

# JKß – JOY KROEGER BECKNER – JKß

*classical realism, from hounds to humans & and more!*

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JOURNEYS OF JOY! :: ALASKA :: PART ONE :: 2018

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HOME TO THE LEWIS & CLARK TRAIL TO NEW TOWN, ND

*Please join Brian & me along The Lewis & Clark Trail to Alaska!*

*Day One*

JUNE 21, 2018, THURSDAY, 83 DEGREES, CHESTERFIELD, MO

Take off is at 10:01 am. By 10:04am the temperature is down to 76! Bits of sunlight shine through dense clouds. We've had four inches of rain in the last two days!

White Queen Ann's Lace, blue Bachelors Buttons, Black-Eyed Susan's, and orange daylilies color the borders of I-44. Showers fall this first day of summer. Later, I delight to see orange milkweed and an occasional tall pink milkweed in which Monarch butterflies lay their eggs. Bring on the Milkweeds!!! Bring back Monarchs!!!

11:05AM: Puffy cumulus clouds give way to brilliant blue skies as we head to Roach, MO, and the home of Rita and Larry Toombs who will care for Beau during our journey. Mimosa trees bloom. A northwest wind blows. This gorgeous day is now 78 degrees.



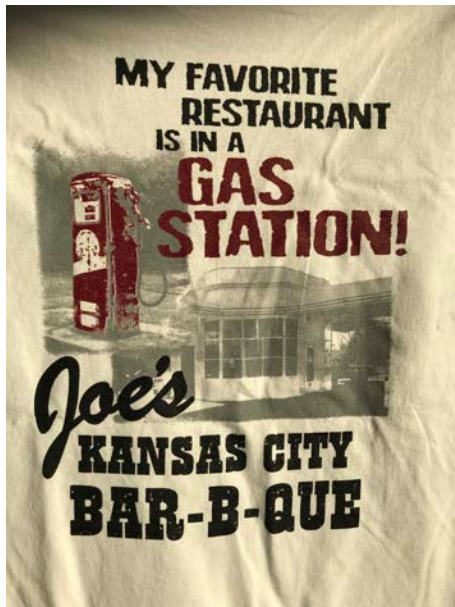
12:33PM: Lebanon, MO, with orange milkweed growing beside the road!

We turn south from I-44 toward Sleeper, MO and Roach. The forest lined, narrow, hilly road is beautiful.



Around 2:30pm we leave Rita and Larry's for Kansas City. At 3:34pm, it's a beautiful drive at a mere 70 degrees with gentle rain. Rita reports that Beau retreated to his crate after we left.

3:36PM: This first day of summer is 66 degrees; we may have to get out our foul weather gear! Nope! No need.



Tonight Brian finds "Joe's Barbeque" in Kansas City, KS.

Anthony Bourdain featured Joe's in a June 2009 program titled, "13 Places to Eat Before you Die"



Brian's sausages, my turkey and the Kansas Caviar side dish are excellent! The recipe is above.

We retreat for the night at the Holiday Inn Country Club Plaza, Kansas City, MO.



## Day Two

JUNE 22, 2018, FRIDAY, 9:21AM, KANSAS CITY, MO

After an excellent hot breakfast (for which I paid \$5 for both of us with my reservation) at the Holiday Inn Country Club Plaza, Kansas City, MO, we head to Kaldi's on the Plaza. Here, George Lundeen's "Shifting the Balance" bronze of Ben Franklin reading the paper sharply contrasts with a man concentrating on his computer.



The architecture in downtown Kansas City, MO is absolutely beautiful!

We take MO-9 North through Parkville, MO, and then North on the Northwest River Road to MO-45. We stop in the wonderful little town of Weston, MO. There we meet Mort, and visit his massive photography collection.





More tobacco is grown near Weston, MO, than anywhere west of the Mississippi. It is processed at the Burley House and dried in handsome old loosely boarded barns.

Brian follows the Missouri River on MO-69 to St. Joseph, MO. Go left at the Y. Unfortunately, I seem to have deleted my notes between there and Fremont, NE where we spend the night. BUT! ... Read on....

3:58PM: We take the Old Nebraska Highway 6 toward Ashland, NE. There, we visit the amazing SAC Museum: Strategic Air Command Museum. Below is just a little taste of the museum.





