

JULY 2018 JOURNALS & TRAVEL ITINERARY

July 2- Amboy, Illinois, staying at the O'Connell's Yogi Bear Resort, for five days. This is a member park of the Trails Collection (TC), a new group of resorts we recently signed up for guaranteeing us additional free stays on top of the many resorts we already have to choose from.

July 7- Travel to Buchanan, Michigan staying at Bear Cave Campground for 7 days a Thousand Trails Resort (TT). This will be a repeat visit to this park. Dennis once visited us at this RV Park. Carla tells me we'll also be revisiting Notre Dame again. It was an enjoyable visit the last time.

July 14 - Travel to Howe, Indiana, for five days staying at Twin Mills RV Resort (TT). (61 MI)

July 19 - Travel to Jefferson, Ohio, for only two days, since it does not look like there is much to do there. There we'll be staying at Kenisee Lake Resort. In the TT resort booklet there's only one picture of this place, but it looks awesome. (distance 268 MI)

July 21 - We do an overnight at Cracker Barrel or Walmart (CB/WM).

July 22 - We're off to Sturbridge Village for eleven days staying at the Sturbridge Village RV Resort. We've built in some extra time for venues we've seen and want to revisit, as well as, visiting family and possibly Fr. Michael Gill.

JULY 30 - We do another overnight at a Cracker Barrel or Walmart (CB/WM).

JULY 31 - The final leg of the itinerary. Here we'll be staying at the Patten Pond Camping Resort around Bar Harbor, Maine. This will be a fourteen day stay. A longer stay than all the others since this location and Bar Harbor are the object of the trip. Leave Aug 14th

JULY 2018 BLOGS

7.02.2018 Mississippi Rapids Rest Area



Just crossed into Illinois, this is the Mississippi River.



Mississippi again and below is a visitor's station. Our coach, parked at the Illinois Visitors Station.

7.02-2018- Yogi Bear's Park



All newbies must stop in here to register. They have our information so this should not take to long. I did tell you it was Yogi Bear's Park. A nice beach area but for some reason it's closed today.



Unique but very small park rental cottages. There are no shortages of tent campers here.



Great park to just walk around. Temp is around 88 degrees with very little humidity.



We met the folks that own this cottage, they've been coming back here for nineteen years and own several others that they rent out. Yes this is a real palm tree, like what you might find in West Palm Beach, but could it really survive this far north. We're about one-hundred miles west of Chicago.



Ducks of all ages enjoy this lake as well.



Doesn't get much nicer than this. I'm sure we'll be back again someday, after all it is on the way to Iowa.



I love this cottage. It's log-covered and probably a pine interior and it looks so comfortable. This is the campground pier. Tomorrow Carla and I will take a walk around this lake and the walk begins right here.



Not sure, but from a distance I'd say that might be the Ranger Station, of otherwise known as a gift shop. Many campers come as a group and pitch their tents together.



7.4 -Fourth of July...

Nothing planned today so we will go on a walk around the lake. This is the Warf so this is where we begin. The pictures of cottages are just that, no significance to them. It's amazing how unique the owners can get. The Lakeside walk.



This is a huge indoor activity building for the kids.





7.04.2018-Like this is not something you see at every campground. You must pay extra to enjoy this water slide but it's very reasonable. Below is another pool area.





Asked, what's biting, just catfish! We're told this is one of the must-see parts of the campground.



This beautiful waterfall area...awesome! Now we get back to our lakeside walk.



This is the mid-point of our trek. I thought it would take much longer but that's not the case.



The campground does provide facilities for them and even fresh water from place to place. We've reached the three-quarter point of our walk, the corn field. Carla noticed the beginnings of the corn cob here. We've finally gotten back to the campground, and it only took about one hour. Below. Our site at Yogi Bear's. Yes, we have a slight view of the lake from the coach! The walk was great but I'm ready to just veg-out for the next couple of hours.

July 5, 2018-The Reagan Boyhood Home:



The name is designated such because this is not where he was born, that was a short distance from here. This was a mail-order home from Sears and Roebuck. The buyers would pick out the home style they liked, place the order and in this case send in \$1500 and your house-kit would be delivered to you on your lot. All the wood and materials needed to complete the construction of the home would be provided in the kit. The buyers would, of course, have to find the carpenters to complete the job.



The furnishings are not all belonging to the Reagans, but are period appropriate. The fireplace was located in the parlor. The rule in this home, as it was in my childhood home, the parlor was off-limits except for special occasions or very special guests; relatives, birthdays and possibly for Santa Clause as for my home back then. Ron and his brother Neil also known as "Moon", would get paid a penny for doing odd jobs around the house. Ron felt his brother Neil might be stealing some of his pennies. These pennies were important for the reason it would cost five-pennies to go to the movie house to see a movie. Eventually Ron discovered a loose tile in the fireplace hearth so he would stretch his body from

the hall over to the hearth and hide his precious coins. Remember no one was allowed to walk in the "parlor." To try to bring in some additional money Ron's mother, Nell, was an excellent seamstress.



On the bed is the family bible. Mom would read from the bible almost nightly. This picture was taken of the President and wife Nancy with brother Neil when they visited the family homestead while President. The reason they appear to be not that comfortably sitting is that the curators of the museum home were not sure the bed could support all three, so they were pretending to be seated on the bed. Above. The quilt bed cover is not original to the Reagans but they did indeed have a very similar cover on the parent's bed.



7.05.18-This is a family picture of the Reagans. Jack and Nell Reagan with Neil and younger Ron Reagan. Below is the family living room. On the oval table would be a pair of glasses to remind the guide to tell visitors that Ron was visually impaired until he was eleven when he tried on a pair of glasses in play only to find he was able to see properly.



Family dining room. In the glass case against the wall is a selection on china. Nell was a collector. On the occasion that she would provide a service to a neighbor or friend, seeing that many at that time were very poor, she would accept a tea cup instead. The Reagans had a gas stove although this is a period model not theirs.



7.05.18-The unique piece of cookware can also be seen on the stove. Try and guess the purpose of the cookware. The answer is at the bottom of this blog. Dave, our guide, is now in the Reagan kitchen. He is holding a very useful tool of the day. None of us, not even Carla, could identify it. Answer to this, as well, can be found at the bottom of this blog.





The Reagan garage, in the back yard. In the garage in a Model T 1929 which the Reagans used to own.

Above, of course, is an early day ice chest. Most back doors would remain unlocked so when the ice-man came, if no one was at home, he would enter and leave the amount of ice the family needed as indicated on the sign: 25, 50 or 100 pounds of ice. The milk man also had such an arrangement as to deliver the amount of milk the family would need and place the milk in the ice chest if they were not home. At the very bottom of the ice chest is a draw that collected the water from the melting ice. It was Ron's job to continually empty the receptacle so it would not overflow and must not spill any of the water as well. He did once. The penalty for spilling the collected water was to wash the entire kitchen floor area.

Answer on the cookware: an early toaster.

Answer on the tool in Dave's hands: An agitator for cleaning clothes.

7.08.2018- BEAR CAVE RV CAMPGROUND

This is a re-visit for us. For some reason it looked much nicer three years ago. For anyone who would like to be refreshed on the park you can click on this link:

[goto: Bear Cave](#)



This is actually the office.



Just a couple of pictures to remind you of the park. We're in a totally different location, you might call the cheap seats. When we got here, we were across the street with no satellite and no sewer. Come today, Sunday AM, the campers that were here were leaving so we moved to they're spot so now, at least we have satellite. This is a concern we did not have three years ago, July 20, 2015, when we were here last. Hard to believe three years have go by so fast. This will be a seven-day stay leaving this coming Saturday.

7.11 Wednesday- uneventful

Today is going to be much like yesterday, tomorrow and Friday, uneventful. But the fact is we're retired, so hanging around and just enjoying these beautiful days and low 80's temps is just our luck. Just got back from taking a few "current" pictures of the park, our site in particular. This is our site. We made very good use of our fire ring.



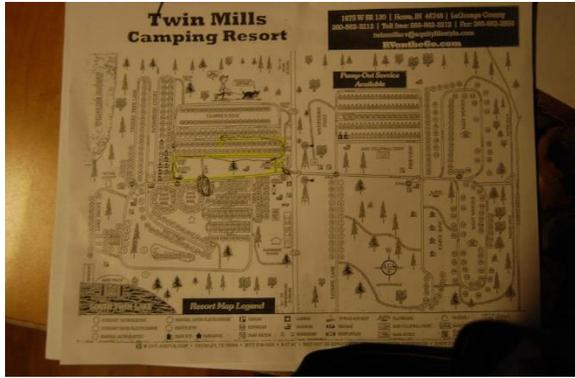
As you can tell from the dust on the car, this is a very dusty campground. This campground is worse than Alaska. Next time we come through here it'll be for no more than a 2-day stay. Even better there's a very big. 7.11.18-Below is the Class-B that our friend Ann Cunningham. She's is like a 6-month full-timer.

7.14.18 TWIN MILLS CAMPING RESORT



7.14 Sat: We departed Bear Cave

and arrived at Twin Mills by noon time. This was a very short but enjoyable ride to the tree-laden campground. The fire-ring at our site is sad, I might try confiscating one from across the road and leaving our in place. There will definitely be no TV this week. We are totally enveloped in trees. It is a very comfortable setting. I will check with Dennis on whether we are at war or what, of any importance, has happen. The coach is a little dusty but the car looks very much like it did when we traveled Alaska. Hopefully I'll get it washed in the next couple of days. Temps are projected to be in the upper seventies with 1-2 day with a possibility of some rain. The campground graphic below shows how big this camping ground really is.



Just a couple of additional pictures on this campground. This is a Trails Collection facility.

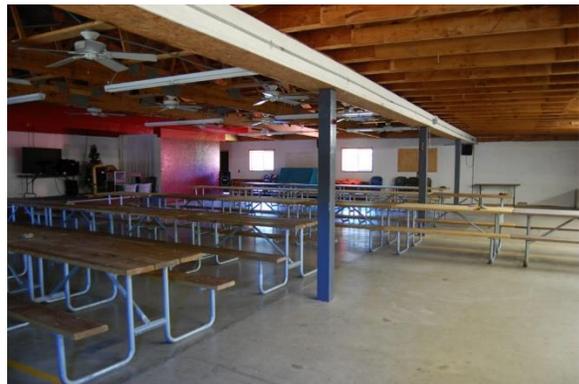


7.14.18-Campground Entrance.





7.14.18-Another playground area for the younger kids.





7.14.18-Above is a mini menu on fast food items that will be cooked up for you if you want. It's closed today, most likely open only on weekends when this place is packed. Below is a snack shack office.

7.20 Friday - finally in Ohio



Well, we're finally in Ohio. This was a 268-mile, six-hour trip and we're tired. So, we're taking 2 days here to rest up before we continue.



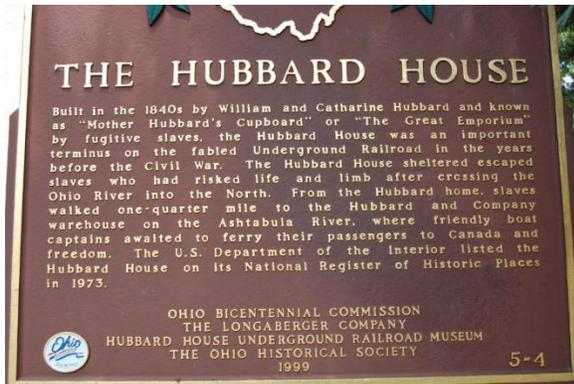
This is a very beautiful and well-maintained resort. I believe it's only a Thousand Trail Park but could easily be upgraded to an Encore facility.



7.20.18-It has two very big and beautiful lakes on the, BUT, the wild geese have taken over the ponds as their private bath tubs, so all around the lakes are signs warning "no swimming."



