

de Stolfe
Journal ●●●●●●●●

May Vacation

★ ✨ Part 2 ✨ ★

May Trip 2 2022 | 11.4

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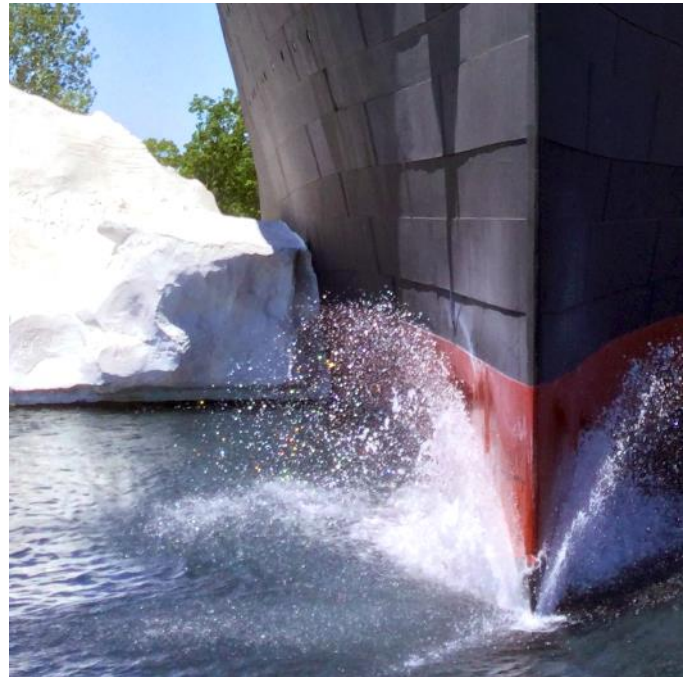
May Trip 2 2022 | 11.4

The page numbers correspond to the PDF pages.

*Covers vacation destinations, May 14-17, 2022
The page numbers correspond to the PDF pages.*

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On The Cover



The outside of the building was made to look like a scaled replica of the ship hitting an iceberg. Inside the building was the museum encompassing two floors with many rooms covering different aspects of the ship, the people, the crash, the sinking, the lifeboats, and recovery.

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.destolfe.com



Comments by RG

Not As Expected, But Pleasantly Surprised!

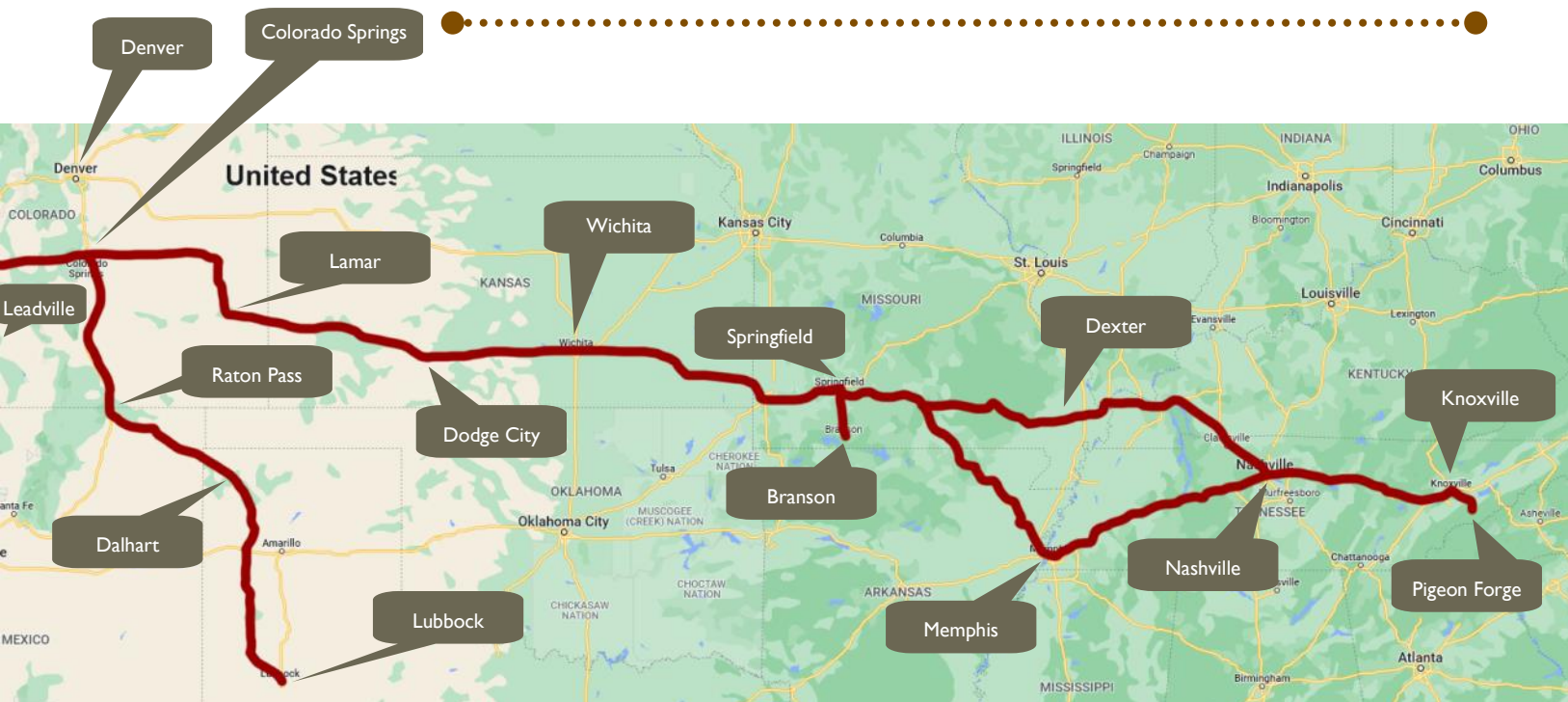
In the last issue, I premiered the vacation that Dad and I took this past May. This three week vacation started out with my travel up to Colorado and some activities we and I did for a week before we even left to go on the vacation! I left off where we left Dodge City and not sure how far we would go. Well, we ended up only going the equivalent of three hours away to Wichita before we stayed the night. The next day was when we would arrive to Branson. But part of the travel there was interesting to say the least! We took the route from Wichita to Joplin, then to Springfield and Branson. We spent three full days in Branson, having extended it by a day to account for the closed days of Silver Dollar City, which was the main reason why we wanted to go

to Branson. We did find out, however, that Branson was not quite the same place that it was even when I was there in 2005 nor whatever it was that Dad thought it was! Historically, Branson was a “retirement” location for performers after they “made it” and lived out a long career. They established theatres and gave regular performances that often older people from all over the world, and probably the world, would come to see their beloved artists from decades ago! But now, there is just one problem... most of them have died! So like any entertainment town, they had to adapt and change. That is what was so surprising when we arrived! I referred to it as a “little Vegas”



Producer, RG de Stolfe

because many of those same aspects are now in that little town! The town had comedy acts, impersonators, magic acts, and the main street was full of roadside wows! The main difference, besides town size, was the windy, hilly roads! Enjoy!



