

We left home Thursday, August 7, 1941 in our 1939 Buick. We arrived at Des Moines at 7:45. While going South out of here near Leon, Iowa we had to go around about 100 Army trucks. At 9:45 we crossed into Missouri from Lamoni. Missouri has spear heads (red) to tell the driver when he can not pass. We ate dinner between Excelsior Springs and Kansas City.

At 1 o'clock we crossed the Kansas City toll bridge. Then in the mid-afternoon we encountered a terrible rain down pour near Williamsburg and Waverly, Kansas. Retired for the night at Newton, Kansas at the 4-C cabins. (520 miles)

Friday; About 14 miles out of Newton we saw a number of oil wells and even more on the other side of Wichita, and the odor is very strong. The road out of Wichita was very straight for 41 miles with no curves. We saw that man with the cart we saw going to Des Moines the latter part of June.

It is very cool and we wore jackets most of the morning. Now we enter Oklahoma and stop to see Aug Grummer's at Okarche at 11 o'clock. The soil is very red and also very flat. At El Reno, the U.S. cavalry is located with thousands of horses. Also a large U.S. airport. We ate dinner at Wayside park near Bridgeport. Jr. took a picture. Lots of cotton fields with darkies working in them. Stayed all night at Amarillo, Texas. (463 miles)

Saturday: After leaving Amarillo, we see lots of grain fields that have not been cut because it is too wet. Then about twenty miles further is rough land where there is grass, cattle and horses. Another cool and cloudy day. At eight o'clock we entered New Mexico and now we begin to get mountainous and at Roswell, the Rockies start. Rained while going through the Mountains. Ate dinner at Tularosa, New Mexico in the car and took a picture here.

At 2 o'clock we saw the white sands. A picture of them is on the next page.

Now we are beginning to see cactus, called palmea, to us the yucca. Hit the Continental Divide at 4:15 near Lordsburg. Stayed all night at Lordsburg. Lots of Mexicans there. We have been having a lot of dips, because the roads have no culberts. (536 miles.)

Sunday: On our way to Chandler, left Lordsburg at 9 o'clock. Was stopped and inspected for fruits and honey when we arrived in Arizona. Now we got into mountains and more mountains and ate dinner at Globe Arizona. Then we really did see some mountains. Have seen lots of copper smelters. Left the mountains, (Crook Mts.) about 3:30 and arrived at Chandler at 4:10.

Aunt Josie lives in a cottage near Tille Le Mon. It is more fertile and we see lots of grapefruit trees and orange trees. Charles Krepela has a ranch with cotton in it as well as lots of fruit trees.

We found Aunt Josie sitting in her apartment. Dad went over to the door and she was so glad to see us, but cried because Uncle Jim is gone. We ate Supper at Tillies. Jr. and I went with Donnie, the twin to the Church of the Nazarenes. The folks went to Charlies. (We were told it would be very warm, but it was cool.)

Monday: We spent the morning talking to Aunt Josie, then in the afternoon saw Aunt Josies home, and then out to Charlies, and his ranch. Had supper with them on the farm.

They had a parrot named Dora, and it would talk when we fed it. Also a little chick named Cowboy and a little quail. Gladys had two very nice horses and saddles. Her boyfriend was there and they were going riding. We took some pictures by the date trees, pomgranite, figs, grapefruit and orange trees. Also in the cotton fields. We got back about 9 o'clock and played checkers until 12.

Tuesday: Got up and said goodbye to Aunt Josie and Tillie. Then went and had our oil changed before starting out for Grand Canyon.

Up by Phoenix we saw lots of cacti like the one on the opposite page. (eucalyptus trees, tamarack trees with fine leaves, and hegira = corn) Left Chandler rather late and took a picture by some tall cactus near Phoenix. Traveled through mountains again going North. Ate our dinner in a roadside park near Prescott. Junior is little under the weather. We entered Grand Canyon at 4:30. They charged 1 dollar for the car. Got a cottage numbered 333s which is very crude. We then took the East rim drive and saw the deer and took pictures of it and the Canyon. It was an 8 mile drive. The Colorado River looked like a ribbon, but it is actually 4 miles wide. The Canyon is anywhere from 18 to 25 miles wide and 1 mile down. It was almost dark when we got back to our cottage. We got our supplies at a general store where there were a lot of Indians. Junior was sick during the night. It also was very cold during the night. (We went to a specified place and saw them feed bears and other wild animals. They would come out of the timber from all sides. Had to leave before it got dark. It was getting dusk and they rushed us out.

