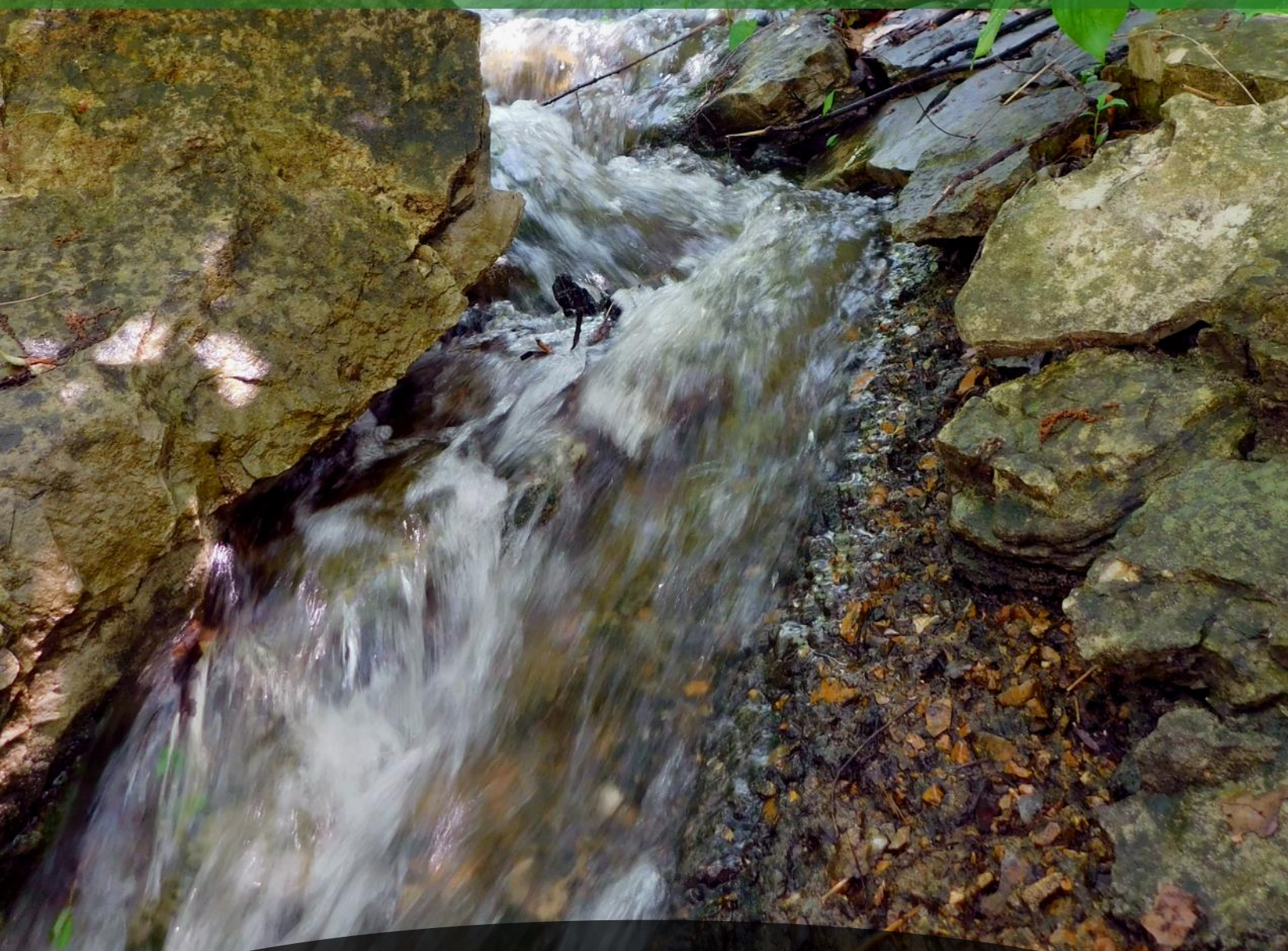


de Stolfe

Journal ●●●●●●●●

May Vacation

✿ ☆ Part 3 ☆ ✿



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May Trip 3 2022 | 11.5

The page numbers correspond to the PDF pages.

