

Our route ended up being basically this loop in a clockwise direction

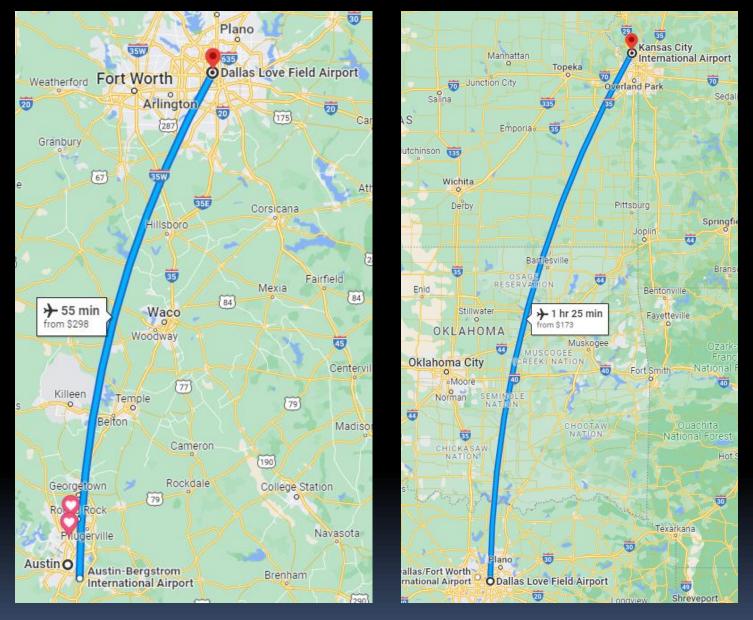








Ed departed Santa Fe (Albuquerque) via Amtrak the day before to get to KC when we planned

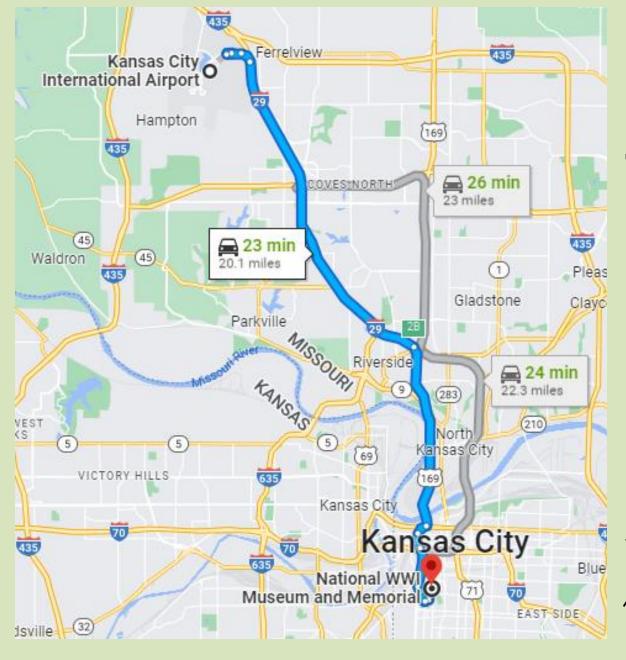


Rob's flight left ABIA at 5:35 am to DAL. Dallas to Kansas City (MCI) at 7:25, arriving 15 minutes early. Ed Uber'd to MCI airport from Union Station, KC, and we met at the airport car rental at 10:11a.



Day #1, Wednesday, 15 June 2022, we met up at 10:11 am.

On the threshold of another exciting adventure!



Our first goal of the day.... and the major thing bringing us to Kansas City was the **National WWI** Museum and Memorial. Let's get to it!





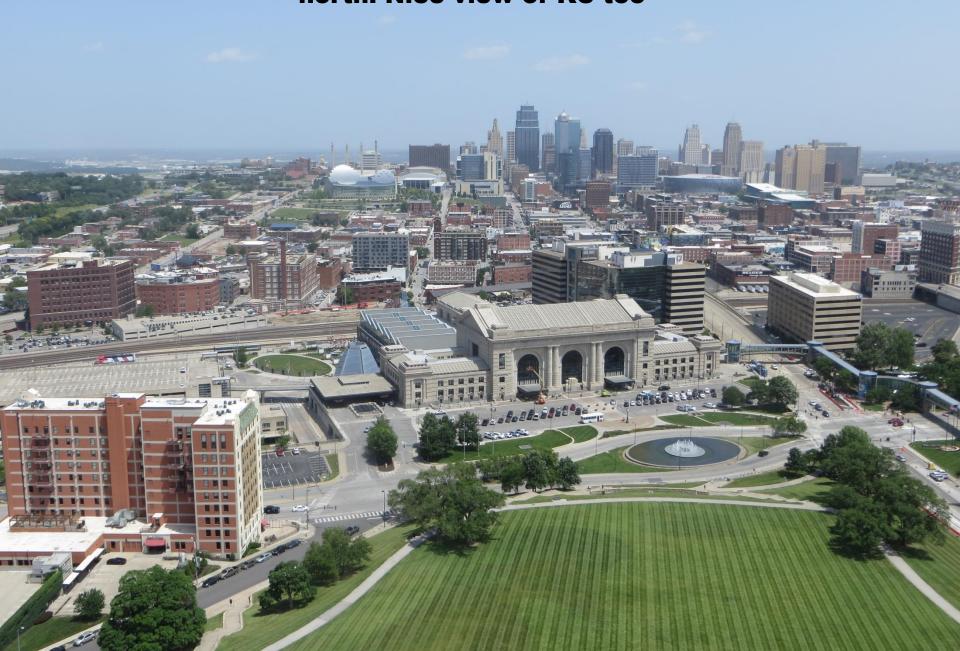


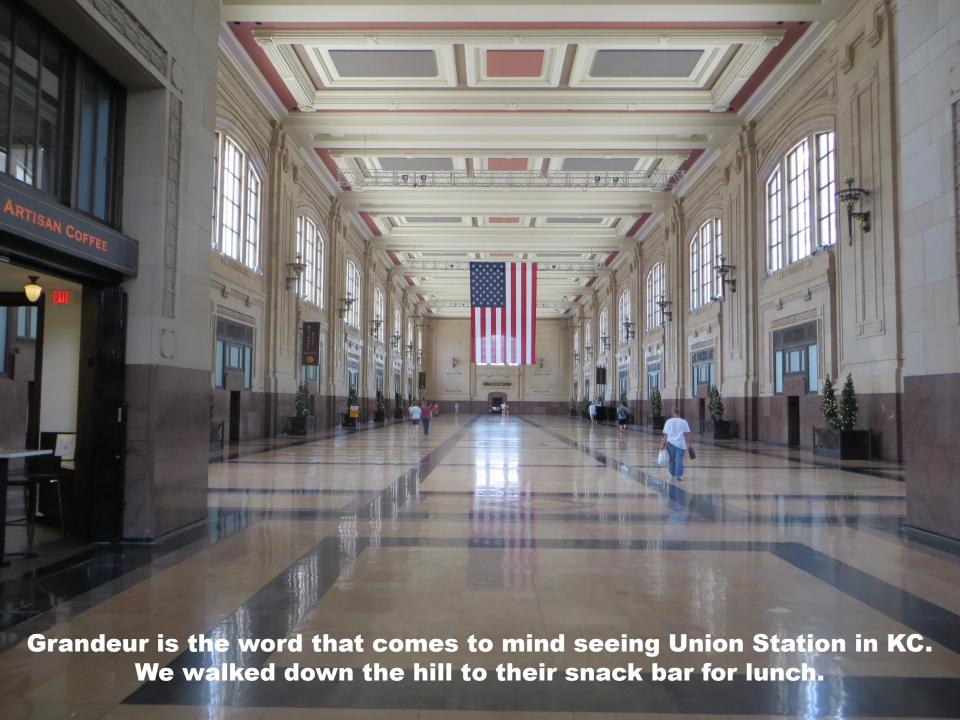
Facing north toward Liberty Memorial Tower. We layed out our plan: tower, lunch, museum. Then we embarked on said plan.

From the tower looking south. Car parked middle, right somewhere



Beautiful landscape and Union Station at the foot of the hill. Facing north. Nice view of KC too









