

Odyssey 2004: The Moss Family

Journal – Week 4

Day 22 – Morning at Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorial. Both were fascinating structures. We got MeMa a rock from the blasting! From there, we drove to the famous Wall Drug Store, a huge complex made famous in the 1930's by offering free ice water. This was a fun stop! It sits within minutes of Badlands National Park, which showcases rapidly changing landscapes within a 40-mile scenic loop. Grasslands, deep gorges, and jagged rock ridges striated with rose, tan, gold and green colors make this terrain unique.

Trip Trivia: *We bought the National Parks Monopoly at the Badlands Visitor's Center.*

Day 23 – We arrived in Bloomington, MN by late afternoon, so we were able to shuttle over to the Mall of America to briefly get a glimpse. We walked the third and fourth floors. That is one humongous mall! There are 2 food courts on each level and 4 floors in all. It's really quite overwhelming!

Day 24 – We spent the day in the Mall of America! Thanks to Camp Snoopy, an indoor adventure park that fills the center of the mall, even the kids enjoyed spending a day at the mall! Timberland Twister, the newest roller coaster in the park, was everyone's favorite. It's the first roller coaster of its kind that spins in addition to the normal ups and downs. We walked floors one and two just so we could say we really walked the whole mall! As for shopping, we only took in a few specialty stores, mainly stores that we don't have in Greenville. The big anchor stores were Macy's, Bloomingdale's, Nordstrom and Sears. Overall, it was actually a very beautiful mall with each floor having its own style and personality. Sitting benches were plentiful, and there was a warm, welcoming, safe feeling to the mall.

Day 25 – We drove to Chicago in time to spend the evening at the Navy Pier on Lake Michigan. It was a beautiful evening, and we got an overview of the city by riding the famous ferris wheel. Then there were fireworks----lots of fireworks! A grand, patriotic 20-minute display of fireworks shot from a barge right off the pier. A great way to end the day!

Day 26 – Chelsea's long-awaited special day finally arrived: a visit to the American Girl Store in Chicago! We had reservations for brunch, and then we shopped 'til we dropped! It was very special, and both of us had lots of fun. Greg and Brandon entertained themselves by going to see the new movie, Spiderman 2. We all met back at the Hancock Building and went up to the Observatory on the 94th floor. From the top of this building, the view of Chicago and beyond is spectacular. You can actually see 4 states! The day ended with a drive to Ohio.

Day 27 – This was the only day we veered from the itinerary! Ralph and Lisa called to say they would be at the Starbucks in Ohio for the weekend ---only a 6 hour drive from Chicago which is nothing to us at this point! Since we had never been to Anne and

Christopher's and hadn't seen baby Anders, it took very little thought to make this opportunity into a reality. It was great to see where Anne has spent her adult life - places I had only heard about for years. Staying at their farmhouse, I felt like I was waking up in a Folgers commercial with cool morning fresh air, bright sun in the window, birds singing and cows mooing! It was a perfect combination having the Starbucks/Hegedus/Moss clans reunited. We had so much fun being together, sharing stories and memories. God has blessed our families with kindred spirits. Just wish we all lived closer!

Day 28 – *We arrived in St. Louis around noon to encounter the only crowds we've faced on this entire trip! The St. Louis Fair was in full swing for the 4th of July weekend so the entire area downtown surrounding the Arch was extremely busy. We toured the Museum of Westward Expansion and took the "Journey to the top of the Arch" tram ride. The view from atop the Gateway Arch is stunning! As part of the Fair, an air show was going on, so we watched a "Wingwalker" fly around us while we were at the top of the Arch! St. Louis had a spectacular fireworks display that evening. We sat in front of the courthouse and watched as the 20-minute fireworks filled the stainless steel frame of the Arch!*

Day 29 – *We arrived at James and Stephanie Porter's around 2:30pm. It was so good to see them in their new home in Nashville, TN. Their home was beautiful and the nursery is ready and waiting for Ashley Anne! We had a great meal at Famous Dave's BBQ and watched a "Top Ten in the Nation" fireworks display in downtown Nashville. We really miss having the Porter's in Greenville, and we enjoyed our time with them.*

Day 30 – *Home at last!*

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein. O taste and see that the Lord is good." Psalm 24:1, Psalm 34:8

Trip Trivia: Week 4

- **3 Spectacular Fireworks Displays: Navy Pier at Chicago, St. Louis Gateway Arch and Nashville Riverfront**
- **Interesting Name: "Nameless Creek," in Ohio**
- **Total Number of License Tags we've seen: 45**
- **Miles Traveled this week: 2841**
- **Number of Pictures Greg took this week: 649**