*Covers vacation destinations, May 18-20, 2022
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On The Cover



With Silver Dollar City located in the Ozarks, the climate is humid and wet causing even the weeds to grow crazy! Throughout the park, they have little streams like shown on the cover and here.



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

Next Leg Of The Trip And More

As I said in the last issue, we extended our stay in Branson to account for the days that Silver Dollar City was closed because of when we arrived. The last issue covered the other days we spent in Branson, while this issue now covers our time we reserved for Silver Dollar City!

The next day, we left Branson and headed back up to Springfield before going east. In Springfield, we had an interesting time with the weather and with going to a

few places, including Bass Pro Shop, the largest one in existence.

From Springfield, we made our way to Memphis going through the hills of southern Missouri and northeastern Arkansas. We stayed the night in Memphis and thought about going to see an attraction or two, but ultimately decided to skip Memphis and keep going to Nashville, the next stop where we spent several nights.

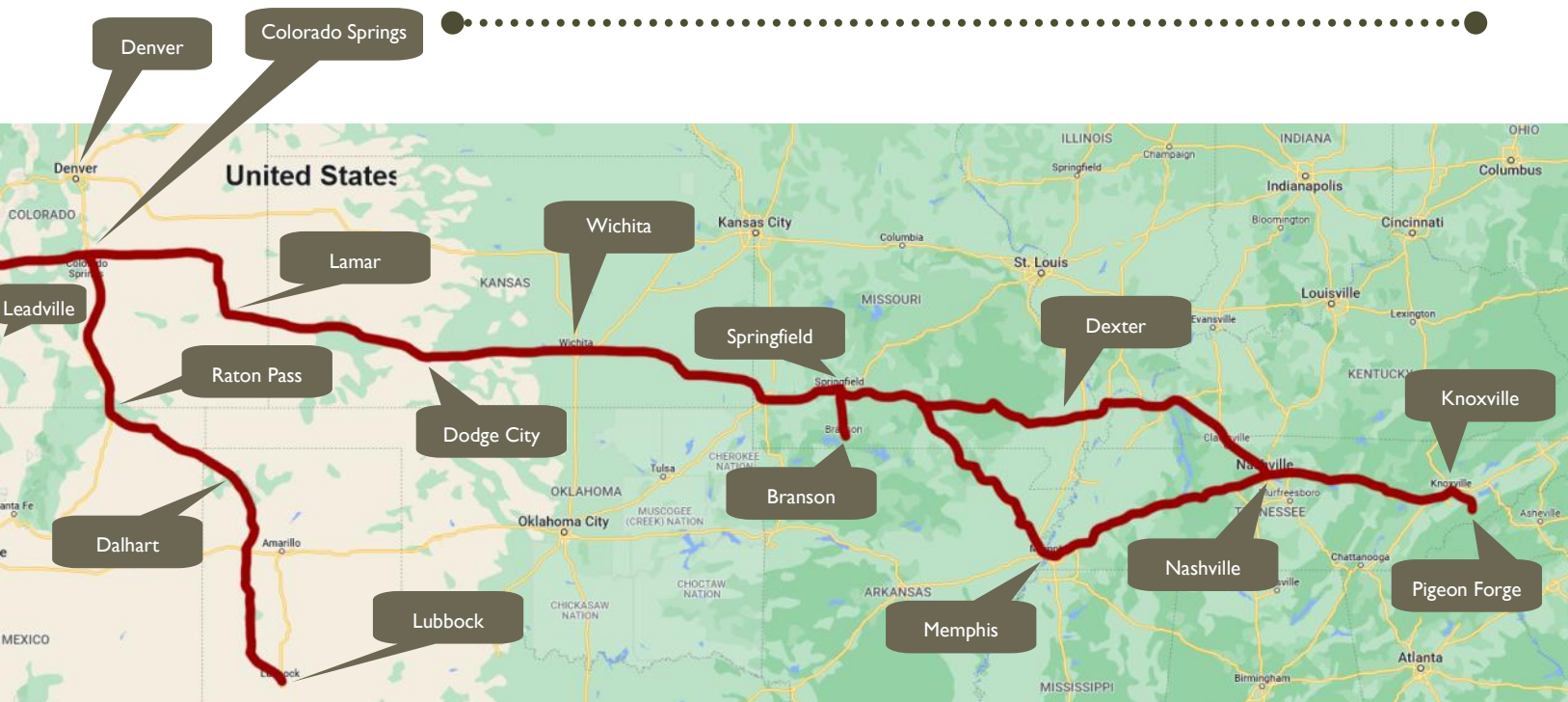


Producer, RG de Stolfe

In other news, I got back to Lubbock in early June and have basically settled back home with no specific trips or activities. Lubbock was well over 100 while I was gone and stayed mostly in the 90s to over 100 since then,

except for a couple of days that were in the upper 80s. My garden grew mightily while I was gone! Sometime this summer, I will include the progress of the garden from the last several months. It is quite full and varied, and the

vegetables have given somewhat a harvest. In mid July, about a week ago actually, I had a birthday hitting the big 5-0! I had a good day, mostly quiet and pleasant. At least I am still in the 40s to 50s range on surveys! Ha, ha, ha...



Word For Life

The Lord's Prayer

In the last issue of my journal, I showed and discussed the Lord's Prayer that is in Matthew 6:9-13 and in Luke 11:2-4. I mentioned that Jesus gave us the model prayer not as words to passively regurgitate, but as a MODEL for us to construct our own prayers! So let's take a look at each part of the prayer to find out what the message is that Jesus is telling us through this model prayer.

(For simplicity, I'm going to focus mainly on the words of the NKJV, except for where many people still use specific words out of the KJV, other than "thy" or "thine". I'm also going to combine the phrases from Matthew and Luke into one prayer.)

Our Father (which* art) in Heaven

The prayer starts with Father because we are a child of God, and we have a relationship with Him. God resides in Heaven, and we are praying to Him where He is.