7.20.18-I could have stayed here a little longer to enjoy it a little more but the two days were adequate.



The first thing we learned about this venue and the Ashtabula town it's located in, is that nobody gets up on Friday mornings for anything.

It did not matter whether we were here or in the downtown district, the earliest anyone comes to work on Fridays in 1PM. OK, so it's 11AM and nothing happens here till 1PM, so we decide to visit the shore line. Ashtabula is a coastal town and it sit on the coast of Lake Erie. Since there's no way to close down a beach area, we felt safe wandering in town meandering to find Lake Erie.



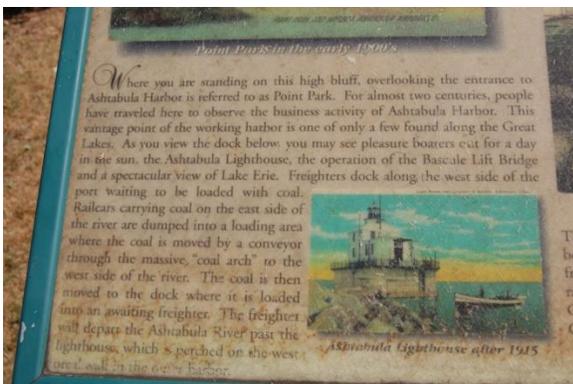
One of the very unique features of the town is their Draw Bridge. It opens on the half hour and on the hour religiously. Evidently the bridge master does not have the luxury of sleeping in on Fridays as does the rest of the town.



7.20.18-Carla enjoys it greatly when a town goes out of its way to add a homey atmosphere. Yup! So in order to keep all these flowers blossoming and without the luxury of a Disney irrigation system, it's up to a single individual to walk up and down the streets with a long spout watering can and keep the vegetation alive. The business owners on the far side of the town took pity on this person and actually began monitoring and watering the flowers in their neighborhood on their own. I wanted so much to visit this church; it was beautiful. But as typical for Catholic Churches, it's come and visit but on our time schedule. All locked up and they were not going to open at 1 PM



There's a museum here to visit if you wish, but time would not permit us to do so. It is said that in the museum is a block of Sea Glass that weighed in at over 200 pounds and was probably the largest example of sea glass in the country; we just took their word for it.



Here we are on a roadway above the town looking down on the draw bridge. It's still not 1PM yet

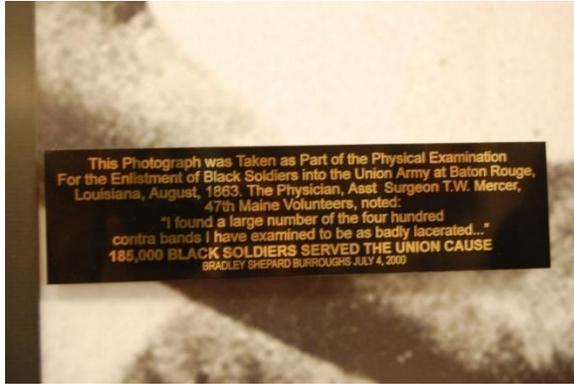


7.20.18-This town was an essential port for both loading coal on to barges and also having barges deliver coal to the town. The problem was that the deep-water basin was on the other side of the town. So, as you look at the picture above the coal was delivered behind the big buildings with the red roofs. So, about a hundred years ago the coal company decided the solution was with a conveyor belt that would take the coal from the far side and then convey it on a very long belt to where it could be used by the town. Below is Walnut Beach, which is Lake Erie. Water Temperature today was 65 degrees.



Above is a bag of sea glass the residents find in the beach sand. Below, of course, is the beach.





The picture to the left describes the picture below as to how severely slaves were treated by their masters. This slave was enlisting so he could be set free after the conclusion of the war, if he makes it. I don't get very far with pictures at this venue because I was quickly informed that picture taking was prohibited. There's just so much to talk about as a result of our two-hour tour I could not possibly try to fit it in this blog.

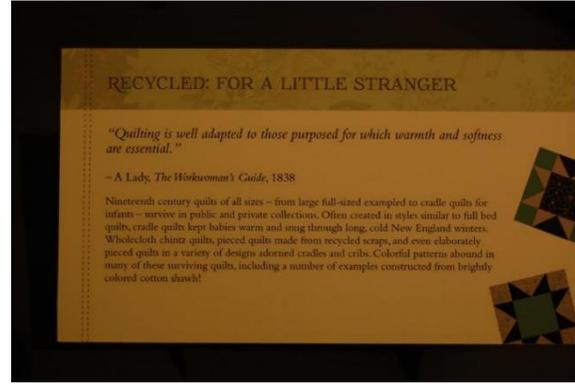


7.27.2018- Sturbridge Village

This place was so big and so informative, there's no way to even recap for the blog. It's easier for you to just use the link provided and go to their website for more information. [goto: Sturbridge Village](#)
 What a great day. First day in almost seven days with no rain in sight. Our goal today is to visit Sturbridge Village. Over the course of the day, over three hours at the village, I took almost three-hundred pictures. It's not possible to download all those into this journal but I will try to pick out the more interesting.

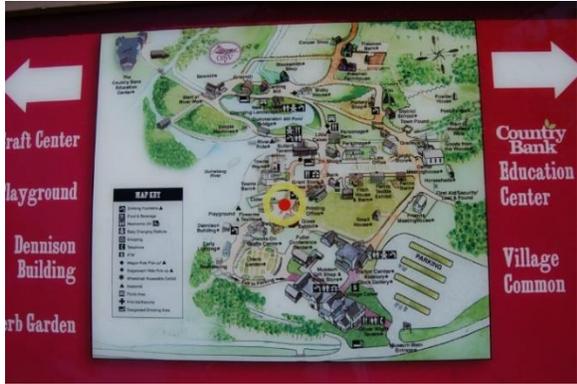


Below is the Village Museum. It gives examples of glassware, clocks and even uniforms.



Left over materials are used back then for small purposes.





We'll come back to this place in a few pictures.

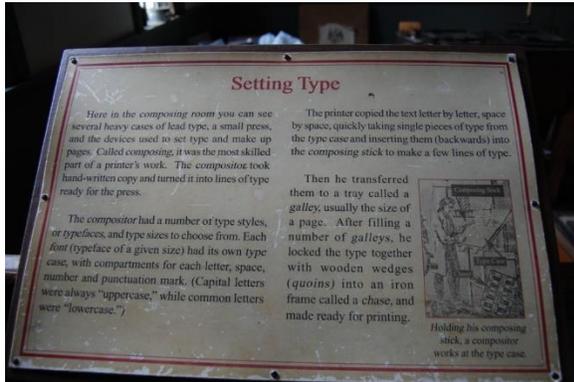




It was closed the first time we walked by. As you can see it's open.

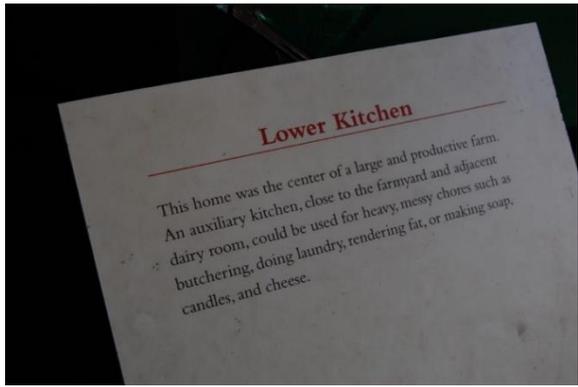


This guy was so informative, I felt like leaving a donation so he could go out and purchase the items he so dearly craved for, in his presentation.



We keep running into this guy on the carriage. Not exactly Wells Fargo, but in its day...

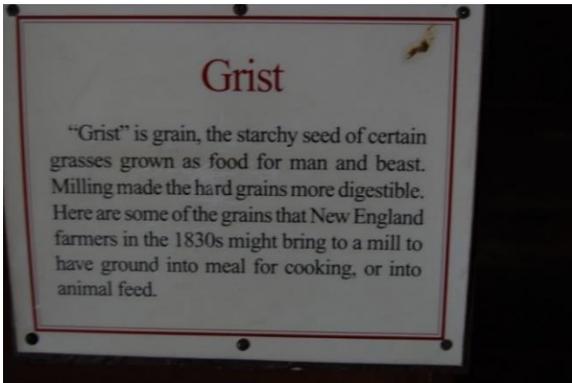
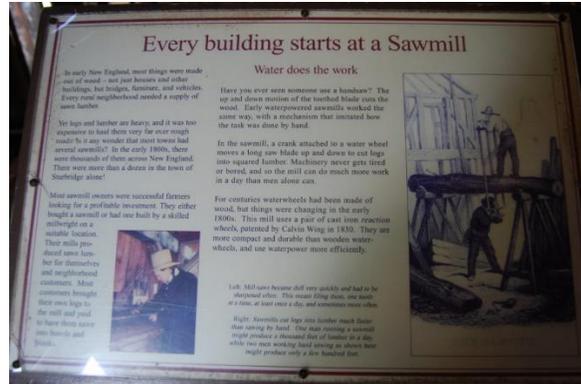






Great day for walking and being outside.











The desks and benches in this classroom varied in size since a teacher, back then, would teach many age groups. Below...need I say more!





This man was so interesting and I was so tired from walking. I could write an entire blog just on the information he gave us. I asked him about the cost of a pair of shoes in those days, and he replied; About the same as today. Back then a man would work sunup to sundown, six days a week for a dollar a day. If he needed a pair of shoes it would cost him about two dollars. In today's dollars a good pair of leather shoes, not imported, will run around 200-300 dollars, or about one-third of a man's wages for a week, we just don't have to work so many hours. I could go on, but!





There's always a gift shop.



7.28.2019-Sat-The Home of Saint Anne Shrine.

This means it is Mass, Pizza and Beer night. What we attended was so far from what we were expecting. This is definitely a destination venue. Not only does it have an indoor shrine Church, St. Anne Chapel, Gift Shop and on top of all that an outside pavilion where Mass is celebrated from June to September. This parish is over 130 years old. You don't have to be a member of this parish to feel the bond the parishioners have with this church. We came back on Sunday, after the last Mass to take pictures. Parishioners were still mulling around the grounds. As I was taking pictures, I noticed the parking lot filling up. Something was taking place, not sure what, but the pavilion was filled with worshippers.









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AUGUST 2018 JOURNALS

8.27 Monday -

Just another perfect day. Temps expected to reach the low eighties only. This will be a field trip day. First will be Fort Ticonderoga. The fort takes up a great deal of real estate but only has housing on the north, south and west sides of the fort.

8.27...Fort Ticonderoga

As in all new venues it usually begins at the Visitors Center above. We actually stayed at the fort quite awhile. On our way up we saw signs for Lake George about twenty miles south of Corinth, NY. We had plans to make the Lake a separate trip but decided to include it on our way back from the Fort. We would begin exploring Lake George by enjoying burgers at the local A&W, awesome meal! This is truly a great day to pick up some rays, but rays only. We drifted down to the water to test the water temperature and it was low

enough to chill a six-pack of beer pretty quickly. This, explains why the beach is so crowded. Once again, we stayed a little longer than we had planned. We left around 4:30 and were home by 5pm to feed Scoots. We plan to rest and relax the next two days. I have separate blogs on both Fort Ticonderoga and Lake George, please take time to visit each.

8.26. Plans change.

Ken just came over with good news and not so good news. The not so good news would be no ribs tonight. The good news is that he and Kim were buying a relatively new RV Trailer 28 foot and they have to empty and sell their 18-footer they now have. From what he says, it has a great deal more than their current trailer has. Occasionally good things happen to really good people. He and his family should have even happier camping experiences in the future for sure. So happy for this beautiful family.