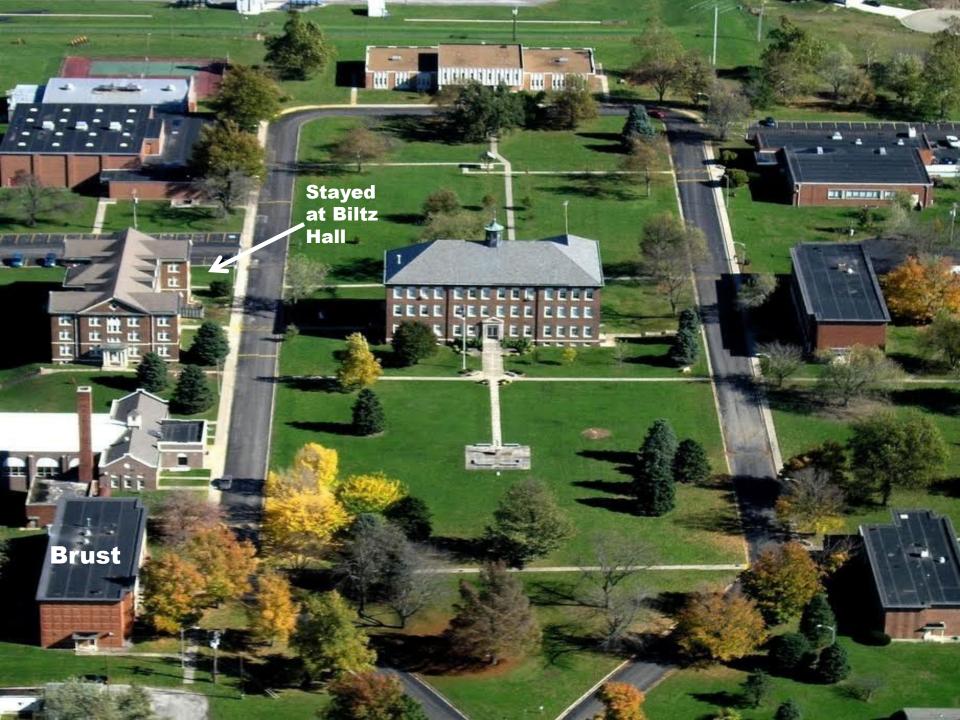


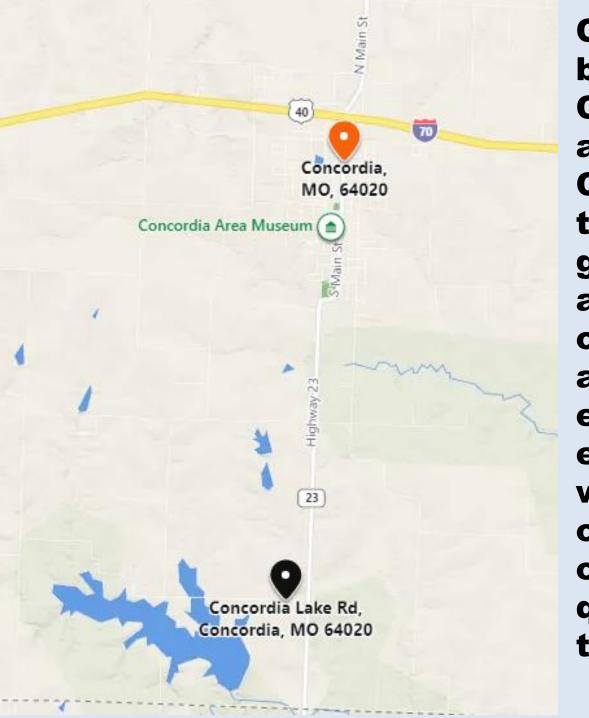
After lunch we Uber'd back up the hill (it was really hot out) and did the museum in ernest. Got back to the car at 3:11p.



Our goal for the evening was St. Paul Lutheran High School (and formerly Jr. College) in Concordia, MO. Beginning in 1883, it was where young men would come to high school and college (2 year) before going to the seminary to become pastors. The education component was later added to prep teachers for Lutheran schools. In 1954 the school went coed. In 1986 the college closed. The high school continues to thrive and has a significant number of international students. Rob attended the college 1974-1976 and wanted to introduce Ed to these stomping grounds from 2 of his formative years.

The next slide is an overview of campus. We stayed in Biltz Hall, the oldest building on campus, as noted on the next slide. Formerly a boys dorm, now configured for guest housing. Lower, left corner is Brust Hall where Rob lived those 2 years.





Checked into Biltz before going to Concordia Lake, or as we called it then, City Lake. Back in the day it was a great place to get away from campus on warm spring/fall afternoons and evenings and yes, even in the dead of winter on a couple of memorable occasions. Very quiet and relaxing today too.



This is the pavilion where Rob and his Jr college cronies spent many-a beer drinking hour back in the day. Memories of people like Tank & Rhoda....

Went to THE PALACE for a steak dinner with a 312 beer.







Concordia is a small community of about 2,300 who rolls up their sidewalks before dark.



This little downtown park is where a few thousand converge every September for "street fair."



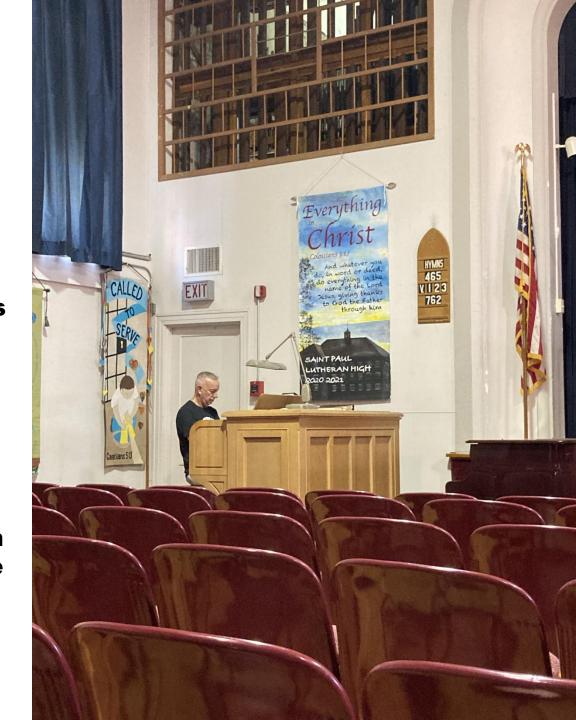
Before crashing out for the night, we went to a convenience store for a 6 of beer and then to the downtown park to enjoy said beer right next to the police station. An officer was out and we asked him if it was ok. He gave us the green light to enjoy. Don't think we could have done that back then, but, we were under 21.

This quiet setting was yet another good place to swill a beer and reminisce on the topic of being 18-20 years old.

Took remaining beers back to Biltz to finish with some TV.

Day #2, Thursday, 16 June 2022.

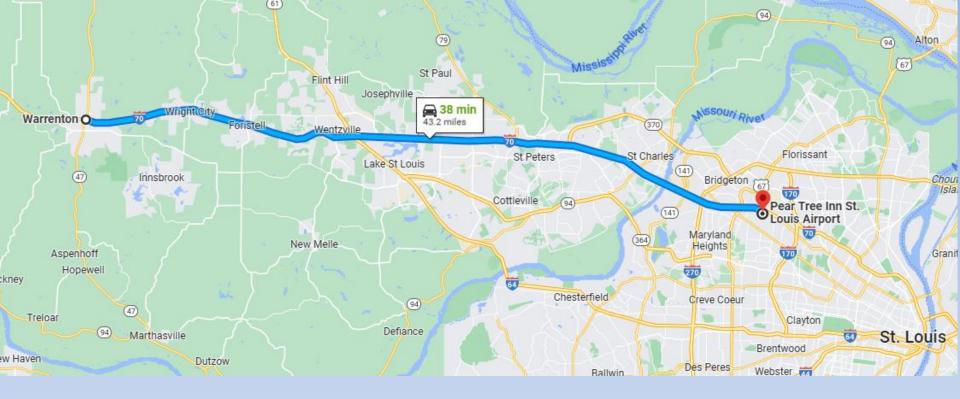
Slept in until the ripe old hour of 7:30am. Grabbed convenience store tidbits for breakfast and headed back to campus to visit **Kent, Director of Development. Kent was a** wee high lad when Rob was there. Kent's dad was on faculty. Rob played the chapel organ that he last **played 21 May 1976. He** finished his little "trip around the block" on this Wicks instrument with the last piece he played on it in May of 1976: Psalm 19, The **Heaven's Declare by Benedetto Marcello 1686-1739.**







Kent showed us around campus before we headed east on I-70 toward St. Louis. Stopped in Warrenton, MO for a Subway sandwich.



From Warrenton we went to the Pear Tree Inn near the STL airport to check in for the evening. Our goal was to do downtown St. Louis and at some point visit cousin Wanda in Florissant. We chose this hotel since it was close to a metro train station. Any day we get to navigate public transportation is a fun day.



We parked at the North Hanley station mid afternoon and took the train to the 8th & Pine stop. From there we walked to the Gateway Arch. The movie about the building of the Arch is always fascinating. We watched that and did the museum area. To get to the top wasn't available until after 7pm. We had both done that on previous visits. Time for a beer at Laclede's Landing.



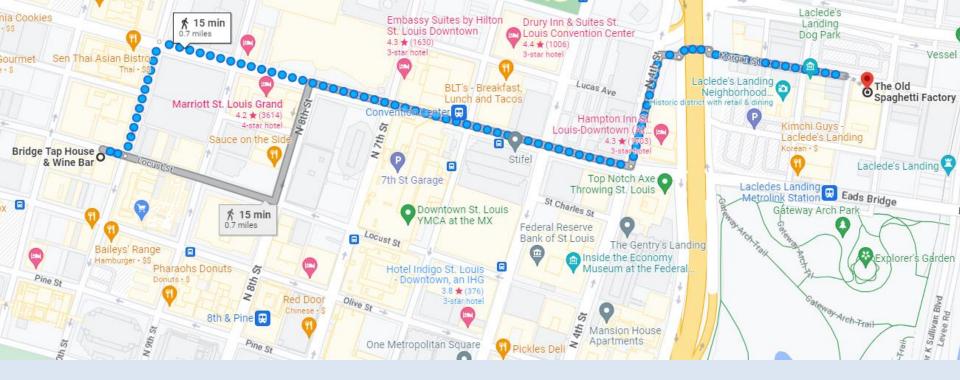


Such a stunning structure.... And stupendous travel studs

It was a hot afternoon. Our plan was to have a beer in the historic **Laclede's Landing** area before drifting toward Busch Stadium, dinner, and back near the hotel for nightcap beer. Unfortunately, the Laclede area perhaps hasn't recovered from Covid.... It was pretty quiet here. Off toward the stadium.







From the Laclede area we struck out on foot toward the stadium when we discovered *Bridge Tap House & Wine Bar*. Looked like a decent enough place to have a beer. Got there about 5:30pm.







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Planning our next steps. Got Wanda booked for breakfast tomorrow.







Busch Stadium, home of the STL Cardinals opened here in 2006. Significant to Rob, a lifelong Cardinal fan.





The original Cardinal stadium, Sportsman's **Park was on Grand Avenue north of** downtown. Cards played here pre-1966. The stadium, dating back to mid 1800s, has quite an interesting history. Look it up if you care.

Rob remembers going here a few times with his family as a wee lad.