**A more correct word here is "who" instead of "which" since we are referring to a person rather than an object or place.*

Hallowed be Your Name

To hallow means to make holy or to consecrate, which means to set aside for holy purposes. We are to keep God's many names holy!

Your kingdom come.

God has the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God. Jesse Duplantis explains that the Kingdom of Heaven is a place, while the Kingdom of God is a method. The method is a means and manner of doing. Through

the Holy Spirit, we do the work of God on earth, to bring His kingdom ways to the earth.

Your will be done

Above all else, the will of God is the most important. Not our will, not our family's will, not our spouse's will, not our boss's will, not any person's or beings on earth's will, but God's will is first and to do first.

On earth as it is in heaven.

Life on earth was designed to reflect how God's world is in Heaven. Of course, we read how Adam and Eve messed up this perfection by being disobedient to the single commandment God gave them, which brought destruction and death to the earth, humans, plants, and animals. ("...the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." Genesis 2:17)

Give us (this day/day by day) our daily bread

Every day, we have basic bodily needs of water and bread (or more broadly, food). We ask for this daily food, and God has already prepared it for us even before we ask. However, this verse is also talking about our daily spiritual food! Spiritual food is more important than physical food, and we cannot live without this spiritual food. Jesus said He is the bread of life. (John 6:35: "And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.")

And forgive us our (debts/sins)

The issue of sins is a BIG deal with God! God cannot look upon people's sins and is why

He turned away when our sins were placed on Jesus when He was on the Cross! ("Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" ... "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?") Mathew 27:46) You must get rid of every shred of sin in your life for God cannot forgive you until you remove it and ask God to forgive you for holding on to it! This is a daily act to keep ourselves cleansed of the effects of sins that so easily ensnare us. (Hebrews 12:1)

(As/For) we (also) forgive (our debtors/everyone who is indebted to us)

We also must forgive other people's sins against us in order for God to forgive us! If we hold something against someone, that will never affect the other person, but will always cause harm to yourself! God cannot forgive us if we are not willing to forgive others! If we don't, do not ever expect to spend your eternity with God after life on earth! (This is a stark warning about how important this is! This is just as important as being born again.)