Wednesday: We got started about 9:30 and went down the West Rim a ways but it was too far, so we turned around and started out for Boulder Dam. Really there were some beautiful sights, a grand museum. Ate dinner at Williams in a National Park. Junior is

still sick. Roads were good going to Boulder Dam, so we made good time. Had to go through the Black Mountains, which were covered with black rocks. Arrived a Boulder Dam about 4 o'clock. We stopped on a view place to get a birds eye view of the dam. We took some pictures from this point.

Then we went down to the dam proper and went over and took a picture of the Arizona spillway. This was the first time it has been full since it was built. We then went down to the towers and found out there was to be a tour for a half hour and Mother had to stay up because they would not let us take purses and cameras down with us. We went down in an elevator over a hundred stories, which took several minutes. When we got down there the guide showed us the big turbines and the power house. They had tunnels made be blasting out rocks to get to the other power house. He took us so we could stand over one on the pipes that brings water from the front of the dam. It was large enough to put two trains running through there side by side or to put a four story house in it. There was enough concrete to run a highway all around the world. There was enough water there to cover New York State with one foot of water. It generates enough current to supply every person I believe with 5000 watts. Anyhow it was a very spectacular sight. They supplies there that weigh so much that they cables are 4 inches in diameter.

We left the Boulder Dam about 6 o'clock and went on to Las Vegas where we got a cabin (motel) and stayed all night.

Thursday: Left Las Vegas but did not go up to see the gambling joints. This is where Emma Krepala married her last husband. Baker, California we stopped to get gas and were only about 15 or 20 miles from Death Valley. At Yermo we were inspected by California State for fruits. We ate our dinner in the mountains near San Bernadino. I saw my first live lizard here. We arrived at Los Angeles at 3 o'clock. It was beginning to get warm. Had quite a time to find Alma Schoff. We thought she lived in Rivera, but had moved to a new home in Pico on North Layman. She was going to scrub the garage floor when we arrived and came out of the garage in her bare feet. She was very surprised. Found a cabin and then had supper with Alma, Bob and Betty Lou. Lawrence took us around in the morning Friday, and then helped us find Emma Krepala, on his way to work at the Lockheed airplane factory. Had supper there and then Junior and I went with Dot sightseeing.

Saturday: Went to find Charlie Challed and Bess, but did not find them. Instead we walked through the West Lake Park, and went to the show, Barnacle Bill (at the West Lake Theatre).

Junior and I saw Olvera Street and China City with Dot, which was just like a carnival of the Spanish and Chinese. We saw the new Union Depot and the Tunnels through the mountains. (Mother and Dad saw the big Krepala home with big palm tree and Jap flower shop on Pasadena Avenue.)

Sunday, Aug 17: We started our touring of Los Angeles with Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Schoff and Betty Lou at 11 A.M. The first place of interest was the Santa Anita Race tracks. They were having a program put on by the soldiers for their friends and relatives. We watched the airplanes and a little of the maneuver and went on to the Rose Bowl. These ar both beautiful places and so mammoth. Then we went below suicide Bridge to see how high it was and then went over it. They now have a big fence in front of the railing. Then we went up to the Lockheed air plant. There we saw the airplanes all camouflaged with all different drab colors.

The next places of interest were Hollywood and Beverly Hills where we saw some real swell homes and other buildings then the Warner Bros. movie picture studios and also NBC Radio City. We saw the fake sets made of cardboard and rough finish on the back. We also saw a fake forest, old time city and several other movie sets.

We then went along the coast to Long Beach (then ferried across the ocean to Williams and Long Beach) and ate dinner at 4 o'clock at Redondo Beach. Then traveled along the beach to Long Beach where we went to a place similar to Coney Island and back to Rainbow pier. We bought the coral there. Then we went back and saw a movie show at the Paramount and stage show. It was "Kiss the Boys Goodbye", a musical show with Ethel Waters at the stage show. (negro) We got home about 1 o'clock after a grand day. (Lots of seagulls and flowers.)

Monday: We left Los Angeles at 9 o'clock for San Francisco. Near Ventura we got out and touched the Pacific Ocean and got these shells. Saw a truck that jack-knifed near Santa Barbara. We ate our dinner in a park near Bueliton, California. Stayed all night at Salinas. There was a large factory back of our cabins that packed head lettuce. It was cold an cloudy as we were near the Ocean. A nice big cat made himself at home in our cabin.

