

1984 USA (Seattle to Boston)

INTRODUCTION

Annelien found the old trip reports of biking holidays made from 1984 to 1990. In 1984, Jan Jaap van der Heide (JJ) and I studied Biology at Utrecht University. We lived in the same dormitory at the Ina Boudier Bakkerlaan. JJ had a girlfriend in Boston, and he would like “to see something of the US” before starting a PhD at Cornell University (Ithaca, New York).

In 1984 there were no cell phones, computers, internet, Google, Google Maps, and ATMs, and we left home without road map. Calling parents was too expensive and only “call collect”. We prepared our bikes to the best of our abilities, and had no idea what to expect. My Aunt Amy (Ada, Michigan) wrote in a letter dated June 19, 1984, “*Are you sure what to expect here? This is not a flat country and very hot in the Summer.*” My aunt proved right, it was hot, roads were often terrible, but we also encountered incredible hospitality during our trip.

The original trip report was written as a diary, in Dutch, every other day by JJ and me. The images are scanned 35mm slide positives, made with a Nikon FE camera. The roadmaps were from the AAA. Despite we had hardly any money, we had a great time biking, and I hope that this report reflects a bit of the exciting feeling we had. We biked about 6.400 km, along the Olympic Peninsula and then East along the Columbia River, crossing the Rocky Mountains, the Mid West, etc. Have fun!



Itinerary

Monday July 2, Gig Harbor, Washington - Long day. Up at 03.45. Both Iceland and Greenland visible, latter ice covered, floe ice at Hudson Bay. Arrived 08.45, 16.45 our time, at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Biked via Tacoma to Gig Harbor. Many hills, used all 10 speeds. We arrived at a campground at 17.00, too expensive, USD 14! So, we camped in the backyard of Mary Knudson¹. My first hummingbirds. Toilet in a shed between piles of junk. About 41 miles, 66 km.

Tuesday July 3, Brinnon, Dosewallips State Park, Washington - Cooler than yesterday. Via Belfair and Union entered US Highway (Hwy) 101. Visited the ranger station for information at Hoodspoint. Most state parks have no entrance fee, but this one has a shower, and we paid USD 3. Food is expensive, four Dutch guilders for 400 g rice. This morning we bought coffee and pie at the Key Center. Weak coffee but unlimited amounts for USD 0.40. Fortunately, we brought two packs of coffee from home. Unfortunately, customs seized our bacon and apples. About 75 miles, 122 km.



Wednesday July 4, Salt Creek Campground, Washington – Started 07.30. Via Port Angeles to Salt Creek. Overcast, some rain in the afternoon. Unpleasant roads due to traffic. Small hamlets and people wearing caps, like JJ. Vultures and Gold Finches today, road kills included snakes and a skunk. Biked with two American bikers. Arrived at the campground around 17.00. Much climbing. Looking at the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Canada on the other side. Eating lots of cornflakes and milk. JJ is preparing dinner of macaroni, two tomatoes and one sausage. About 80 miles, 129 km.



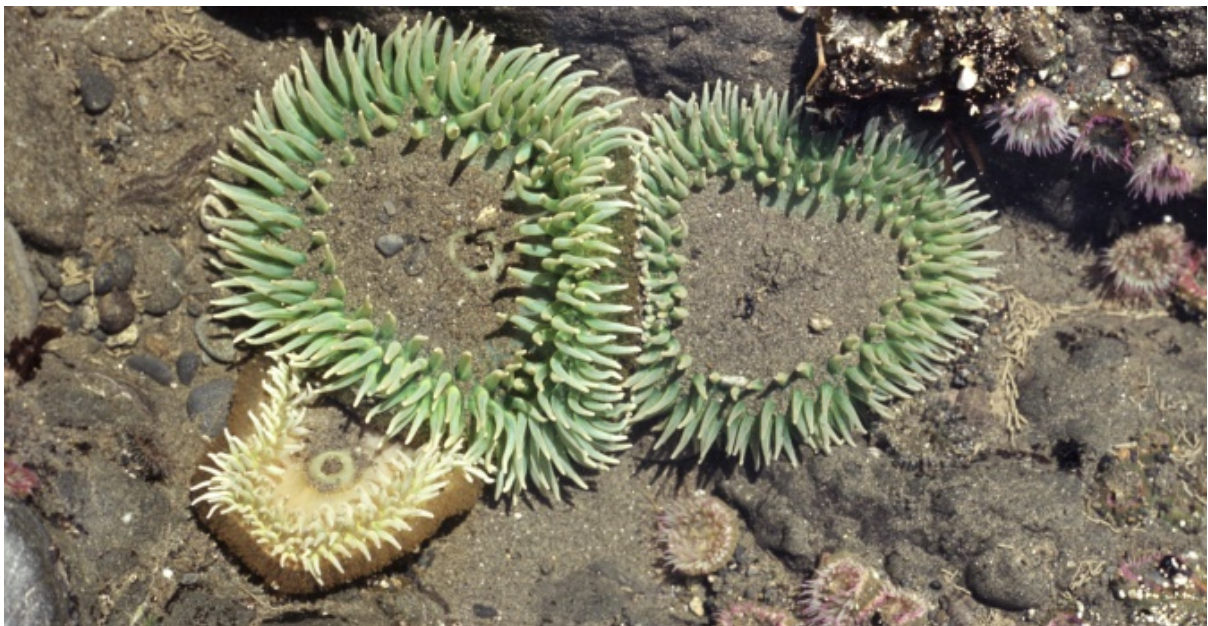
Thursday July 5, Klahowya Campground, Washington – After leaving the campground we had a long climb with a strong head wind. Still, biking to Lake Crescent was pleasant. Beautiful blue water surrounded by high pines. We had coffee and wrote postcards in a hotel.