8.23 Thursday:

We were just lazy today. Did a little shopping at Walmart and on the way, homemade mention of the many homeowners mowing lawns, scraping paint and weed whacking, I still never look back on our decision to move our home to the curbstone and go on the road. About 2:30 today I made a small fire in the fire-ring and we both came out to enjoy the ambiance of the flames...Eventually the 72-degree temps dropped to the high sixties, and the warmth of the coach was beginning to appeal to us. We had just settled back after having dinner and began watching MSNBC, of course for any breaking news, when someone knocked on our door. It was the young couple with a family of six, not to mention two dogs, standing outside. Earlier I had drifted over to their site earlier this morning to complement them on having such an awesome family. They volunteered that three of the six kids were theirs and they had adopted the other three, blew my mind! When I was there, as the case with all guys, his attempt to put together a new smoker for their pork dinner this evening was not going well and he decided to open the instructions, I left then so as not to be a distraction. But getting back to the knocking. It was them Ken and Kim Walsh of Rosendale, NY. In their hands they held two huge pork ribs and they were offering them to us, it was impossible to refuse. It was only minutes after they left that we were sitting at the table anxious to devour this delicacy of theirs. And a delicacy it was, absolutely delicious. Once all was eaten I strolled over to their site, once again, to thank them so much for their thoughtfulness. This is the first time we had ever been treated so kindly, especially from folks we hardly knew. Once I arrived across the road it was hard for me to state just how good this meal was that they shared with us. Then out of the blue he offered to cook Carla and I up a rack of ribs for our own consumption, unbelievable!

So I leave this story of this truly generous family going to smoke us up some ribs for Sunday evening. As they put it, the smoker does all the work, they just overlook the cooking process. We can hardly wait for Sunday evening dinner but we will miss them and their kids once they leave. In an age consumed with acquiring stuff and material objects, it's reassuring to have had the opportunity of knowing parents and family as genuine and generous as these folks. More on this after the weekend.

8.22... Alpine Lake RV Resort

We arrived at Alpine Lake RV Resort around 4pm, we were tired. Our goal is no more than 200 miles or no later than 2PM travelling. No matter we're here and this place is big. Over 450 sites in total. As you can see we've added a few new states to our national map. North Dakota appears to be elusive, maybe someday.

8.21 Tuesday- Trip to Cornish, NY

Trip to Cornish, NY Alpine Lake RV Resort. We got a very early start this morning since our trip should come in close to 225 miles. This time, for a change, we'll be tripping over country roads. The views were awesome. Most interesting were the beautiful neighborhoods and so many beautiful homes we drove by along the way. This, of course, is the sign we've been waiting for. Our destination is for Corinth, NY a short distance from Lake George Lake Champlain. We have about 100 miles to go at this point.

8.19 Sunday-

We spent time at home in the morning but in the afternoon, we jaunted over to Mary Ann's and gave her a steak dinner with corn and the fixings. No matter how you slice it, you have to admit, Mary Ann's cottage is priceless. We've enjoyed a very interesting and comfortable week residing in the Derby/Newport area. Our campsite was awesome and we were even able to get our satellite system back in operation again. The sign post tells all that all roads eventually will lead back to Derby, VT. We're more or less all packed up and ready to move first thing Tuesday morning. Electric, jacks and slides are all that are left to be done, about ten minutes work, which is the way we like it on a travel day. Not sure what's going on with my camera, but it has decided that I prefer these smaller pictures more than the bigger ones. I could stretch them out, but I might live with this, at least for a while.

8.18 Saturday- Mary Ann for Mass

Things to do most of the day but did meet up with Mary Ann for Mass at 4PM. View from the front steps of St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church. After Mass we shot over to Mary Ann's for grinders and a movie. Best part of the day was the ride home. Turns out someone owns an Elk farm. This farm was home to not just a couple of elk but for an entire herd of them. I was later told that the owner of the farm owns a local restaurant as well as another farm raising buffalo. I couldn't see any "do not feed the animals signs" so Carla started feeding the Elk.

8.15- Prouty Beach & Campground

Last day again for this half of the Monthly Journal. We got off to an early start. I thought it was to be a two-hundred-mile trip but I stood corrected, only about 125 miles. The views along the way were just awesome. We're back again in mountain territory. We arrived at Prouty Beach & Campground around noon and by 1PM we're all set up. Satellite reception is still eluding us; something we have to address quickly. Carla made contact with her sister next. Mark and Jody were visiting her and were at the water when we called. They came to visit us a little later in the day. We were told this was Mt. Washington. We've done that already, on to other things. Once again Mt. Washington, as we leave Gorham, NH. Our GPS took us through Bethlehem, NH. Now we're heading toward Littleton, NH. No stopping this time. Ah! The sign we're looking for. We now have about one hour to go before we reach Newport, VT. Mary Ann is about a ten-minute ride from Newport. What's not to love about the mountains. Our Destination, Prouty Beach and Campground. Just got here so just a few pictures on the park. There's a separate blog on the park with more pictures.

8.16 Thursday. Littleton, NH

What a beautiful morning. Today were taking a field trip to Littleton, NH going down memory lane. First though, I had to take a couple of more shots of this beautiful lake. The campground is owned by the town of Newport, Newport Parks and Rec. Temp today 75 degree. We've just arrived in Littleton, NH. We've eaten here before, the Littleton Diner. Carla had a burger and fries and we both munched on my spaghetti and meatballs. both very good meals as we were expecting. I've given Littleton its own blog. It's a short read and a somewhat interesting concerning small town living. Mark, Jody and Mary Ann came over for a late afternoon cookout. As usual we kept it simple, hot dogs and corn I believe. It was nice visiting with family for a change. Above are Mary Ann, Carla and myself. One very nice plus for this campground are the sunsets.

8.14- We left the campground one day early so we would have no pressure getting to the Webb RV Dealership to have a couple of small fixes to the coach. It needs an oil change and the generator needs fluids and a new filter.

8.7 Tuesday Today will be quite warm in Ellsworth but the coast is supposed to be in the mid 80's. We plan to revisit Southwest Harbor and discover the Bass Harbor Head Light(house). I've devoted an individual blog to this venue, hope you enjoy the visit. I welcome you back to Southwest Harbor. We were here a few days ago with the Ward's. We ate at Beal's Restaurant. If you squint hard enough you can see it at the left side of the picture above. Below is the other side of the harbor. At the end of the day we will enjoy a fire, cookout and outdoor dinner. This is such a good life; Carla and I are so blessed. There is not a day that goes by without giving HIM thanks for all he has given us. Cheeseburgers, corn and beer, what a perfect meal. Life is good.

8.9- Rainy day today.

Carla and I decided to sit down and try to figure out where we might be going after September 12. It took a couple of hours adjusting the logistics of the travel but it finally came together. You can check out new updated "Travel Schedule" on the "Sept. 2018 Travel Schedule and Beyond" blog. It's not 100% set in stone, a couple of venues still must be booked but we're too early to book them yet. Our travels, although tenuous, are pretty much fixed until January 12, 2019 at this time.

8.10 Friday- We got up early this morning, had a light breakfast and were out of the house by 9am. Our first of two venues today would be Thunder Hole. I devoted an entire Blog on this venue and deserves a read. The blog is basically another pictorial having mostly pictures but there is some background information. We feel you should enjoy the pictures. Our next venue at around 2:00 this afternoon is going to be the Wildwood Stables. This was going to be pictorial until I found an excellent write-up by the National Park Service. The information in this blog is so very interesting. I hope you enjoy the read.

8.5 Sunday-Carla's Birthday...

We celebrate quietly since buying stuff does not work well with this lifestyle. We do try to go out to eat however. Today would be Helen's. The Internet had nothing but great things to say about the place, as so did Helen's Website. It was a mixed bag. Only a thirty-minute drive from the campground. The inside was very homey and inviting. We ordered calamari which was not on the menu but they did serve it, only they had run out. So we opted for the fried onions and were very impressed by the size of the portion. Bread soon followed which was heavenly. So soft, warm and delicate you could cut it with a butter knife. Minutes later our salads. The picture does not do the salads justice, they were very good. Carla had chicken parmesan, in general was good but the tomato sauce, she says, was thin and tasteless. Chicken and pasta were both good. We usually buy the Great Value tomato sauce at Walmart that is very good; I might mention it to them. I ordered their "Mix Grill." I was afraid it might be too much to hope for, and in a way it was. I always order mashed potatoes, but today I ordered baked with butter no cream, and got cream, I assume the butter might be in there too.

The shrimp kea-bob and the pork ribs were all you could wish for. Shrimp was cooked deliciously well and the meat fell off the bones for the ribs. They should stop the meal at this point. Part of the meal was a six-ounce steak. This is where they tried to overwhelm and not over please the patron. It was dry and lifeless. Far better would it have been to serve up a 3-4 oz. better piece of meat and seasoned properly than what I got. In all the meals were good but I was hoping it would be a little more appetizing. Carla also tried the Wild Blueberry Pie. She's more used to the old-fashioned blueberry pies baked in an oven, the kind that comes out hot, thick and gooey. Maybe next time. We have had some excellent meals since arriving in Maine, and I assume they'll be more.

8.4 St. Joseph Church in Ellsworth, ME

Mass will be at 4:30 PM on Saturdays

8.2 Thursday: Tom and Sue

As scheduled, Tom and Sue picked us up promptly at 10:30 in the morning. Carla and I were just finishing our last cup of coffee outdoors, under the awning. Beautiful day again today. Next two days projected for rain. The Ward's leave this area tomorrow as they will caravan through the Maritime Provinces. We will remain here until the 14th. As like yesterday they have two venues in mind. First will be a trip to Southwest Harbor about thirty miles south from here but will take us over an hour to get there.

The goal here is to just enjoy the area and take in the coastal Maine atmosphere. Tom has planned, after we see to our hearts content, to eat at Beal's Lobster Pier. They've been here almost a hundred years and the size and taste of their food is a testament to their longevity. A big item here is the Coast Guard. Right across the street is one of their major training and residential centers. We had Lobster Rolls yesterday and we wanted to have it again today. Yesterday's roll looked like a child's hamburger as opposed to the super-sized half pounder we got today. It was served in what is called a Texas toast roll and is filled to overflowing to the point

that mine needed two toothpicks in it to keep the bigger pieces in place and not to fall off the mammoth roll. Awesome. After eating we walked the docks to see the fishing boats and the CG 36-footer at the pier. There's a little more to say about this stay and I'll cover it in the "Southwest Harbor" blog mostly will be pictorial. After that we wobbled to the car, all of us holding our stomachs so plush with food. Our next stop will be Cadillac Mountain. This mountain is the highest of all the "east coast" mountains reaching fifteen hundred feet. This mountain overlooks Bar Harbor, Maine. A pictorial blog will follow on this as well with a little more text. go to "Cadillac Mountain." Not done yet. After all that it was around 3PM and it was time to head home. We both rested as did Tom and Sue and then they returned to our coach to enjoy a pork dinner with our favorite wine. We will both miss them once they leave again, but this is the life we lead. I'm sure we'll bump into each other again and soon. All for now.

8.1 Wednesday: Nervous Nellie and Stonington, ME

What a great night to sleep. Temps went down to 62 degrees, all our windows were open and it was chilly when we awoke this morning. Tom and Sue picked us up this morning and have planned a day of sightseeing. Our first venue will be Nervous Nellie. Our second and last stop will be Stonington, ME. It consists of several neighboring harbors and marinas in the area. As above, there's not much to say about this town so I'll designate this in a pictorial blog on its own.

August 2018 Blogs

8.1 Stonington, ME.

Located about thirty miles south of Bangor, ME. *What a great night to sleep.* Temps went down to 62 degrees, all our windows were open and it was chilly when we awoke this morning. Tom and Sue picked us up this morning and have planned a day of sightseeing. Our first venue will be Nervous Nellie. Our second and last stop will be Stonington, ME. It consists of several neighboring harbors and marinas in the area. As above, there's not much to say about this town so I'll designate this in a pictorial blog on its own. The pictures are quite nice. go to: Stonington, ME. We had lunch there as well.