Tuesday: Gilroy getting ready for Rod-e-o. All kinds of banners. Saw lots of prunes drying in big trays all kind of almonds. We ate our dinner at the Golden Gate Park where they had a big museum and aquarium, in San Francisco. In the afternoon we crossed the Golden Gate Bridge and walked back and took a picture of San Francisco and bridge.

Stayed all night in Healdsburg at the White Cabins (82 year old lady managed the camp) and we saw the gypsy down town. Lots of Wineries and you can buy it at any store.

Wednesday: Saw lots of grapes and plums all the way to Ukiah. Getting in the mountains and near Ukiah is the home of Sea Biscuit where Howard trains him. Soon we got into the Redwood Forest where we bought our little remembrances. All kinds of curves. Stopped by the Pacific Lumber Co at Scotia, California. Saw scads of lumber and shingles. At Eureka we went over a big lagoon that was at least a mile across. Stayed all night at Crescent City, where Dad got those seeds. (We purchased some redwood downtown.)

Thursday: Started at 7 A.M. and entered Oregon at 8 o'clock and I got sick because of too many curves. I took Alka Selzer and was O.K. We traveled in clouds a good deal of the time. Ate dinner at Marshfield, Oregon. I had soup. Saw some Myrtle wood and we stopped and got a pencil for Jr. at North Bend. Stayed at Newberg in a street car cabin. Only 25 miles from Portland. Lots of fruits, nuts, peaches, etc. Anything does well in this district. (Salem, South of here Mrs. Chezik' Father stayed)

Friday: Stopped at Portland and got some field glasses and left about 10 and arrived at La Center where Mary Krepela Fee lived. At Kelso and other points, Portland and the bridges were patrolled by military police. Stayed at Mary's for dinner, saw her prune plums and filberts (nut). Saw Chris Rosburgs store at Rosburg, Washington. Stayed all night at Centralla, after following and meeting all kinds of Army trucks. They went by all night long on their maneuvers. Call the Sears to see if they will be home. Olympia airport near Tacoma had scads of Army camps and equipment as we were near Fort Lewis, which were having maneuvers with other camps. Now we see Puget sound. Very noticeable that they have no screens on their windows. Saturday? Ate dinner at Seattle and after quite some time we found Lillian, Arthur and Valdean (picksie) 6 Mo. old. They have a lovely lawn of bent grass, (Oregon) or bermuda grass (Arizona or California).

Sunday: We took a sight seeing trip in Seattle. We saw the second largest locks in the world from Lake to Bay. Saw the University, and then some swell homes. Looked up Mother's Uncle Henry's home, board walks around it. Mrs. Emma Jordon and daughter Lilly live in it now. Have a candy shop on First and Pike. They gave us lots of candy, nuts and pop corn. Very nice people. (The underline is mine in 1991. Ha! EK)

Monday, Aug 24: We left Seattle at 6:45 A.M. so as to avoid the stop lights. It was raining when we left Seattle and kept on raining all the way down to Portland and down the Columbia drive spoiling our view of the said beautiful scenery. Ate dinner at Hood River and drove in the rain some more. Towards evening it quit raining and we made better time. We stayed at La Grande at the Oregon Trail Cabins and ate supper at the Nook. 498 miles. Lots of them in mountains. Drove through some barren ones from Pendelton to Le Grande.

Tuesday: Saw a hot water sanitarium where the water in a lake was boiling that morning as it was very cool. Also saw some good grain fields near Le Grande. All seemed to be more than ripe. Entered Idaho at 10 o'clock. Ate dinner near Boise. Saw lots of caves made for storing potatoes, onions, apples, etc. Stayed at Tremonton, Utah. 514 miles for the days travel.

Wednesday: We went to Salt Lake City and visited the Mormon Temple and heard the great organ in the Tabernacle. Ate dinner on the roadside near Salt Lake City. Stopped at Little America, Wyoming again and got some gas as we were going over sort of a desert. We stayed all night at Rawlins, Wyoming.

Thursday: Left about 7:15 A.M. and stopped at Laramie and Cheyenne as we did three years ago. At Pine Bluffs we ate dinner with those Cedar Rapids folk. Stayed at Kearney all night where those girls were talking next door. 495 miles.

Friday: August 28, 1941. Got started about 7:30. Got gas at Schuyler where we ate dinner 3 years ago and crossed the toll bridge at Blair. (the Lincoln Memorial Bridge) Ate dinner at Denison and arrive home at 5 o'clock. 433 miles that day, with a total of 7010 miles.

We covered 16 states on our trip. These included: Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, and Iowa!