Soncy Road. From there, I got off on the exit and on to the road that goes to old Tascosa, TX 1061. That road dead ends on to US 385 close to Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, which is what was old Tascosa (refer to my September 2018 journal for more about Tascosa) and headed up towards Dalhart. I got gas in Dalhart and continued on US 87 that cuts through the rural northeast New Mexico to Raton and connects to I-25. I did stop at the usual windmill and barn spot near Capulin for my usual photos. Once in Raton, I took I-25 north straight through to Colorado Springs. I got to Dad's house at about dark, which was just before 9:00 PM. We stayed a day on Thursday and left to Florida on Friday.



Map source: Google Maps

Here is this windmill and barn that I've photographed so many times before! It is just east of Capulin, New Mexico. (Location marked by blue arrow above.)



First Trip To Florida

From Colorado to Florida

For this trip, we would drive Dad's car and take turns driving each day. Our plan generally was to cut across Kansas and go down Missouri and Arkansas to Mississippi, then down Mississippi to Mobile, and take I-10 all the way across Florida to Jacksonville (shown in the map below). Since it was early May, the weather proved favorable for pretty much the whole trip.

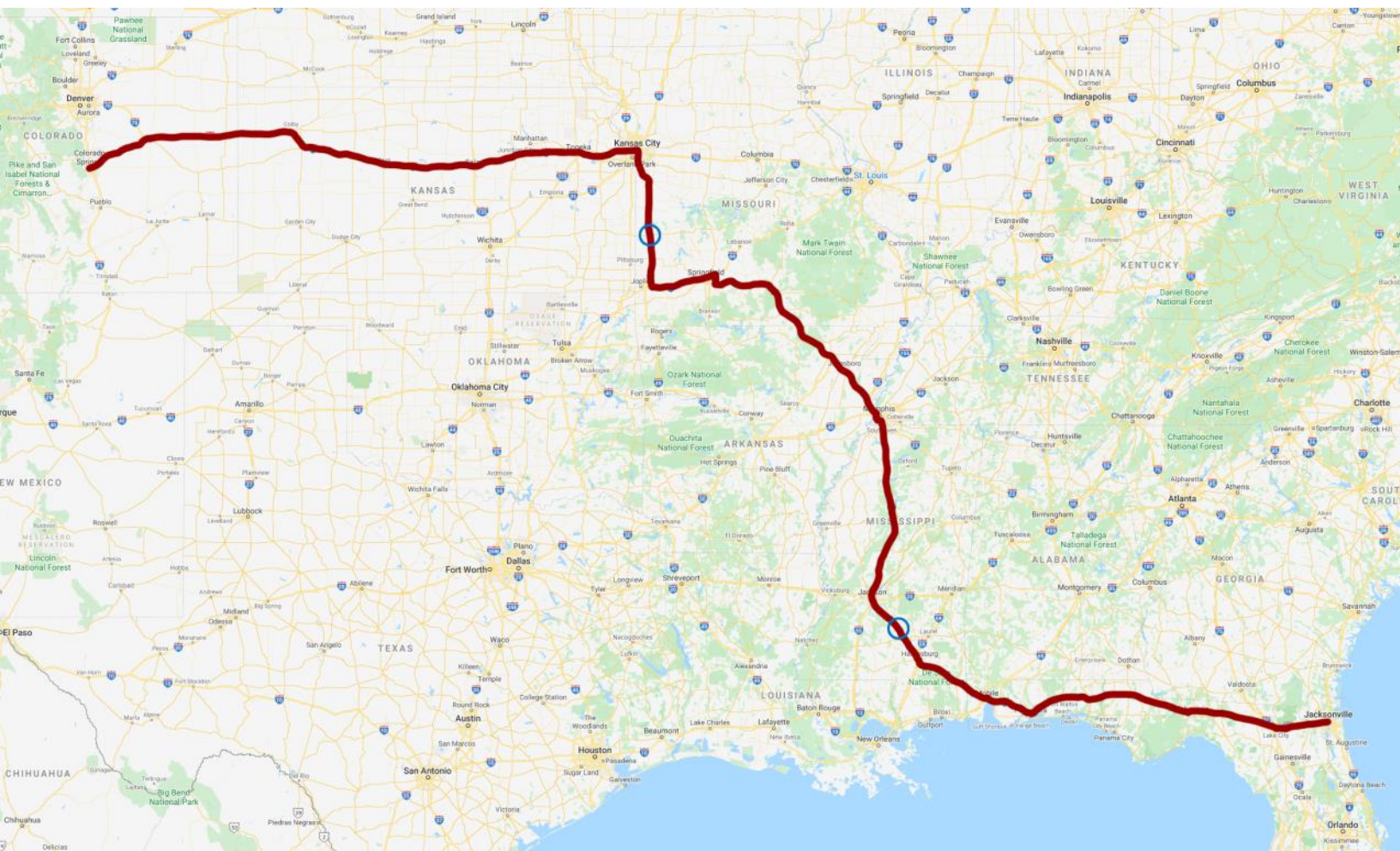
The blue circles represent the locations where we stayed the night.

The writing is broken up by day and shows a relevant map for each part of the trip.

Enjoy!



Definitely not the best photo, but this is Dad's car we drove for the trip, a 2019 Chevy Blazer (yes, a Blazer... been out of production for nearly 20 years.)



Map source: Google Maps

First Trip To Florida

Friday, May 1, 2020

Our plan generally was to cut across Kansas and go down Missouri and Arkansas to Mississippi, then to Mobile and I-10 to Jacksonville. We left a little after 8:00 AM and went up to I-70 by way of Falcon. We got to the Kansas border a little before 11:00 AM, but with the time change, it then became just before noon. We stopped at a little town called WaKeeney and got lunch from Dairy Queen and found a little park with covered picnic tables near some railroad tracks to each lunch. As we travelled, I recall driving by a rest area somewhere in the middle of Kansas along I-70 that had a cluster of several small rocks that were balanced on top of thin bases (I think they are called hoodoos). There seemed to be metal supports added to keep the rocks from tipping over by visitors. I do not know if they were natural or some sort of added feature. We got to Kansas City a few hours later. Just before, there was a stretch requiring a toll. Oklahoma also has tolls along their interstates. Fortunately, it was only for a short distance and only cost \$3.50 (I think because it was near the capital of Kansas, which is Topeka). Kansas City is split between Kansas and Missouri, and I had never been there before (nor in the state). We crossed over the Kansas River right near where it joins with the Missouri River and into Missouri. The roads in that town were all over the place and many

of the roads were under construction. I was surprised by how industrial the town was as compared to seeing the rest of Kansas. I suppose because Kansas City is on the edge of the industrial Midwest that it explains why the city seemed so urban. We headed down I-49 intending to get to Springfield, but we stopped short of there staying the night at a little motel in Nevada, Missouri. We got some pizza from Domino's and called it a day.



Found them! They are at a rest stop near Ellsworth, Kansas. (Photo by Google Maps Street View)