8.1

The name of the restaurant was the Stonecutters Kitchen.

Carla and I each had a Lobster Roll while Tom and Sue enjoyed the Lazy Lobster dish. Needless to say the meals were delicious. We meandered around the town and took more pictures so go to the blog. We plan to have dinner with them this evening



Tom and Sue Ward and Carla. The Stonecutters' Kitchen. Carla and I enjoyed lobster rolls while Tom and Sue downed the Lazy Lobster. Food was great.





Just a bridge we had to cross going to Stonington.

8.01.2018 Nervous Nellie

located about 25 miles south of Bangor, ME. As you browse through the pictures you'll understand why Nellie might have been nervous.



In the ledger above the characters are entering facts for the town of Brockton, Mass. a town I lived in as a child. This does not look like the saloon I used to see in the show Gunsmoke. But it was a great day to walk in the woods.





Upper right would have been the village chapel

8.2 A PICTORIAL ON CADILAC MOUNTAIN



8.2 Thursday-This picture above has nothing to with Cadillac Mountain but I had to stick it in somewhere. t the left side of the lake, called Jordan Pond, is a very exquisite place to eat, but it books up early and we were not able to make reservations, the pond, however, was pretty and wanted to at least mention it.



You can't expect to drive up a mountain and not have to do a little climbing.



I was not that sure of myself with rocks, I've had occasions to lose my balance, but today went well. There's a very small town by the water that is very difficult to make out. With the assistance of the "crop" feature I was able to enlarge the town quite a bit but you lose a little sharpness. The town your seeing in the above picture is Bar Harbor Maine.



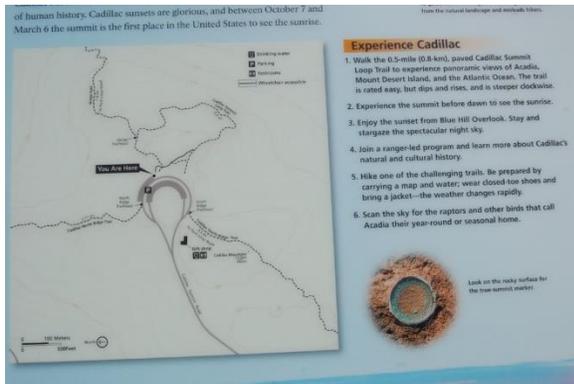
The mountain is not really that high, just about fifteen hundred feet ASL.



It is, though, the highest mountain on the eastern coast, which ,I guess is good enough for the record books.



This is a national park so the roads are kept to a minimum.



8.2.18 Thursday: Tom and Sue- SOUTHWEST HARBOUR

As scheduled, Tom and Sue picked us up promptly at 10:30 in the morning. Carla and I were just finishing our last cup of coffee outdoors, under the awning. Beautiful day again today. Next two days projected for rain. The Ward's leave this area tomorrow as they will caravan through the Maritime Provinces. We will remain here until the 14th. As like yesterday they have two venues in mind. First will be a trip to Southwest Harbor about thirty miles south from here but will take us over an hour to get there.



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This is not a good picture I hope to have it replaced soon. A big item here is the Coast Guard. Right across the street is one of their major training and residential centers.

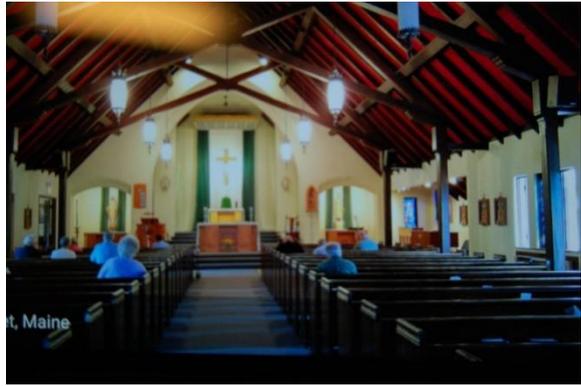






This was interesting. Each container holds ninety pounds of fish, why 90, I don't know. But this is where and how the fish are kept until the restaurant needs more fish when they run low. The fishermen come in all day long and keeping them in the water in these containers keeps them fresh. I'm sure it does not hurt to have the US Coast Guard across the street from your eatery. Time to say good-bye to Southwest. Great food, beautiful town and we had excellent company on this trip.

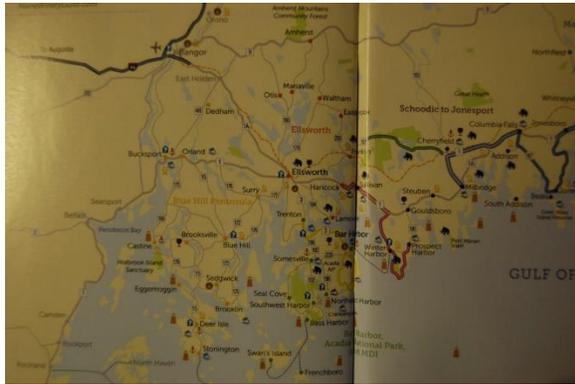
8.4 St. Joseph Church in Ellsworth, ME



Mass will be at 4:30 PM on Saturdays. Mass will be at 4:30 PM on Saturday



8.5.18-Patten Pond RV Park



As you can see from the picture above Ellsworth, ME is about thirty "slow" miles SE of Bangor, ME. Patten Pond RV Park is located in Ellsworth. This is an above average RV park especially for Thousand Trails. Just wait till you see the lake.



I can understand paying to play air hockey, but pool also? No wonder the table looks hardly used. Below is the office and general store.



8.5 Sunday- Carla's Birthday...

We celebrate quietly since buying stuff does not work well with this lifestyle. We do try to go out to eat however. Today would be Helen's. The Internet had nothing but great things to say about the place, as so did Helen's Website. It was a mixed bag.



Only a thirty-minute drive from the campground. The inside was very homey and inviting.



We ordered calamari which was not on the menu but they did serve it, only they had run out. So, we opted for the fried onions and were very impressed by the size of the portion. Bread soon followed which was heavenly. So soft, warm and delicate you could cut it with a butter knife. Minutes later our salads. Carla had chicken parmesan, in general was good but the tomato sauce, she says, was thin and tasteless. Chicken and pasta were both good. I ordered their "Mix Grill." I was afraid it might be too much to hope for, and in a way it was. The shrimp kea-bob and the pork ribs were all you could wish for. Shrimp was cooked deliciously well and the meat fell off the bones for the ribs. They should stop the meal at this point. Part of the meal was a six-ounce steak. This is where they tried to overwhelm and not over please the patron. In all the meals were good but I was hoping it would be a little more appetizing. Carla also tried the Wild Blueberry Pie. She's more used to the old-fashioned blueberry pies baked in an oven, the kind that comes out hot, thick and gooey. Maybe next time. We have had some excellent meals since arriving in Maine, and I assume they'll be more.

August 7, 2018 Bass Harbor Head Light



I welcome you back to Southwest Harbor. We were here a few days ago with the Ward's. We ate at Beal's Restaurant. If you squint hard enough you can see it at the left side of the picture above. Below is the other side of the harbor.



Maine has seventy lighthouses that dot its coastline and this is one of them. Like all the lighthouses in the US they fall under the auspices of the US Coast Guard.



This is the lighthouse. I know, I was expecting it to be six stories high and very awe inspiring, but when your over sixty feet above sea level you don't have to build a building that tall. At first I thought this was the beginning and the end of this venue, until Carla spotted tourists standing by the water. We had to find out how they got there.



Carla's found the path to the water...



Now that's the life. a person or family that has made few mistakes in their lives. Now, instead of climbing a narrow stairway inside a lighthouse to the top, like the Jupiter Lighthouse, we cautiously walk downward.



Yea! like I was really looking forward to rock climbing.



We're both a little pooped but we made it down here without incident. What an awesome trawler. A dream I had a long time ago until I realized only the one-percent can live that lifestyle, but I'm still content being part of the lower ninety-nine percent.



Yea, dream on! Below, just a trawler boat. Asked Carla if the yearning for a lobster was still on her mind, she answered no. After two lobster dinners were both satisfied. Could go for a good swordfish dinner, we'll work on it. Whoever discovered or invented cropping should be given a medal.



This guy was an encyclopedia on global warming, ice age and rising oceans. What I did not realize was that the oceans will rise as the glaciers melt, from the bottom up. but what will really make the waters rise is the heating of the oceans.

Cold temps will cause the water to constrict and form ice. Warmer temps cause the waters to expand and swell up, thus giving the appearance of a whole lot of extra water but in reality, over decades its mostly to same water expanding. Either way was all going to get wet.



That's the end of the climate warming lesson for today, it's time to head home. One our way down here the car was reading 96 degrees, but I doubt if it's any higher than 85 on the coast right here. This may look like a walk in the park for most of you but for me it was a small challenge.



Now how high is high tide at times? The water marks on the rocks to the left of the picture indicate the water reaches up to the metal pier going out from the shore, a good fifteen-feet.



This is downtown Southwest Port. Carla, once again engrossed by flowers.



It's hard for us to pass up an ice cream shop, but whoa what a crazy business they have. Low on space, you find people eating in every nook they can squeeze a chair and table in. Their menu was enticing. Carla ended us having a tune melt, and I couldn't pass up the club sandwich. But came in super-sized. Mine was about four-inches thick. We were so full we took a pass on the ice cream. It's around 2 PM and were still about twenty minutes from home. Tonight, we plan to have a fire, cookout and an outdoor picnic.

8.10 Friday- Acadia National Park-

Just a few pictures as we travel to the Acadia National Park to witness Thunder Hole. To get there we must go through Bar Harbor, ME



The views from the road are just short of awesome. See everyone standing around, well that's thunder Hole.

You'll see it better below. The idea behind this act of Nature is that the water gushes in, thousands of gallons of water, squeezes its way in that narrow canal above or below in a better picture, then smacks itself (the water) against the rock you see in the picture below. That's it in a nutshell, oh, and that make a big thunder sound.



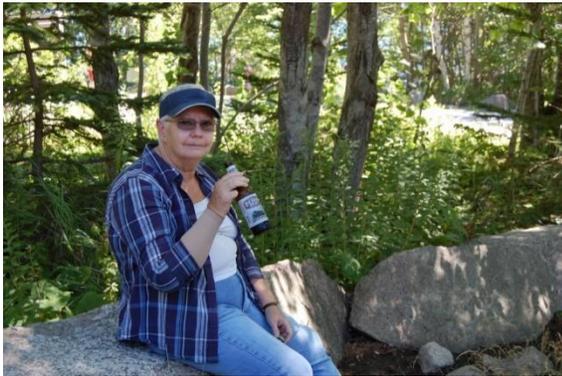
What everyone seems to forget to tell you is that this all happens about two-hours BEFORE high tide, not at high tide as one might assume. The crowds still come even though many are very disappointed.



There's not much else to tell, only that I hope you enjoy the pictures from this venue.



Just a small gift shop, we're both ready for a root beer. After our root beer we must get on the road and find Wildwood Stables, our next venue.



8.10 (Arcadia) If you cannot decide what this picture is all about it's a wild turkey in the 2 o'clock position in the picture above. At this point we're leaving Thunder Hole in search of the Visitors Building, otherwise the big Gift Shop. I thought this was it, but no. This is only the entrance to the "walkway" to the visitor's Center. Oh! forgot to mention, it's a 52 step climb up to reach the center and I'm exhausted and my day is only beginning. Up we go!!! Did make it up but not much to talk about there, the root beer shop was more exciting. Next stop The Wildwood Stables.