Word For Life

If you are familiar with the Bible at all, you have undoubtedly heard of or else are very familiar with something called the Lord's Prayer. This prayer shows up in the Gospel books of Matthew and Luke. Let's first look at the prayer of the two books and each of the King James Version and the New King James Version. *(I lined up the verses for easy reference.)*



Matthew 6:9-13 NKJV

“In this manner,
therefore, pray:
Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your
name.
10 Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in
heaven.
11 Give us this day our
daily bread.
12 And forgive us our
debts,
As we forgive our
debtors.

13 And do not lead us
into temptation,
But deliver us from the
evil one.
For Yours is the
kingdom and the power
and the glory forever.

Amen.”

Matthew 6:9-13 KJV

9 After this manner
therefore pray ye:
Our Father which art in
heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
10 Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done
in earth, as it is in
heaven.
11 Give us this day our
daily bread.
12 And forgive us our
debts,
as we forgive our
debtors.

13 And lead us not into
temptation,
but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the
kingdom, and the
power, and the glory,
for ever.
Amen.

Luke 11:2-4 NKJV

2 So He said to them,
“When you pray, say:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your
name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in
heaven.
3 Give us day by day
our daily bread.
4 And forgive us our
sins,
For we also forgive
everyone
who is indebted to us.
And do not lead us into
temptation,
But deliver us from the
evil one.”

Luke 11:2-4 KJV

2 And he said unto
them,
When ye pray, say,
Our Father which art in
heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
as in heaven, so in earth.
3 Give us day by day
our daily bread.
4 And forgive us our
sins;
for we also forgive
every one that is
indebted to us.
And lead us not into
temptation;
but deliver us from evil.

When we think of the Lord's Prayer, we have a misguided understanding that we are to regurgitate the prayer in its exactness because of the words Jesus said, “**When you pray, say**”! (Luke 11:2) But look at the one in Matthew 6:9. There, Jesus states, “**In this manner, therefore, pray**”. We know that the Gospels are four accounts of the life of Jesus on earth and that the accounts do vary both in what each Gospel contains, but also with how the books are worded,

similar but not exact. But the overall point of the message is that Jesus is giving us a STRUCTURE for a prayer, NOT an exact prayer to blindly repeat! This is an answer to the one disciple's question of “**Lord, teach us to pray...**” (Luke 11:1). In the next issue of the journal, I will interpret this prayer phrase by phrase to give more insight as to the meaning and the message that Jesus is telling us to use in our own prayers when we pray.

Random Things



In West Texas, you take shade wherever you can find it!



I was in the Denver Mattress at home, and they had this real Amish buggy in the store! And it was for sale!

The willows are in cat-fur bloom.
 My chickens cackle in the coop,
 The cock crows on the fence ;
 My eggs are fresh and very cheap —
 Per dozen, sixty pence.
 — John King.

Lake City Mining Register. May 9, 1884. Page 3.

MILCH COW.
 FOR SALE—\$35 buys milch cow, gives
 two gallons milk. Apply real estate office,
 512 Harrison avenue.

The Herald Democrat. June 12, 1904. Page 7.

Saturday Specials

Highest quality, best service, lowest prices. That's why you should trade at this shop.

Prime Rib Roast, per lb.	15c	
Rump Roast, per lb.	12½c	
Shoulder Roast, per lb.	10c	
Sirloin Steak, per lb.	17½c	
T-Bone Steak, per lb.	20c	
Veal Shoulder Roast, per lb.	15c	
Veal Stew, per lb.	12½c	
Pork Shoulder Roast, per lb.	15c	
Hens, Home Dressed, per lb.	20c	
Spring Chickens, Turkeys and Ducks, Alive and Dressed to Order. Pickles and Kraut		

Opitz Market
 213 N. Stanton St. Bell Phone 136;

El Paso Herald. November 8, 1912. Page 11.

What Shall We Have for Dessert?

This question arises in the family every day. Let us answer it to-day. Try

Jell-O,

a delicious and healthful dessert. Prepared in two minutes. No boiling! no baking! add boiling water and set to cool. Flavors:—Lemon, Orange, Raspberry and Strawberry. Get a package at your grocers to-day. 10 cts.

The Herald Democrat. June 12, 1904. Page 8.

May Vacation—Part 2

Cliffhanger Mystery Removed

From Dodge City, we knew that we would head to Wichita then over to Joplin and Springfield and ultimately to our first multi night stay in Branson, Missouri. But, that was not for this night. We did not leave Dodge City until about 1:30 PM, and we ultimately decided only to go as far as Wichita for the night even though technically it was only about three hours away from Dodge City. We could have tried to push it to get to Joplin or Springfield, but we didn't feel like it since we were on vacation.



In a future issue, I will recap the variation of gas prices across the many states we travelled and provide a summary of how much gas we used and the prices with each fill up.

We saw many of these Casey's stores.

Quick Side Stop

A little after 2:00 PM, we stopped briefly at a little place in Mullinville, Kansas where we came across a field with welded objects and spinnny things that were along the fence. We saw it before on our second trip in 2020 when we last went through Kansas. This time we stopped at a little interpretive center down the road along the field where these things were. We only spent about ten minutes only to find out what the stuff was. The objects were made by someone named M.T. Liggett, who was born in Mullinville during the Dust Bowl. He died in 2017 at age 86, and several nonprofit groups formed to preserve his work. Their website is:

www.mtliggettartenvironment.org



This is the M.T. Liggett Art Environment interpretive center, a new building just in the last couple of years.

Some of his work lines along the fence of this road and the highway. That is a lot of work!