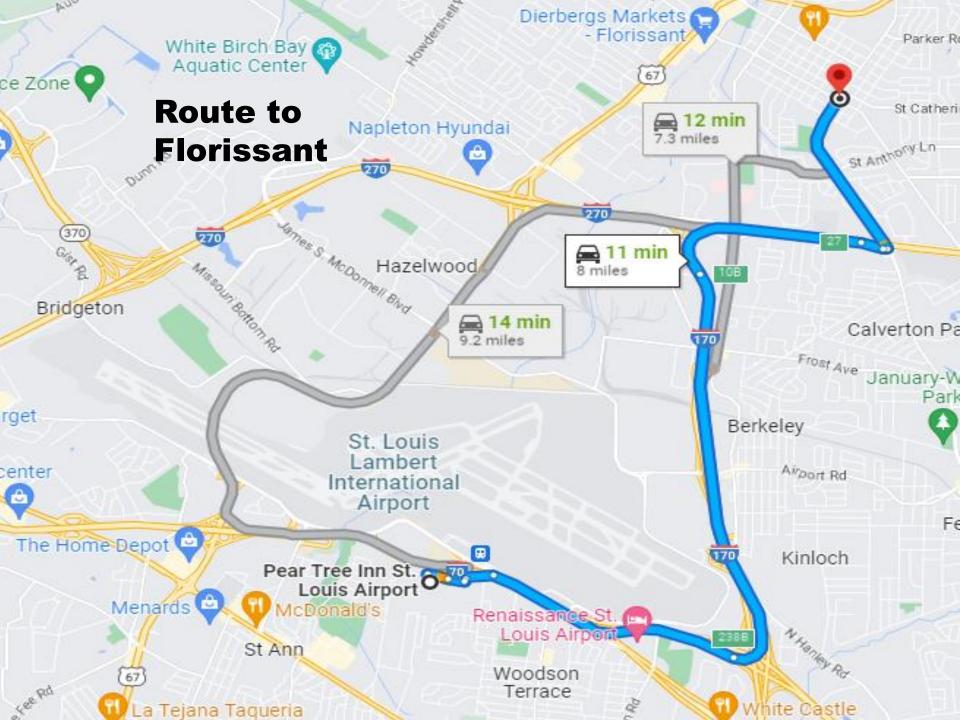




After Cardinal baseball homage, it was back to the hotel for a nightcap beer at Bandana's **BBQ**, next door to our hotel.

Day #3, Friday, 17
June 2022. First on
the agenda...
breakfast with
Wanda in
Florissant, MO.
The morning
started rainy but
soon cleared.





Wanda is Rob's mom's first cousin, and probably closest life-long friend. They grew up together in the Egypt Mills area. Rob and his brother Terry were within weeks in age of Wanda's two boys, and were close too.



Probably Wanda's high school picture



Wanda & Maxine 2016

First stop was to pick up Wanda at her house that Ed declared a museum of trinkets and pictures spanning decades.

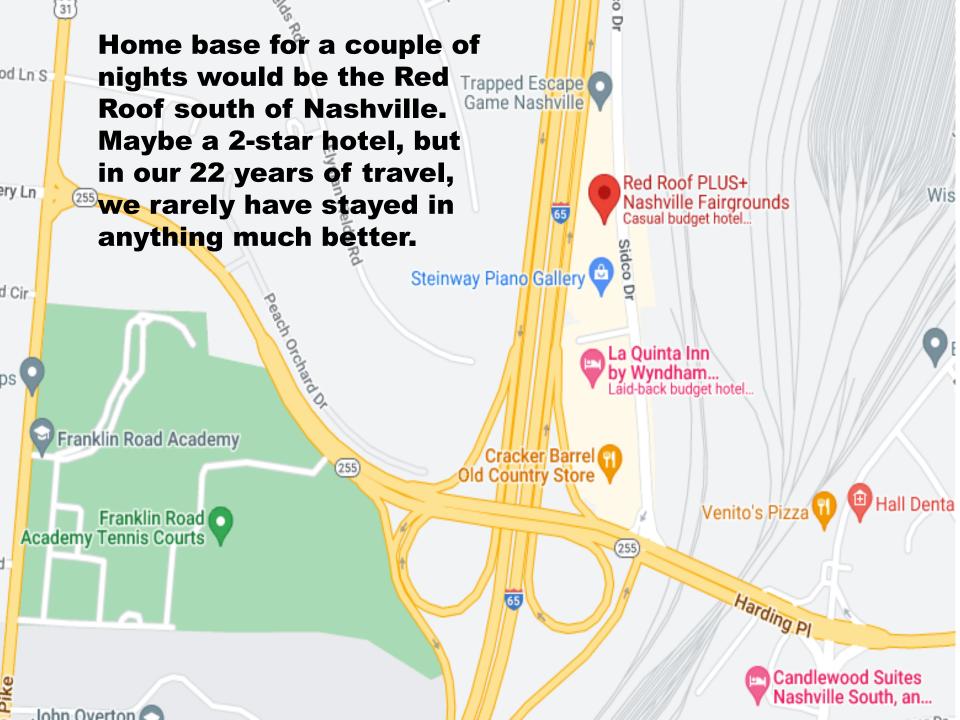




After breakfast we dropped Wanda off at her house, said our farewells, then started our trek to Nashville, TN shortly after 10:30am.









Stopped for lunch about 1p at this Cracker Barrel in Mt. Vernon, IL.

Later at McDonalds for a cold drink.

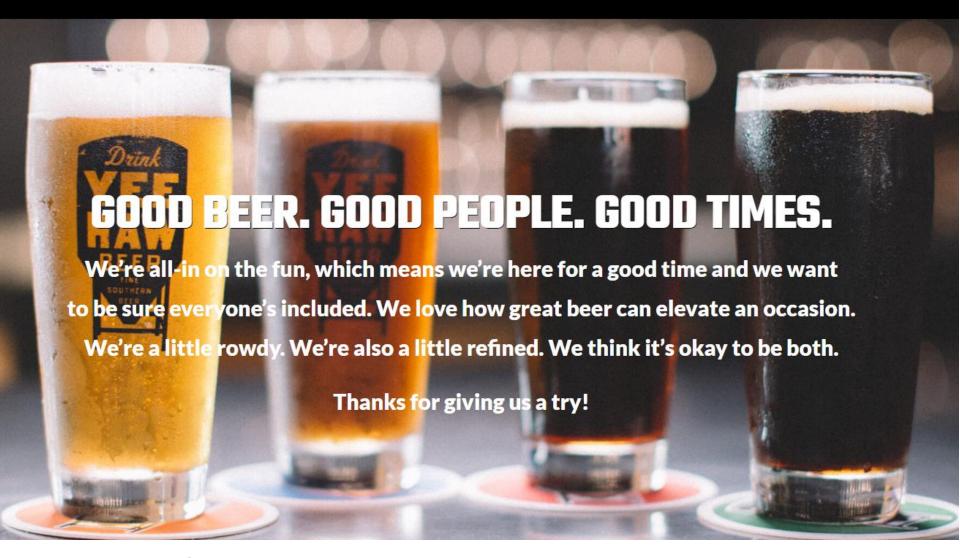
- * 2:28p crossed into KY
- ❖ 4p into TN

Arrived in Nashville around 5:30p.

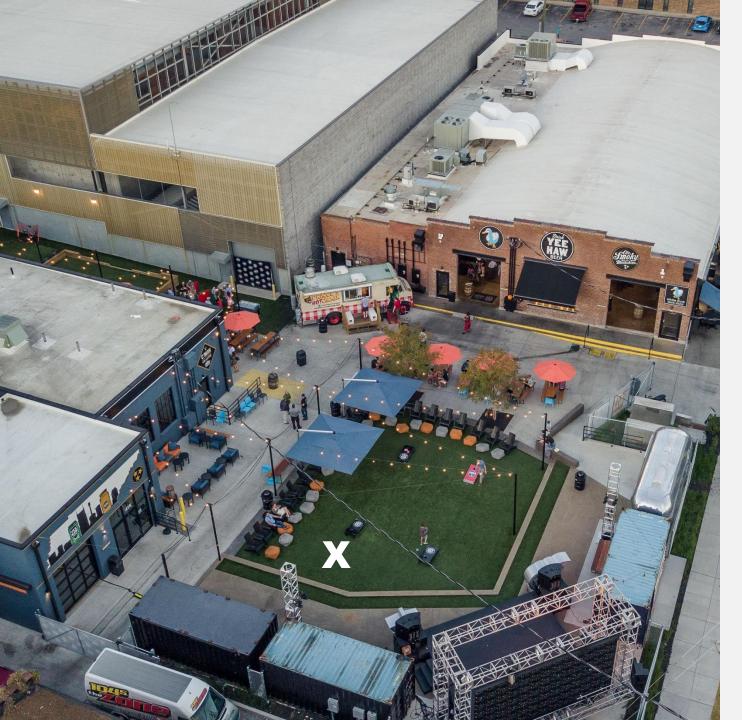
Short nap then to Yee Haw Brewing around 7p.







Rob and family were here in March. The beer was good, worth repeating. Much more outdoor activity in June than in March.

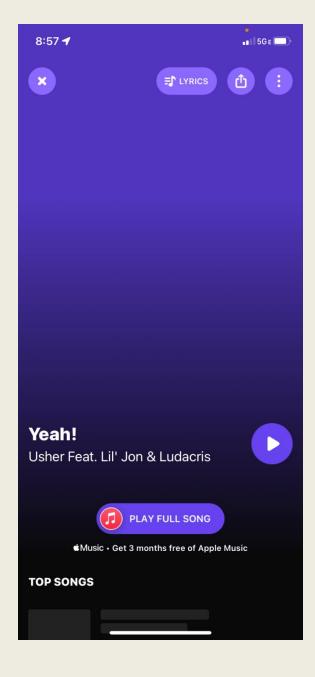


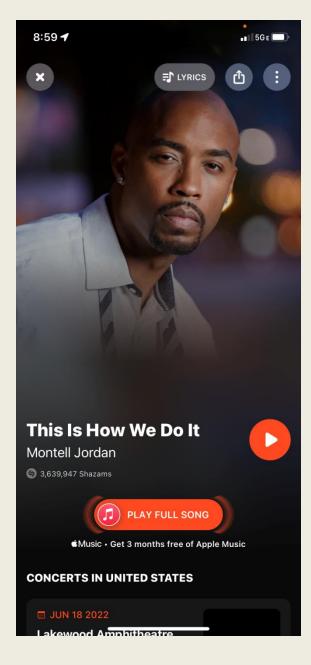
We sat where the white X is. The stage area is on the bottom of this picture with the scaffolding. The hotdog food truck is in the corner of the building. **Games for** folks of all ages past the rear of the food truck.