Strong and cold wind when biking to Fairholm, where we had lunch at a gasoline station. Then biked to Klahowya. Beautiful forest. Massive trees covered with lichens, ferns and mosses. Lots of shadow, cold! About 38 miles, 61 km.



Friday July 6, South Beach campground, Kalaloch, Washington - Slept to 07.30, resting day of yesterday well spend. Beautiful weather. We met two Canadians on a tandem. Coffee in Sappho, a gasoline station annex café, and a few shacks. Coffee served in a giant foam cup, hot water tasting slightly like coffee. In Fork we tried to buy a flag pole, but out of stock. After Forks we had a tail wind and biked to Ruby Beach, where we stayed a while. Thereafter biked to a primitive campground, free of charge. Biked three more miles for drinking water. About 51 miles, 83 km.



Saturday July 7, Hoquiam, Washington - Yesterday evening walked at the beach. Beautiful. Tree trunks of 30 meter and longer. When waking up, we met the Canadians again, also camping. Breakfast was a can of white beans in tomato sauce, cornflakes and bread in milk. At 11.00 we saw our first small tornado, about 10 meter high. Biked to Hoquiam, still on Hwy 101, where JJ bought a flagpole. Free overnight camping, a few taps and a swing. Washed socks and dirty laundry. Camped at the lawn of the Lions Club. About 73 miles, 117 km.



Sunday July 8, near Chinook, Washington – Still beautiful weather and endless reforestation. Supermarkets open on Sunday, bought a milk carton each and pie for lunch at Raymond. A few miles before the campground, we saw Wapiti's, 22 females and 5 immatures. Campground charged USD 6, but we got discount and paid USD 5. Enjoyed a great shower. About 73 miles, 117 km.





Monday July 9, Rainier, Oregon – At Astoria crossed the Columbia River. The spectacular Astoria bridge is 70 meter high and several miles long. Saw several deer, some on a lawn. Looked plastic but moved. Made afternoon chamomile tea, suffering from a sore throat. Long climbs and a 1.5 mile descent with a great view over “Long View”, with Mt St Helens, Mt Rainier and Mt Olympia visible. Camping in a meadow, where we suffered from curious horses walking around our tent. To catch some sleep, we locked the horses in a neighboring meadow. We have to get up early tomorrow because we travel through Portland. About 58 miles, 93 km.



Tuesday July 10, Vancouver, Washington – Left at 08.30, flat road and tail wind, sun started shining at 10.00. We entered the suburbs of Portland at 11.30, had lunch, searched in vain for a book store, about 27 °C, hot. The bike shop was out of flag poles, but we found plenty in a large department store for USD 2.88 each. I put both the Dutch and Frisian flags on my flag pole. Pitched up our tent in the pear orchard of a retired couple, JJ took a shower. Just when we were going for a walk, Mrs. Eldred appeared with bowls of strawberry shortcake, strawberries on a kind of cake, covered with cream. Delicious! After our walk we were invited inside, where we talked, watched a baseball game, and got more ice cream with strawberries. Next morning at 07.00 we got breakfast, with hindsight, one of my best breakfasts ever. Baked ham, baked clams, buttermilk pancakes, coffee, etc. And lunch packages. Very nice couple, Mr & Mrs Eldred². About 49 miles, 79 km.



Wednesday July 11, Lyle, Washington – The excellent breakfast gave us a good start. After Camas we faced a long climb of several miles, fortunately followed by a long descent too. Had a coffee break of about one hour along the road, and ate all cookies from Mrs Eldred to keep them from spoiling. Road fairly flat, little traffic, and a strong tail wind, biking along the Columbia River over the Lewis and Clark Hwy.