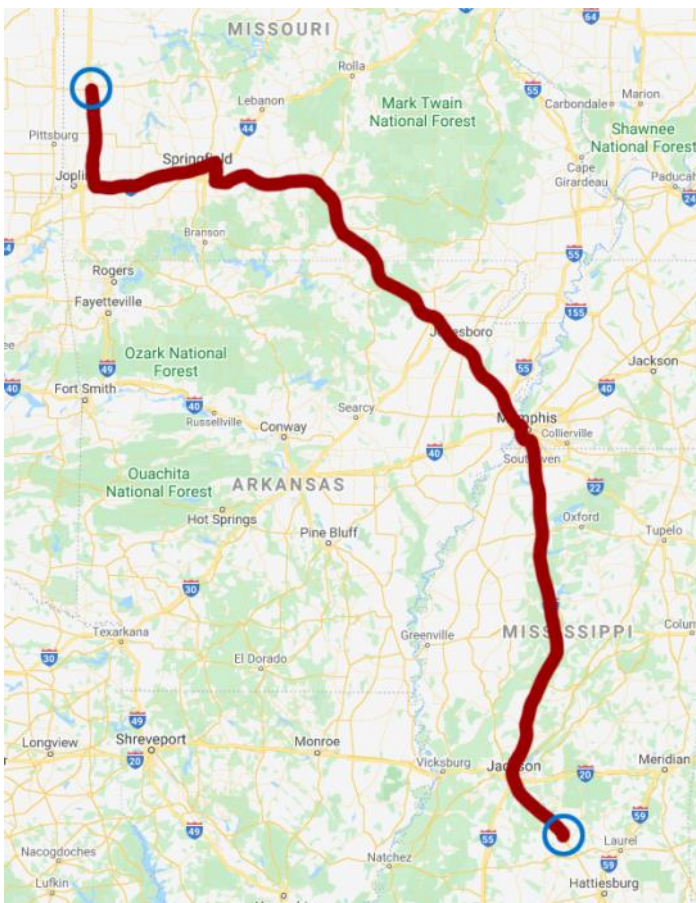
Map source: Google Maps

First Trip To Florida

Saturday, May 2, 2020

We left the little town of Nevada around 8:00 AM and continued down I-49 to Joplin. From there, we took I-44 east to Springfield. We ended up missing the turn to get on US 60 but came across a county road that would connect us back to the road we needed. That little county road was as scenic as can be but was also as narrow as can be considering how hilly the area was! It was a nice little road despite having missed the exit we needed. The road would eventually take us to US 63, the road we needed. In this area, they had a couple of construction zones with something they called a zipper merge. Apparently, this is where one side of a split road shifts over to the other side for a stretch mostly for construction on a bridge. The idea makes sense, but I have never heard of the term before. Since this area is part of the Ozarks, the area is quite hilly. Along US 60 around Seymour, there was a stretch of several miles that had heavy Mennonite “traffic” (especially since it was a Saturday morning). It was exactly as you would expect with

Mennonite families dressed in traditional black and white clothing riding in wagons and carriages of various sizes and horse counts travelling on both sides of the road along wide shoulders. I counted seven or eight wagons between both sides travelling that Saturday morning. The road showed pictorial signs showing the wagon Xing. After getting on US 63, we eventually cut through the northeast corner of Arkansas to Memphis. We quickly went through Memphis and Tennessee arriving in Mississippi. In an area called Southaven just over the border, we stopped to get lunch from Chick-fil-a. The line for Chick-fil-a was very long (as it often is and especially during the pandemic), but they sped the customers through the line so quickly that the wait was relatively short. (It’s amazing just how they can pump out the food so quickly!) We ate the food in the car at a cool, shady spot nearby in the parking lot of the shopping center. We continued along I-55 down to Jackson. Along the way, we stopped at a highway rest stop. The rest stop looked much like a plantation house with the building having large, thick columns surrounded by magnolia trees. From Jackson, we got on US 49 and got as far as Magee, Mississippi before calling it a day. We stayed at another little local motel that was built of cinder block, looking partly vintage 1950s, particularly with the bathroom. (With the town being relatively near the coast, the block construction is ideal for hurricane protection!)



Map source: Google Maps



All along the road through Seymour were signs like this one to watch out for Mennonite traffic in the form of carts and buggies. I did not take my own photo, so this one is from Google Maps Street View.

First Trip To Florida

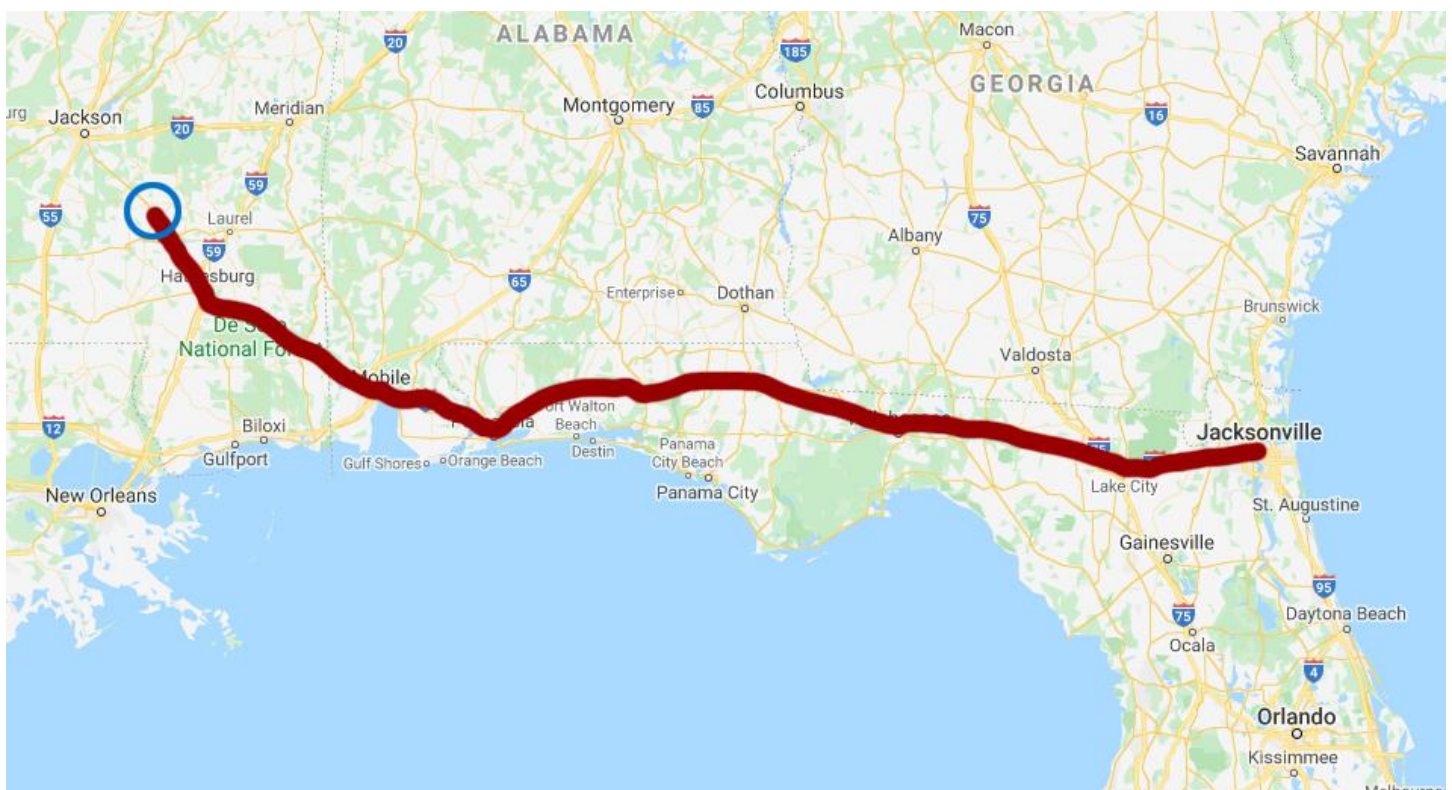
Sunday, May 3, 2020

We left again around 8:00 AM and took US 49 towards Hattiesburg. Then, we got on US 98 headed to Mobile. Outside of Hattiesburg, we went right past the area where a violent tornado cut through the area about a month prior. The path of one or two tornadoes went right across the road at this point. Being in the deep south, tall dense trees are the normal. But in this specific spot, all the trees looked like snapped toothpicks and the devastation of the landscape and homes were distinctly obvious with striking contrast from the surrounding forests. (I cannot even imagine the terror of having your home and land being violently shredded apart like that!) We got into Mobile later in the morning. We stopped for gas then took the tunnel through downtown to get to I-10. From Mobile to east of Pensacola, there are several large bays the interstate crosses over. Before leaving Alabama, I discovered a Texas company I have never been to that was east of Mobile. That store is Buc-ee's and is the only store currently outside of Texas. We spent about 30 minutes there looking around. Buc-ee's is known for having extremely clean bathrooms and having more travel food options than you can ever hope to eat!