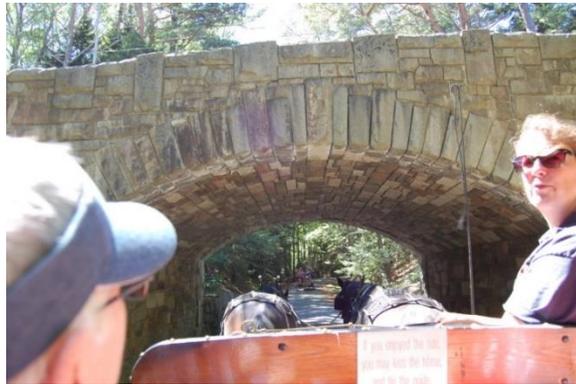
8.10 Friday : WILDWOOD STABLES...

The following text is courtesy of National Park Service. (NPS texts in italics)



Forty-five miles of rustic carriage roads, the gift of philanthropist John D. Rockefeller Jr. and family, weave around the mountains and valleys of Acadia National Park. Rockefeller, a skilled horseman, wanted to travel on motor-free byways via horse and carriage into the heart of Mount Desert Island. His construction efforts from 1913 to 1940 resulted in roads with sweeping vistas and close-up views of the landscape. His love of road building ensured a state-of-the-art system. Rockefeller's interest in road building grew naturally from his father's. John D. Rockefeller Sr., the founder of Standard Oil, had built and landscaped carriage roads on his Ohio and New York estates. From his father the junior Rockefeller learned many techniques that he applied to building his Mount Desert Island carriage roads.

The park maintains a herd of twenty-four horses of different breeds to pull the carriages. The tourist trip to view bridges lasts about two hours then they are given a two-hour resped. They never work three shifts. About every twenty minutes the park employee, giving the tour, would stop in a shady treed area to allow the horses to rest a bit. Our trip included at least three steep climbs. At the top of each hill the tour Guide would give the horses a breather from the climb.



8.10---An Integrated System

Rockefeller participated in the construction process. He walked areas staked out for road alignment and observed work in progress. He knew the laborers by name and used experts to design the bridges and engineer the roads. Throughout it all, he paid rapt attention to the most minute details, from the placement of coping stones to the cost of a running foot of road.



State-of-the-Art Roads

Acadia's carriage roads are the best example of broken-stone roads—a type of road commonly used at the turn of the 20th century—in America today. They are true roads, approximately 16 feet wide, constructed with methods that required much hand labor.

The roads were engineered to contend with Maine's wet weather. Stone culverts, wide ditches, three layers of rock, and a substantial six- to eight-inch crown ensured good drainage. Rather than flattening hillsides to accommodate the roads, breast walls and retaining walls were built to preserve the line of hillsides and save trees. Rockefeller, naturally gifted with the eye of a landscape architect, aligned the roads to follow the contours of the land and to take advantage of scenic views. He graded the roads so they were not too steep or too sharply curved for horse-drawn carriages.

Road crews quarried island granite for road material and bridge facing. Roadsides were landscaped with native vegetation such as blueberries and sweet fern. The use of native materials helped blend the roads into the natural landscape.



8.10...The Carriage Roads Today

Maintaining the extensive carriage road system is no easy task, and the National Park Service could not do it alone. Between 1992 and 1995, an extensive rehabilitation of the carriage roads was financed by federal construction funds along with matching private funds from Friends of Acadia, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and cultural distinctiveness of Acadia National Park and surrounding communities. Woody vegetation was removed from roads, shoulders, and ditches, and drainage systems were reestablished to arrest erosion. The crown and subgrade layers were restored, and new surface materials were applied to replace thousands of cubic yards washed away over the years. Coping stones were reset or replaced, and some of the historic vistas that once greeted horseback riders, carriage drivers, and walkers were reopened.

- ***Bridges***

Rockefeller financed 16 of 17 stone-faced bridges, each unique in design, to span streams, waterfalls, roads, and cliffsides. The bridges are steel-reinforced concrete, but the use of native stone for the facing gives them a natural appearance. Over time, the stone cutters grew very skilled and Rockefeller often requested them not to cut the facing too well lest the rustic look be lost.



To ensure that the carriage roads will continue to be maintained close to their original condition, the park has formed a partnership with Friends of Acadia. In 1995, Friends of Acadia established an endowment to help protect the carriage roads in perpetuity. Each year, the organization contributes more than \$200,000 from this endowment to the park for carriage road maintenance.

Volunteers working under the guidance of Friends of Acadia contribute thousands of hours cleaning ditches and culverts, clearing brush, and assisting park staff with other restoration projects.

The commitment demonstrated by Friends of Acadia in maintaining the carriage roads is only one of many ways the organization helps support the park. A portion of park user fees, authorized by the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program, also helps fund carriage road maintenance.



Between 2001 and 2004, federal funds and park user fees paid for a major re-pointing, cleaning, and water-proofing of all carriage road bridges within the park. User fees have also funded annual projects, including repairing stone walls and opening overgrown vistas. More than one hundred vistas have been cleared in the past ten years.

- **Roadside Grooming and Landscaping**

Rockefeller employed a crew of foresters to remove debris from the roads and roadsides. Nationally known landscape architect Beatrix Farrand consulted on planting designs to frame vistas and bridges and to heal scars left behind by carriage road construction. The Fire of 1947 destroyed much of her work.

Rockefeller employed only local road and bridge builders. Once the Park authority was created workers from all over the country were employed for the roads and bridges, but when it came to projects on his property, he insisted only local talent be used. The town and state appreciated his employment strategy and in thanks would go along with almost all of his ideas for the park.



Signposts

Cedar signposts were installed at intersections to direct carriage drivers. The posts were stained with Cabots shingle stain #248.

The lettering was painted first with one coat of flat yellow paint, then with another coat of enamel yellow. Today, numbers that match maps and guidebooks are attached to the signposts and help carriage road users find their way.



Most bridges were constructed in about one year. This one was much bigger and took a couple of years to construct.

8.10...Rockefeller insisted that at the ends of each bridge tree should be planted, if none were there already, so the horses could rest and, most importantly, the riders could stop in shaded comfort to admire his construction abilities.



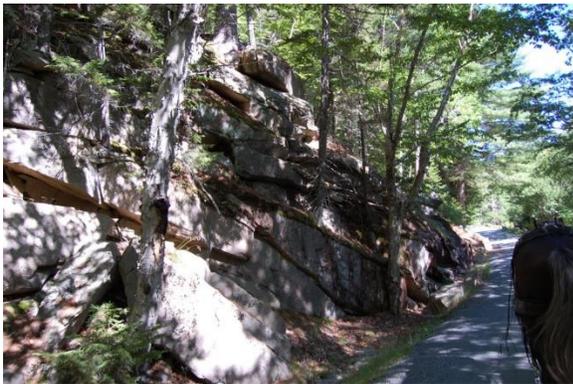
Below would be the residence of the gatekeeper. If a guest would come, they would arrive at the closed gate and with his whip would swipe the arm of the bell to announce to the gate keeper that they had arrived. The gatekeeper would then come out, unlock the gate and let them in.



Gate Lodges

Two gate lodges, one at Jordan Pond and the other near Northeast Harbor, ornament the roads and serve as

impressive welcomes to the system. A third gate lodge was planned at Eagle Lake, but was never built. During carriage road construction, engineer Paul Simpson and his family lived at the Jordan Pond Gate Lodge.



These rocks were sheared off from the tops of the mountains and carried by the glazier of 25,000 years ago and deposited in the lower portions of the park.

- *Coping Stones*
Large blocks of granite lining the roads serve as guardrails. Cut roughly and spaced irregularly, the coping stones create a rustic appearance. These coping stones have been affectionately called “Rockefeller’s teeth.”



The roads were initially constructed to provide a culvert for water from the rains could drain off. If this were not done the water, much of it, would have nestled in the ground and when the winter cold temperatures would come the ice could easily destroy the roads.

Below we are returning home and our trip is virtually done. Of the almost seventy bridges that were constructed on the Rockefeller grounds we only experienced three on this trip. A couple of "bridge pictures" were incorporated in this section from our other travels in the park area.



The carriage barn.



8.14- Webb RV Dealership

We left the campground one day early so we would have no pressure getting to the Webb RV Dealership to have a couple of small fixes to the coach. It needs an oil change and the generator needs fluids and a new filter.

8.16-Prouty Beach & Campground – Newport, VT



8.16-18 Thursday- Littleton, NH



Downtown Littleton. Below is the Thayer's Hotel. It's is now a B&B but it does not matter. It was there on the third-floor balcony, as seen in the picture below, that I proposed to Carla. The very next day we went across the street to the Parker Market Place where she found and purchased the dress, she wore on our wedding day. The Parker shop was owned, as we discovered, by the wife of the son (Stanley Parker Jr.) of the man I worked for in the sixties and seventies as a pharmacist.



Dog sleeping in store.



Porfido's used to be, and I'm sure still has the best pizza in town. Spent many a dollar there during my single days at the time. Below is Chutter's. It used to be called Parker Drug Store, where I worked as a pharmacist, but that was a hundred years ago.



Up is Chutter's inside. Looks much better and more exciting than the Parker Drug Store. Below is another picture of Chutter's.





Above is Pollyanna, the Littleton child mascot. Once again, the Thayer's Hotel...good memories.



This is the Democratic bench. The Trumpbican bench is on the other side of the doorway. We enjoyed a couple of hours touring Littleton again and reliving memories so old they're prime to be forgotten. It was about a mile up from Littleton off the Franconia Road that we owned our first home, on Morrison Hill Dr I believe. On many occasions we enjoyed a picnic in our back yard when I came home for lunch with Michael sitting on the edge on the picnic blanket. Like all trips they come to an end. The following pictures are from our drive home. Below, I purchased another t-shirt and Carla purchased a box of "chocolate covered orange peel" candies from Chutter's Candy Store.





8.16 Above are Mary Ann, Carla and myself.



One very nice plus for this campground are the sunsets.

8.18 Saturday- St. Mary Star of the Sea

Things to do most of the day but did meet up with Mary Ann for Mass at 4PM.



**View form the front steps of St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church.
After Mass we shot over to Mary Ann's for grinders and a movie.**



Best part of the day was the ride home. Turns out someone owns an Elk farm.



This farm was home to not just a couple of elk but for an entire herd of them. I was later told that the owner of the farm owns a local restaurant as well as another farm raising buffalo. I couldn't see any "do not feed the animals signs" so Carla started feeding the Elk.

8.22.18- The Alpine Lake RV Park Corinth, NY

I should have additional pictures in the days to come but for now this is our location in this big RV Park.





8.25 Saturday- the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs.

It was a very delightful experience. Father Simon was the priest saying the Mass. He could easily have been heard without a mike, but most of all, the parish was participating 100 percent, very seldom these days. I don't usually offer the Websites of the individual Churches we attend, but I'm thinking about doing just that. It's just a village church capacity only maybe 400, but they know how to make you feel at home. We were told that, as a parish, they will be traveling to Autryville, NY for a conference at the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs. This was our field trip this last week. They will have the conference in the Coliseum which holds between 6500 to 10,000 worshippers.

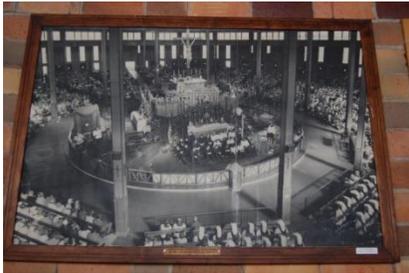
8.25...Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine



If we were going to be here for this, I might try talking Carla into going.



This Shrine is located in Auriesville, NY. This area was known as the Mohawk Village. in the mid 1600's three Jesuits missionaries came to this area to try to convert the Mohawk tribe. These priests were: Father Isaac Joques, Father Rene Goupil and Father John Lalande.