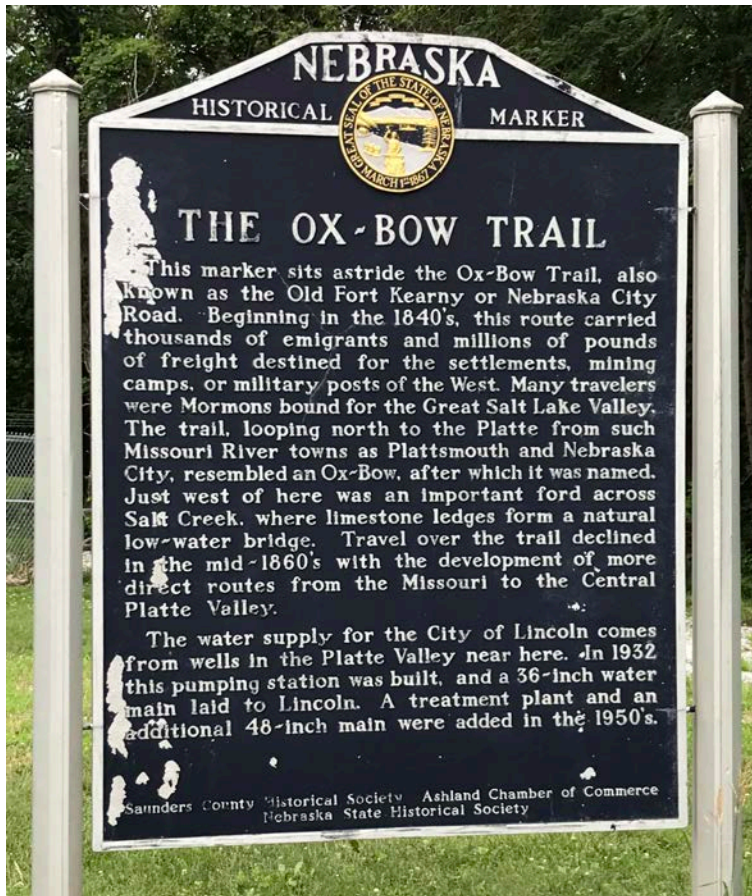


The Lockheed SR71 – “Blackbird” is a long-range, Mach 3+ strategic reconnaissance aircraft that was operated by the United States Air Force from 1964 – 1998.



“Lucky Lady” is a United States Air Force Boeing B-50 Superfortress that became the first airplane to circle the world nonstop. Its 1949 journey, assisted by in-flight refueling, lasted 94 hours and 1 minute.

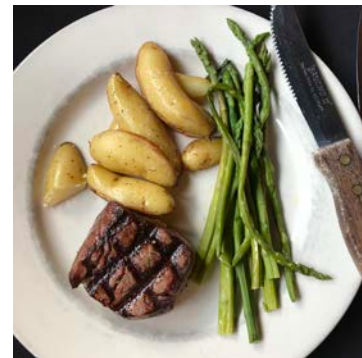




**4:02PM:** On Nebraska Highway 6, we discover this historical marker.

**7:30PM:** When in Fremont, NE, go to J's! We found the most expensive restaurant in Fremont: J's Steakhouse, about the only restaurant that is not fast food!

The interior wall was once the exterior wall of a Hart Schaffner & Marx Clothing store. The cabernet is wonderful!



Tonight we find a room at the Countryside Inn and Suites in Fremont, NE. Most rooms are extremely expensive due to the fact that The College World Series of Baseball is taking place in Omaha, and draws folks from miles around. They pay huge sums for rooms that are miles from Omaha as well. Temperatures today have ranged from 68 to 74 this evening. Last year, when Brian and his friend rode this route on their motorcycles, it was a more typical 100 degrees. Lucky us!





## Day Three

JUNE 23, 2018, SATURDAY, FREMONT, NE

Corn grows for miles along Old Nebraska Highway 6 to Blair, NE on our way to see the paddle wheeler.

10:56AM: The DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge is wonderful! The museum shows artifacts that were salvaged from the paddle wheeler "Bertram" that sunk in the Missouri River near Omaha in 1865. By all means see it when you are anywhere near Blair, NE. However, my iPhone says it is in Missouri Valley, Iowa.