They even had a full jerky counter like you would see with a deli counter! All of the snack foods were organized by the type of snack: nuts, jerky, trail mix, candy, chips, hot food, etc. Each area was extensive. The place was huge, it was as big or larger than a grocery store! I counted almost 90 gas pumps outside. The only disappointment I had was that this location did not have a carwash because Buc-ee's is



Buc-ee's was a huge store with lots of stuff! See elsewhere in the journal for more about Buc-ee's.



Map source: Google Maps

First Trip To Florida

also known for their carwashes. (The carwash will have to be for a different time at a different location.) Once we got into Florida, the highway patrol had the entire interstate coned off and diverted to a weigh station converted as a stop point. They questioned every vehicle about where they were coming from. Apparently, if we had traveled through New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, or Louisiana, we would be pulled aside and probably tested and possibly quarantined if they deemed it necessary! I have never seen this type of diversion before! We basically had no trouble getting through since we did not come from or go through any of those states. We drove along I-10 for a little while longer and stopped in Crestview, Florida. There, we got a carwash at a place that looked new and stopped at a Publix to get lunch. Dad had mentioned about how they have really good fresh made sandwiches. It turned out that they were good! Except for one more stop, we

basically drove straight across Florida along I-10 to Jacksonville. All along I-10 and even most of Florida roads for that matter, tall, dense trees with palmetto underbrush line the roads. Along West Florida from Pensacola, we saw evidence in various spots of the hurricane damage to the landscape, I'm guessing from the 2019 season. It looked less severe than the tornado damage we saw near Hattiesburg, but it was more wide spread and erratic. We finally got to Jacksonville in the early evening and stayed at a motel in Orange Park. Compared to the previous two days, this day's mileage was shorter.



*Flower of the Magnolia tree
(They are huge!)*

This photo was taken at the Florida rest stop mentioned as "one more stop" in the writing.



This was the Publix we stopped at in Crestview, Florida. Publix is a grocery store chain regionally found in the southeast and originated in Florida. They are now found in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia.

First Trip To Florida

Jacksonville Activities (May 3-7, 2020)

Our original intent of driving to Jacksonville was to pack up the house and rent a trailer to take back the items we wanted to keep. However, we were rather overwhelmed by how we would have to pack up the house in a short time and knew that it was not going to happen on this trip. However, the trip was not for waste for we did take care of some things and did meet with my aunt and uncle. After four days, we headed back on Thursday, May 7, 2020. We knew that we would have to travel back to Florida at some point to pack up the house but did not know when. So we left the house exactly as it was, only taking a few things.

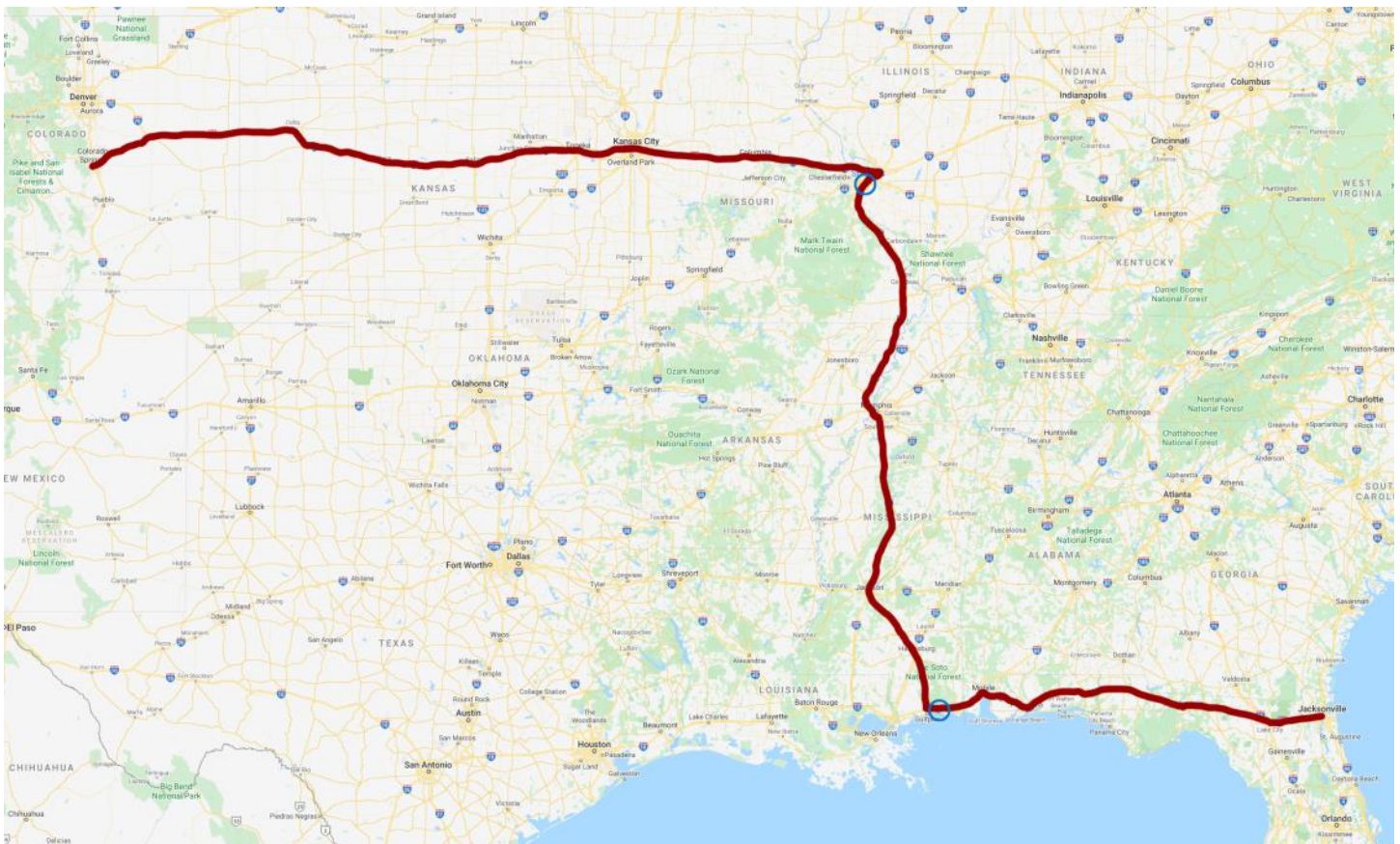


This is Mom's house, a brick single story with three bedrooms and an enclosed front porch. You can see the shadow of a giant Sabal Palm in the front yard.

From Florida to Colorado

Since the trip to Jacksonville took three days, we figured we would take three days back. The route

back was similar to the route out, but there were some minor changes and one major change.



Map source: Google Maps

First Trip To Florida

Thursday, May 7, 2020

Since the trip to Jacksonville took three days, we figured to take three days back. The route back would be similar to the route out, but with a few changes. We packed up from the motel and made a few stops including at the house for a few more things before leaving on I-10 west a little before 10:00 AM. Once we got to Tallahassee, we stopped to get gas and had lunch at Firehouse Subs. Of all the years I lived in Florida, I think I had only been to Tallahassee once, which is the capital of Florida. A little over an hour later after leaving Tallahassee, we had an unexpected slowdown! The day before we left, I had heard about a forest fire that was near I-10 in West Florida and that the interstate was closed for several miles. However, we did not expect the slowdown and diversion we had! Once we got to the slowdown area, it took an hour and a half just to exit off I-10, a distance of 2 miles! It was a complete standstill just with inching movements to the exit. Then after we got off the interstate, there was a detour onto another nearby highway, but that traffic was also at a standstill. That alone took another 30 minutes. We took a few experimental detours, and it was another hour and a half before we got back on to I-10 not far from the Alabama border. Normally, this distance would be relatively short and quick. But instead, we arrived several hours later! By the time we got back to Buc-ee's, we were ready to stop for a little while! We spent a little more time this visit, about 45 minutes. Once we got back to Mobile, we ended up on the wrong road and found ourselves