Eventually all three we're tortured and killed by the Mohawks. In honor of these priests the Jesuits have constructed this Shrine. In the picture to the left is the Coliseum, resembling the coliseum in Rome. It is big. It measures 257 feet on the diameter. It can accommodate from 6,500 to 10,000 pilgrims. As you approach the Coliseum you'll notice monuments and creative floral and shrubbery designs scattered all over the property. An inside view of the Coliseum. In the center you will notice four altars placed edge to edge. Each altar represents each of the three missionaries. The fourth altar represents Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, just recently sainted. The picture, however so fuzzy, is of Cardinal Cushing preaching in the Coliseum in August 1950, sixty-eight years ago almost to the day.





8.25...These picture from the photo above follow.

This monument is dedicated to the visions at Fatima. This monument commemorates the children lost through abortion. Concerning this picture. Back over three- hundred years ago Fr. Joques, one of the martyrs, whenever he could break away to find a quiet place for prayer and devotion, he would carve crosses into trees and the name of Jesus. Those trees have died off so in commemoration of this action crosses have been placed on selected trees on the property.

Statue of St. Kateri. She wasn't a religious, but was a fervent believer. This came about at age 16. Long story short her parents were killed and she joined a Mohawk tribe that accepted Christianity. In her early twenties a plague struck the village. St. Kateri and she was the first to join in and care, as best she could, for those that were ill. As a result of her helping the sick during that epidemic, she to succumbed to the illness. Her face, because of the illness, was heavily puck-marked. Within minutes of her death her face no only cleared up of all the imperfections her complexion was perfect.





8.25...An outdoor Station of the Cross. This venue is so memorable of the Church we attended during our stay in Sturbridge, Mass. Below there's always a gift shop. It was a little disappointing considering its size.



8.27 Monday – FORT TIGONDEROGA...There's always a Visitor's Center.



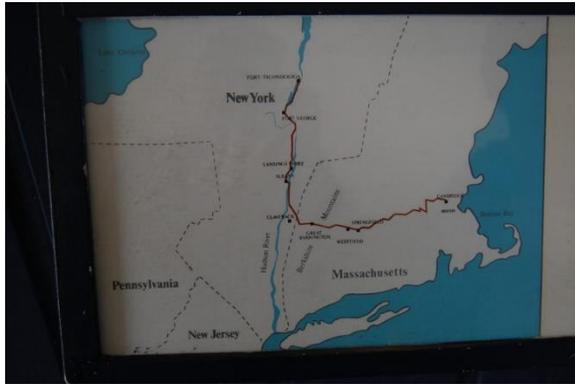
You find some in the beginning and some as you leave the venue area. Fort Ticonderoga is at the start of our adventure. Carla always enjoys a beautiful flower arrangement.



Natural defenses for the fort are: 1. Land mass upper left in the above picture is Mount Independence. 2. Land mass to the right is Mound Defiance. 3. The body of water in front of the fort is Lake Champlain. The photo below gives a short description of the importance of the first two areas. This young man is preparing the evening meal. He called it "Mess." What does the word Mess actually mean. "Mess Hall" I understood. But using the word "mess" to describe a meal I found puzzling. He couldn't help me on this either. Hard Tack was also being served with the meal; see second photo down.



Humble tools like picks, axes, and shovels were some of the most important weapons wielded by French soldiers at Carillon between 1755 and 1759. Chopping, hewing, drilling, splitting, hammering, hauling, breaking, and sawing wood and stone built the defenses that protected French troops from English attacks. Many tools they used are similar to those we use today, while others are more unfamiliar. All of these tools had to be brought to Carillon and some came from as far away as France. With these tools the French army reshaped the land and built a fortress that defied the English and protected New France.



Above is an example of Indian writing for those times. Delivering cannons and munitions from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston, Mass; a 300-mile journey in the winter of 1775. Trip, I believe, was done in thirty days.



We spoke and learned about this type of gun (second rifle down on the back wall). Originally, as I mentioned before, I thought this would be a sniper rifle, but no, it's used to hunt fowler.



These two guys are making and repairing shoes and boots.



Gentleman above is repairing clothing. Photo below are typical of the "winter clothing" needed by the troops. Second photo down are summer/spring clothing on the wall hanger.





This photo to the left has little to do with anything. This is a photo of a "woman" who wanted to carry a gun and be part of this man's army. Ironically, she was able to serve her full term of two years and hit her femininity at the same time. She was given an honorable discharge and went on to the stage and wrote a couple of book on her times in the army.





The purpose of this picture is the flag at half mast, unlike the flag flying above the Trumpbican White House. After a great deal of pressure from WH Aids and Veterans associations Trump gave in and allowed "his" flag to go to half-mast.

8.27 Monday - We explore Lake George.

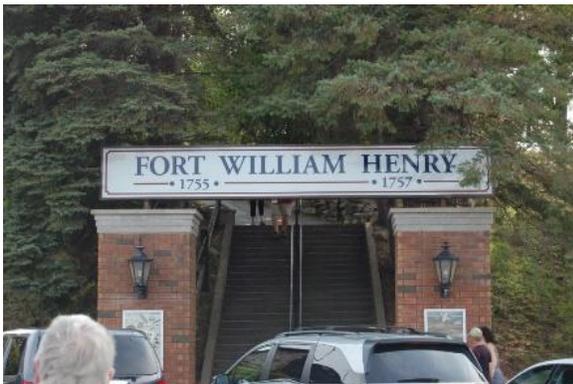








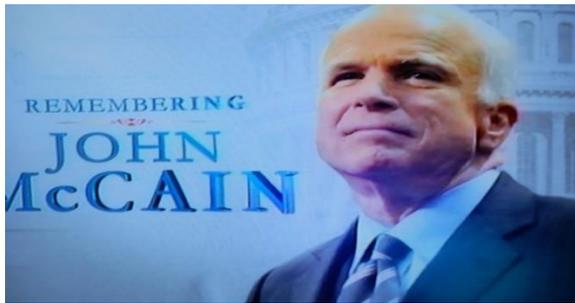
8.27...Travel back in time and view the beauty of Lake George's Southern Basin the way people did over 100 years ago, from the decks of our authentic Sternwheel Steamboat Minne Ha Ha. The Calliope, powered by steam from the vessel's boiler, serenades you as you board. Enjoy beautiful views of the Adirondack Mountains and see stately homes along the water's edge. *This post is courtesy of the Lake George Steamboat Co.*



Not this time around, maybe in a couple of years we'll explore this fort. We ended this long and exhausting day with an Ice Cream from the Hershey stand in this center.

9.1- The John McCain Funeral

celebration for certain Carla and I were not invited to this historical event. I apologize for the graininess of many of the pictures. I was fortunate, many years ago, to have possessed one of those ultra high definition Samsung TVs, that unfortunately we have no longer. Our present television just does not have the quality picture our old set did, but for this blog it's passable. At a future time I may come back and insert some comments and subtitles, but for now, it's mostly pictures.



Ivana and Jared Kirchner were in attendance but not so for her father, the President, Donald Trump. Scoots, our cat, decided early she was not that interested in this event.



All these pictures, except for about that last six images are in chronological order.



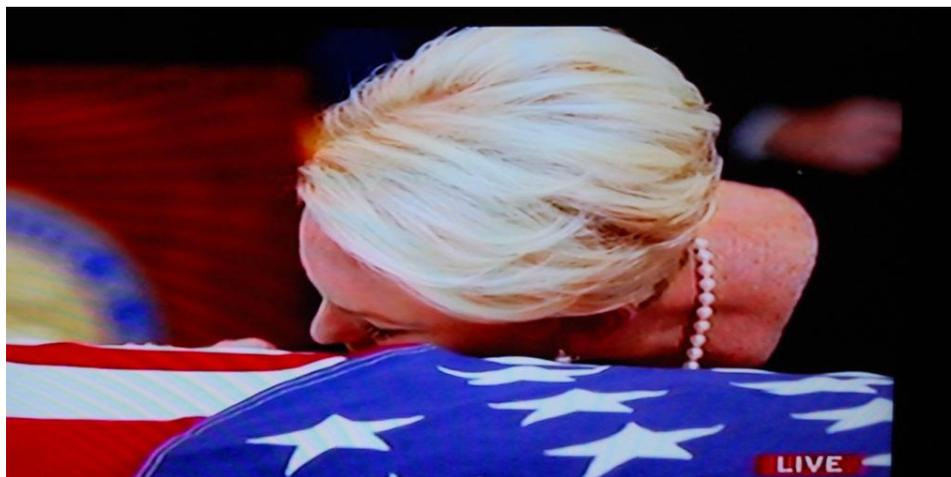


Scotts is still not interested, unlike Carla and I.





The man to the right is the Russian who Russia tried to poison TWICE.



I found this image fitting to end this blog.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute



The FDR Gardens and some pictures of a few of the rooms in the house.



Above and below; the FDR home library.



The Snuggery "The Dining Room"

FDR was crippled suffering from polio. The family bedrooms were on the second floor. Personally I would have relocated the bedroom to the first floor, not that the house wasn't big enough, but getting back. In order for him to get to the upper level he had a dumb waiter installed. The contractor installed the unit wanted to electrify the waiter, but FDR said NO! He weighed about 180 pounds and his chair another 50 pounds not to mention the weight of the dumb waiter. Every evening he would move his chair into the dumb waiter and manually use the ropes you see in the picture and raise himself using upper body muscles to the upper level. He was remarkably strong for his age and his being handicapped.



The Chintz Room



The FDR Bedroom



Eleanor Roosevelt's Bedroom



FDR's Boyhood Bedroom



Above the back of the home. Below the front of the home.

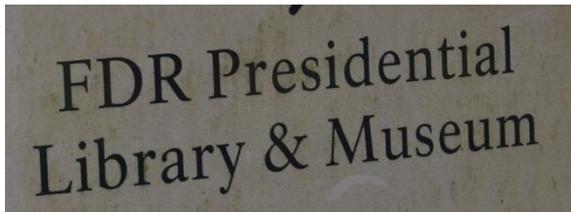


Springwood as it looked around the time James Roosevelt (FDR's father) purchased it.

He (James Roosevelt) and his wife rally wanted to buy a home with property in Rhinebeck, NY, but homes and land were to expensive so they settled on Hyde Park for the family homestead.



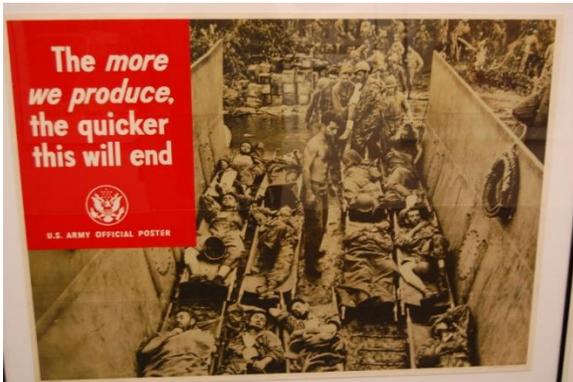
Above and below is the FDR gardens at their home and where FDR and wife Eleanor are buried.



The entrance to the Library.



In the pictures to follow are just a small fraction of the hundreds of posters FDR initiated to spur on the war effort.



The caption above is there to give the reader a small insight into how, even as a President, grounded he was both as a politician and family man. The FDR Presidential desk.

The 1936 Ford Phaeton. This car came equipped with a gadget that, when initiated by FDR, would deliver a "lighted" cigarette for him while he was driving, yes the car was set up for him to drive even though he had no lower body abilities. FDR was an avid model builder. He had built hundreds in the collection in the Library.



9.14.2018-THE VANDERBILT MANSION



The Mansion driveway, what else! The Visitors Center.



Above is our host greeting us at the mansion entrance.





The after dinner room for the men.



In this foyer are three doorways. The one to the left is where the men would retreat to after dinner.



The gals, on the other hand, would settle into the room opposite from the men and socialize, the room you see above. Some random pictures of some of the other 50 rooms in this building. Between the two room described above is basically a very elegant gathering area. From here they would gather until summoned to the dining area.