11:40AM: We enter the Omaha Indian Reservation on US-75.



11:43AM: The Missouri River at Decatur, Nebraska

12:03PM: We enter the Winnebago Indian Reservation. I love the hills and two-lane roads. Population: 700+

12:55PM: The elevation is 1264 feet, about 500 feet higher than home. We are 342 miles from Pierre, SD, which is our destination for tonight. We are on NE-12, nearly at Newcastle, NE. Deciduous trees intermingle with native evergreens.

Next is the history of the damming of the Missouri.



# Promoting A Missouri River Revival



California Bend, near Blair, Nebraska, is one of the Missouri River sites restored by the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District.

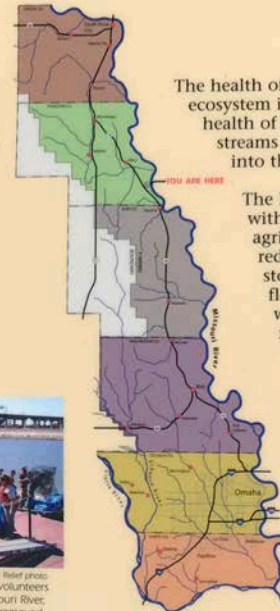
**F**lowing through mid-America, the Missouri is our nation's longest river. The river, its floodplain and the rivers, streams and creeks flowing into it form one of the most diverse, scenic and productive ecosystems in North America.

Between the 1930s and 1960s the river current was forced into a narrow, deep channel, especially between Sioux City and Kansas City. Dams were constructed in states farther north, to control the flow of water downriver.

These changes degraded or eliminated much of the habitat required by native plant and wildlife communities. Several animal and plant species that were once common are now threatened or endangered. Other animals left to find habitat necessary for their survival.

In the early 1990s, the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (P-MRNRD) began renovating oxbow lakes, creating river chutes and backwaters, restoring wetlands and improving habitat. Numerous channels, backwater areas, wetlands and prairies were re-established through the efforts of the P-MRNRD and its many partners.

Most Missouri River restoration projects within the P-MRNRD boundaries are completed. Efforts to improve the habitat and water quality of the river and the many rivers, streams and creeks that flow into the Missouri continue. Public access to natural areas is being improved, allowing people to go "back to the river".



The health of the Missouri River ecosystem is affected by the health of the many rivers, streams and creeks that flow into the Missouri River.

The P-MRNRD is working with communities and agricultural landowners to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff flowing directly into our waterways, and to remove pollutants from the water before they flow into creeks. Runoff is often polluted with fertilizers, motor oil, industrial chemicals, and litter that washed in from yards and parking lots.



Missouri River River photo: Many organizations, agencies and volunteers work together to preserve the Missouri River, including this river clean-up which removed seven tons of trash at Omaha/Council Bluffs.

**1:04PM:** Thirty-three miles south of Yankton, SD the countryside slowly evolves from farmland into prairie. Tom Brokaw grew up in Yankton and his father helped build the first big dam across the Missouri. The river is no longer navigable west of Sioux City, SD.

Nebraska-12 is a Nebraska Byway, and is also known as the Outlaw Trail. I'm in a little bit of heaven with these rolling hills and gorgeous textures.

**3:06PM:** We move from Nebraska-12 to US-281 North. We pass our second or third wild turkey beside the road.

**3:14PM:** Entering South Dakota, we turn right on US-281/18 and cross Fort Randall Dam, the second dam on the Missouri. Take US-281 north to the Y and go left on SD-50 for more gorgeous scenery.







4:51PM: We cross the beautiful Missouri River north of Platte. I see why Georgia O'Keefe painted clouds!

We are on NE-44. In 1806, Lewis & Clark returned from the west coast. One sees many references to 1806 on this side of the Missouri River. On the opposite side of the Missouri, 1804 refers to the year Lewis & Clark went west.

Turn north on SD-47 to I-90. Brian wonders if bees are flying into the windshield.

5:35PM: A "Gully-washer Rain" cleans our windshield. The air is fresh!