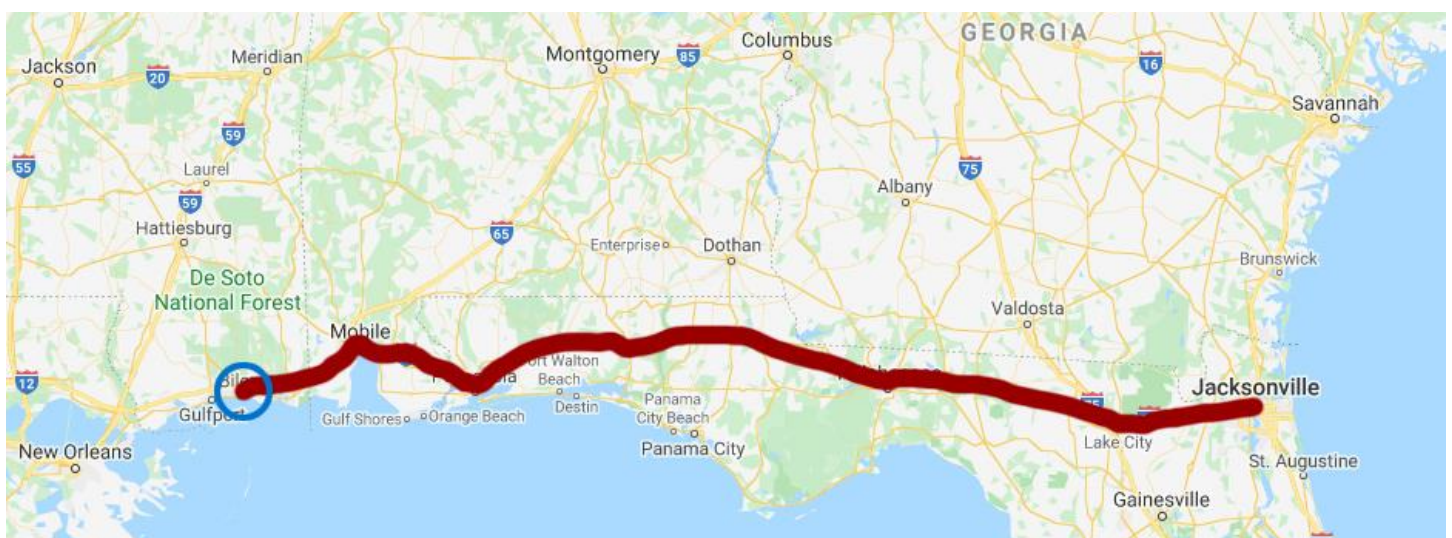
missing the turnoff we needed to go to Hattiesburg. Somehow, we were still on I-10 and heading towards Biloxi. While it was not the direction we planned, we ended up staying the night in Biloxi at a fairly nice hotel well after dark.



Along the detour route going through East Milton, we crawled by this Piggly Wiggly!



On the way back, we stopped again at Buc-ee's located in Robertsedale, Alabama. Buc-ee's is known for extremely clean bathrooms and more travel food options than you can possibly eat!



Map source: Google Maps

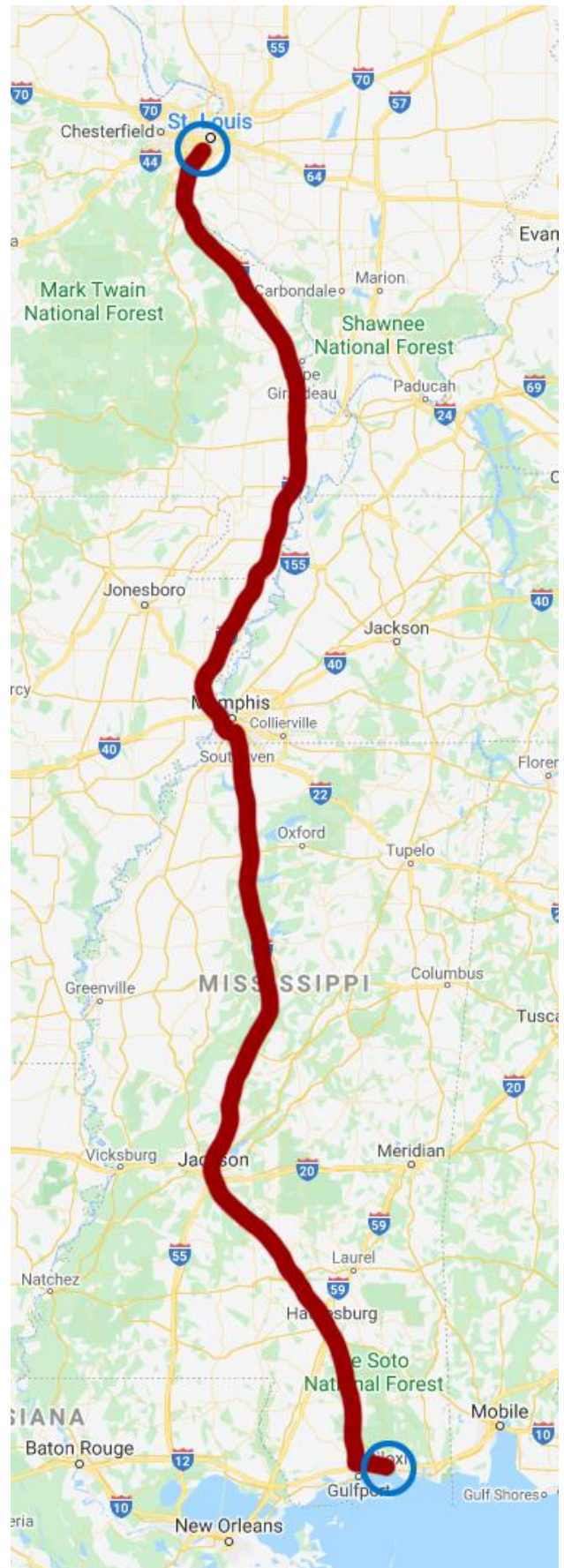
First Trip To Florida

Friday, May 8, 2020

The next day, we left Biloxi and went to Gulfport. Then, we took US 49 north to Hattiesburg, which really was not much of a diversion from the way we planned to go. US 49 was the road we would need to get on anyway to go to Jackson. Along the way, we stopped at a Walmart and got breakfast. We passed by the area again where the tornado had hit (as I told before) and noticed that some of the residents of the area had some new trailers to live in near each's damaged homes. We got to Jackson at about 1:00 PM and headed north on I-55. A couple of hours later, we stopped in Batesville for gas and lunch. Things were still closed so we just went to Wendy's and ate in the car. About another 30 minutes later, we stopped at a rest stop, and got to the Arkansas border in about 30 more minutes. What we did different on this trip back was to continue along I-55 north to Saint Louis instead of crossing over to Springfield like before. We got to Missouri after about another hour. We continued for another two and a half hours until we were outside of Saint Louis. It got dark, and we made a stop for gas and bathroom break and went looking for a hotel. We ended up staying at the nicest of the hotels we had stayed at, but at a slightly higher price!



My GoPro shows the rainy drive through Missouri on the way up to Saint Louis.