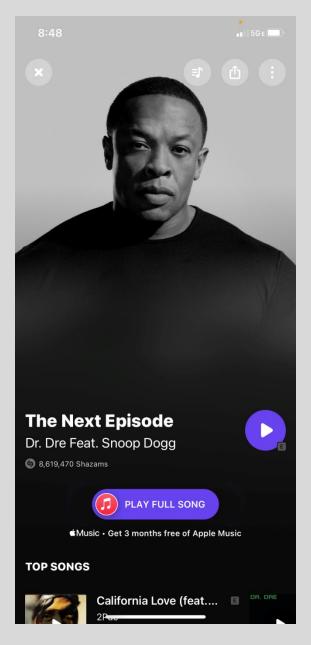


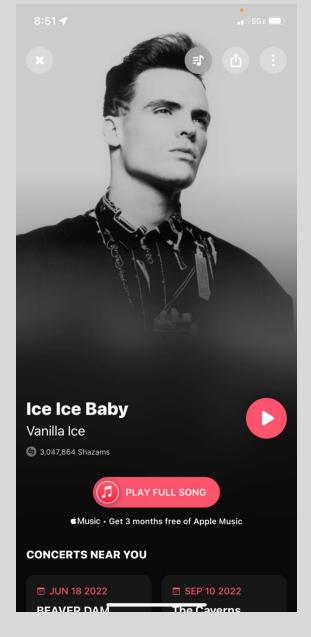


The guy on the stage was playing music we didn't know. **Shazam helped** us identify some. No Chicago, Elton John, Eagles, or even Minnie Riperton.

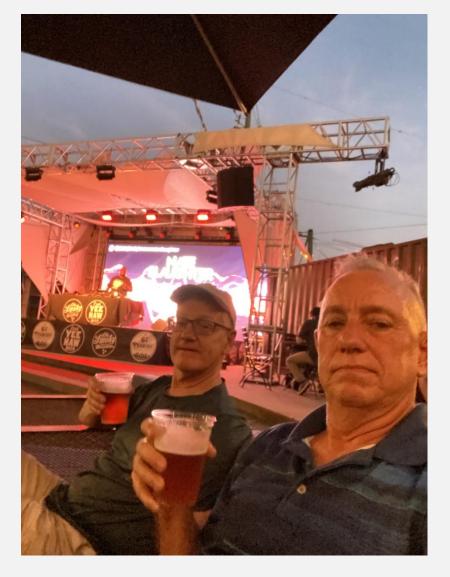












No doubt we drove up the average age of Yee Haw's clientele this evening, but they should appreciate us gracing them with our presence.





Back to the Red Roof Inn for a 7 & 7 nightcap.

6:47

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Done

327551.pdf







ELECTRONIC TICKET

Enter Mansion Line

327551 Saturday, June 18, 2022



9:15 AM

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE

Please note: We encourage you to arrive a minimum of 30 minutes in advance of your Mansion Tour time to allow time to park and make your way to the mansion. The time on your ticket indicates when you need to be in line for your Mansion Tour. There will be a short wait before your tour

The rest of the site, including the introductory film and self-guided tour of the museum, garden and grounds can take place at any time during your visit.

The Mansion Tour includes:

- · Access to the grounds and exhibit.
- · Interpreter-led tour of the mansion.
- Self-guided tour of the garden, grounds and other historic buildings.

Senior

Visit Natchez Hills Winery at Andrew Jackson's Hermitage for discounted wine tastings with your ticket. Also serving local beer. For guests ages 21+.



ENJOY YOUR VISIT:



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ELECTRONIC TICKET

Enter Mansion Line

Saturday, June 18, 2022 327551

Senior

9:15 AM

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE

Please note: We encourage you to arrive a minimum of 30 minutes in advance of your Mansion Tour time to allow time to



Day #4, Saturday, 18 June 2022. Our goal for today, Andrew Jackson's home, The Hermitage, for which we had to get e-tickets. The day began with breakfast of juice and granola bar and a Starbucks coffee.



Rob remembers his family vacation to Andrew Jackson's Hermitage when he was 9 years old. It helped foster his interest in history.

Arrived here 8:30isham. The grounds, the mansion, the story are very interesting.













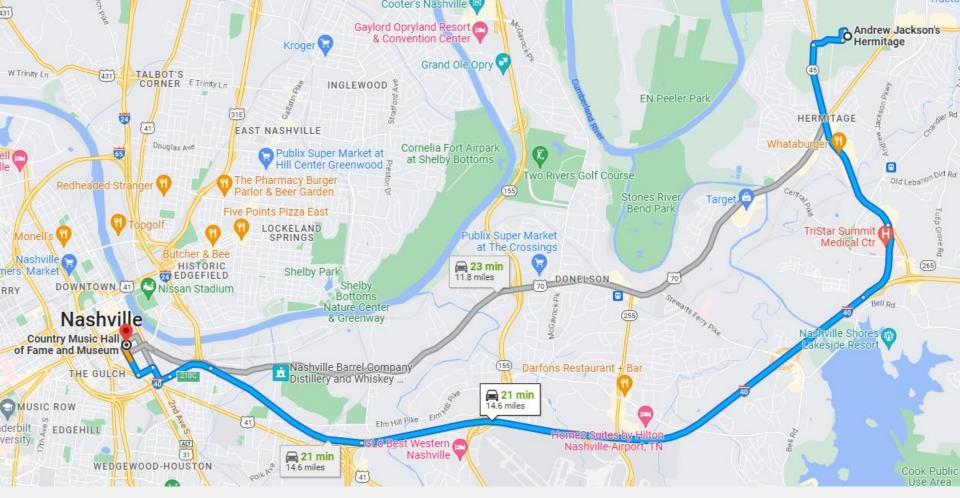




Tomb of Andrew and Rachel Jackson



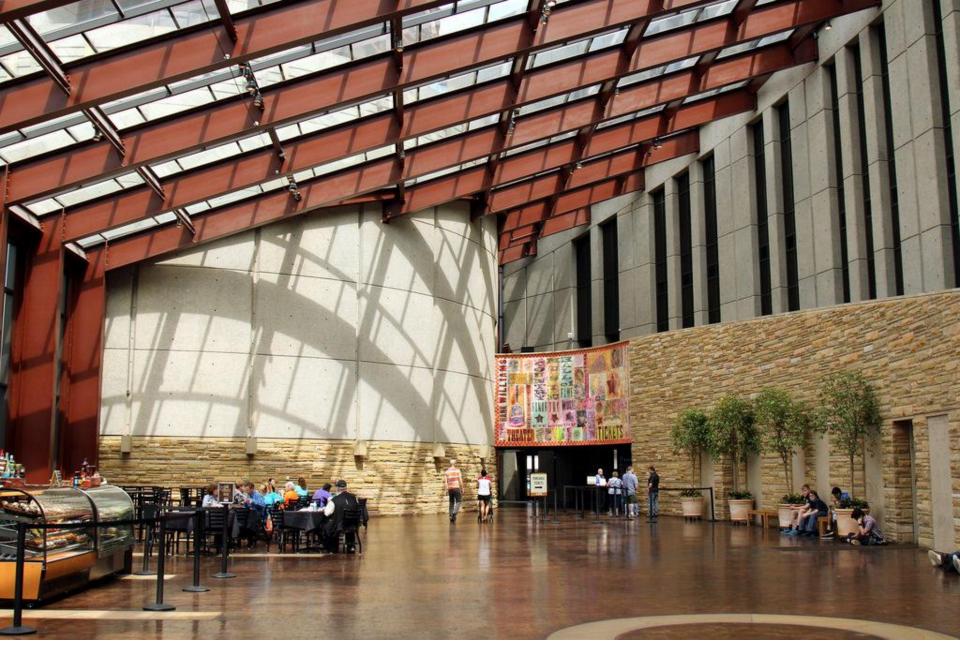
Plenty of air traffic in the Nashville area.



Departed the Hermitage about noon. Next destination was the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum downtown Nashville. I believe we actually took the grey route on the map above looking for a place to grab some lunch. Found a Subway sandwich.



Quite the structure. We got here 1:50. Around 4:30 went out and paid for additional parking. Stayed until 5:45. Very interesting.