5:40PM: Turn north on I-90. Then, hook a right on North SD-47. Last year, when Brian and his friend Frank rode their bikes this way, they, too, were rained upon and they filled their tanks at the same Cenex station where Brian stops this time for gas.

5:51PM: It's just sprinkling. The temperature drops from 83 to 68 degrees. We are in Lower Brule, SD.



6:03PM: Lucky cows enjoy wide grasslands. There are no CAFOs in South Dakota, so far.





6:05PM: Watch for frost heaves in the highway. Brian thinks he's back in Maine. Bouncy, bouncy!



6:36PM: Happy horses graze in Lower Brule, SD.

I love these road names: PowWow Road, Two Hawks Road, Splintered [something] Road. We are on Iron Nation Road and, finally, I see only hilly prairie. The highway is also known as SD-1806.

Hills come together like interlaced fingers. I love the Prairie, Sweet Prairie. Beekeepers tend hives. More hives, please.







7:12PM: We arrive in Fort Pierre, SD. We are home for the night at the Governor's Inn and discover our room is only \$82. I'll climb a couple floors of stairs for that rate! Trip advisor said it would be \$102.

At Mad Mary's Steakhouse & Saloon I enjoy pork loin with pineapple & bourbon sauce, and freshly steamed broccoli. Yum! La Ministra looks like another really good restaurant.

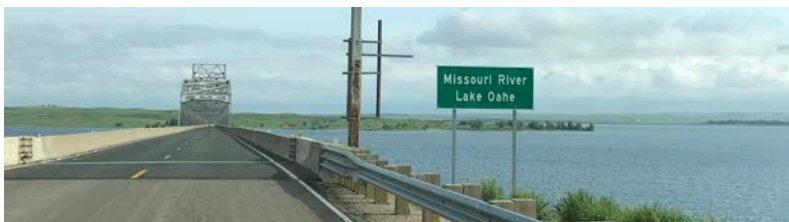
Fort Pierre respects its hometown heroes and its governors. Many street corners display life-sized bronzes of governors. Banners honoring heroes adorn streetlight posts.



## Day Four

JUNE 24, 2018, SUNDAY, FORT PIERRE, SD

Oh, what a long, sleepy drive it is to Pierre, SD. Many trains blew whistles as they passed by the hotel last night.



It is 65 beautiful degrees! If you want to live in SD, Pierre would be a good location. After touring the Capitol complex, we cruise north on SD-1804, the Lewis & Clark Trail.

Pierre and Fort Pierre are described as a "micropolitan" area.



Take SD-212 west across Lake Oahe that is backed up 200 miles by a huge earthen dam! May the dam hold!





Along BIA-7: Bureau of Indian Affairs Road a small brown signs tells us we are heading for Patch Skin Butte Scenic Overlook in 6.7 miles. Small white & pink morning glories grow along the road.

It's good to get off the beaten path to places with creek names like:

Cross Swift Bird Creek.

Buffalo Skin Creek

No Mouth Creek

No Water in Creek has yellow & black striped warning signs.

Lotsa Water Creek has the same sort of striped signs.







Everywhere we look the vistas are gorgeous! What pretty, pretty country! The textures and the shapes of the earth are beautiful to my eyes. We see our first "wild" buffalo.

A sign reads CR-1806 "pavement breakup." Oh, please maintain the road, or, give us beautiful gravel!

Turn right on US-12 north toward Mobridge, SD, 8 miles.

One 10-20 foot stand of common milkweed thrives here. Bring on the milkweed. Bring on the Monarchs! Yesterday, we saw a Monarch yesterday when we got gas!

We have passed many beehives the last couple of days. Go beekeepers!

We cross Lake Oahe again! That's one heck of an earthen dam on the Missouri!



Mobridge, SD, is a fairly good size town of 3000-4000 persons. It has a drive-in theater! We love looking at the old homes and find the Grand Oasis for breakfast.

10:46 MDT: We enter the Standing Rock Sioux reservation on SD-1806 north. Rain splats gently.

11:06AM: Take SD-3 north to Kenel, SD. A hawk in flight carries a mouse for lunch.