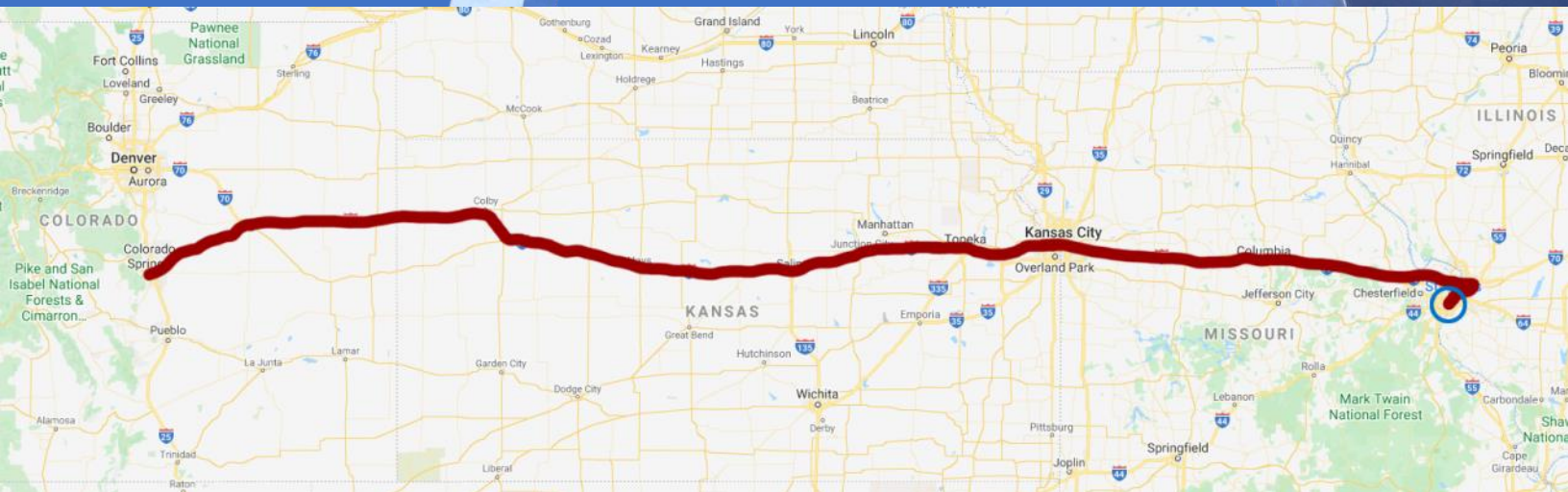


Map source: Google Maps

First Trip To Florida

Saturday, May 9, 2020

When we left Colorado Springs originally, we were debating about going a route through Saint Louis, but we decided to go another way. However, on the way back, we did take a diversion to Saint Louis so we could see the big arch. We left the motel and went through a fancy carwash and headed up to downtown Saint Louis. We spend about an hour and a half to photograph the arch and walk around the park where it was at. The arch itself was closed to go in it, but the park was plenty open. We did jump into Illinois briefly to photograph the arch from across the Mississippi River. We found our way to I-70 and headed towards Kansas City. After about an hour, we stopped at a rest stop and then stopped about 45 minutes later at an Arby's for lunch near Kingdom City, Missouri. About two and half hours after that, we arrived in Kansas City. There was a bunch of construction and detours, and I got lost trying to find the right turnoff that would get me back onto I-70. I did eventually get back onto I-70 after a bunch of wrong turns and



Map source: Google Maps

First Trip To Florida

backtracking. A little over an hour later, we stopped at a rest stop in Kansas, and we also went through the toll road like before. Again, it only cost \$3.50 for that small stretch. Another hour later, we stopped for gas at a little local RV stop and tried the Hunt Brothers pizza at the stop. Dad was in a rush to get back to his house that we pushed it. We finally got to the Colorado border after another four hours. While we gained an hour as we got back into the Mountain Time Zone, it was still another two and a half hours before arriving back to Dad's house, a good while after dark. We did stop to get gas before getting to the house. We left the car packed and only brought in a few things since it was just before midnight. We did a thorough unpack of the car the next day.

Conclusion

While the purpose of why we went to Florida by car ended up changing a little, we did have an interesting time with the travel. While the destination was certainly important, the travel was just as significant. In the round trip, we drove over 4000 miles over six days and went through nine states, with five of them being extensive driving! Personally, I had never been to Kansas, Arkansas, or Illinois and never drove through Tennessee. It was a good trip, but very long in both directions. I'm not sure I'd want to do that long a trip again.

However... the next issue of the journal will include the second trip to Florida we had to make and the various adventures we had just from that trip!

First Trip Summary

- Nearly 4000 miles round trip
- Drove through nine states: Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and Illinois
- Six days of travelling, three each way
- Nine days gone total
- Eight nights in hotels



This historical marker was at a rest stop along I-70 in Paxico, Kansas. It is talking about the Flint Hills of eastern Kansas and the grass that grows in the area called Little Blue Stem, the official state grass.



Little Blue Stem is the official state grass of Kansas. It grows especially in the areas of the Flint Hills. This is the grass shown to the left.

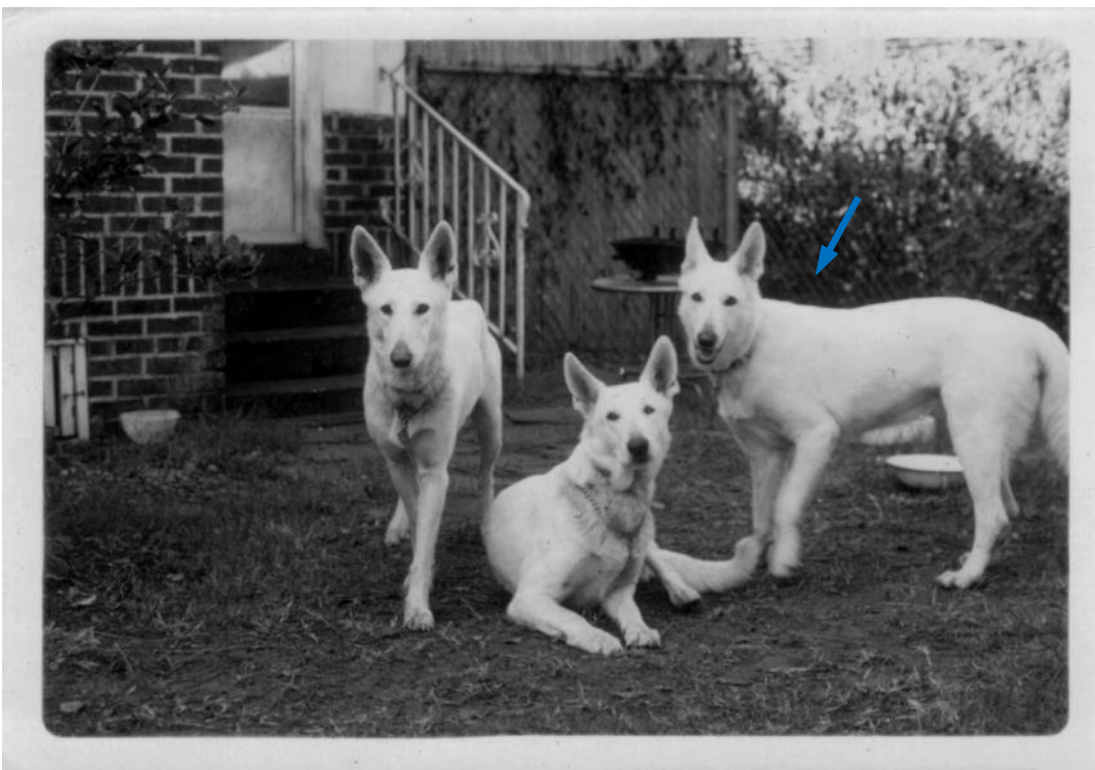
Refer to other pages in this journal for specialized topics covered in this overview writing.

A Dog Named Rimmad

Through the decades, Mom had many animals, usually dogs or cats, but she did have a parrot at one time. The dog shown to the right, below, and on page 2 was the last dog Mom had, but she did have several cats since then. This is Rimmad, a white German shepherd that was one of three, as shown in the photo at the bottom. We had the dog in the 1970s until I want to say up to the very early 1980s when the dog died.



This dog shown above and in the photo on page 2 is Rimmad, a white German shepherd.



Rimmad was one of three dogs as shown in the photo to the left, I want to say the dog on the far right. This photo was taken in the back yard of my grandmother's house, which became my Mom's house. One of the other two dog's name is Winnie. I don't know about the third dog.