And (do not lead us/lead us not) into temptation

God never tempts anyone. That is all on us! We fall prey to our own desires and weaknesses. But here is the good message about temptation: "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." (1 Corinthians 10:13) God also says: "...the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations..." (2 Peter 2:9) and

He says: "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." (James 1:12)

But deliver us from (evil/the evil one)

Part of the whole sozo~ package of salvation includes not just forgiveness but also healing, wholeness, peace, provisions, and deliverance. This all came when we made Jesus our Savior and our Lord. (Colossians 1:13) ~Strong's Number: 4982

****For Yours is the kingdom**

This part recognizes that God is sovereign over everything and that His kingdom is solely His. ***This last part is only found in the Matthew version of the model prayer.*

and the power

God is all power and He is limitless.

and the glory

God causes all good things to happen and the glory for the good things that happen is His alone, not to be taken or shared by anyone.

forever.

God is eternal, having existed before the world was formed and will continue to exist even after this current world is destroyed and the new heavens and earth replace this decrepit world.

Amen

Amen means so be it, let it be so. The word also refers to Jesus Himself: "...These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness..." (Revelation 3:14)

Random Things



*Prickly pear flowers.
Lubbock, Texas.
June 9, 2022
Courtesy of Garland.*



May Vacation—Part 3

From Where I Left Off

With where I left off in the last issue, we went to the Texas Tenors concert and did a few things along the main road before heading back to the hotel. What I did not mention was that we had one more day left in Branson, and that this last day was reserved to go to Silver Dollar City!



Branson Miscellany

One thing I did not mention about Branson in the last issue was the number of mini golf courses! Everywhere we looked, there were courses scattered all over the main road and on several of the other roads. I counted about 16 mini golf courses, and there may be more! A few of them were basic courses, but most of them had specialized themes that were highly decorated and well lit with various colors at night! If I ever get to Branson again, I am definitely going to some of those cool courses!



The Ferris wheel in Branson we rode on was in other places. The above sign told about where else this ride was.

*Much to the surprise of one fan, Marcus Collins of the Texas Tenors took her iPhone and pressed record to sing directly to her device!
(Photo by Robert A. de Stolfe)*

May Vacation—Part 3

Silver Dollar City Day

The day is Wednesday, May 18, 2022. We were going to go to Silver Dollar City on Monday after we arrived, but we found out they were closed on Mondays and Tuesdays in May. So that is why we stayed an extra day to account for going to Silver Dollar City.

After we got cleaned up, we headed straight there. It is way on the other end of town. We parked in the handicap area, which was closer to the entrance, though we still had to walk a little ways to the entrance gates. Once there, security scanned us and checked bags and we set out to get dad a motorized cart. Once ready to explore, the first thing we did was stop by the bakery near the entrance and got some large cinnamon rolls. Then, we walked around for a while in the central area. We came to a leather shop and looked around. We each found a few things to get. SDC has many carts and stands along the pathways throughout the park. Dad came to a cart that made custom metal signs and ordered something he wanted, which would be available for pickup before we left. From there, I looked around and saw an old time photo place where they do those 1800s saloon type photos. I decided that I wanted to get one made since the last time I did one was in 1994!



Sign of Silver Dollar City near the entrance.



Wilderness Church in the Homestead Ridge section of the park.



Inside the Wilderness Church.

May Vacation—Part 3

The 1800s saloon vignette was one series of options. But instead, I went with a 1920s gangster scene. I went through the process of getting dressed up and establishing the scene. They took a series of photos which I reviewed afterwards. I decided to go with the tintype option with a faint colorized black and white filter. They did give me a website I could go to see all of the photos they took as well as the option to order more (of course they would!) Allowed or not, Dad snuck a photo of them photographing me!



Obviously, I have no idea how to hold a Tommy Gun! Gotta love the zoot suit!



After I got dressed up and over to the scene, the photographer took several shots with different angles and expressions. I could go to their website later and look at them and, of course, make additional purchases of the photos. Otherwise, they put these stupid watermarks on the photos!