Beautiful foyer







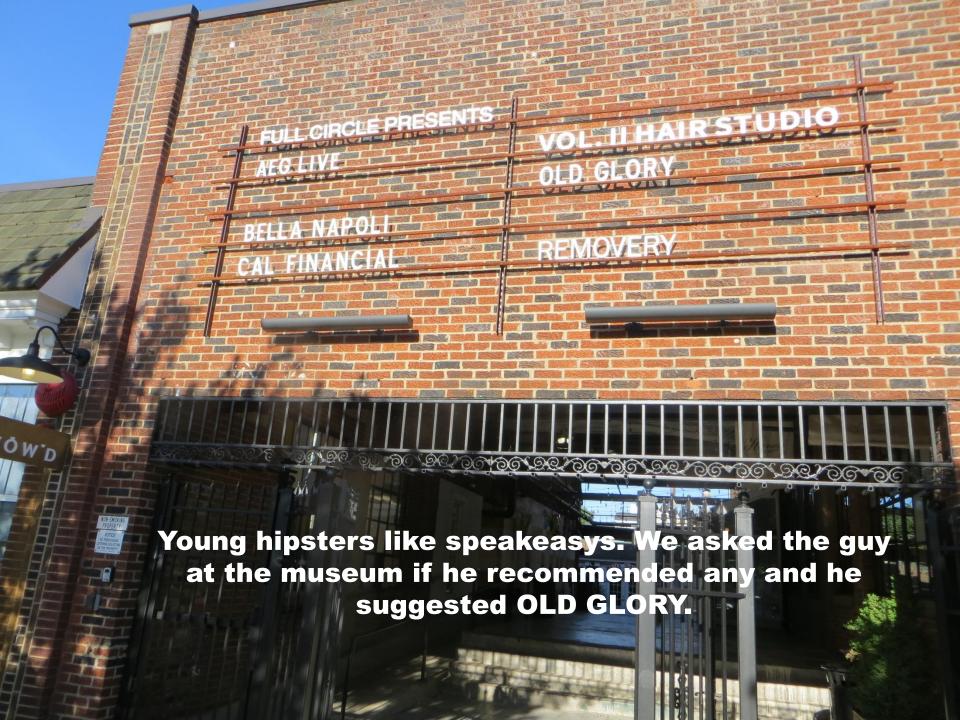
We're not particularly fans of Country Music, but after watching the Ken Burns documentary and visiting the museum, you certainly gain an appreciation of a genre indigenous to our nation.



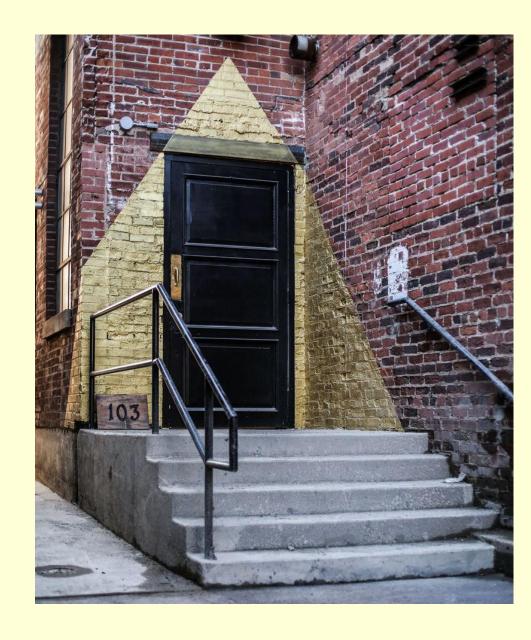
Downtown Nashville was hoppin. The lavender building below is the famous Tootsie's.

Many girls were wearing white boots like her on the left. Guess that's the Nashville thing today.





Website says: Old Glory is located in what used to be the boiler room for White Way Cleaners, formerly one of the largest steam cleaning facilities in Nashville. The space features the original electrical boxes, coal hopper, and smoke stack that were in use in the 1920s. The Soler sisters transformed the space into a bar/lounge, intertwining the original elements into their design. While Old Glory doesn't have a sign, find the golden triangle off of Edgehill Avenue for entrance.











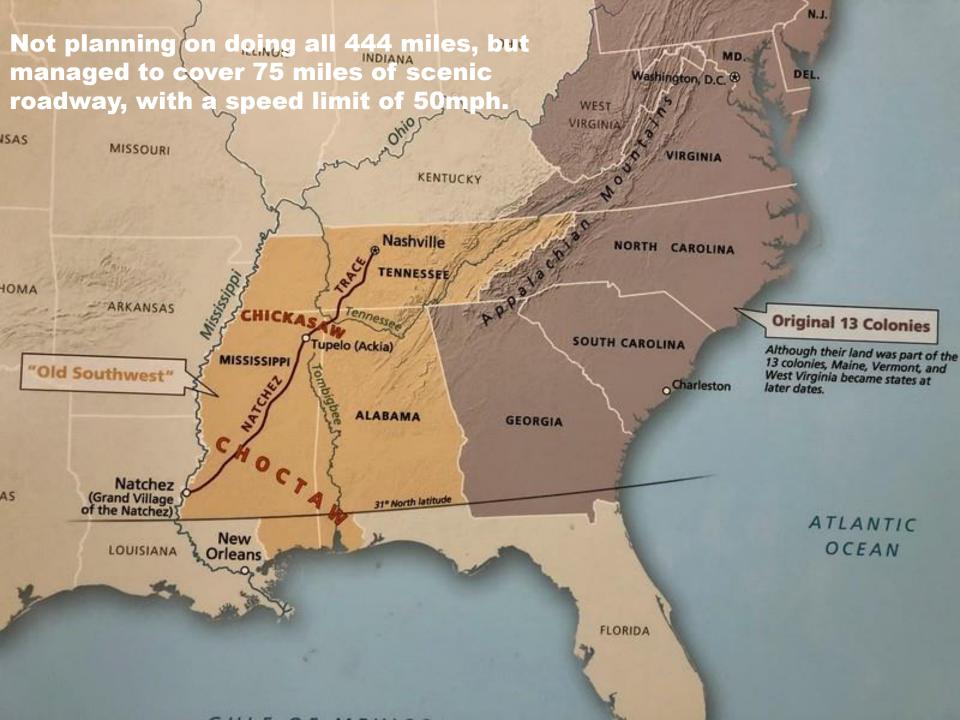
Got to Old Glory 6pm. Not sure what the speakeasy element was over any other bar.... Had a couple of beers then for a chef salad at nearby Bella Napoli. Back to the room for 7/7 and MEN IN BLACK movie

Day #5, Sunday, 19 June 2022

The day began with breakfast at a Waffle House just down the road from Red Roof Inn. The next thing was the Natchez Trace Parkway. The website says: The **Natchez Trace Parkway** leads you 444 miles through three states and 10,000 years of North American history. This scenic parkway links Natchez with **Nashville and crosses some** of the most beautiful terrain in the states of Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee. The Parkway has been declared a National Scenic **Byway and an All-American** Road, and has been chosen as one of America's 10 best biking roads...















Stopped for a walk to see a part of the original trail

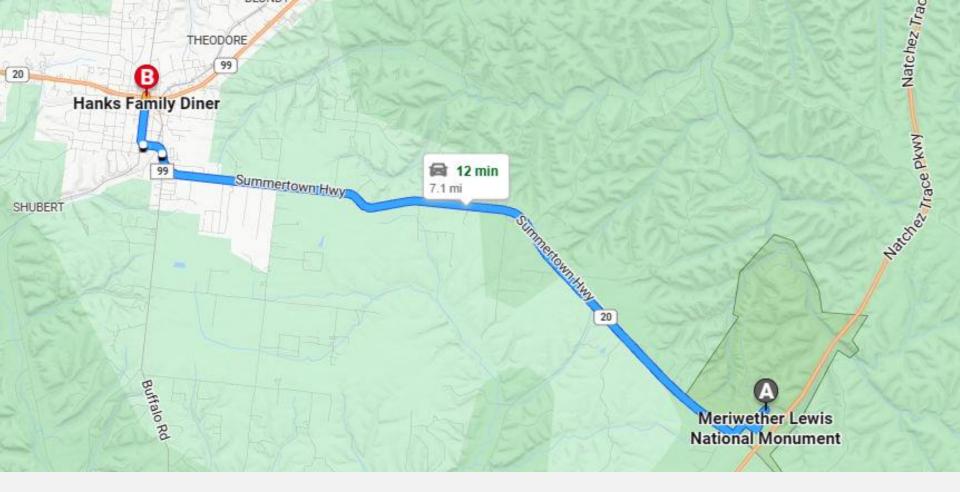






Meriwether Lewis of Lewis & Clark fame died near here and was buried here in October of 1809.

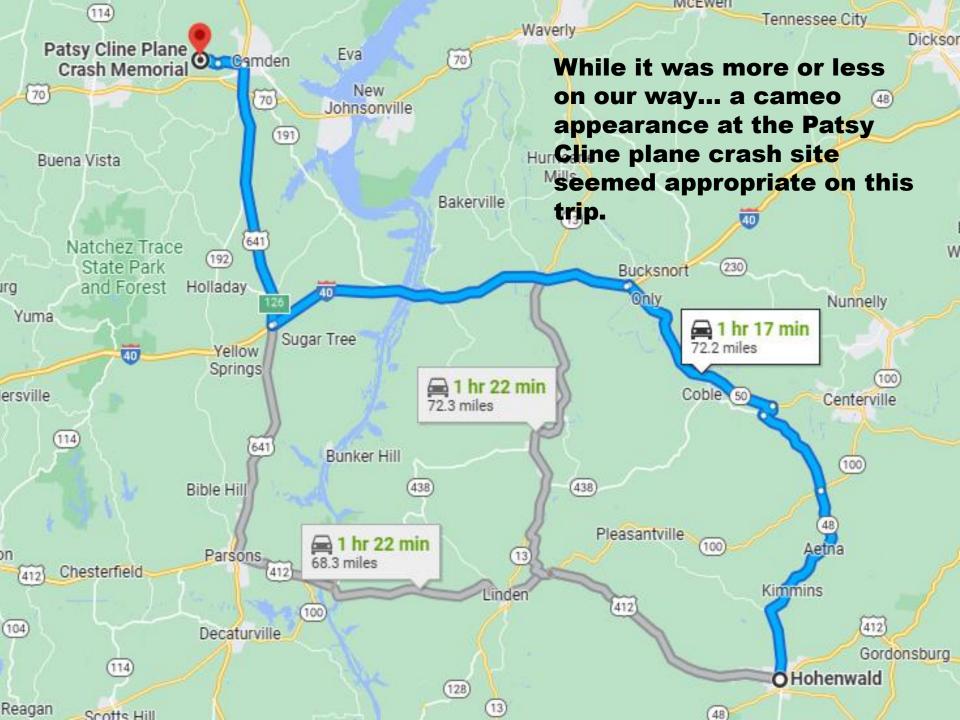




Here is where we parted ways with Natchez Trace Parkway and started a more northerly route up Hwy 20. Drove into Hohenwald, TN and found Hank's Family Diner.