May Vacation—Part 2

Getting to Wichita

A little further down the road, we got to Pratt and stopped at a Walmart for about 40 minutes while dad needed to find something he wanted. I just stayed in the car while I made the hotel reservations in Wichita. Once we got into Wichita, I turned onto a road too early. We then stopped at a QT for gas and a bathroom break while I tried to figure out where we were. I thought I found a way to the hotel, but the street names didn't match with what the map on the phone showed, and we ended up going way out of the way before hooking back towards the hotel. Sheesh! (I wish cities would put BOTH names of a road on their signs! Lubbock, I'm staring at you!) Once we got there, we checked in and left again shortly after. We thought about going to Texas Roadhouse, but dad wanted to go to Golden Corral

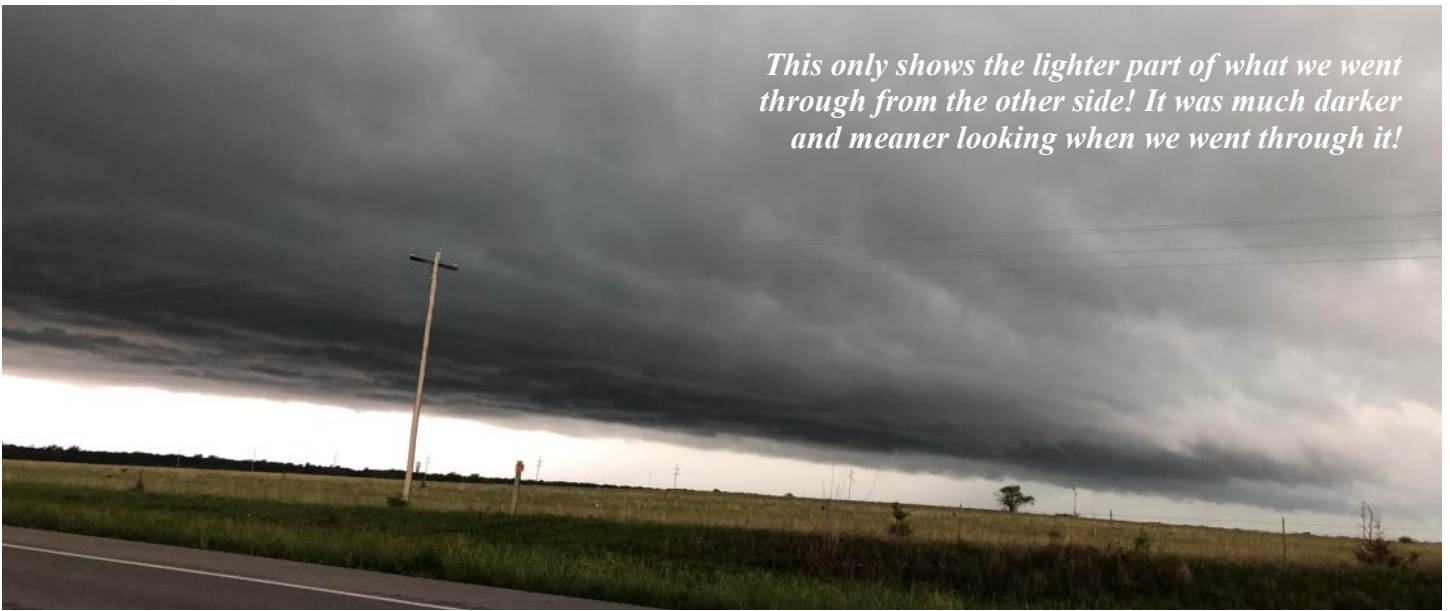
since there was one in town, so we settled on Outback! Ha, ha... (When we were in Wichita in 2020 after packing up Mom's house, we stopped at this Texas Roadhouse for dinner.) While I thought I remembered seeing where the restaurant was, I somehow ended up turning or not turning or something onto the right road and again went way out of our way before somehow looping around. Once we were in the area of Outback, we stopped at Tommy's Express Carwash to get the bugs off the car. We had a good meal of the Outback Special including dessert. On the way back, I once again missed the turn I needed and again went out of the way to get back to the hotel. At any rate, driving in Wichita sucked, and we soon went to bed!

Wild Weather

This day was Sunday, May 15, 2022. We left the motel in Wichita around 10:00 AM. We got on US 400 going east, which would take us to Joplin. Less than 30 minutes down the road, we hit a large patch of rain that got progressively worse and worse! It started out as light to moderate rain, then got heavier to an outright slamming rain with increasing hail! As with other times before, I could not see two car lengths ahead of me! Even driving 40 mph was too

fast in some stretches of it! We had almost an hour of waves of this rain and varying hail under some dark, nasty clouds! We finally got out of it before we got to Fredonia. We stopped at a truck stop for gas and a break and wanted to get something to eat, but not seeing anything we wanted. We also tried a Pizza Hut in town, but they did not have the pizza and salad buffet Dad wanted. We ended up just continuing on. There was lighter rain in other areas.

This only shows the lighter part of what we went through from the other side! It was much darker and meaner looking when we went through it!



May Vacation—Part 2

Changing Landscapes

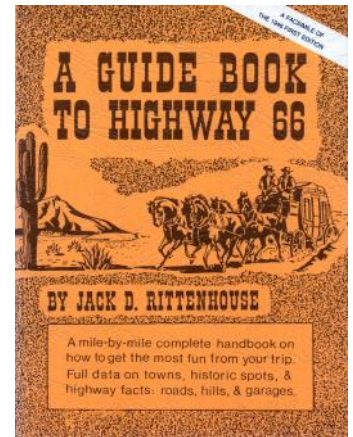
We got to a point where US 400 went south, but we stayed going east on Kansas Road 171, which took us right to Joplin. We got to the Kansas and Missouri border at about 1:40 PM then the road turned going mostly south to southeast. We got near Joplin around 2:00 PM and stopped at a Casey's for a quick break. Dad was dead set on eating at a Golden Corral, and there happened to be one in Joplin. So, we set out to go find it. We drove down one stretch of road that was part of the old Route 66. According to *A Guide Book To Highway 66*, the author Jack Rittenhouse stated,

“The Joplin district is one of the greatest producers of zinc ore in the world, and also leads in the production of lead ores. Several large quarries produce 99% pure limestone, from the limestone which underlies all southwest Missouri.”

The book is from 1946, and needless to say, this is probably not the case anymore! I have included parts of this book before in previous journals over the last few years. After about an hour at the Golden Corral, we got on I-44 towards Springfield. Last night we

decided we would go to Branson instead of staying in Springfield, which made more sense. After an hour we got to Springfield and turned onto US 65 south to Branson. The landscape kept changing from Wichita to Branson. Branson is very much hillbilly haven and the hills did not disappoint on the way down. A few miles north of Branson,

we stopped at a nice tourist welcome center that looked like a large log cabin to get more information about Branson. We also stopped at another tourist information place in town before making our way to the hotel. Because of all of the hills and the dense trees, it took me a little while to figure out where the hotel was. This was the case everywhere we went in the area! Very different landscape from the treeless, flat plains of West Texas!



A Guide Book To Highway 66
Jack D. Rittenhouse

This view was from the Henning Scenic Overlook northwest of the town. This overlook is also the entrance to the White River Balds Natural Area. A bald is a hill with no trees. (I walked through this area in 2005.)