May Vacation—Part 3

We went further down a path, and Dad wanted to go on the narrow gauge train that went around the park. The ride went about 20 minutes at different elevations and stopped about halfway for a hillbilly holdup! It was goofy comedy, but added to the whole hillbilly theme of that region. After that, we decided to get lunch. Dad in his usual manner wanted a buffet. So I found where one was and it was okay, not great, but obviously overpriced for what you got. I know there was better food out there. (But Dad wanted a buffet!) Interestingly, this buffet was the same place where we had breakfast that first half of the time when I was in Branson in 2005 working our booth at SDC for Flint. Even then, SDC was closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.



This is part of the locomotive that pulled the narrow gauge train cars (where we sat). The tracks made a loop around the park and brought us back to the station.

One of many stand alone interactives throughout the park.

About halfway through the train ride, we stopped because of a hillbilly "holdup" by this "hillbilly homestead"!



May Vacation—Part 3

We continued walking around the park for a while looking at what there was to see. We came to a ride called The Flooded Mine ride. This was a mild boat ride going through, well, a mine that was flooding! But the other part of it is that you could shoot at targets throughout the ride. The animatronic characters were prisoners wearing the old style black and white striped jumpsuits. We ended up going through the ride twice, not even getting off! We saw others doing the rides many times too. One thing we saw on this ride that we liked were these lanterns that looked like they had flaming fire in them (which is not exactly how lanterns are supposed to look). They had a really cool look that we liked (remember this for a future reference)!

Throughout the day, we walked (well, I walked and Dad was on the motorized cart) and were continually on the move. It was quite warm and of course fairly humid. We headed back to the front of the park, and somewhere near there, Dad went to a small shop that had something he wanted. While Dad did that and before we left, I wanted to go to an attraction called Grandfather's Mansion, which I remembered from 2005. It was quite the gravity defying place! This was a sort of funhouse that challenged your sense of gravity, perspective, and balance! The kids loved it!



The fire lanterns we saw at the Flooded Mine (arrow above) were different from this one, but I got this lantern on Amazon that has a similar look of the flickering fire.



The first room you come to is this upside down bedroom to give you a sense of what's to come.

May Vacation—Part 3

I went through Grandfather's mansion once, and since Dad wasn't done yet with his thing, I went through it again! Apparently, the kids were doing the same thing! Oddly, I didn't really see any adults going through this attraction!



In this mirrored hallway, I am standing straight, believe it or not! I oriented the camera to be level with the hallway!

Your whole sense of level and gravity are thrown out of whack in this room!



This is how you think you see this room...



...this is how the room actually is!