The Grand Dining Room above. Below is a picture of the men's gathering room to the left of the chair and to the right of the other chair is the ladies room.



Ceiling height on the first floor is eighteen feet. Looking down the stairway of thirty-nine steps to the second level. In the picture below is the upper level.



Some pictures of some of the rooms on this level. This would be the main sleeping area for the one per center's attending. If you did not qualify you slept on the third level along with any single women and female staffers. Single men would be sleeping in the now Visitor Center. This would be the Vanderbilt's sleeping quarters. Not exactly shabby. Myself, I'd probably have a difficult time trying to get to sleep with all the opulence in this room. It did not seem to bother these folks.

Down deep they wanted to shape this new country in the image of England where the upper 2%ers would control properties and industry and provide an opportunity for Americans to follow to appreciate their place in this world working for this new class of individuals, as indentured savants. This is really a bit much. No wonder it could not be sold. Unlike other venues from the past the furnishings in this mansion are all authentic and all was part of the household at that time.





Going down to the basement level. Kitchen



The staffers Dining Room. They ate as well as the folks above. Food was about the same, they drank from crystal glassware and they enjoyed very generous Christmas gratuities. A few worked their entire lives here and many had over ten years employment. They were treated like family.



Frederick Vanderbilt, the owner and builder of the mansion, knew how important it was to keep and appreciate all their staffers. Once electricity became readily available he was asked if he wanted to electrify the freezer closet, which until now, was the privy of the house "ice cutters." He declined to have it modernized since he would have to lay off the two staffers who maintained the unit.



Views from the back of the mansion. You can see the Hudson River in the distance.



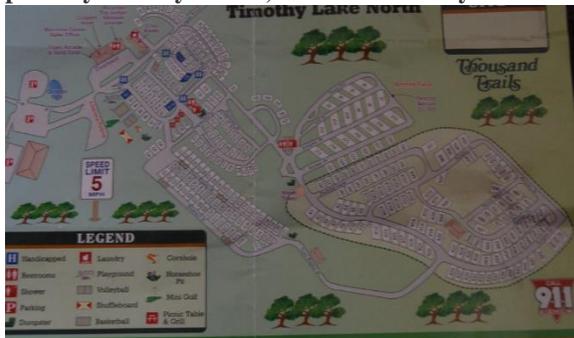


The mansion had fifty rooms and over seven-hundred acres. As big as that might sound it was considered their cottage to retreat to during the hot summer months. As the story goes the Vanderbilt's were filthy rich and the next generation were fortunate enough to double their wealth. Then came the third generation. They specialized in enjoying their inherited wealth. It did not take to many years for this generation to realize the cottage was expensive to maintain, and quite honestly they were tired of going there. The widowed wife of the grandson to Frederick was left several million in cash which she kept but decided to sell the estate. It went on the market for \$350,000. She never got a bite on the

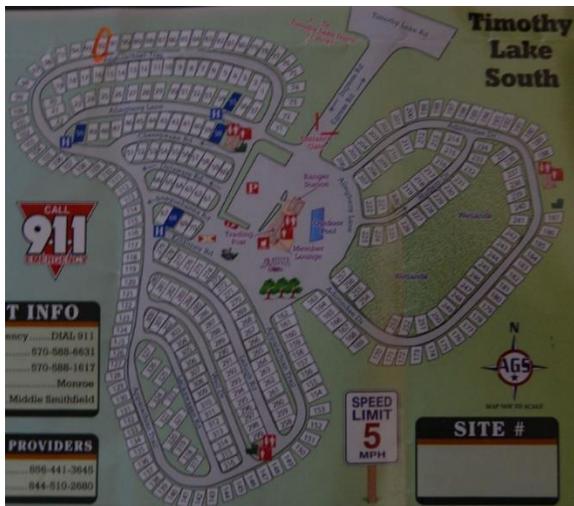
property. She then lowered the price to \$250,000 with the same results. It wasn't until FDR, a neighbor not that far away in Hyde Park approached her to donate the land and property to, which would soon be, the National Park Service which she did. Before the NPS acquired the estate, she confiscated all the valuable and aged wines the mansion had acquired prior to turning over the keys to the property.

9.18.18- The Timothy Lakes Resort.

In a couple of days we hope to get an early start and go into the city and experience the new tower and possibly Liberty Island, Statue of Liberty. Below is the site map on the NORTH section of this campground.



On this site map we're located in the upper section marked in orange of the Southern section of this campground. We should be quite comfortable at this location. We've got sewer, cable, electric and satellite line of sight...awesome! Site #92.



In a couple of days we hope to get an early start and go into the city and experience the new tower and possibly Liberty Island, Statue of Liberty.

9.19- Wed. -OUR POCONO PROPERTY



We have settled in quite nicely and tomorrow we plan to trip over to Newfoundland. We have some land in that area that I foolishly purchased many years ago, and will probably have to die to get rid of it, but nonetheless it's worth checking it out again since we're currently in the Poconos. The property is only about a forty minute ride from here so we should be back in no time. Getting back to an earlier story, of ; how can a big coach fit under a low bridge? Simple answer, I don't know. I googled the height of the coach on the Internet and it is 12.2 feet tall. This could easily fit through a clearance of 12.8 feet. The



problem is that we have a satellite receiver up there as well. It comes in with a height of 1.4 feet. So doing the

math the coach, assuming the tires are all inflated properly, has a total height of 13.5 feet. What's the answer; it had to be a miracle. For sure we were praying hard enough. All for now. 9.20-Thurs. Very chilly night last night, temps dropped to 52 degrees. Today would be a field trip day. Only 62 outside so it's a good day to go travel. We're off to Newfoundland or Sterling, not sure right now, to witness the property we've owned since 2006. This property is in the Pocono Springs Estates. We have frontage of 85 feet and go back 200 feet. The front of this property lies in Lehigh County while the back resides in Dreher County. Confusing, I know! I believe our property begins at the yellow 15 MPH caution sign and extends to the right. All in all it covers 0.41 acres, not very big by how it looks because it drops down a slight slope from the road and is suitable for a very small home fairly close to the road. Being close to the road is not a problem since the road has very little traffic. I would like to see a small log home with a bedroom

upstairs with a full basement much like the log home we had in Maggie Valley. This was our log home back in 2008. Something we'll never ever have again, since it was close to half million home. Cobbler's Cabin was only in our lives for a couple of years prior to the recession of 2008. We had to let it go otherwise it would have sunk us. This property in the Pocono area could not support a structure like this even if we could afford it. I still enjoy the memories from that phaThe property does go deeper but it slopes off quite a bit which means having and maintaining a back yard is not an option. Additional pictures of this property. Below is a schematic on the properties around us, we own lot #72.

For a stretch of half a mile you'll find only two other properties with homes on them.



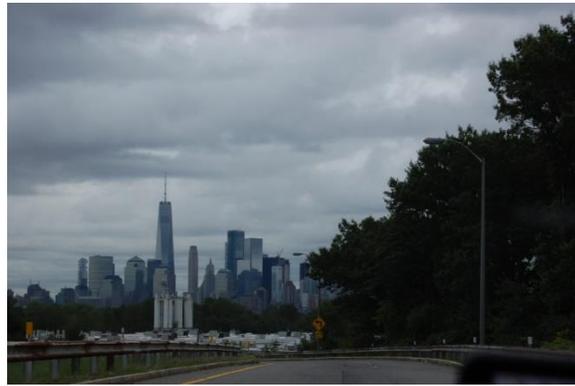
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Properties here are all part of the Pocono Springs Civic Association. There's a beautiful lake which I don't have a picture of, since my battery was dead at the time. If there's anyone interested in this area this property is for sale at a very good price; **HOW ABOUT FREE!**

9.23 Sunday

Overcast, cloudy but most of all it's only 53 degrees. It's chilly, no it feels cold but it's a field trip day. We plan to trip to NYC and experience One World Center. We drove to Jersey City to pick up this ferry.



This picture tells of many stories. First it is cloudy, chilly but were getting very close to our destination; One World Center, NYC. Once we get there by ferry we'll view the tower, observatory, oculus and memorial.



Doesn't this look like Carla has found an old friend? Not so! He made the mistake of wearing a Notre Dame jacket and the two of them are discussing the Savior Touchdown Statue on the ND campus by their football stadium. Our travels do empower us to speak on many topics, this one was powerful on both sides. Turns out he lives in the City and is a devoted sport fan of every kind. Below you see our "yellow" ferry coming into dock to pick us up and bring us to the City.



I've always had an affinity towards marinas and boats, it's a great lifestyle but expensive.



Above is Governor's Island then you have the image to the left. Cropping has to be the "poor man's 200mm telephoto lens." It was my hope to visit Ellis Island but it's like the Grand Canyon.

You can visit it, view it and then it's let's go. We just don't have the time to afford a visit, possibly next time.

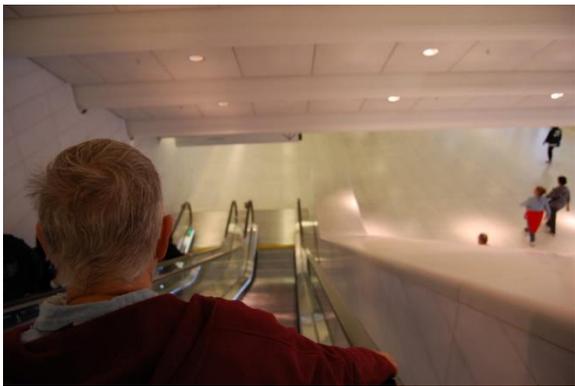


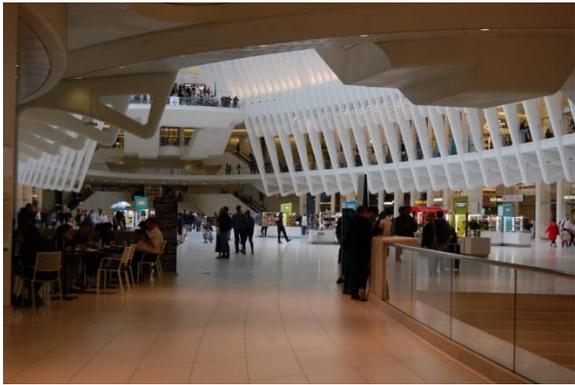
9.23.18- THE OCULUS AT FREEDOM TOWER

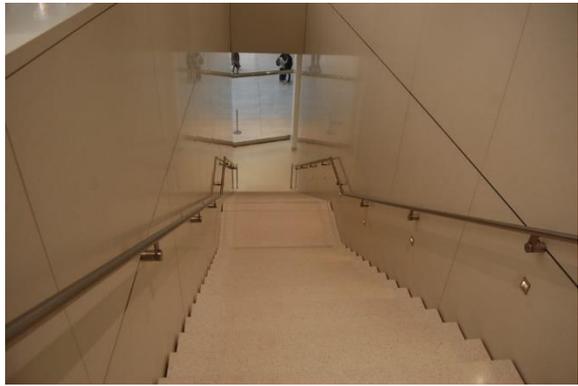


A view of the Oculus from the Observatory floor of the Freedom Tower.