May Vacation—Part 2

Three Full Days in Branson

Once we got to the hotel, we check in and put our stuff in the room. Then, we then set out to explore the town and see what we could see with the couple of hours of daylight left. Our first stop was to get some frozen custard, which we got from Andy's. I knew this place was good, because I stopped at one after leaving Magnolia in Waco last summer. For a while after that, we just drove around town looking at everything even after dark. The town is hilly with very few flat areas. This whole area is full of hills rolling and waving making driving the roads very interesting! Some background information. I came to Branson in September 2005, the day and night hurricane Katrina hit and came up through the area. I spent about three weeks from mid September to early October. I was there as additional help from when I was working for Flint Boot and Hat Shop. We had a booth at Silver Dollar City as part of a fall cowboy festival with Buck Taylor. From what I remember of the town itself, it looked nothing like what it looks like now! Previously, the town was like where retired performers went to live out their last decades, and it was a haven for older tourists. However, we found



*This is the Andy's Frozen Custard in Branson. I think their character looks a little like Elmer Fudd!
Photo from Trip Advisor.*

out very quickly that most of those retired performers have since died and the town had to adapt to a new form of entertainment. I refer to it as a little Vegas because much of what we saw was like smaller scale things you would find on the strip in Las Vegas. We ended up extending the stay by another night in order to do and see what we wanted.

Branson, Day 1—May 16, 2022

We started out the day getting cleaned up as usual. We went down to the dining area and got breakfast. They had this iron that cooked these little Belgian waffles that are only about 3" in diameter. I have never seen them anywhere else. (In Texas, the motels have waffles in the shape of Texas, of course!) We stopped at the gift shop in the hotel where they had a desk to buy tickets for the various venues in town, much like at the visitor center we stopped at yesterday. We ended up being there a while, but we got tickets for some things we wanted to do. As soon as we finished there, we left immediately to get to the Titanic Museum experience. (I remember that in 2005, there was supposed to be a Titanic museum, but it looked like it was under construction and a long way from being done.)



Just like with the rest of Branson, the sign out front is fancied up and with an LED screen.

May Vacation—Part 2

There is more than one Titanic Museum and every so often, they will change out the theme on exhibit. For when we visited, they had the museum set up to honor Jewish passengers and crew. The outside of the building looked like a scaled replica of the ship hitting an iceberg. When we arrived and submitted our tickets, they gave us boarding passes. The boarding passes had names of actual Jewish passengers on the ship. We would be able to find out later if that person survived or drowned! No photos were allowed on the first floor per donors' wishes, while the staircase and the second floor were open to photography. There were interactives throughout the museum with audio guides and docents in period clothing (think post Edwardian era) all over the building. We spent over 2 hours walking through the two floors of the fantastic museum! We also spent way too much money in the gift shop!



Part of the outside of the museum was made to look like the ship, but in a much smaller scale, of course!



May Vacation—Part 2

The current installation of the museum (they change it out every so often) is focused on the Jewish passengers and crew.



TITANIC MUSEUM HONORS

JEWISH PASSENGERS & CREW

Every year the Titanic Museum Attraction has introduced special passenger and crew tributes:

- 133 children
- 187 Irish
- 8 musicians
- 712 Survivors
- 8 brave clergymen
- 10 dogs

Now Titanic Museum pays tribute to the RMS *Titanic* Jewish Passengers & Crew.

Did you know there was a kosher kitchen & kosher chef on *Titanic*?
Learn their stories.

TITANIC
BRANSON, MO • PIGEON FORGE, TN

Reservations Required as many days we are sold out.
www.TitanicAttraction.com
800-381-7670

RIP

The Titanic Jewish Experience

Did You Know Titanic Had a Kosher Kitchen & a Kosher Chef On Board?

Jacob Cook
3rd Class Passenger Age: 43
Residence: Russian Empire

Did you know that the actual number of Jews on board *Titanic* was a mystery? White Star Line's estimate was around several hundred, and thought that most were Third Class passengers like me, **Jacob Cook**, a first-class wood carver from the Russian Empire.

There were wonderful woodcarving pieces throughout *Titanic* I hoped to see, including the magnificent *Honour & Glory* clock that graced the central landing of the Grand Staircase.

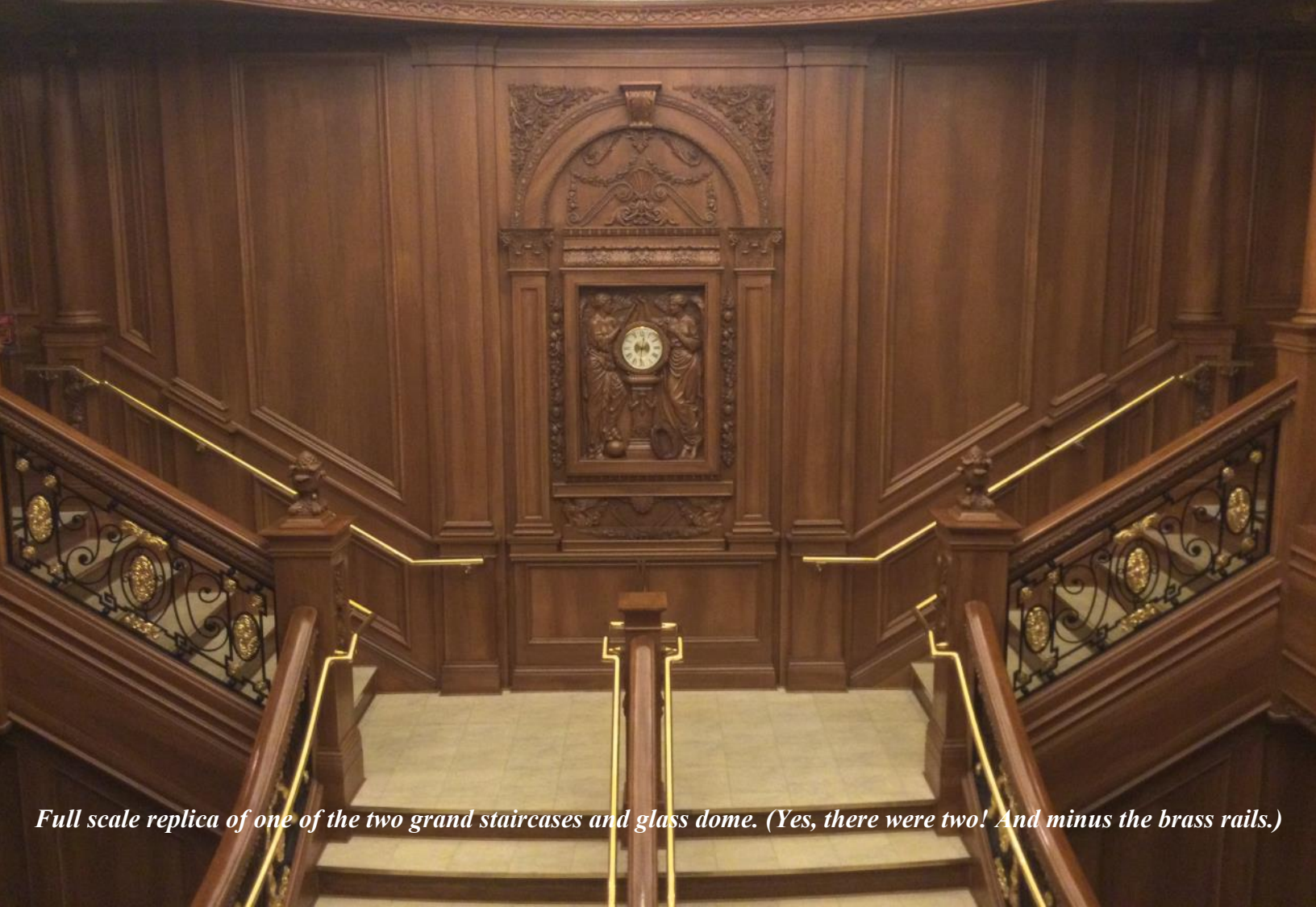
Third Class accommodations were amazing. I had a bed and blanket, fresh water in the room, and optional kosher meals. I felt I had gone from persecution to resurrection on *Titanic*.

