

JKß – JOY KROEGER BECKNER – JKß

classical realism, from hounds to humans & and more!

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

FARGO, ND TO HOME

Day Eighteen

JULY 8, 2018, SUNDAY, 7:35AM, 80 DEGREES, HAWTHORN INN & SUITES, FARGO, ND

We have only 746 more miles to drive to Rita's to pick up Beau.

Corn is king. Land is flat. As in Saskatchewan, "If your dog run's away, you can see it running the next day."

8:16AM: Now, in South Dakota, I go through old emails while Brian drives. Small, yellow-centered yellow wildflowers grow next to the road. They are the same kind I saw growing up north. I also see the little tiny ones that are more lemony yellow. Please do not mow medians and shoulders. Grasses and wildflowers are GOOD for pollinators.

Cows sun themselves on the leeward side of hills saving energy needed to stand in this brisk wind. White waves lap at pelicans. The southwest wind is so strong the FJ kicks into a lower gear to make headway.

10:26AM: MINNEHAHA COUNTY, SD: I imagine these plains as they were centuries ago with tall waving grasses and buffalo herds. Now there are trees for wind and snow breaks, farm equipment, crops and houses. The rolling land is pretty, but what have humans done to this planet? Can everything survive?

10:42AM, 83 DEGREES: Sioux Falls, SD, is surprisingly spread out. A strong, long truck passes. It carries one wing of a three-wing wind turbine. The truck has some sort of attached rolling support for the wing tip at the back.

South Dakota has high humidity with just enough sunshine to create shadows.



11:45, 84 DEGREES: We are in Sioux City, Iowa. A car show is in the park next to the Missouri River. We are still on I-29 south. This is the first time we see farmers harvest GRASS/HAY in in a highway intersection cloverleaf. They then roll it into big bails. Go Iowa!

Iowa knows. Along I-29 the most the highway department mows is one mower width along the shoulders and one width on both sides of the median. Iowa is smart to let milkweed grow in the median and on the shoulders for endangered Monarch butterflies! Hooray for Iowa!

12:30PM, 85 DEGREES: With sunshine and recent rains, verdant medians are lush and beautiful.

1:42PM, 86 DEGREES: Water stands near a small racetrack. Perhaps the track is for go-carts or motorcycles. It is to the west of I-29. Lakes are full and EVERYTHING is GREEN after a lot of rain.



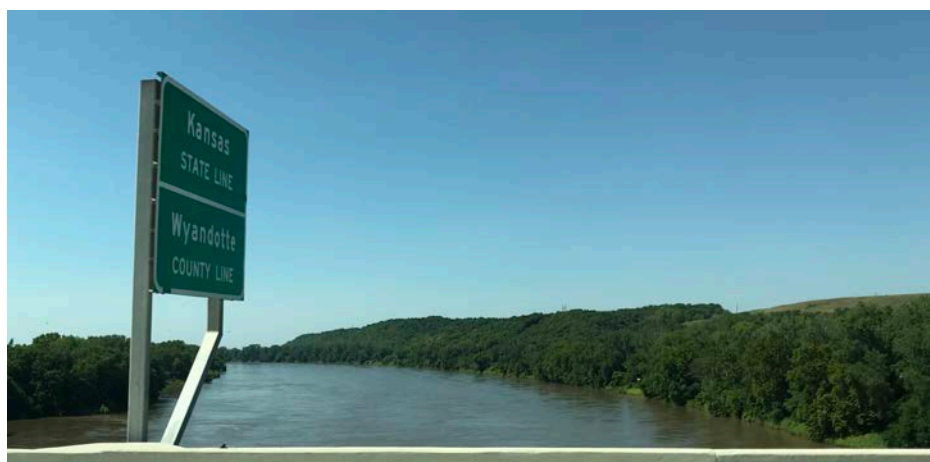
2:09PM, 89 DEGREES: We are in Missouri! It's good to nearly be home.



2:59PM: Northbound I-29 traffic is backed up for about a quarter of a mile.

Missouri corn has tassels! And, at least here, near St. Joseph, only a mower width of shoulder has been mowed. Wave on, roadside grasses and wildflowers!

3:35PM, 92 DEGREES: We exit to I-435 South. Vineyards grow to the west.



3:45PM: We cross the Missouri River and are back in Kansas. Brian will have driven a little over 600 miles today. To the east is a skinny circular water slide that appears to be 4-5 stories tall.

We exit to buy gas after a huge FedEx facility. It feels really good to get out of the car.

The Shell station has recycle receptacles shaped like bottles. Yay, Shell! Yay, Kansas! After crossing the Kansas River we are in Shawnee County.

We pass what Brian thinks is the headquarters for J.C. Penny.

5:12PM: We check in at the Holiday Inn, Overland Park, KS. After driving 621 miles today Brian naps while I do this.

Tonight we eat at Stroud's Restaurant and Bar which was established in 1933. There, Brian remembers their excellent pan-fried chicken from 40 years ago. Nothing's changed, except the chicken is nothing to write home about, and, they are still serving canned green beans that remind me of the DelMonte beans my mom used to serve. Do not bother...