May Vacation—Part 3

Here's a sampling of the flora we saw in the park, both natural and



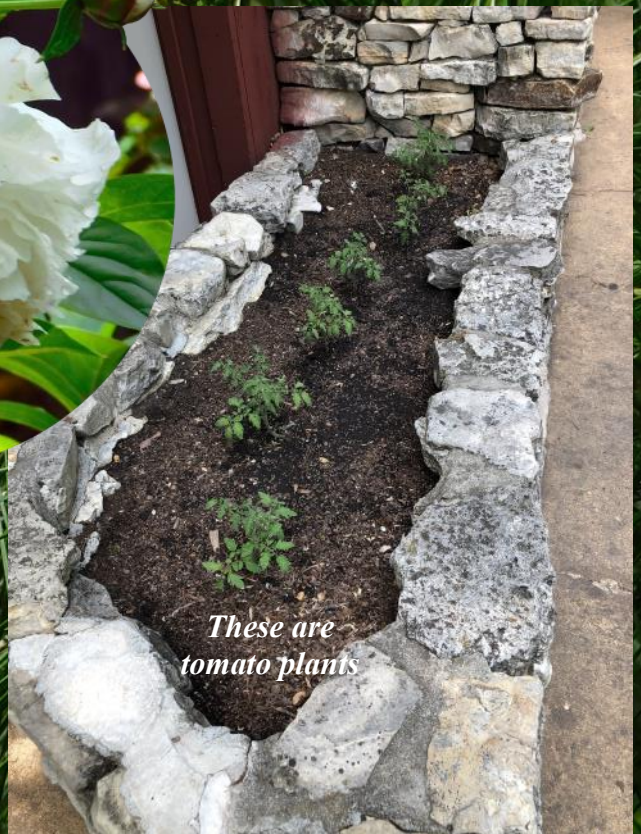
Mock Orange



Camilla



Dogwood

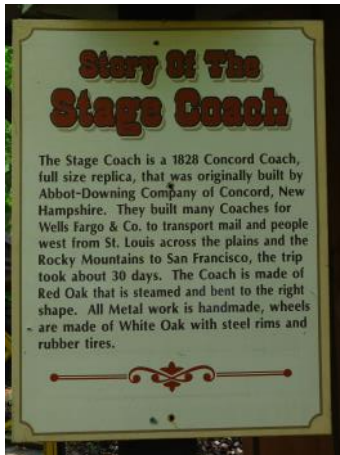


*These are
tomato plants*

Background: pine trees

May Vacation—Part 3

Here is a bunch of other random things from Silver Dollar City.



This water clock is very similar to the one in Cañon City, Colorado.

Wildfire is one of the crazy rollercoaster rides.

I am suspicious of the validity of this Ozark Tree!

This reproduction stagecoach was near where I got my old timey tintype photo.



May Vacation—Part 3



This no thank you ride is called American Plunge.

One of the many decaying items of yesteryear around the park.



May Vacation—Part 3

On our way out, Dad picked up the metal sign he ordered and got another souvenir from the conveniently placed giant gift shop you had to go through to exit!

Rest of Last Day

With the walking, heat, and humidity, we were understandably drained of energy and tired. We drove straight back to the hotel. Well, I did stop briefly at this one spot on the main road to get a quick photo of this large head sculpture of Ronald Reagan. We had seen it several times in the days we were there, but Dad thought it was the image of some other actor. But no, all references to it showed it to be of Ronald Reagan.



There's no explanation as to why this sculpture of Ronald Reagan is here, nor where it came from. But this seemingly abandoned spot on the main road appears to have been some sort of attraction at one time before being razed.

Once back at the hotel, I stripped off the sweat soaked clothes for clean ones, and Dad slept for a little while as I did some miscellaneous things. Once we were rested enough, Dad wanted a pizza. A quick severe storm developed by nightfall and came over Branson. So, in the heavy rain we went back over to the same Papa John's for pizza. We also stopped briefly to watch the dancing waters again, then went over to a local grocery store called Price Chopper just to see what the store was like. It was still raining with lightning. By the time we got back to the hotel, the rain was light and eventually stopped once we were back in the room for a little while.



May Vacation—Part 3

Moving On To The Next Town

The next day was Thursday, May 19, 2022. As usual, we got cleaned up, had a quick breakfast, and left Branson. We knew we wanted to go as far as Memphis for the next night, and we had two ways we could have gone. I thought the better way would be to go back north to Springfield, then continue east through southern Missouri and down through part of Arkansas, the same route we took in 2020.

We then headed to Springfield taking 54 north, the same road we took to get to Branson. Once we got to Springfield, I first wanted to stop at a leather shop from where I had previously bought some stuff online. We looked around, and I got some items I wanted for some craft projects. No sooner than we left and were on our way to the next stop, my phone blew up with thunderstorm warnings and tornado warnings. We went the few miles to the west to get to the Bass Pro Shops.