Hohenwald was a nice little town. Hank's was a good find too.





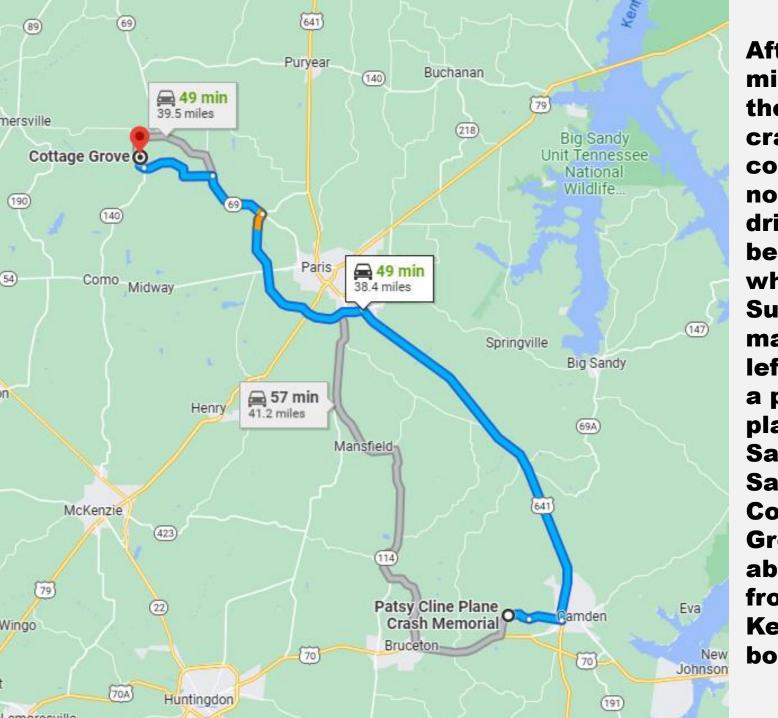




Camden, TN. Got here about 3pm. Not sure how we would have found this spot without GPS. March 5, 1963 a dark day in Country Music history. A plane crashed at this site carrying singer Patsy Cline and others. All on board perished.





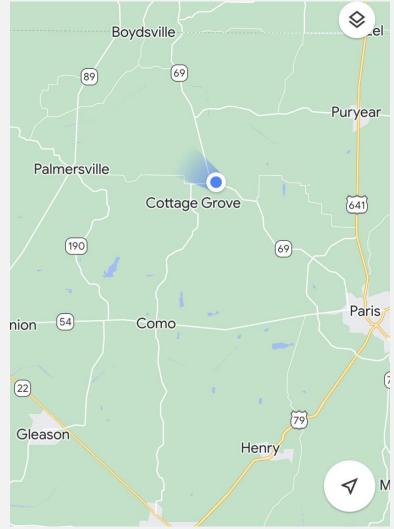


After about 10 minutes at the plane crash site, we continued our northerly drive. Ed behind the wheel. Suddenly he makes swift left turn into a parking place at Sandy's Saloon in Cottage **Grove, TN** about 6 miles from the Kentucky border.

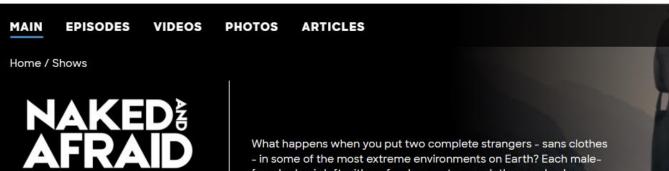








This was a good place to grab a spontaneous light beer a little after 4p.



15 Seasons

Watch on and discovery+

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- in some of the most extreme environments on Earth? Each malefemale duo is left with no food, no water, no clothes, and only one survival item each as they attempt to survive on their own.

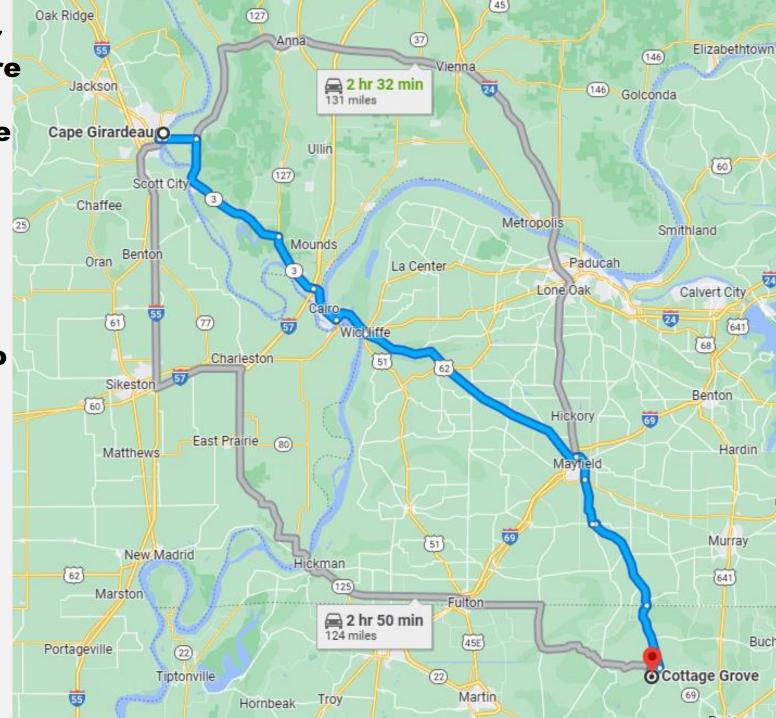
New Season of Naked and Afraid premieres Sunday, Feb 19 at 8p on Discovery.



Weirdly enough... the "nekkid" show was playing on the tv at Sandy's place. Whatta ridiculous premise for a show. Unbelievable.

A little after 4:30 we were heading toward Cape Girardeau, MO for the night. Rob's hometown.

4:44p we crossed into Kentucky.





Cape Girardeau, Missouri, Rob's hometown. A quick over-nighter to see Rob's mom and brother & wife. Got here 6p-ish. Checked into the Pear Tree Inn.

The Pilot House. This is where we met Rob's **brother Terry** and wife Kim. **Back in the day** it was a smoky dive. Maybe even a little "seedy." Today the "pub grub" menu is good, offering what some call the best burgers in town.





It's a thing here to have a Stag beer with a pickle. I think they call it a Rusty Nail. Ok. Check the box.

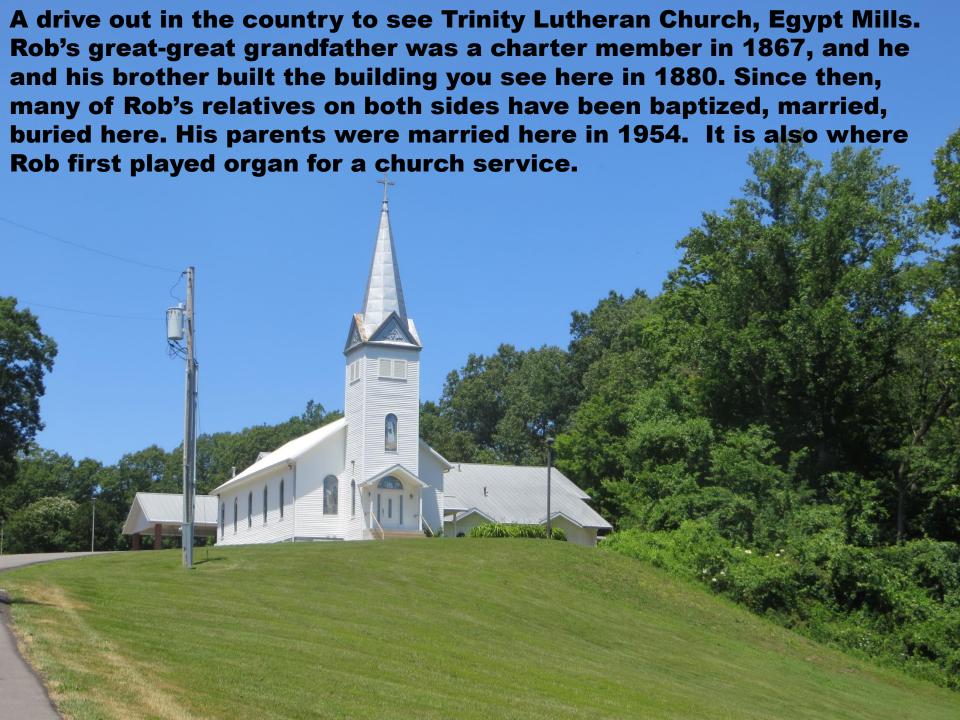


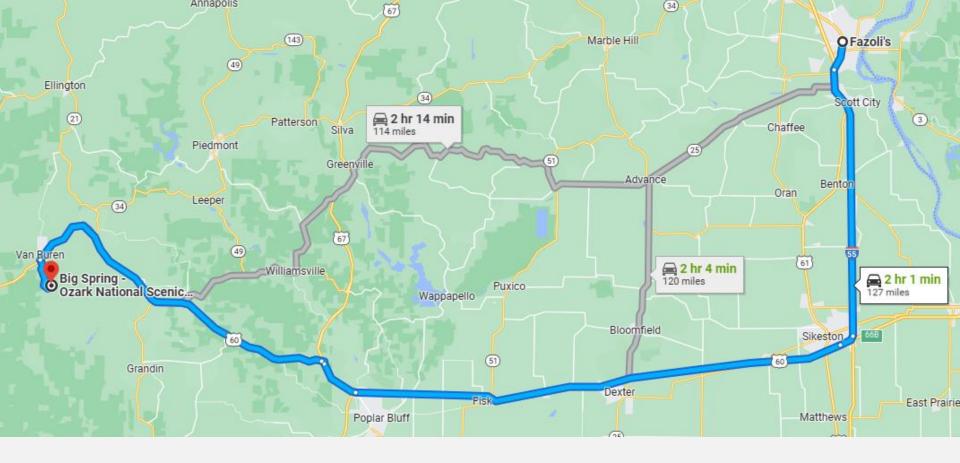
Rob and his brother Terry. The stars of Cape Girardeau.