I shared a cabin with other men in a low part of the ship, so when tragedy struck, I felt it. As seawater gushed into the engine room below me, I raced to the staircase leading to the deck above.

Find out if Jacob made it to a lifeboat in the Memorial Gallery.

www.TitanicAttraction.com • 800-381-7670
OPEN YEAR ROUND

All of the boarding passes given out have a name of a Jewish passenger. Of course, the names rotate as there are more visitors than there were total passengers on the ship!



Full scale replica of one of the two grand staircases and glass dome. (Yes, there were two! And minus the brass rails.)



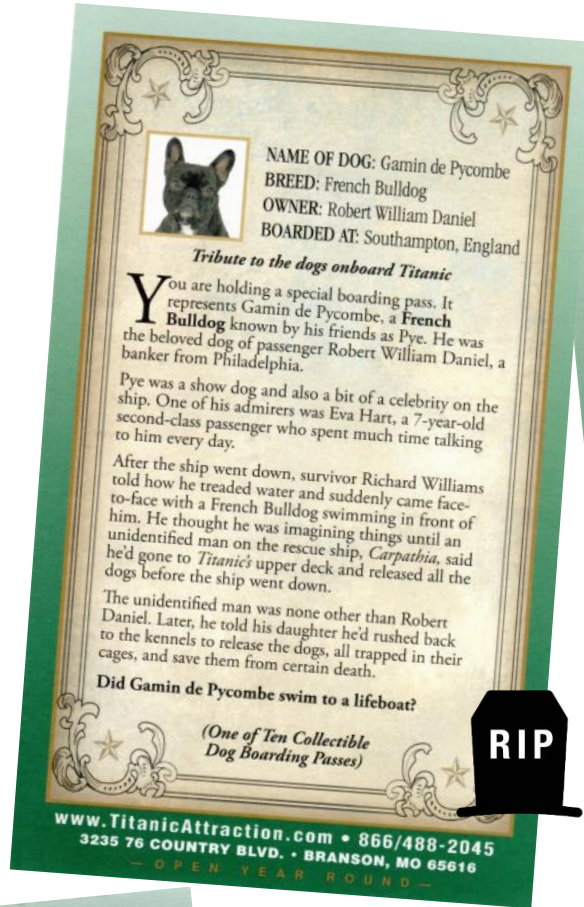
Actual deck chair from the ship!



May Vacation—Part 2

There were 10 or 12 dogs on the Titanic (sources disagree) and other animals including a ship cat named Jenny, chickens, other birds, and rats (hence why an official ship cat!) Three dogs survived, mainly because they were with the owner, which was not allowed! The dogs were supposed to be in the ship's kennels! Sometimes sources would claim that various other animals were also on the ship, but those photos referenced are typically of other ships, not the Titanic.

(Not portraits of the actual animals.)



NAME OF DOG: Gamin de Pycombe
BREED: French Bulldog
OWNER: Robert William Daniel
BOARDED AT: Southampton, England

Tribute to the dogs onboard Titanic

You are holding a special boarding pass. It represents Gamin de Pycombe, a **French Bulldog** known by his friends as Pye. He was the beloved dog of passenger Robert William Daniel, a banker from Philadelphia.

Pye was a show dog and also a bit of a celebrity on the ship. One of his admirers was Eva Hart, a 7-year-old second-class passenger who spent much time talking to him every day.

After the ship went down, survivor Richard Williams told how he treaded water and suddenly came face-to-face with a French Bulldog swimming in front of him. He thought he was imagining things until an unidentified man on the rescue ship, *Carpathia*, said he'd gone to *Titanic's* upper deck and released all the dogs before the ship went down.

The unidentified man was none other than Robert Daniel. Later, he told his daughter he'd rushed back to the kennels to release the dogs, all trapped in their cages, and save them from certain death.

Did Gamin de Pycombe swim to a lifeboat?

(One of Ten Collectible Dog Boarding Passes)

www.TitanicAttraction.com • 866/488-2045
 3235 76 COUNTRY BLVD. • BRANSON, MO 65616
 — OPEN YEAR ROUND —



NAME OF DOG: Frou Frou
BREED: Unknown
OWNER: Helen Bishop
BOARDED AT: Cherbourg, France

Tribute to the dogs onboard Titanic

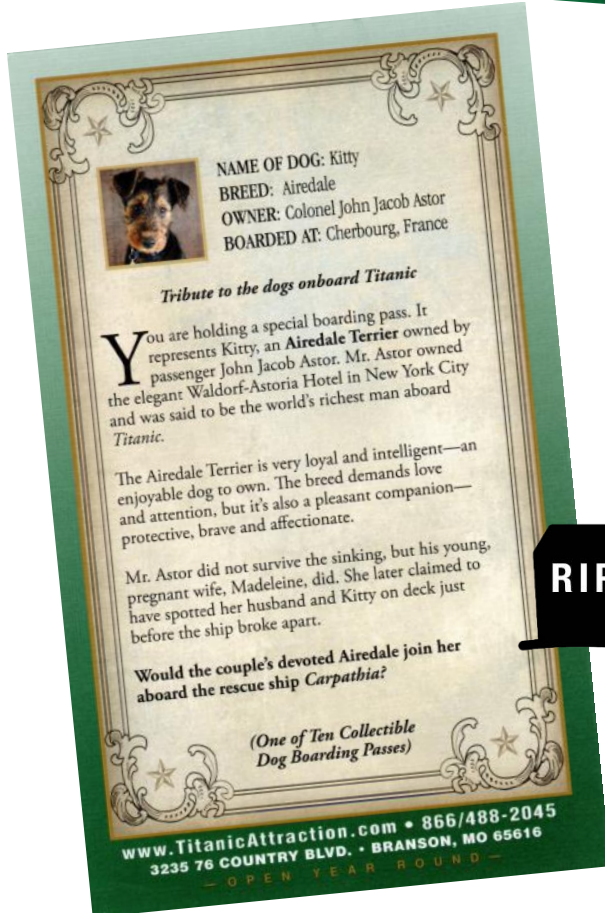
You are holding a special boarding pass. It represents Frou Frou, the **small white dog** owned by passenger Helen Bishop who was on her honeymoon. Her husband bought Frou Frou for her while the couple travelled abroad to celebrate their wedding.