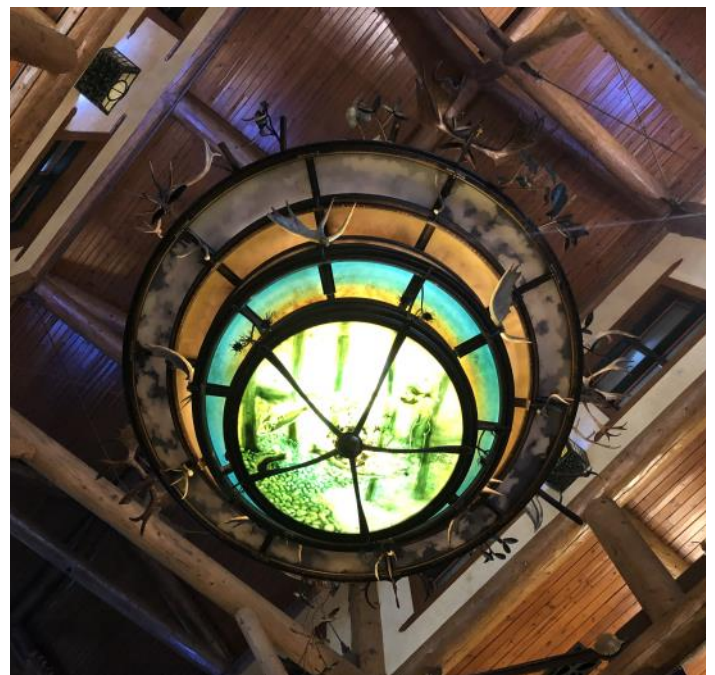
Google Maps Street View

I knew that I wanted to go back there like I was there in 2005. Now, when I was there before, I remember the place being away from town and being of moderate size, considering that it is the largest Bass Pro Shop in the country! But now, the town grew past it, and the place is in the middle of town and has expanded to be double the size it was in 2005! A soon as we got into the parking lot, the sky just let loose of rain! We got into the store (a little wet) and started at a welcome station. (Yeah, it's that big to need a welcome station!) Dad got a motorized cart (yep, a big enough attraction now to have motorized carts!), and we



May Vacation—Part 3

spent some time exploring the many things to see. We did not explore the museums that were apparently added since 2005, but we did look around at the dioramas, fish tanks, stuffed animals, the original shop setup, and various other stuff on the two floors. It was a huge place! We did not even attempt to look at everything. Even when we left, the rain and lightning was heavy.



May Vacation—Part 3



This is on the ceiling!



May Vacation—Part 3



May Vacation—Part 3



May Vacation—Part 3



May Vacation—Part 3



Yesteryear way to go camping!



This has got to be the ugliest fish I have ever seen! Look at those bulging eyes and lips that are bigger than on humans!



May Vacation—Part 3

Continuing On

We drove through the heavy rain to a camera shop that someone recommended. Dad was looking for something he needed, which he didn't find, but did get a couple of other things. By this point, the rain stopped and moved on elsewhere. The last things we did before leaving was to get some gas and to get something to eat. We decided on going to Zaxby's after getting gas. Once we were done, it was a little after 3:00 PM, and we finally got on the road taking US 60 going east.

One thing I remember about taking this route before in 2020 was that we went through one town where we saw a bunch of Amish people (families) in buggies or carts going up and down the sides of the roads. In 2020, that was a Saturday. The town was Seymour, Missouri and on this trip, we only saw one Amish presence, an Amish woman driving a single horse cart with two or three children in the back (hard to see). Although, the horse droppings showed that there were others on the road earlier in the day.

A little over an hour of driving, I felt the need to stop for a rest because I was getting tired. I ended up going past a turn for a roadside park I wanted to stop at and turned around at the next available exit. On the way back to the park, these two young deers just came out from the side of the road, and I almost hit them, but swerved out of the way (as did the car behind me)! It rather startled me, but probably also scared the deers! (And yes, I'm saying deers instead of deer!) We stopped at this roadside park and stayed about 45 minutes while we rested and tried to get back some energy. (Too many carbs from Zaxby's maybe?) We drove some more through the hilly Ozarks of Missouri and Arkansas and got to one point where I made a wrong turn but conveniently stopped at McDonald's for a snack. By this point, it was nearing near sunset, but we kept going. We finally got the Mississippi River and went over that large metal truss bridge into Memphis. We took the interstate south to get to the hotel on the south side of the town. We stopped first to get gas at a rather sketchy gas station, then headed to the hotel. We checked in and got settled for an overnight stop in Memphis. We were somewhat near the airport, but I was wondering why the hotel had a large metal fence fully around the property.



May Vacation—Part 3

Cabool Rest Stop



This little rest stop was southeast of Cabool, Missouri.

Google Maps



May Vacation—Part 3

Bypassing Memphis

So, it was Friday, May 20, 2022. We got going a little after 10:00 AM. During my research for the trip, I looked into some attractions we could see within a couple of hours while in Memphis. We had considered going to Graceland, to the Fire Museum of Memphis, or to The Cotton Museum at the Memphis Cotton Exchange. But instead, we decided that we wanted to keep going and use that time for other places where we really wanted to spend our time and for the real reason of the trip. Then, Nashville was our next multiday stop.