Day Nineteen

JULY 9, 2018, MONDAY

We get up early to drive the final leg of our trip to Roach, MO. I think I deleted today's notes.



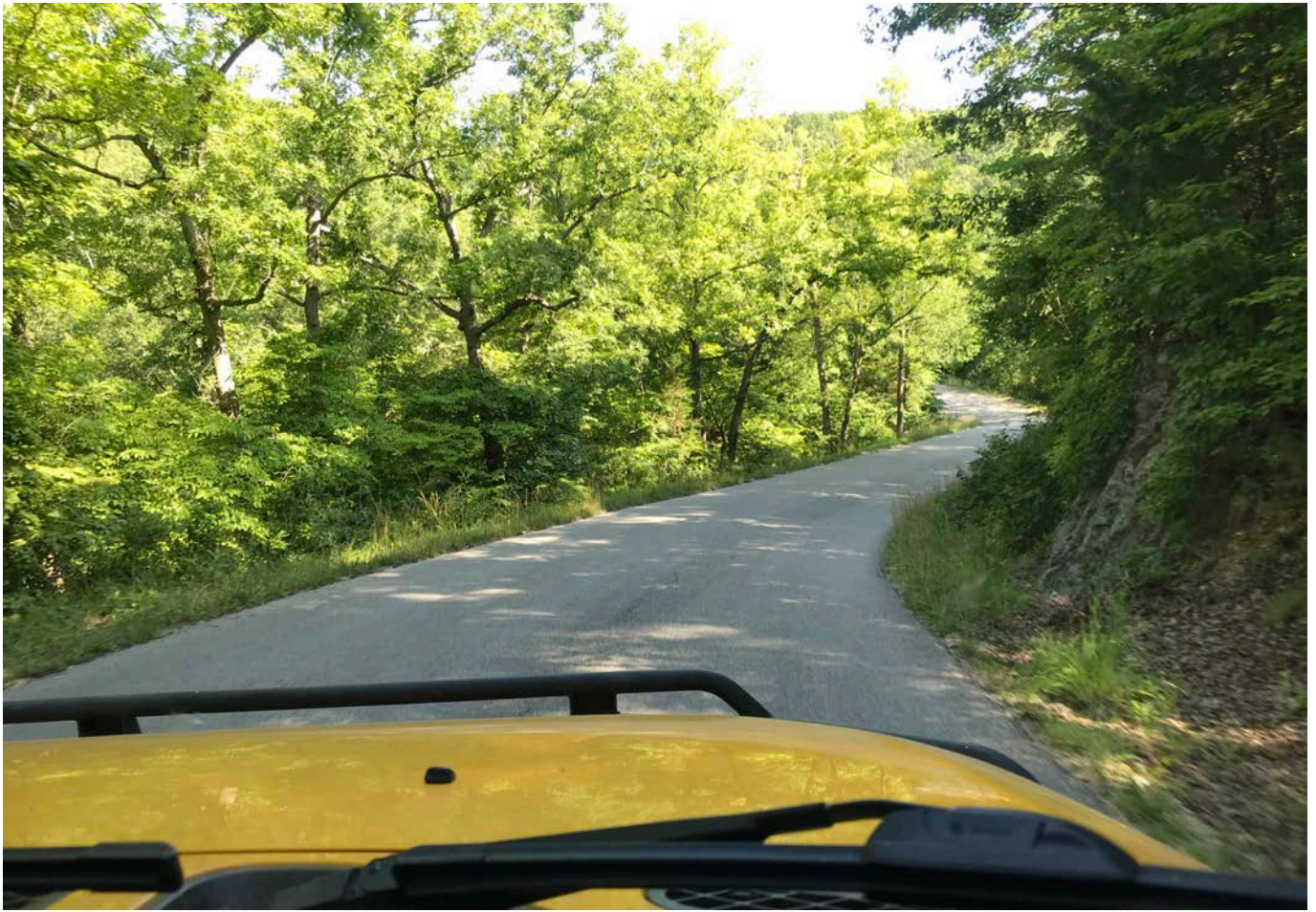
8:28AM: The Harry S. Truman Reservoir, Warsaw, MO



8:42AM: A farm in Warsaw, MO



9:01AM: A farm in Hermitage, MO



9:33AM: *The road to Rita's in Roach, MO*



9:37AM: Rita, Beau, and Rita's pound puppy Lucy greet Brian – and - vice versa! Beau, "It's so good to see Daddy!"



10:36AM: Thirteen-year-old Beau rides home on my lap, his eyes focused on his favorite human, Brian.

Thank you...

Pam Reed Crook for making Beau available to us after his retirement from the show ring, where he was known as

Ch. Turningpt What was I Thinking?

Thank you...

Dr. Randy Eltringham for breeding sweet Beau AKA Bo Duke, whose birthday is March 7, 2006.



11:33AM: Mark Twain National Forest



JULY 9, 2018, AROUND 1:00PM: My beautiful Stokesia "Peachie's Pick" Stokes' Aster welcomes us home.

Thank you for joining us.

I hope you are happy you came along.

It's GOOD to be home.

LOVE one another.

Peace and Hugs,

Joy

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JKß