Though little Frou Frou's breed was unknown, the crew thought her so cute that she was allowed to stay in her owner's cabin. When *Titanic* struck the iceberg, Helen kept Frou Frou in the cabin while she went to see what had happened.

Was there time to rescue this adorable mutt?

(One of Ten Collectible Dog Boarding Passes)

www.TitanicAttraction.com • 866/488-2045
 3235 76 COUNTRY BLVD. • BRANSON, MO 65616
 — OPEN YEAR ROUND —



NAME OF DOG: Kitty
BREED: Airedale
OWNER: Colonel John Jacob Astor
BOARDED AT: Cherbourg, France

Tribute to the dogs onboard Titanic

You are holding a special boarding pass. It represents Kitty, an **Airedale Terrier** owned by passenger John Jacob Astor. Mr. Astor owned the elegant Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City and was said to be the world's richest man aboard *Titanic*.

The Airedale Terrier is very loyal and intelligent—an enjoyable dog to own. The breed demands love and attention, but it's also a pleasant companion—protective, brave and affectionate.

Mr. Astor did not survive the sinking, but his young, pregnant wife, Madeleine, did. She later claimed to have spotted her husband and Kitty on deck just before the ship broke apart.

Would the couple's devoted Airedale join her aboard the rescue ship *Carpathia*?

(One of Ten Collectible Dog Boarding Passes)

www.TitanicAttraction.com • 866/488-2045
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 — OPEN YEAR ROUND —



NAME OF DOG: Unknown
BREED: King Charles Spaniel
OWNER: William Ernest Carter
BOARDED AT: Southampton, England

Tribute to the dogs onboard Titanic

You are holding a special boarding pass. It represents a **King Charles Spaniel**, one of two breeds of dogs owned by William Ernest Carter. Mr. Carter was traveling with his wife Lucile, daughter Lucile 13, and son, William II, 11. A maid and manservant accompanied the family.

The King Charles Spaniel loves to be with its family and craves attention. Cheerful, playful and intelligent, it's the ideal breed to carry beside you and share time with. King Charles Spaniels don't often bark and are generally well behaved. Mr. Carter must have felt this dog was a perfect fit for his growing family.

Would the Carters be permitted to carry their small companion to safety aboard a lifeboat?

Our Mascots – Molly and Carter – are a tribute to the *Titanic* dogs.

(One of Ten Collectible Dog Boarding Passes)

www.TitanicAttraction.com • 866/488-2045
 3235 76 COUNTRY BLVD. • BRANSON, MO 65616
 — OPEN YEAR ROUND —

May Vacation—Part 2



There were eight musicians on the Titanic as the oval portraits above show. Hard to see in the photos, but the ovals are two sided and the mirrors along the walls behind them allow you to see what is on the back of each oval! (A little surprise for those who pay attention!)

A musician playing a piano as you walk around the gallery.



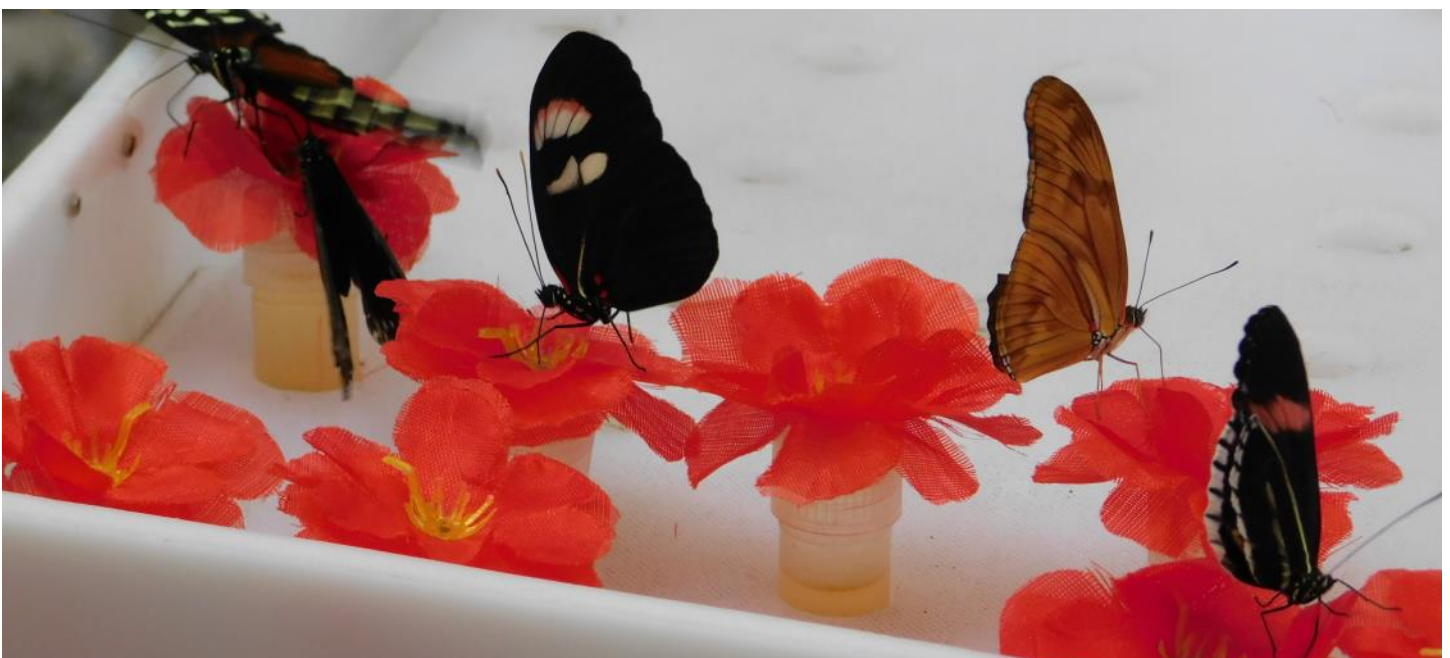
This was the first of several “photo interceptions” (or hostageing!) we would experience on the trip where an attraction takes your photo before or after then tries to sell you a photo package before you leave!