Before we left Memphis, we did make a stop at Best Buy for Dad to find something. The drive from Memphis was straight forward and easy. We simply got on I-40, and it would take us right to Nashville, about a three hour drive. After about an hour and a half, we stopped to get something to eat in a little town called Parkers Crossroads near Wildersville. Looking at what was around, we ultimately stopped at a restaurant that had a bunch of cars around it called Patty's Restaurant. This was a local place that turned out to be a good stop! At first, we weren't sure about the place, but we just stayed and eventually a waitress came. Our waitress, with a very Tennessee accent, helped us with the menu and with what was good to get. Dad chose to get the spaghetti, while I thought I'd try the hamburger steak. (Yeah, I know! Very odd choices! But it is what sounded good from their menu.). The waitress also asked if I wanted some A-1, Heinz 57, or some Country Bob's for the burger steak. I was like, "What is Country Bob's?" She got all excited, and said that I just had to try it! I got a little worried! Anyway, while we were waiting for the food, we saw this little shelf behind us with a bunch of cans of potted possum. Frankly, I wasn't surprised to see them! After all, we were in Tennessee! Ha, ha... We got a few cans along with some pie for dessert before we left. We would definitely go there again the



*Country Bob's was quite tasty!
I looked around and bought some.*



May Vacation—Part 3

next time we were in the area. I didn't know it at the time, but that area has some Civil War history that I would want to explore if I ever got that way again. Before we left the town, we stopped at the Dollar General next door.

We continued for another hour and a half before we stopped in Belle Meade for gas and a break. We got into Nashville before 5:00 PM, but it took a while before I found where we needed to go. Besides that, the traffic was horrible! I ended up taking an unintentional tour of the airport because of a wrong turn!

Where was I going? What was next on the trip now that we were in Nashville? That will be for the next issue!



Occasionally along I-40 in Tennessee after leaving Memphis, this sign would appear. I only counted three or four times that I saw the sign, and finally stopped to get a photo as soon as I saw it ahead.



Clues Of What Is In Future Issues

Believe it or not, I have only covered probably 25% of the May trip! There is so much more we did that I have not yet gotten to in these issues! Here's a photo sample of a few things to come!



Grand Ole Opry



Ryman Auditorium



DollyWood



The Hermitage

Final Thought

FOR SALE.

CARTS AND WAGONS.

FOR SALE—Carts and $3\frac{1}{2}$ and $3\frac{3}{4}$ inch wagons. McKenzie, 119 East Sixth street.

FURNITURE.

FOR SALE—Household furniture very cheap. Address Box 123, City.

PIANOS FOR RENT.

\$7.00 first month, \$5.00 thereafter. We sell perfect working sewing machine, \$3 to \$10; new 32-piece dish sets, \$3.70; oak sideboards, \$16; metal folding beds, \$10; feather beds, \$5 and \$7. L. L. & M. Co., 124 East Sixth street.

FOR SALE—One transfer wagon, one covered dairy wagon, all kinds of road carts, buggies, order and grocery wagons.

We do rubber tireing.
J. H. Kelly, Third and Pine streets.

POWDER MAGAZINE.

FOR SALE—The two old brick magazines at the end of West Sixth street. Inquire at the Leadville Hardware Co.

A BARGAIN.

FOR SALE—\$2,000 will buy 320 acres improved, near Buena Vista. John McKenna, 122 East 11th.

FRY FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—Trout fry. Address Henry Smith, Malta, Colo.

SEVERAL ARTICLES.

FOR SALE—Buggy, organ, lounge, carpet, other household goods. 423 East Tenth street.

COAL, FEED, WOOD.

FOR SALE—Coal, feed, slab and block wood. Bohlen Bros., 111 East Sixth street. Phone 212-C.

HORSE FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—Horse, harness, cart and saddle, 405 East Sixth.

GO-CART.

FOR SALE—Cheap, baby go-cart, new. Call 618 West Third street.

MILCH COW.

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

de Stolfe Journal.....

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