Buc-ee's

Buc-ee's is a Texas company based in Lake Jackson. It is a convenience store and gas station, but is known to be a whole lot more than just a "convenience store and gas station"! It is truly a travel center on the scale or bigger than Love's, Pilot/Flying J, and TA! They average between 60 and 100 gas pumps and some have long carwashes. The main building is known for having the cleanest bathrooms of anywhere and having snack or travel food on a scale that few other places compete! The food is arranged by type of snack with each type having its own section. There is hot food, cold food, packaged food, and some of the friendliest employees you'll find! They even pay them well! The logo and mascot is of a buck toothed beaver wearing an upturned hat. (To me, the beaver looks like its an Aggie. Texans will understand what I mean!) When you visit the place, it is almost like Disney World and it's usually just as busy!

www.buc-ees.com

BUC-EE'S Paid Weekly!
Minimum Wage
Cashier or Gift Associate
.....\$14.00 - \$16.00
Food Service, Maintenance, or Car Wash
.....\$15.00 - \$17.00
Team Leader
.....\$16.00 - \$19.00
Assistant
.....\$21.00 and up
Management Trainee
.....\$25.00 and up
40+ Hour Work Weeks Available,
Healthcare, and 40 1k
3 WEEKS PAID TIME OFF
Use it, cash it, roll it



Source: buc-ees.com

Buc-ee's



Packaged jerky wall



Jerky counter, four sections of it!



This view above only shows about a third of the store!



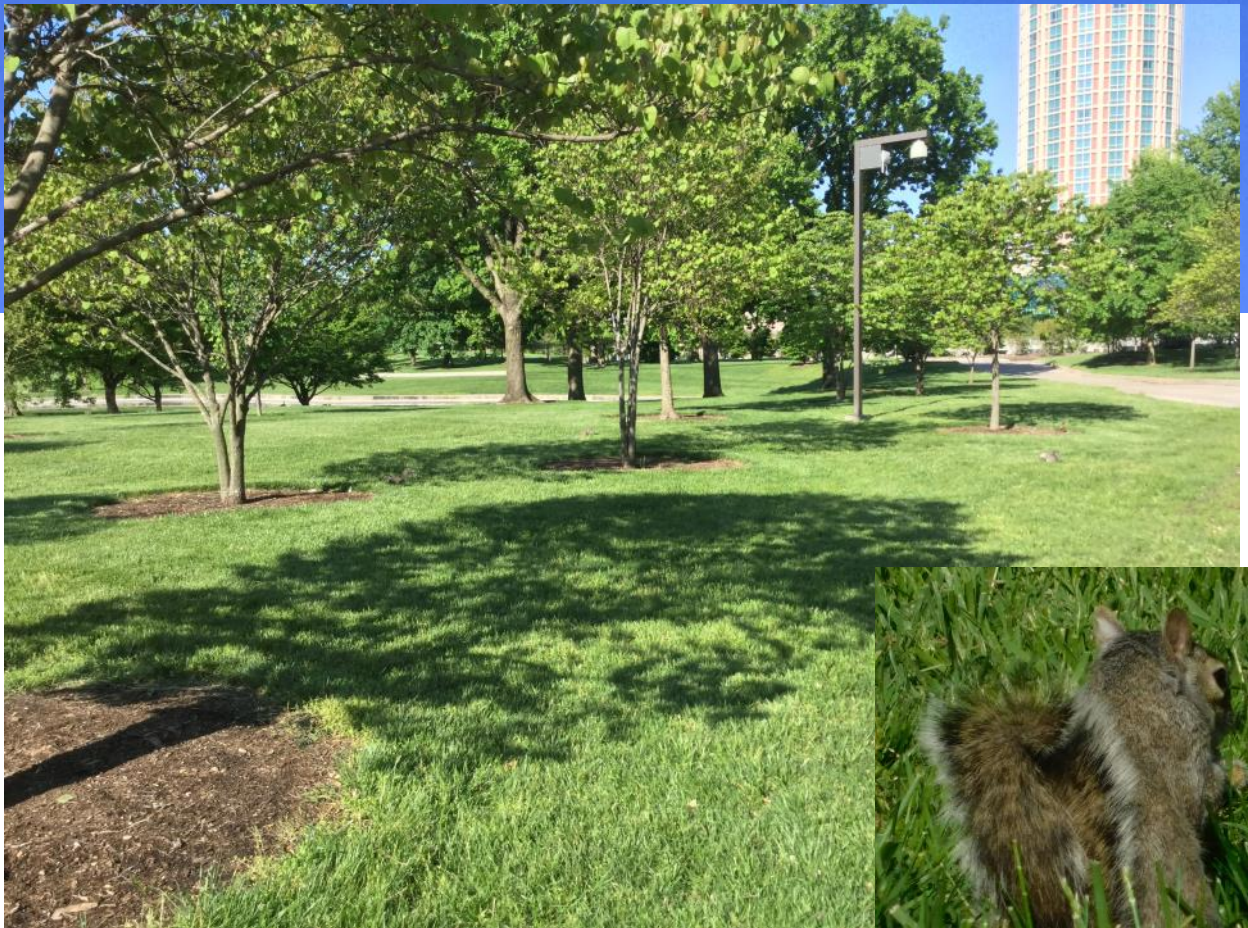
Gateway Arch National Park

*View from across the Mississippi River
in East Saint Louis, Illinois.*



Gateway Arch National Park

The arch stands at 630' and is made of stainless steel glimmering in the sun with steel and concrete being the main structural support. It was built between 1963 and 1965 and dedicated in 1967.



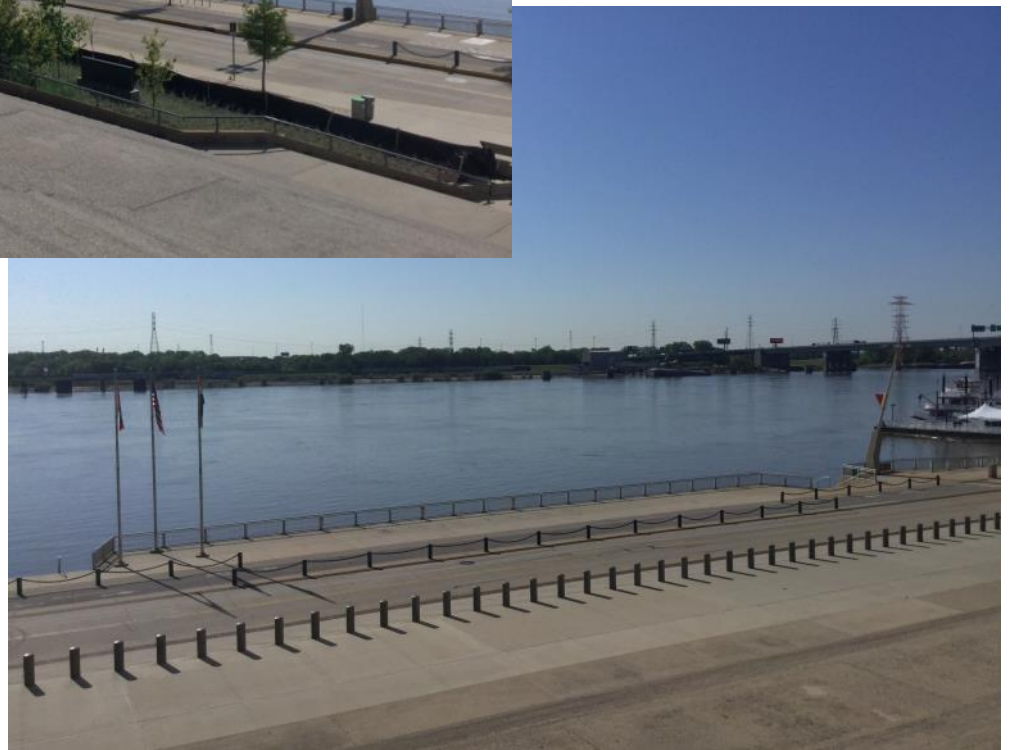
The park was quite large, lush, cool, and very peaceful!



Gateway Arch National Park



The mighty Mississip!



There were several riverboats designed for tourists, but being early May at the time, everything was shut down.