May Vacation—Part 2

After the museum, we went to get lunch at Fuddruckers because that was what Dad wanted. In the same shopping area as the restaurant was a little leather/military shop selling various military themed items and handmade leather goods where we bought a few things. At this point even after one day, we knew we wanted to extend the stay a little longer, also partly because Silver Dollar City was closed on certain days making us need to wait until the next open day if we were going to go. We went back to the hotel for that purpose and to get more tickets for another attraction. After we left, we went over to The Butterfly Palace. We got there less than an hour before they closed, but we were able to see the main attraction, the butterflies, in that time. The other parts of the place we did not have enough time to visit. They gave us wristbands that they said would allow us back in for up to three days. BUT, we could not remove the wristbands in order to get back in a later date. (Ultimately, I said heck with that and cut off the band later.) We spent a good 45 minutes to an hour looking at the butterflies and taking lots of photos of them and the plants and flowers in the greenhouse. The climate in the greenhouse was warm and humid as appropriate for the thriving of the butterflies and the plants. It was mazing to see the large variety of butterflies as well as the different sizes and colors. There were also a few birds.

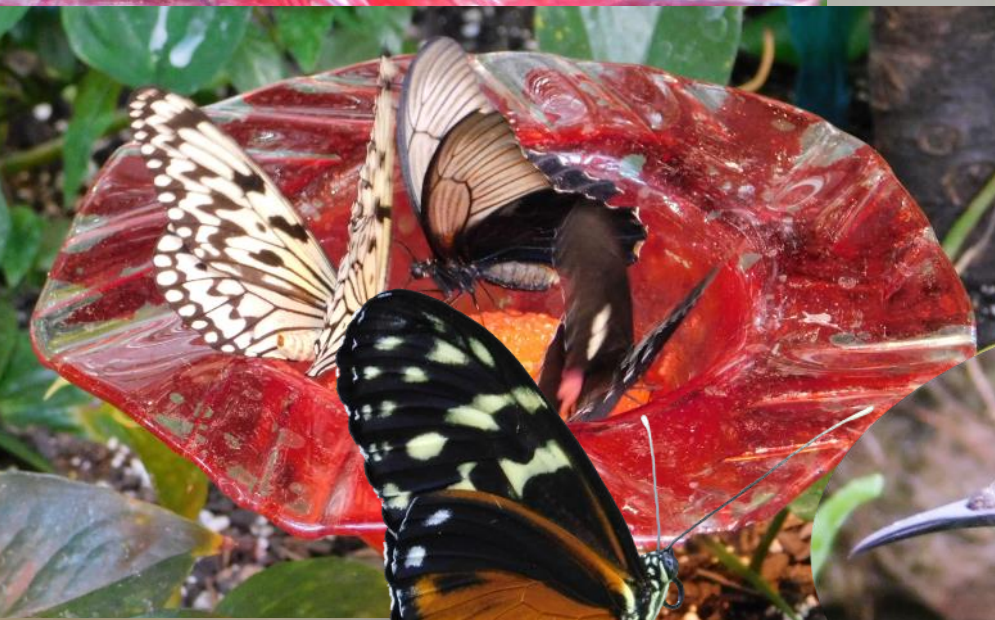
Photographing the butterflies was difficult because they kept fluttering and were not still for very long!



May Vacation—Part 1



Some of the many butterflies we saw.



May Vacation—Part 1



We had these fake flower nectar vials that butterflies would come to.



A runaway trying to escape on my hat!



The Butterfly Palace was at the base of a hill, and the road past the place up the hill went to the scenic overlook that was closed yesterday. We went back to that overlook, which was open, and we could see most of the “little Vegas” part of the town along with a large part of the area and the White River Balds Natural Area. After a stop and a bunch more driving along the curvy, hilly roads, we went over to the Old Branson downtown area.



May Vacation—Part 1

The place was packed with people! We stopped and walked around Dick's 5 & 10 store, and old style five and dime store like what used to be all over the country many decades ago. However, I was disappointed that the prices were not in fact 5¢ and 10¢! :-) Although, the prices of some of the items were very reasonable, while other items were a little expensive. You definitely could find things of all types that are not easily found in other places. (For example, remember those tomato pincushions with the strawberry emery?) I stocked up on some cheap cotton thread (and bought a tomato pincushion)!



By this time of day, the light was getting sunsety, and we went over to the big Ferris wheel on the main road. We had our tickets and got on. The line was light, and so we went around two times. The wheel goes around slowly giving us plenty of time to take photos of all over the town from the wheel.



May Vacation—Part 1



Some of the wheel's lights were out or broken.

After we left there, we drove up and down the strip for a while to see what the main road looked like at night, which was quite a visual transformation! I wanted to stop to see the giant octopus that was right by the road, but our attention was quickly diverted when music started playing by the colored water fountains and the fountains became active! Apparently, the waters do a performance (like a very small scale Dancing Waters at the Bellagio) every hour for two songs. I recorded the two songs of the crazy waters! After it was over, then I went around to photograph the octopus. We decided to go to the Papa John's pizza across the street for some pizza before we went back over to the Ferris wheel for photos of the wheel from the ground once it was dark. We got back to the hotel well after 10:00 PM!



May Vacation—Part 1



*This was the most Vegasesque
thing I saw in Branson!*



May Vacation—Part 1

Branson, Day 2—May 17, 2022

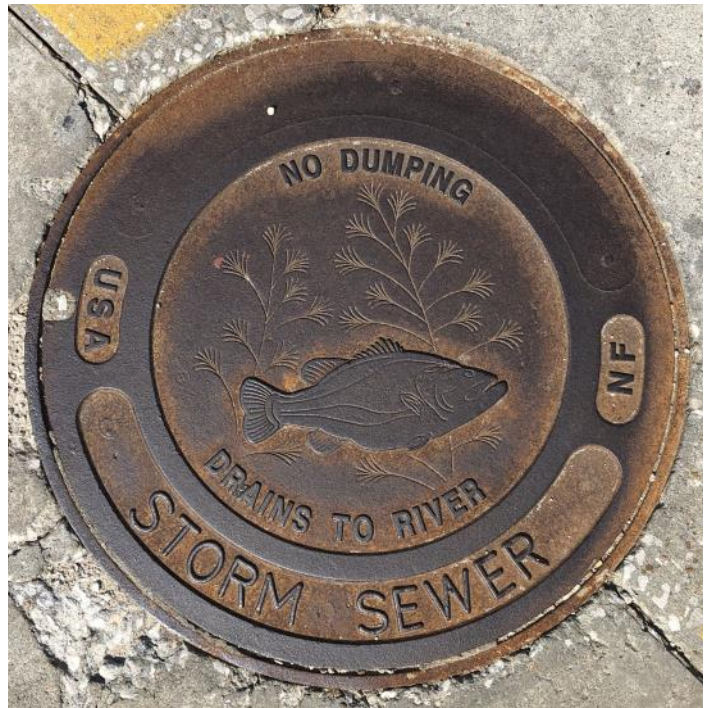
After we got cleaned up and ready to go at about 10:00 AM, we wanted to go to a store called Menards. We saw an ad slick for them and wanted to check out a few of the sale items. The closest store was in Hollister about three or four miles away to the south. On the way, we really could see the sizes of the hills and the cuts through the hills to put in the highway! Once we got there, the store was huge! I had only been in one once I don't know when, but the store had about everything you could want! And far better than a Walmart! We looked around nearly two hours and spend far too much money!

