

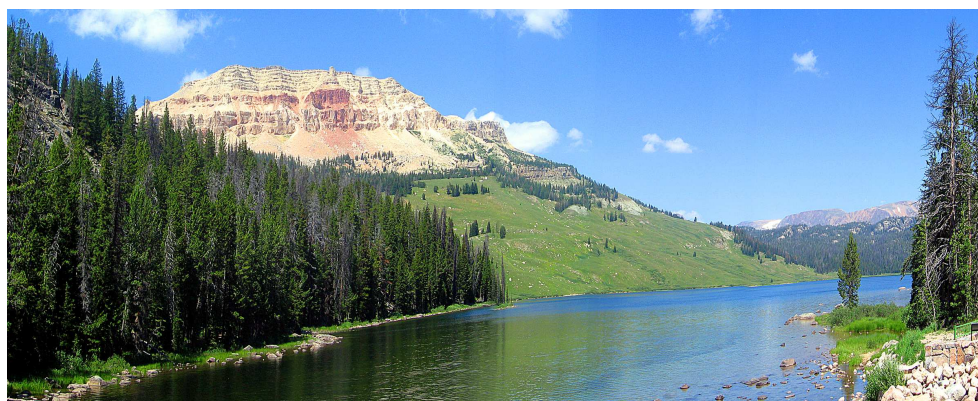
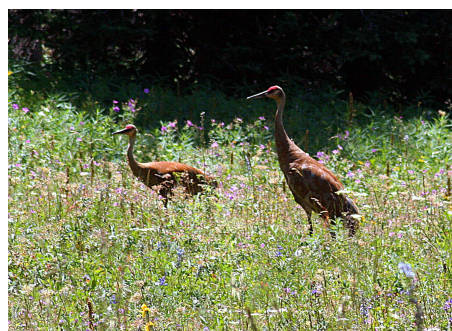
8/6, Sun: We stopped at "Headwaters of the Missouri State Park" near Bozeman MT. The photo shows the confluence of the Madison and Jefferson Rivers. Then we went to the American Computer Museum which traces the development of computing and communications through a small number of exhibits. Today Walmart is advertising a 32GB memory stick for \$11.29; that's the equivalent of 4,000 of these large disks.

Lewis and Clark reach the Headwaters

You are standing at the headwaters of the great Missouri River. The Jefferson and Madison Rivers converge here, with the Gallatin joining one mile downstream to become the Missouri River. Here, the famed explorers accomplished a major goal of their expedition: to explore the Missouri River to its source. They camped here for several days while they prepared to continue their journey.



8/7, Mon: We drove from Bozeman to Billings MT today, but not the direct way down I-90. Rather, we went south to Yellowstone National Park and then over the Beartooth Highway through Red Lodge MT. The AAA guidebook lists this highway as a "Gem", and it is! We saw a number of animals along the way: bison rolling in the dust (and hundreds of others grazing), some sandhill cranes in a mountain meadow, and a marmot at the top of Beartooth Pass, 10,947 feet. And the scenery was spectacular!





8/8, Tues: Billings MT to Dickinson ND via I-90 & I-94. A vast amount of the country is dedicated to agriculture. Those of us who spent most of our time in cities know very little about the use of the fields we drive past. Kathy and I have been wishing that farmers along the major roads would put up signs telling us city folk what is growing. Then, a few days ago we were driving south from Quincy WA on WA 281 and observed signs by every field identifying its use. We have learned that these signs are sponsored by an organization called AgFARMation.



Another thing we have noticed is that back in the east hay is baled into packages maybe 18 inches square by 3 feet long. Out here in the west it is either baled into packages the same shape but much bigger or, more commonly, rolled into cylinders a couple of feet tall and about 5 feet in diameter. Here's one.