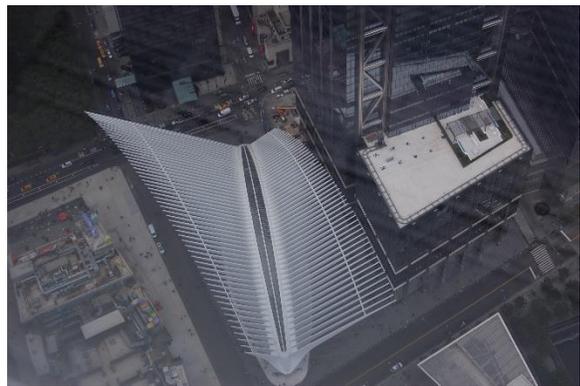
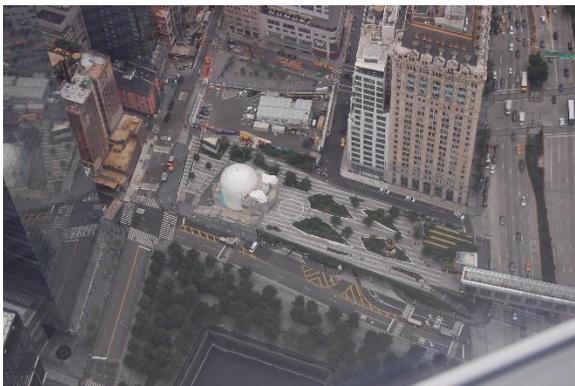




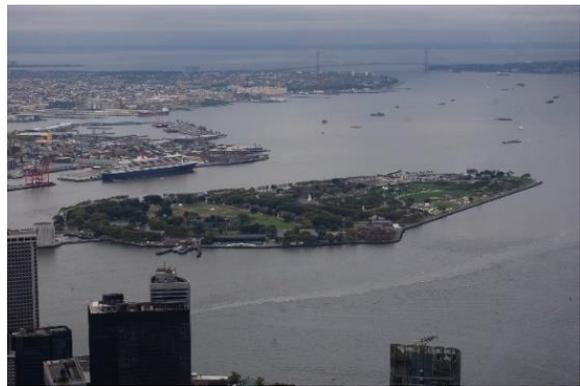
9.23 Sunday
Views from all the windows of the Tower.







Above is the Oculus of the Freedom Tower.



This is Governor's Island.



Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty, in the foreground and the ferry depot.



Once again, I enjoy boats and marinas. Can't even imagine what the dock fees might be.





Once you step into one of these elevators you'll be whisked up 102 stories in 27 seconds and, believe it or not, you'll never notice you've started going up. Once the ride begins the walls ignite with a very fast documentary of what the area looked like from the 1600's to present; awesome!

9.23 Sunday

NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL MUSEUM AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER



World Trade Center tridents

Recovered from the World Trade Center site after September 11, 2001
Collection 9/11 Memorial Museum, Courtesy of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Each of these steel columns is the base of a "trident," the three-branched architectural element that gave the Twin Towers their distinctive lower facades. These columns are two of 84 that formed the structural perimeter of the North Tower.

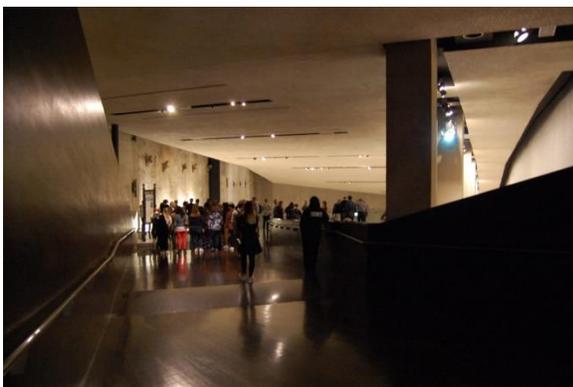




This is the Oculus as seen from the outside. Below: Just a quick view to visualize how deep underground we at.



Not to dwell on what was, but it's important not to forget how we were defiled.



1970s dollars? That's right, the World Trade Center, built by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, as part of a plan conceived by the Rockefeller-led Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association, to shone up Downtown's fortunes.

Now, every weekday, 50,000 people come to work in 12 million square feet of office, hotel and commercial space in the seven buildings in this city-within-a-city, where they are joined by 80,000 visitors passing through an enormous interior shopping mall below the 5-acre Austin J. Tobin Plaza.

The Trade Center welcomes visitors from around the world to a splendid observatory, the Top of the World on the 107th floor of Two World Trade Center. As many as 10,000 visitors in a single day ride the non-stop express elevators — from the lobby to the 107th floor in 82 seconds — to take in the spectacular views of the city and its surroundings.



The painted tiles on the wall are a group effort commissioned to replicate the blue skies on 9-11.

The Box Column remnants: Steel columns, known as box columns for their rectangular shape and hollow center, provided structural support for the Twin Towers and created their distinctive facades. At the end of the recovery period following 9/11, what remained of these columns was cut to a level elevation, leaving the remnants visible here. The North Tower footprint was outlined by 84 columns, but the South Tower footprint had only 75 columns since preexisting train tracks passed across its footprint. (This text was taken from a plaque I photographed but due to available light did not print well.)

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The World Trade Center excavation, circa 1967

Collection 9/11 Memorial Museum, Gift of Elizabeth Gianini in memory of William Borland

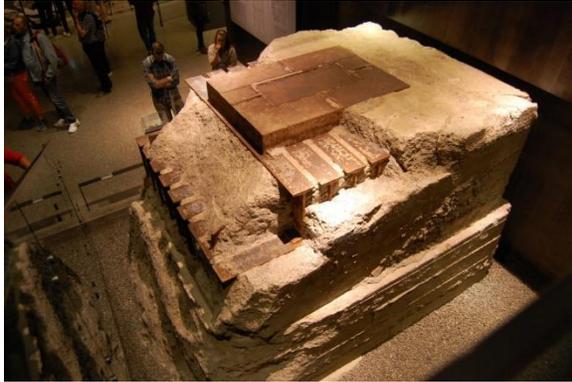


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Viscoelastic damper
Courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History, Kenneth E. Behring Center

The Twin Towers were buffeted by high winds rolling off New York Harbor. World Trade Center structural engineers Alan Davenport and Leslie Robertson devised a damping system that allowed the towers to sway gently on even the windiest days. Ten thousand dampers connected each of the towers' floors and outer walls, moderating the buildings' movement so that it was not troubling or disruptive to most occupants. On windy days, each tower would typically sway 12 inches side to side.



Segment of radio and television antenna, North Tower

Recovered from the World Trade Center site after September 11, 2001, Collection 9/11 Memorial Museum, Courtesy of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

A transmission tower approximately 360 feet tall, assembled atop the roof of the North Tower, began broadcasting television signals in 1980. Changes over time included the installation in 2000 of a high-definition TV master antenna. Transmissions for most stations failed shortly after hijacked Flight 11 pierced the North Tower on 9/11. All transmissions ceased by 10:28 a.m., when the tower collapsed.



This is a surly. Its construction was to prevent the Hudson River invading the Towers.



The South Tower Column





9.24 Monday



Temperature this morning is 52 but we will wait until it reaches 59 before we leave the coach. The trip to Bushkill Falls in the town of Bushkill, PA, is only about fifteen-minute ride from our site; a breath of fresh air from yesterday's two-hour trip to NYC.



The nice thing about this venue is the wooden walkways. We will find these covering ninety-percent of the walk we will be taking. Below are the options we have with four trails.

Green was the shortest at about 20 minutes. We chose yellow. Yellow, they say, would take 45 minutes, but in actuality took about 75 minutes. Each trail comes with its own challenges as you will read in a few pictures from now.



The pictures are in the same order as our walk, hope you enjoy the walk. We came home exhausted just like yesterday, it should not be that hard on you, the reader.



We're approaching "LOOKOUT MAIN FALLS". In all I believe we'll see four different water falls and water basins.

560-Yes, we are as high as it looks in the picture. You should try climbing all these damn stairs. Going down was not that bad, whenever you go down, you must come up!



We're approaching "THE TOP OF LOWER GORGE FALLS."



People rarely volunteer so why should this day be any different. So I asked the kind lady and she said yes.



Above is the path we just came down. I think we're at the bottom, but we'll see! ...Mistaken!



We're both a little pooped, Good time to stop. This walkway offers few benches. Below is the bottom of MAIN FALLS.

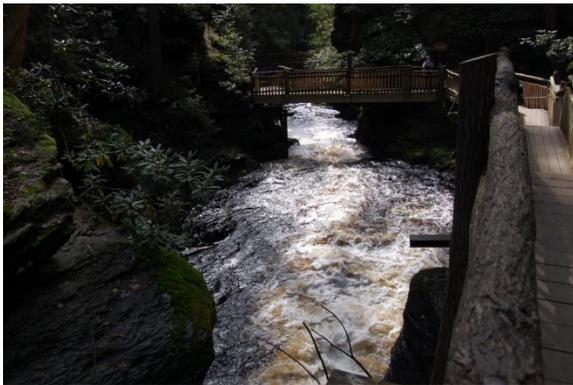


They were so kind to at least warn us of the challenges of the two other trails. Yellow, as you see below was our choice.

I could barely handle this trail so we made the proper choice.



There seems to be a never ending array of stairs going "down." I don't look forward to the trip up in a few minutes. The picture below is one of the best pictures, I believe, I've ever taken.



Approaching "UPPER CANYON." Did you hear the word "up?"



Above. This portion of the river is called "ADAM'S FLATS."

It's just that, a very flat area with the river running nicely through it. There's the sign I've been waiting for; but it now means we have to climb our way out of this canyon.



Yup! We're starting to go up.



We've exhaustingly come up a long way, but not there yet. We stop about every fifty feet to catch our breath and appreciate the views.

The walking is starting to get a little more challenging with the gravel and slate path.



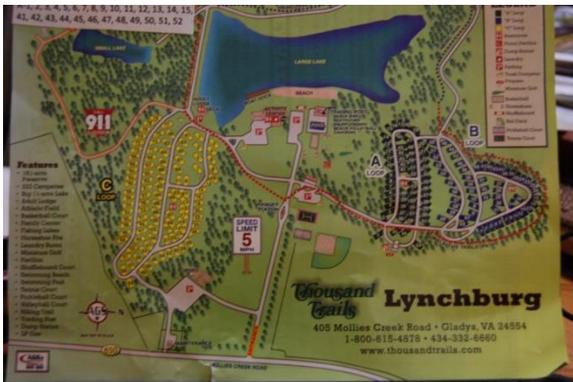
Almost there. So tired I'm having trouble pushing the button to take the pictures. Carla's had it also.



The gift shop and snack bar. The fries we're awesome, so crunchy!



9.30 Sunday- Lynchburg RVP in Gladys, VA



This is a Thousand Trails RV Park. The roads may not be paved and we do not have 50amp service but the park roads are wide and clear of overhanging branches. We do have satellite service which few sites have since this is heavily wooded. This park covers 161 acres with an eleven-acre lake. The number of sites are 223. It has all the rest of amenities of most parks. This will be a 5-day stay leaving this coming Friday.

Pictures to follow. For such a short stay we still have a couple of venues we want to experience.





When we arrived here we were scheduled to leave tomorrow morning, but due to a scheduling conflict we've decided to extend our stay by one day.





This means we'll be jacks-up on Saturday morning.

9.30

Today, the 30th, we will leave Woodstock and drive 150 miles to Gladys, VA. We'll be staying at the Lynchburg Thousand Trails Campground.

We arrived in Lynchburg all in one piece. The trip was very pleasant especially a fifty mile segment of it on US 29. It was a 4-lane divided highway which looked like it was carved right through the Shenandoah National Park. In general the roads rated a 9+. On our trip down here we saw highway signs for the President Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Appomattox, VA the courthouse. This would be the location that General Lee surrendered. The picture below is not very clear but is a result of my asking Carla to take the picture in a coach going sixty miles per hour.



The road up is littered with farms both big and small, beef cattle in general.





The views come in so fast, unless you're riding with a camera in your lap, it's hard to catch them all in time. As we traveled south we were in constant view of the Shenandoah Mountain Range and to the west were the Appalachia Mountains. Just prior to our leaving Walmart we met a very nice couple who had just gotten married about a month ago. They were traveling North to attend their daughters wedding. She, in a past life had been a RVer for sixteen years and had talked her new husband into the lifestyle. They mentioned that their home base is in Bowling Green, FL where they spend their winter months. I'm sure we'll be seeing them again. I think she said the campground there at is Arcadia Peace River RV Park.