After that, we decided to get lunch at Bob Evans. We went to the one in Jacksonville in 2020 and in 2021 when we were there last. They are a Midwest restaurant styled in a plain Midwest farm feel, which is much plainer and simpler than a farm style found in western states, think more Amish like in look. We got the turkey dinner, and it was really good! All homemade. After lunch, we went back to Old Branson. We ended up parking in front of a flag store, which Dad got a few things. Nearby, Dad also wanted to go to the As Seen On TV store that was closed yesterday when we went by. We looked around, but didn't buy anything. Most of the items with that branding were frankly junk! We decided to catch the free trolley to tour the downtown. We went as far as the one end of the Branson Landing before getting off. We stopped briefly at Belk for a bathroom break but ended up buying something. We got back on the trolley and took it the entire route around the old town and by the lake/river. It was a nice ride seeing the historic town and the “once was a river but is now a lake” body of water called Lake Taneycomo.

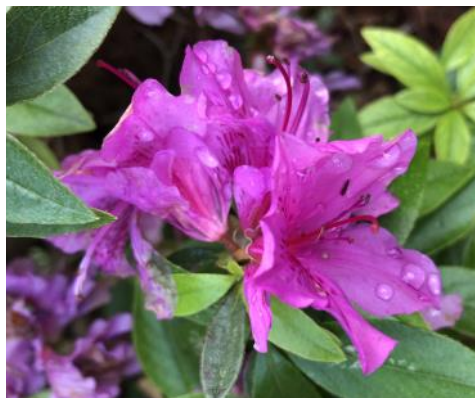
It was warm enough that we wanted some ice cream and went over to Culver's a few miles to the north. We took another trip up and down the strip to find something Dad remembered he wanted to see. We found it, but it was indefinitely closed. We went back to the hotel for a little while before our evening event.



Menards in Hollister, Missouri.



This manhole cover I saw in old downtown Branson looks very similar to the one I saw in Pueblo last year. Although, this one is not as nice.



I got the very tail end of the azalea blooms on a bush in front of the hotel where we were staying.

May Vacation—Part 1

Dad was set on going to some theatre while in Branson to watch a show. But after he found out that nearly all of the people he would want to see were dead and that most of the shows were impersonators, magic shows, comedy shows, or something else, he had to rethink about going to a show. But it turned out that the Texas Tenors were performing while we were in Branson. They were performing at the Grand Shanghai Theatre, which used to be the Mickey Gilley Theatre. It turned out that Mickey Gilley had died just 10 days prior to this concert. The concert was at 7:30 PM and we left a little after 7:00. There was a long line once we got there, but we already had our tickets. Here was episode number two of the “photo hijacking”! They photographed everyone before they went into the theatre and had the photo

packages ready by the time the concert was over. The concert was about two hours, and it was fantastic! The Texas Tenors were winners of America’s Got Talent, which they featured during the concert. Afterwards, we got some souvenirs—and yes, the photos—and left. We drove up and down the strip again while it was dark, because why not. We went back to the dancing waters over by the octopus to watch the show, which was at 10:00 and lasting for ten minutes with two songs. We then went back to the hotel. It turned out that the bathroom had a leak in the ceiling (I thought I heard dripping noises before we left) where water was all over the floor. We transferred over to the room a couple of doors over, which was exactly the same, and settled in for the night.



What was the Mickey Gilley Theatre is now the Grand Shanghai Theatre.

Mickey Gilley died on May 7, 2022 at age 86.



May Vacation—Part 1



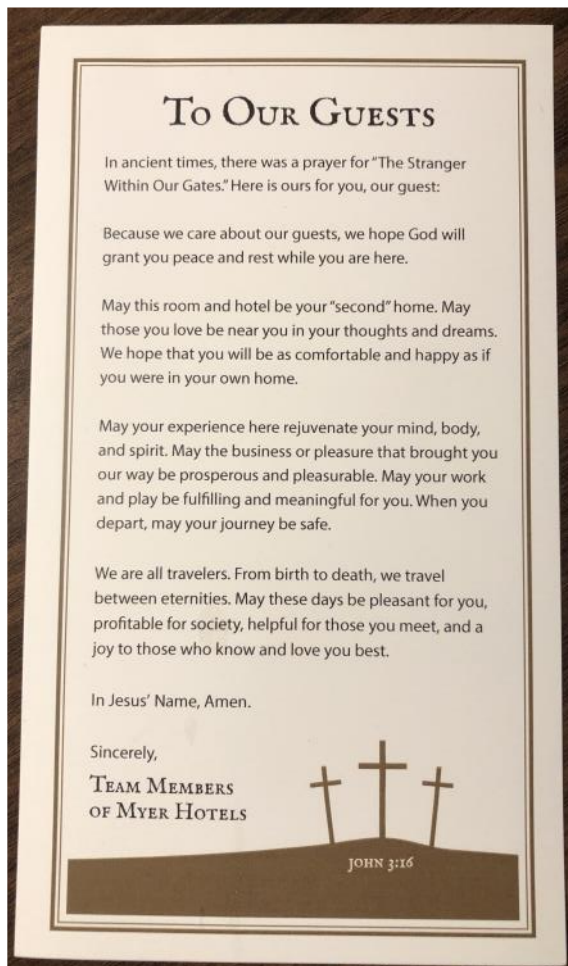
Final Thought

Here are a few items that didn't quite fit in the formatting for this issue but that I did not want to leave out.



While at the QT in Wichita, I saw this interesting wood silo across the street.

Our hotel in Branson had this card in the rooms, which I thought was really interesting.



de Stolfe Journal

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.destolfe.com






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Robert-George de Stolfe
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Robert-George de Stolfe
PO Box 16156
Lubbock, Texas 79490
806.470.5867
rgdestolfe@yahoo.com