11:17AM: North Dakota is pretty! Many Russian olive trees grow among native trees. We visit the Sitting Bull Burial Site

In Mandan, ND, where Lewis & Clark spent the winter, a seagull flies over a little branch of the northern part of Lake Oahe. Based on Brian's GPS, we think it will once again become the Missouri River in about ten miles. Prairie Knights Lodge and Casino provides employment and entertainment in the middle of nowhere, ND. It is pretty unbelievable and all for \$95 a night!

Here is another name: Foolbear Lane.

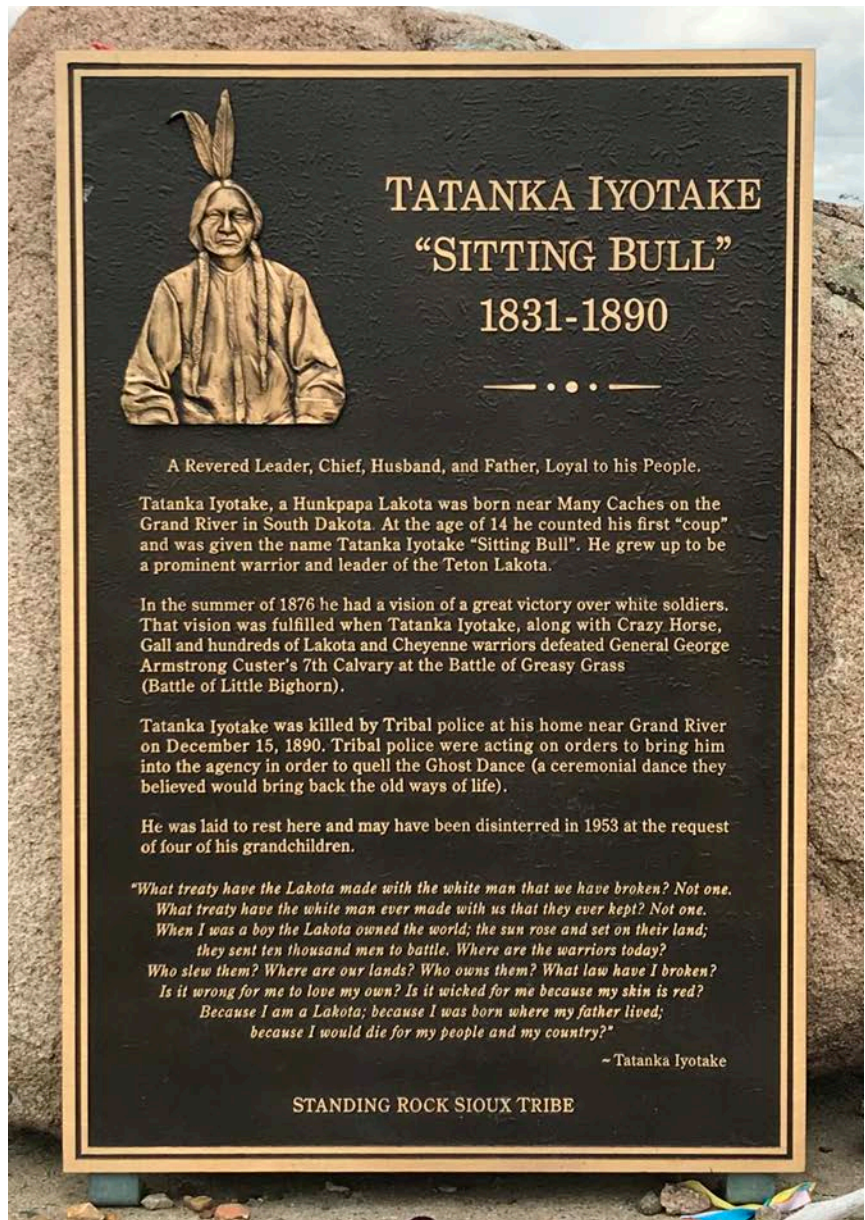
We hook up with ND-1806 again. Lake Oahe extends nearly 200 miles from Pierre north to Bismarck. It is pretty amazing what the builders of that earthen dam accomplished.

We are in Mandan, ND, where Lewis & Clark spent the winter of 1804-1805. We hug the Missouri on a narrow two-lane road with the Missouri to our left. The street signs say "River Road".

Jog right 500 feet, and turn left on ND-1804 North.

