



Reflections on Calhoun's 2015

The best description we can make of our activities this year is "ditto". Instead of taking a long trip this year, we opted for what we call semi-local mini-vacations. The routine goes like this: determine 3-4 days we can get away without missing too much, pick a locality in Kansas or a neighboring state about which we know little or nothing, check the map for reservoirs with camping areas in that locality's vicinity, convert our mini-van from carry-passengers mode to sleep-on-the-floor camping mode, load it with food and overnight needs, lock the house, and leave.

We made three such trips in late summer and early fall and visited:

- Several state reservoirs
- Mushroom State Park (with interesting rock formations)
- The Garden of Eden (Lucas, KS, style)
- A small-town library (with give-away books galore)
- The Hutchinson salt mine
- Laura Ingalls Wilder's "Little House on the Prairie"
- Big Brutus (the second-largest mining shovel ever made)
- Fort Scott (built to guard the "Indian" border before Kansas was opened to "settlers")
- Constitution Hall (LeCompton, KS) where a pro-slavery draft of the state constitution was made before free-state voters won the fight to have Kansas join the USA as a free state (and where, as the museum historian said, the civil war really started).



Wilson Reservoir



Little House on the Prairie (reconstruction)



Fort Scott Kansas

We had a lot of fun on those trips; there is a lot to see in and near Kansas!

A few people have dropped by for too-short visits, and we hereby invite more of y'all (that's "you all" for you Northerners) to stop and stay awhile. As an inducement, we can take you on a hike of one of



Myron in the Hutchinson Salt Mine

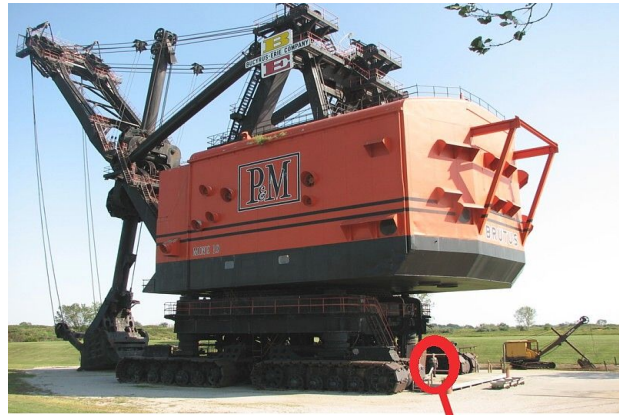


Mushroom Rock State Park

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Nancy with our daughter Edith



Big Brutus

Myron

Fragments of four different Native American bowls



the last and largest remnants of native prairie in the U.S.A. -- the Konza Prairie Biological Station, where we both are docents.

Myron's "barbershop" quartet, the Apple Core (pause) Tet, found a Lead to replace the one whose health made him drop out, so Myron is once again enjoying making music.

Nancy has finally started going through her parents psycho-ceramic (cracked-pot?) collection, which means that potsherds are currently on almost every level surface in the house and garage! It is worse than being addicted to jigsaw puzzles because there are obviously MANY missing pieces.



Other residents:



Praying mantis,
humming bird,
skunk

It has been a good year with only a few bumps in the road. We do have one warning for you: if you ever lose the vision in an eye, even if just temporarily, get yourself to an ophthalmologist or a cardiologist as quickly as you can! The longer we live, the more we learn what can go wrong.

We hope you have good memories from 2015 and that 2016 will be even better.

Nancy
& Myron



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