Flowers While Traveling



Pansies, Hernando, Mississippi



Red amaryllis, Jacksonville, Florida



Mexican Petunia, Jacksonville, Florida

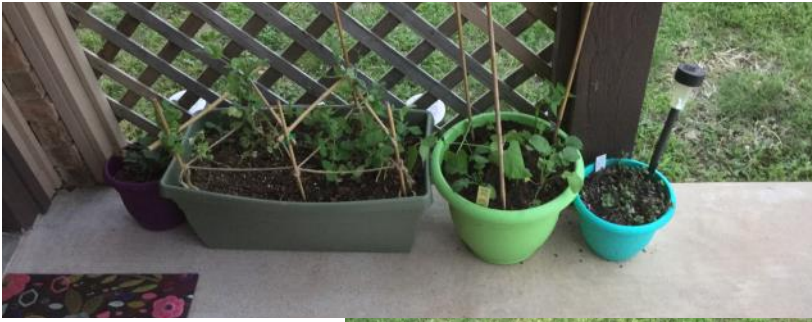


Magnolia and bud, Shoal River Ranch, Florida



Pink and yellow Lantana, Jacksonville, Florida

Snyder Garden



This is how my garden looked on April 6, 2020. This was the day that I was going to leave to go up to Colorado until we held off.



Here is the garden after about three weeks on April 29, 2020. This was just before I left to finally head up to Colorado. I did move a few things around from the last photo.



Snyder Garden



Not the best of photos, but here is the garden as of June 12, 2020. This was shortly after I got back from the six weeks of being away. Everything was well grown and doing fine (except the sweet peas). (I had someone look after the garden and to water, also did some repotting.)



June 25, 2020.
I did some major rearranging of the pots and even did some transplanting. I added a few more plants and planted four varieties of sunflower seeds in the empty rectangle pot. (The sprouts were July 1.)



Word Wheel

Like with the last issue, print out this page to have some fun with word games! Within each wheel are four letters. Use the letters to form words that fit in the jigsaw squares. There are more words you can form than will go into the squares. Answers are on the Final Thought page.

A jigsaw puzzle grid consisting of several interconnected shapes. To its right is a circular letter wheel containing the letters A, E, S, and T arranged in a cross pattern: A at the top, T at the bottom, E on the left, and S on the right.

A jigsaw puzzle grid consisting of several interconnected shapes. To its left is a circular letter wheel containing the letters T, N, O, and E arranged in a cross pattern: T at the top, E at the bottom, N on the left, and O on the right.

A jigsaw puzzle grid consisting of several interconnected shapes. To its left is a circular letter wheel containing the letters N, T, A, and E arranged in a cross pattern: N at the top, E at the bottom, T on the left, and A on the right.

A jigsaw puzzle grid consisting of several interconnected shapes. To its right is a circular letter wheel containing the letters P, T, S, and A arranged in a cross pattern: P at the top, A at the bottom, T on the left, and S on the right.

Quokkas

What is a Quokka you ask?? Well, it is about the only animal that seems to wear a permanent happy face! Okay, to be more technical, a quokka is a small marsupial herbivore found in southwestern Australia. They are a little smaller than a house cat and have become quite tame and even friendly around humans. It is apparently a “thing” to take selfies with a quokka! As you can see by these photos, they are quite photogenic and not afraid of humans although rare cases of one biting a human has happened. While the locals say never to touch the animals, they will come right up to you.



The area in red shows the region in Australia where quokkas are found.



Above photo: Instagram/@cambojones2020



Read More

- Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quokka>
- Traveller: www.traveller.com.au/worlds-happiest-animal-the-quokka-becomes-the-most-popular-tourist-attraction-at-australias-rottnest-island-gunpvd
- The Nature Conservancy Australia: www.natureaustralia.org.au/what-we-do/our-priorities/wildlife/wildlife-stories/meet-the-quokka

Final Thought

A Herd of Fine Dairy Cows

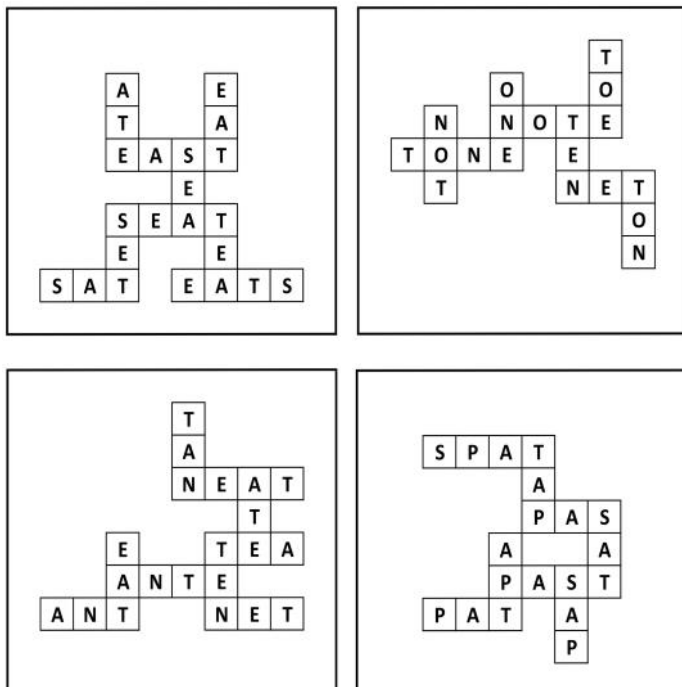
A HERD of fine dairy cows are for sale at the “Shelter Corral”, on Chestnut street. Parties desiring a good cow should call as soon as possible.

A HERD of fine dairy cows are for sale at the “Shelter Corral,” on Chestnut street. Parties desiring a good cow should call as soon as possible.

The Daily Chronicle. [Leadville, Colorado] Thursday Evening, May 22, 1879. Page 4.

Number of squirrel photos: 5

Word Wheel Answers



The de Stolfe Journal is a publication made by Robert-George de Stolfe. The first issue was published in March 1986 as the de Stolfe Journal and published irregularly until 1998 (17 issues total). The *Candid* variety of the Journal started in July 2012, with a production of over 60 regular and special issues, with now the *Candid* dropped from the name. Archives of all issues—including the original ones (1980s-1990s)—are available on the website: www.tophandgraphics.com/rg/journals



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My Road Trip For The New Millennium Christmas (reprint, January 2016)

The last time I had a trip anything like the cross country trip we recently did was in 1999/2000 for the New Millennium Christmas and New Year. I was living in Flagstaff on campus at the time and typically, the university did not allow students to be on campus in between terms during the winter break. I had just gotten a truck in February of 1999 (my first vehicle) and decided that I would drive to Jacksonville for Christmas. I drove from Flagstaff to Jacksonville going the I-40, US 287, I-20, I-49, I-10 route. This writing that I have published before in the January 2016 issue is more or less a complete reprint. However, I am adding an additional reprint writing about the trip I published in the December 2019 issue. In addition to that, I am adding a new writing that is in reflection of the recent trip because of a memory jolt of something that happened while Dad and I were in Jacksonville. Enjoy!

Since last writing this series of trip books, I went to Flagstaff for yet a third extended studies trip to fire our pottery and see the sights, but at that point I had already decided to and took care of the paperwork to move to Flagstaff to go to school at Northern Arizona University (NAU) in the fall of 1996. Also while in school, I eventually bought a truck and by that

Christmas, I had decided that I wanted to drive back to Florida for Christmas rather than fly like I did for several years prior. So I left on Friday, December 17, 1999 to head to Florida. I decided that I would, to some extent, retrace my first bus trip route and revisit and spend some extra time in certain places I went to with the bus trip, train trips, and special visit spots. I would go east on I-40 to Amarillo, then down to Dallas, then to Shreveport to New Orleans, and finally to Jacksonville. I essentially took the same route backwards when going back to Flagstaff. In addition to this trip, I had several other little trips with one major trip around Florida by going to Miami, over to Naples, then back up to Jacksonville.