Time flip-flops from Central to Mountain to Central time as we journey toward New Town, ND. A bronze tribute to the Corps of Discovery is located near Sitting Bull's grave.

Turn left on US 83/ND1804 to the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in Washburn, ND. Brian has seen it twice and goes for coffee while go in.







3:54PM: Head northwest on US-83. We believe a humongous crane is strip-mining coal. We pass under a huge conveyer belt that is encircled with a large white steel tube as it crosses the highway.

Lake Sakakawea and the Audubon National Wildlife Preserve are to the east.

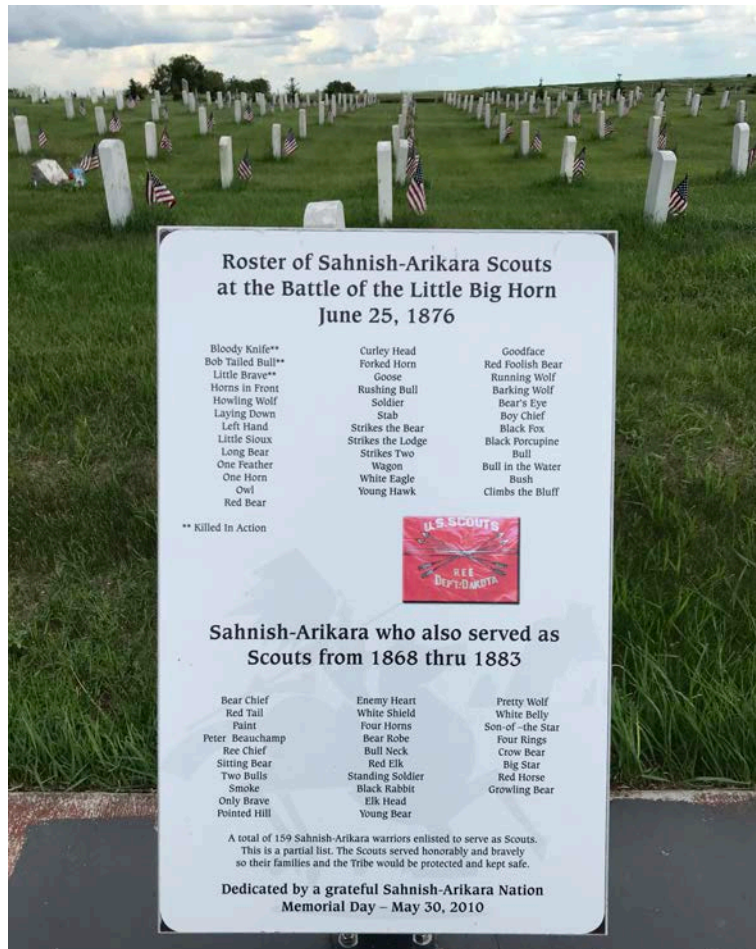
4:20PM: We turn west on ND-1804 again. Big transparent insects slam into our windshield. We need another rain shower!



4:37PM: We pass fields of gorgeous canola. Next, we pass a subtly hidden ICBM silo.

After seeing these glorious clouds, I understand why Georgia O'Keefe concentrated on painting clouds! Did I mention that before?





4:49PM: Meadowlarks sing as we meet two ladies in an Indian cemetery. Elva and Vicki have relatives buried there and they confirm that bees are slamming into our windshield.





The next tall thing we see in this very natural area is a cell tower. The temperature has dropped to 68 with a wind that makes it feel chilly.

Rain sweetly washes our windshield.

At the cemetery Elva & Vicki tell us about Indian Hills Resort, Garrison, ND. However, we overnight at Little Missouri Inn & Suites, New Town, ND. Teddy's restaurant next door is perfect; we each have salads and water with lemon and no ice. Both hotel and restaurant are very good. Brian stayed here last year with his friend Frank on their motorcycle trip that followed the Lewis & Clark Trail.

9:35PM: The sun tries to set.

An email arrives from my friend Michele who is retiring and closing her Hallmark store after 35 years. Tuesday is her final day. Best wishes, Michele! Rest and recover, my friend.

*Thank you for joining us.*

*Please continue on our journey in*

*Part Two!*

*Joy*

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*JKß*