

Day Trip – March 6, 2012

Tid Bits & Observations

Warrensburg to Springdale, Ark.

By Sandra Wayne

Suggested tourism stop at Bentonville, Ark. Link - http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g31441-Activities-Bentonville_Arkansas.html - Beautiful Downtown, Art, Museums, Native American Center

**TID BITS & OBSERVATIONS
OR – “Yes, Virginia there is a Shovel Tree”**

Left March 6, Tues., to deliver about 16 big boxes containing Mary Jo’s collections of her photography to her brother and his wife in Springdale, Ark. Mary Jo has passed away, and her photos of family heritage are now with her family. That’s the reason for the trip, but you know us, “A DAYTRIP!”

Yes, Virginia there is a shovel tree south US 13 S. to US 82 w. Go east about a mile and look to the south of the road – there, standing by itself is an excellent, real shovel (pretty shovels hanging from every branch) tree. What a start to a “Daytrip!”

We left Wbgs. about 6:30AM, quick breakfast in Clinton where I stood next to a real looking cowboy who wore spurs that went jingle jangle. We headed south on 13 to 82west. In the Osceola area we noticed a highway sign – Fuzzy’s Bait and Booze shop. At the intersection before the shovel tree, is the Sugar Foot Barbeque.

Along 82 you will see a Confederate battle flag hanging from a farm house front porch. Also, along the 82 drive, first you will see a junky yard, junkier house, and a big goose guarding the house. The goose was strutting at the end of the driveway of the junk and trash piles in front of the shack of the house. Goose must have been a guard dog in a previous life. Goose resides near Speedwell, Mo. Maybe it’s an attack Goose.

By 8:21AM we are in El Dorado Springs, Mo. Yes, you can drink the pure spring water at a faucet near the community center. However, the water has that tangy sulfur water flavor. Also, there is a Mexican restaurant in El Dorado Springs, so one can use the Missouri pronunciation of El Dorado (long a) and then do the Spanish version.

West of El Dorado is a display of a white Minuteman nose cone in a front yard. Also, there is a life-size metal free standing buffalo statue. When we were on US Hiway 54 south, we found something of mystery. Where is the Gobbler’s Roast – we saw the sign on the south side of hiway, but where were the turkeys or roosting gobblers?

Right before US Hiway 71 near Nevada, is our favorite business of “soft armor.” This business has an Amadillo sign. A real silo tree is growing just fine along 71. Someday I would like to visit Mindenmines, Mo., at the Lamar, Mo. exit. A town with that name should be visited. Lamar is childhood home of Pres. Truman.

What was interesting along the hiways was the number of goat herds: white goats with brown markings only. I think that type of goat is a meat goat breed. When we drove along I-44, near Neosho, Mo. was Sam's Beer & Oven business – it's a pizza joint.

At Bella Vista, Ark. (we were at the area of the Ark. Information Center), there is a driveway for residents called, "Suits Us Drive." There is a huge billboard on I-540 before arriving at Rogers, Ark. Are you ready for this one...Dine at Buck Nekkid Barebque..Clothing optional. Didn't read where the barbeque was. Darn.

We had lunch at one of our favorite restaurant chains in South – Dixie restaurant (southern cooking) in Springdale, Ark. Then we delivered the huge collection of family photos and history.

I must tell you all that traffic was really heavy in Springdale, Rogers and Bentonville. The communities connect and made a large area of businesses, industrial plants, and shopping centers. Bentonville has the Walmart headquarters and huge distribution centers.

Joplin traffic was heavy, not from those wanting to see tornado ruins, but just a big city like Bentonville. We did drive in the tornado damaged area, saw the destroyed hospital, empty properties and barren city lots. However, new houses are up, apartment complexes almost finished, and a new Walmart. Most of Joplin is untouched by the storm. Downtown looks the same, a big downtown with empty old buildings. After Joplin we headed home by way of I-70. Oh yes, Joplin, unlike at the shopping center here, no one is dressed as the Statue of Liberty trying to lure customers to a tax preparer. In Joplin, there's a juggler sitting on top of a car trying to sell an income tax preparer.

We got home about 6:30PM after supper in Clinton, El Camino Real (margaritas \$1.99 before 6PM) restaurant. We just made it before dark. Scruffy was waiting for his supper, and the cats were really mad at us for locking them in the house all day!

After seeing the damage in Joplin and driving thru Greensburg, Kan. during a previous trip, I highly suggest for those reading this about Joplin take serious all tornado warnings. There are blocks and blocks of nothing in Joplin. Thank you for enjoying our 482 mile daytrip!

Our route:

MO-13 to Osceola

MO-82 to El Dorado Springs

MO-54 to Nevada

US-71 to Joplin & Bella Vista – where it becomes I-540

I-540 to Springdale

Returned the same way.