I got gas, went to Safeway and Burger King then left around 2:45 PM from Flagstaff and started heading east on I-40. I was going to go to the graduation ceremony but decided that I just wanted to get going instead. *[The graduation ceremony was for my BS of Arts Management degree that I actually got in August 1999. The ceremony was just the formality.]* The drive to Albuquerque was clear and quite smooth. I got to the Arizona border around 6:30 PM then to Grants for dinner at KFC around 7:30. I got gas in Albuquerque around 9:00. then got to Santa Rosa and had dinner. I was going

to stop in Santa Rosa then Tucumcari but I just kept going until I got to Amarillo. I got to Amarillo about 2:00 AM CT and was really tired. The next day in the late morning I decided to go to the American Quarter Horse Museum. This was a great museum. I really learned a lot about the history of horses, how to care for them, and horses in art. I definitely want to go back there when I have more time to spend. I heard about a place on the radio that had cheap Wranglers, so I found the place and bought two pairs. *[It was called Cactus Jack's and it is no longer in business. The one in Lubbock is also long out of business.]* I got gas then was on my way to Dallas by 2:00 PM. I forgot how long it takes to get to Dallas from Amarillo; it took me over five hours! Once I got there, I got gas then tried to find that BBQ place (Dickey's) in Irving that I went to with Mom on the Fourth of July weekend in 1998. I drove around for almost two hours trying to find that damn place. I even went to the airport to go there. I said screw it and got east of Dallas and went to Jack in the Box (and got my millennium ball topper!) then got doughnuts from Albertsons. I was off again by 9:45. I got to Shreveport, then started going south. I got gas in Mansfield around 2:15 AM and kept going, but I was soooo tired that I got as far as Alexandria and had to stop. I had trouble finding the motel

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because the fog was absolutely unbelievable! I could not see 50 feet in front of me very well. Even the road lights were so masked that I could not see them until I was right up on them! I got to the motel by 4:30 and passed out! I left fairly late the next day (Sunday) got gas and went down to New Orleans. I got there and drove around for a little while to find some parking. I went to the new Harrahs casino, and man was that place lush! I then went to the mall by the river

and got some food from the food court. I got a chicken poboy that was really good as well as went to the Accent Annex for some Mardi Gras supplies, then got some café au lait et beignets from Café du Monde. I looked around then called mom to let her know that I would be getting home tonight which completely surprised her! I was off by 5:30 PM. I basically just kept going and going except for a break and gas in Crestview, Florida after 9:00 PM. I finally got into

Jacksonville and home by I think 1:00 AM. Needless to say I slept until like 3:00 in the afternoon on Monday. I do seem to recall that after I arrived, we went to Denny's for breakfast before getting back to the house to sleep. I spent about three weeks in Florida since the dorms in Flagstaff would be off limits until they opened them back up in January before the spring term started.

Here are a few additional details that I recall about the trip.

~~~~~  
Since it was Christmas, mom and I went to the new Home Depot to get a Christmas Tree (or was it a Christmas tree lot?) well, whatever. I drove my truck and we put the tree in the back. As we were driving back, I somehow took a wrong turn down a residential street and realized that I would have to turn around. As it turned out, when I backed up, I fell onto the concrete culvert just off the side of the road and really got stuck! I mean that that the axel was sitting on the concrete and the wheel just hanging over the edge! Well, it took a few minutes, but a few neighbors came out to help and one of the people came home for Christmas with his big rig, which he said he normally didn't do. He hooked up to the front of my truck and with a quick jerk yanked the truck off the concrete! We said our thanks and Merry

Christmases and went on our way. Of course, mom was a stressed out mess! *[Sometime later after I left, Mom went back over there to express thanks.]*

~~~~~  
Since this was also the change from 1999 to 2000, downtown Jacksonville had a spectacular fireworks display after midnight on New Year's Eve. Much more fireworks that I've ever seen Jacksonville do before.

~~~~~  
Sometime during the three weeks I was in Florida, mom and I decided to drive around Florida to see some people. As I recall,

we drove down to south Florida and Miami and met up with dad. Then, the three of us drove over to the west side to Naples to visit my aunt. Dad went back to Miami and mom and I drove back to Jacksonville.

~~~~~  
On the drive back to Flagstaff in January 2000, I do seem to recall that somewhere while in Texas, I had an issue with my truck having a hole in the oil tank. I was a stressed out mess trying to get back to Flagstaff without thinking that I was burning up the engine!

This was my truck, a 1992 GMC Sierra, which I drove from Flagstaff to Jacksonville. For the new millennium Christmas and New Year.



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1999-2000 Drive Through Texas (*reprint, December 2019*)

Much of this I covered in a separate writing. But for the sake of completeness, I'll summarize the trip. It was December 1999. I had gotten my own vehicle, a GMC truck, earlier in the year. Before that, I did not have a vehicle. Over the Christmas holidays, the dorms required the students to leave. (There were a few exceptions or extenuating circumstances, especially for international students or those who came from a long way off to go to college.) I had a truck, so I decided to drive to Florida from Arizona for Christmas and the New Year, which was a new millennium, 2000! (Remember the whole Y2K fiasco?!) I would take several days. I went from Flagstaff to Amarillo on I-40 and stayed the night. I would sort of retrace the steps that the bus trip went in 1994. The next day, I would go from Amarillo down to DFW then continue on to Shreveport and

down to New Orleans. However, I was so tired that for safety, I stayed the night in Alexandria. The next day, I continued to New Orleans and visited there for a few hours and continued on to Jacksonville. I got there in the very early morning, or some would say very late night! I spent something like two weeks for Christmas and New Years. Obviously, I would drive back and drove a similar route back to Flagstaff. I did have one problem on the way back with an oil leak somewhere in Texas between Fort Worth and Amarillo, which freaked me out as to whether or not I'd be able to get back! I ended up getting back to Flagstaff without much problem but before a huge blizzard hit the area in early January dumping two or three feet of snow and shutting down the college for a few days! I did get the oil leak fixed not too long after I got back.

Additional Notes About The 1999 Trip And The Recent Trip in Jacksonville

While Dad and I were in Jacksonville on the second trip to take care of things with the house and the estate [more about the second trip in the next issue!], we decided to stop by Cracker Barrel on Thursday, May 28 to get their Thursday turkey dinner (which we did earlier on the trip). The restaurant we went to was the one on I-10. After we left when we were done, we took a road that paralleled with I-10 instead of taking I-10 back to the house. For the most part, it did, but it did not cross over I-295. We ended up taking a few detours trying to get back over to Normandy Boulevard. We went through one residential area that seemed oddly and vaguely familiar. In reflection, I recalled why I knew the area. It was an unusual thing that happened in December of 1999 with me, with Mom, and with getting a Christmas tree!

New Millennium Christmas

To expand on the previous note, I wanted to get a real Christmas tree for the Christmas of 1999 when I drove from Arizona to Florida. We went out Normandy to somewhere and got a Christmas tree from a Cub Scout tree lot. The Cub Scouts were much more interested in riding around on their bikes playing than they were with selling the Christmas trees! (Not surprising.) We loaded up the tree we bought in the back of my truck and somewhere ended up turning onto a road that I thought would eventually turn around to go home. However, somewhere along the way, we ended up going down a street in a residential area that became a dead end. It was dark and there was not much light on the road. So I did the typical three point turn to go back down the road we came. However, on the last backup before going forward, I found myself backing up just far enough to have the tire go over the edge of a concrete drainage ditch and the metal bolts of the truck by the tire landing in a thud on it. I tried to accelerate forward, but only got spinning tires. Before too long, the nearby neighbors came

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out to help me get the truck out from being stranded. One neighbor had a big rig parked nearby that he normally did not have parked there and pulled out in front of my truck to tie on some rope somewhere under my truck onto the truck frame and the other end to his rig. With one good pull, my truck went back over the concrete with the tires landing back onto the road. The residents said this wasn't the first time something like this had happened! No doubt that Mom and I were glad to get back to the house!

All this was familiar because I remember a tree growing in the middle of the road in the residential area next to the road I was on that had the dead end. When Dad and I were driving back from the cracker Barrel on the parallel roads to I-10, we ended up turning onto a road that went right to that spot and it seemed strangely familiar until I thought about it a while later making the connection.

Photos by Google Maps Street View



Below: This is the road that had the tree in the middle.

Both: This is the concrete culvert that my truck slammed onto making me stuck.