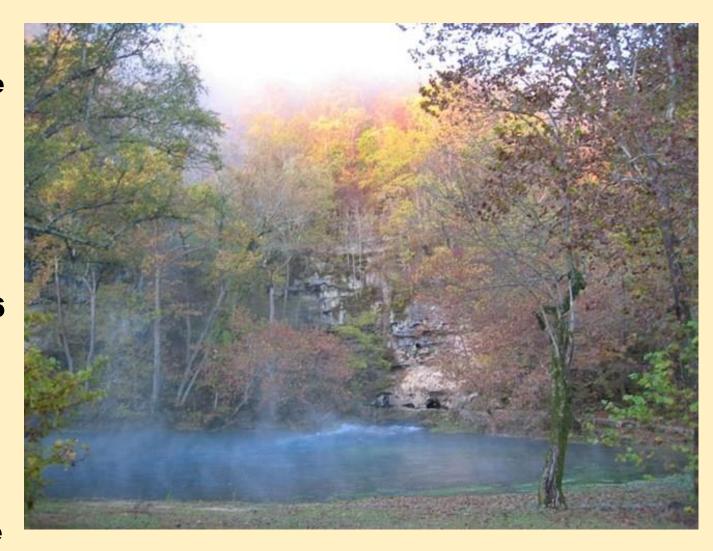








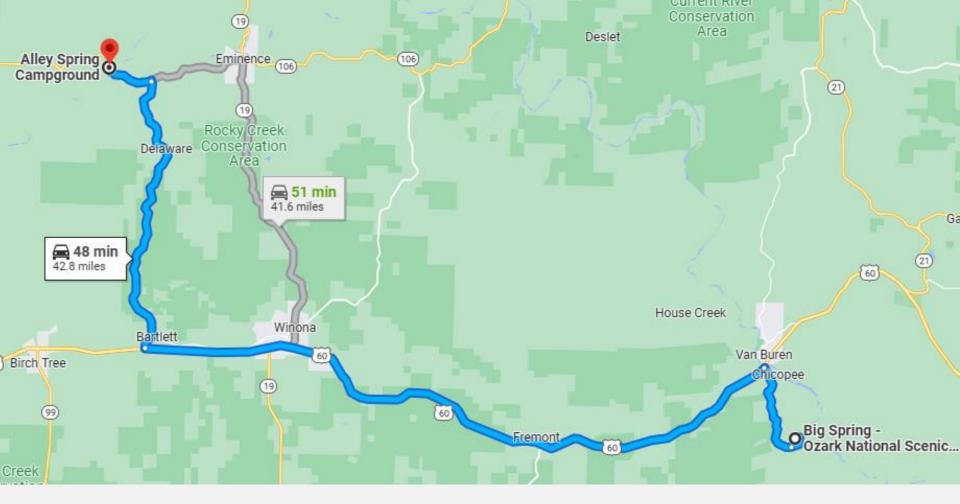
Got to Fazoli's Italian fast food place about 12:30p. Ate and hit the road westward... toward parks where Rob grew up camping. First stop, Big Springs in Van Buren, MO. **Big Spring near** Van Buren, MO claims to be the biggest spring in America, though two others also claim this dubious distinction, 286 million gallons of water come out of these rocks each day. It was a state park until 1969 when it became a national park. Got here at 4p.



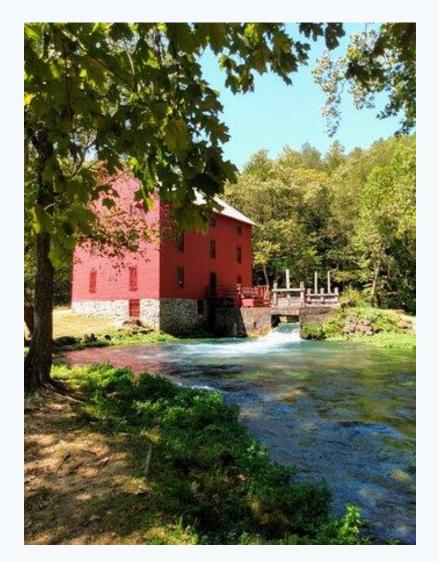
Ozark National Scenic Riverways Big Spring rises through a jumble of giant boulders causing a dramatic "boil" at the spring surface. On an average day 288 million gallons of water flow from the spring, enough to fill Busch Stadium in St. Louis in only 33 hours. Springs are unique and specialized habitats, primarily due to cool temperatures and flowing water. Many species found in Big Spring prefer springs over other aquatic habitats. Water Buttercups **Aquatic Snail** Mayfly Watercress







Next would be Alley Spring on the Jacks Fork River near Eminence, Missouri

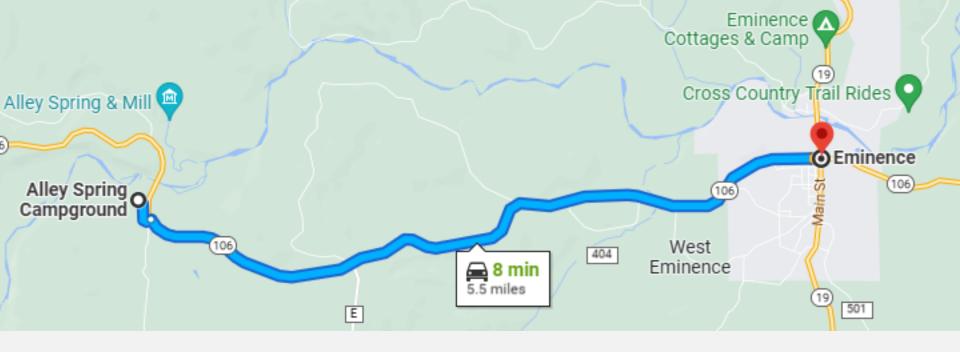




Much history to enjoy at the gristmill at Alley Spring. Got here about 5:15p





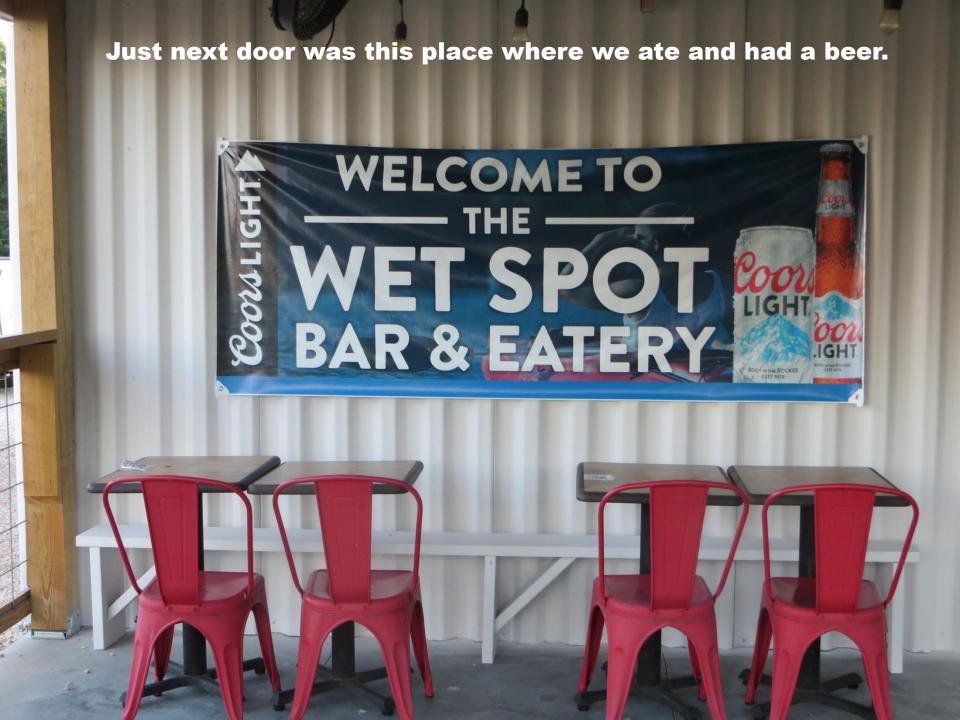


Then back to Eminence, MO for the night. Another quiet little town to enjoy.



We strongly considered doing a float trip down the Jacks Fork River the next day but decided against it. In hindsight, shoulda done it.