8/9, Weds: Dickinson to Fargo ND. Mostly rolling farmland, with lots of wheat and sunflowers. The speed limit on back roads in MT is 70 and on the Interstate its 80; here in SD the Interstate is down to 75. We're having a thunderstorm now - first rain we've seen in quite a while. Not doing much sightseeing, just driving from Billings MT to Minneapolis MN. Could have done it in 2 longish days but at our age we decide to take 3 easy days.

8/13, Sun: We spent Thursday driving to a suburb of Minneapolis to visit Bert H, a friend of mine from elementary school days in Hackensack NJ. We spent 2 days with Bert and a few members of his extensive family. On Friday Bert and I visited a concrete arrow in the backyard of a house a few towns away which was installed by the government in the early days of air mail to help pilots find their way from city to city. At the time there was a tall tower with a beacon in the center of each arrow, which were installed at 10-mile intervals. The arrow indicated the direction to the two neighboring beacons. We also visited a small airfield that had several World War II aircraft being restored and maintained by volunteers. Most impressive to me was a B-25 in working condition.



Saturday we spent an afternoon boating with one of Bert's daughters and her family.

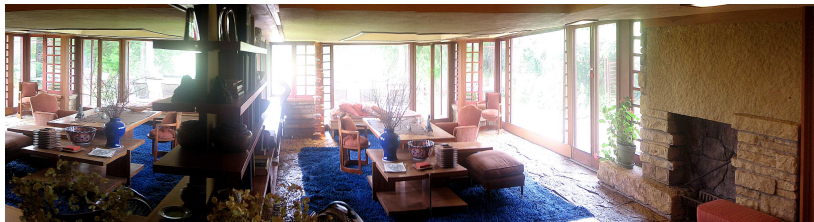
Today we drove to Dellwood WI where we will spend a few days with one of Kathy's cousins. Along the way we visited the Minnesota Marine Art Museum which, although it is focused on Marine Art, has a good collection of paintings by artists of the Hudson River School. I'm very fond of this style.

8/14, Mon: The International Crane Federation in Baraboo WI has a pair (or more) of each of the 14 kinds of cranes in the world. Most of them were willing to make themselves seen by us. The photos are of Whooping Cranes, which now have a population of over 400 wild birds, up from a low of 16 in 1941. We learned of the ICF from the AAA guidebook.

Then we went to see Dr. Evermore's Forevertron, which we learned of from the Atlas Obscura (thanks again, Heather). This is the largest of hundreds of "junk" sculptures built by a man who we were told is now in a nursing home. It is about 150 feet in diameter and over 40 feet tall.



8/15, Tues: First we visited the Taliesin estate, with several buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright starting in 1910. The photos are of the building which was his home and studio. Then we went to nearby "The House on the Rock" built by a man who seemed to have collected almost everything made by man. To me his most interesting collection was of automated music players, from small music boxes to large orchestral automatons. He also has what is claimed to be the world's largest carousel. The House on the Rock is featured in BOTH the AAA guide to Wisconsin and the Atlas Obscura!



8/17, Thurs: We spent yesterday afternoon with Kathy's cousin Judy in Dellwood WI on the lake. At the end of the day we went with a friend of Judy's to check out some travel trailers (for the friend, not us). Today we drove to Sandusky OH. Traffic was a bit heavier near Chicago than it has been in the boonies for the last few weeks, but we avoided rush hour congestion everywhere.



8/18 Fri: Spending the night in Parsippany NJ. Lots of hours of rain on the highway today, but no difficulties.

8/19 Sat: We arrived in Rockport MA about 3:30. There was a tremendous amount of traffic on the Mass Pike from Sturbridge to Waltham (and even more going west than going east). Stopped at Trader Joe's and at the liquor store to fill the pantry. We'll be here for 4 weeks. Then we're off to Indianapolis for 9 days with the grandchildren, and finally we return to Sarasota. The trip is far from over, but my "daily" postings are stopping. Here's where we'll spend the next 4 weeks. The corner of the house behind it on the left was our home from February 1998 thru July 2007. It's good to be back in the neighborhood!