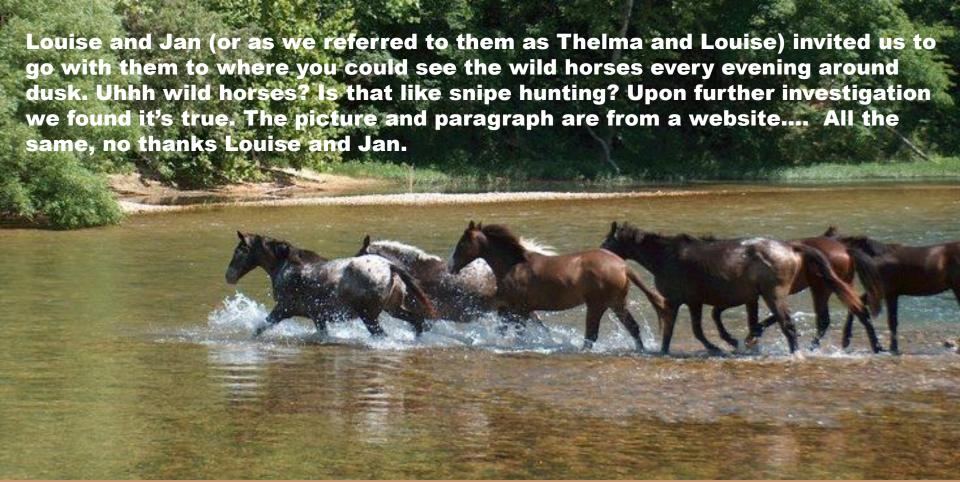










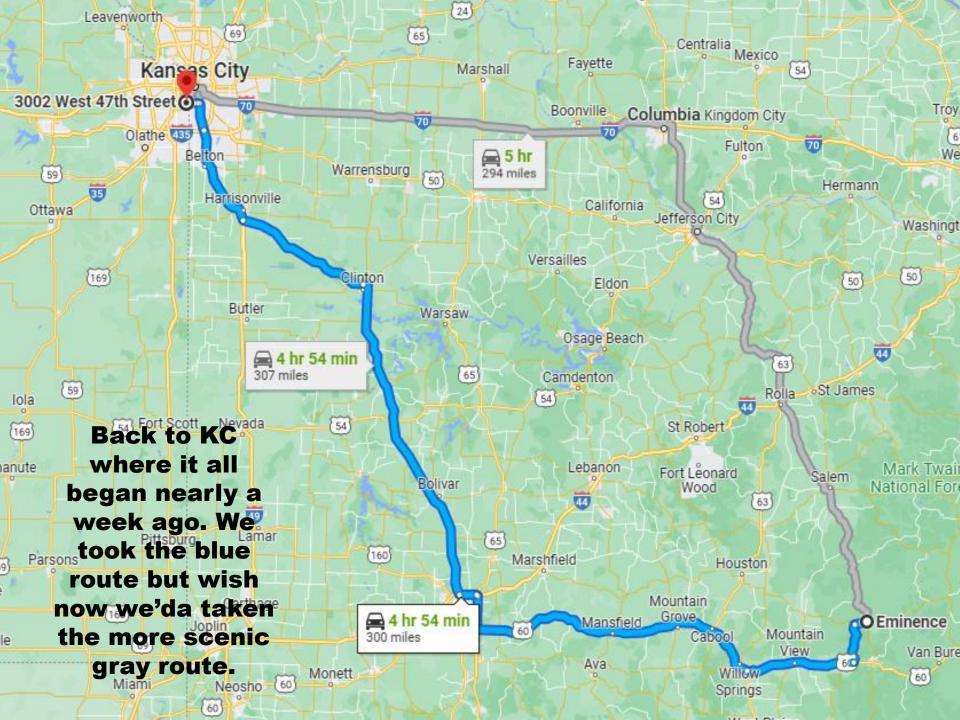


Here's How To See The Wild Horses Of Eminence

These horses roam the hilly area around the town of Eminence, a good 301 miles from Kansas City, Missouri, on US-60 and MO-13 N. The area in which the wild horses roam is both fairly wooded and vast. They wander freely within the confines of the 80,000-acre Ozark National Scenic Riverways...

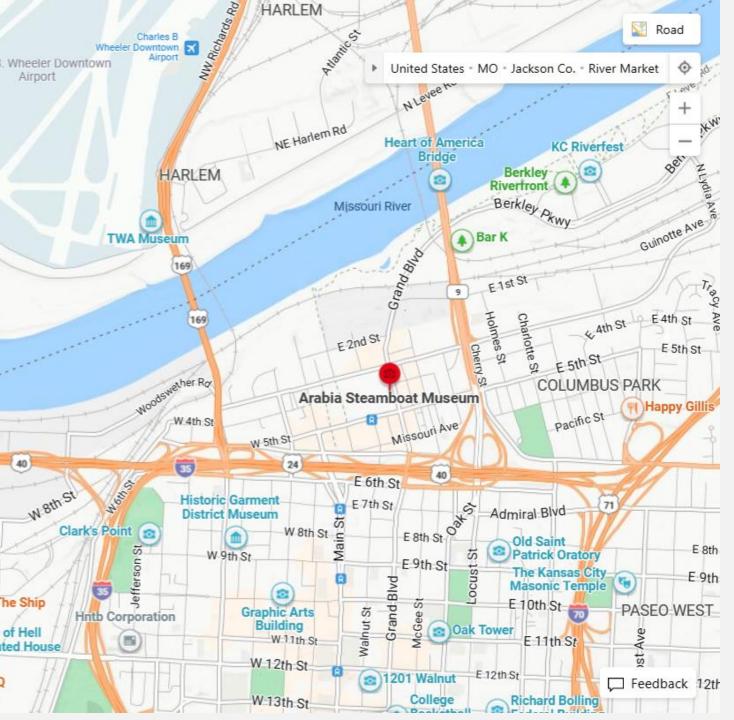










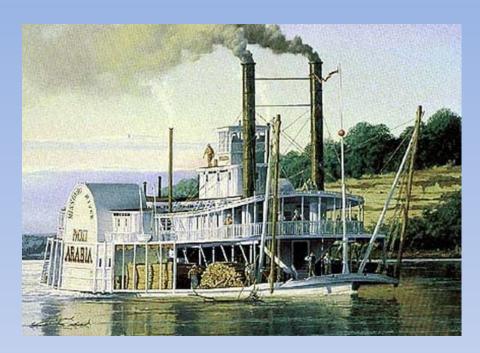


Rob's brother recommended the Arabia Steamboat Museum to visit. Turned out to be a good find.



Website says: When the mighty Steamboat Arabia sank near Kansas City on September 5, 1856, she carried 200 tons of mystery cargo. Lost for 132 years, its recovery in 1988 was like finding the King Tut's Tomb of the Missouri River. The discovery was truly a modern day treasure-hunting story at its best.

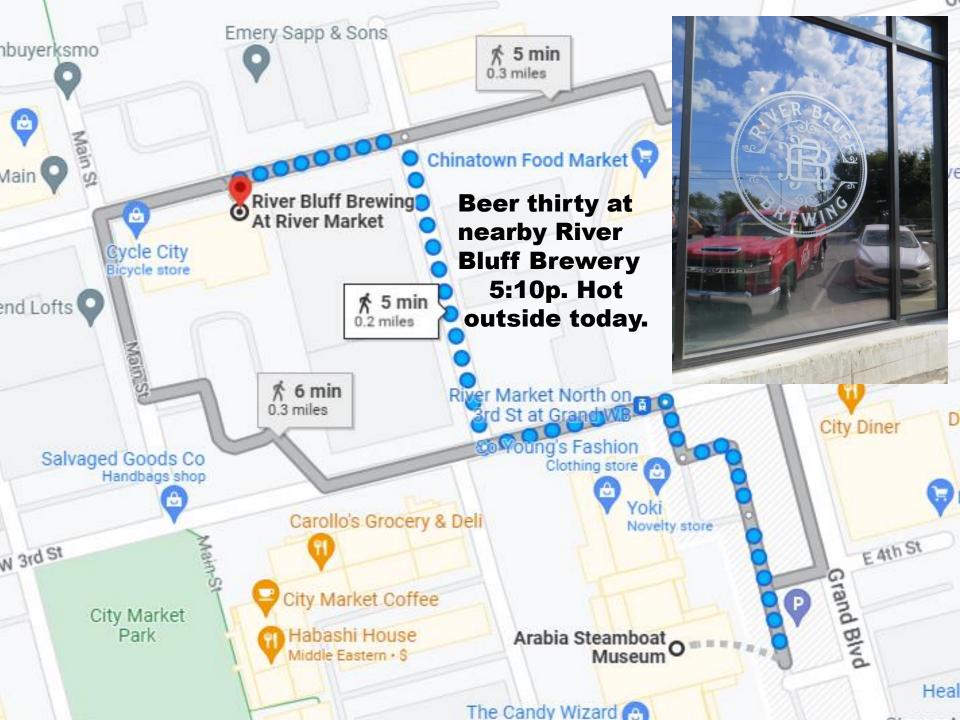
The artifacts are preserved and displayed at the Arabia Steamboat Museum, located in the historic City Market. From clothing, fine china and carpentry tools to guns, dishes and children's toys to the world's oldest pickles—the collection captivates visitors of all ages. Whether it's your first visit to this favorite Kansas City attraction or you come every year, the treasures of the Steamboat Arabia will connect you to American history in a new and exciting way.



Wikipedia says... The Arabia hit a tree snag and sank in the Missouri River on September 5, 1856. All 130 passengers survived, but an estimated 220 tons of cargo went down with it. Shortly thereafter, the river changed course, and the Arabia was buried underground. The cargo, destined for 16 towns on the frontier, was buried under a cornfield in Wyandotte County, Kansas, for 132 years until it was discovered in 1988 by River Salvage Inc., a group of self-proclaimed treasure hunters who began excavations. David, Greg, and Bob Hawley owned a refrigeration repair business. They partnered with Jerry Mackey, owner of Hi-Boy restaurants in Independence, Missouri, and David Lutrell from the construction industry, along with other family and friends, to form River Salvage Inc. With the permission of the land owner, they dug between November 1988 and February 1989. Although their original goal was to sell their discoveries, the historical importance of the finding quickly became apparent, and they started to plan a museum. Today, it is still owned and operated by the Hawley family, who are present there most days, often greeting visitors and answering questions.



A tiny fraction of the recovered cargo





After this we headed toward the airport. Dropped off the car - total this trip, 1,538.9 miles. Checked into Fairfield Inn by the airport, walked to nearby **4-Points Sheraton** for food and another beer. Ed had an early flight the next morning, Rob's a little later. This concludes our 2022 mancation.



Other trips these guys have made











Euro 07 including Dublin and Prague and others



UK03
also with Nathan



Don't forget the city dump (above) and numerous guy trips to Medina, TX





Great Lakes 2008



Euro 2010 (Little Circle) Bratislava, Slovakia, Croatia, etc



Northeast 2009



Mid-Atlantic 2011



Scandinavia 2012 (Big Circle)



Oklahoma "trunk trip" Nov 2013







50th state beer - Alaska 2014



Euro 2015 - Ed's dad's WW2 route



San Diego 2015





Euro 2016



Costa Rica 2017















Once again, thanks to our lovely wives for blessing our annual mancation adventures