Turkey Vultures and Ospreys. Stopped at Lyle along the Klichitat River. Apparently a popular stake out for the locals to go fishing judged by the amount of litter, but now dead quiet. Going to watch Belted Kingfishers later, make coffee and to bed. About 80 miles, 129 km.

Thursday July 12, Roosevelt, Washington – Biked from Lyle to Roosevelt along the Columbia River. Left at 08.00, at 09.30 a spoke broke in the rear wheel of JJ, which was replaced. Scenery is changing to volcanic, hilly and barren. Few shrubs but no trees. Warmed up during the day, and in Wishram, in

a rundown business, we had three cups of coffee each for \$ 0.75 in total. Roosevelt is a campground, pub, small restaurant, and a few houses. First supermarkets are in Paterson, 26 miles, or more likely in Plymouth, 48 miles. 32 °C. Went out for dinner to celebrate the first 1,000 km, which was also a good excuse because we only had macaroni and freeze-dried red cabbage left. Strong tail wind today. About 58 miles, 93 km.



Friday July 13, Stanfield, Oregon – The owner of the campground brought us a free breakfast. Coffee, cookies and peaches.



Biked 26 hot miles to Patterson, a café, grocery/post office and two garages, of which one closed. Piles of junk everywhere. From Patterson to Plymouth, crossing the bridge, to Hermison. Cooked dinner and sitting in the shade for half an hour. Hot today, about 35 °C. Neck and right leg of JJ suffer from sunburn. Right because travelling east. In Stanfield slept behind the house of horse farmer³. In the evening they took us to cow-pinning. Real cowboys on real horses, catching “Wild West” cattle! About 62 miles, 100 km.

Saturday July 14, Meacham, Oregon – After our first night sleeping in the open air, we got breakfast from the horse farmer and his aid. Potatoes and eggs fried in motor oil, dirtiest pan I have ever seen, delicious.



Coffee in Pendleton, which probably doesn't have a good book store. True, although we found a second hand book shop, bought a paperback each in case we would ever have time to read. Briefly visited a bike shop and then left Pendleton, about 29 °C at 11.00. Then we had a surprise. Cabbage Hill, the start of the Blue Mountains. About 10 km climbing, 6%. Hot and insufficient water. Saw a road sign indicating a rest area in four miles. Biked to the rest area, meanwhile passing an exit to "Dead Man Pass", thirsty, but no water. Biked another four miles, hot, to the State Park, which has a campground. Plenty of water but USD 8 per night! Too expensive and not even showers. Passed on to Meacham, where we saw a large white house, which had the looks of an old hotel but was a Christian youth camp. Free of charge, showers and food! Very nice people, the boss being a retired cowboy who studied music later in life. Travelling with his family by Greyhound through US nine months per year, playing gospel music. Herschel collects walking sticks, and they live about three months per year at Meacham, running the youth camp with about 20 children per week. Tomorrow our first resting day. Overnight stay at Melody Mountain Camp⁴. About 57 miles, 96 km.

Sunday July 15, Meacham, Oregon – Melody Mountain Camp. What a day. An excellent breakfast with cinnamon rolls, bit like Frisian sugar loaf, checked our bikes, and went to "church" at 11.00. The children had practiced a musical, entertaining. Thereafter a great lunch. We all got pie because a dad of one of the children had his birthday. In the afternoon we went for a swim. Although pleasant, also nice to have a bit of silence. Great sandwiches for dinner, a lot tastier than our "bread and cheese". As a gift from our side, JJ gave his dear "tin whistle", which Herschel seemed to enjoy. Enjoying our first American beer while this is being written. Likely also our last we can afford, moreover, the water

is about as tasty. Tomorrow we have to get up at 05.00 and start biking at 06.00 to avoid the heat and to pass the afternoon by sitting in the shade. Written in our diary by Herschel: *"Best wishes and prayers go with yao. We hope yau might return again if ever yaw can. Thanks far yaur kindnesses to us and may God bless yau."* Roman 4-20-21, July 15, 1984, Herschel Thornburg.



Monday July 16, Baker City, Oregon – Left Meacham at 06.00. At 06.30 passed our first pass of 4,193 ft of the Blue Mountains. Saw a Golden Eagle. At 13.00 arrived in Baker, a small town, although Baker had been one of the most important places of the Oregon Trail.



Bought food and spent some time in the park. JJ met a biker, I met a shabby couple, about 35 years. They had been digging gold in an exhausted mine for three months in the Blue Mountains, but without much success. Camped next to a house, got drinks from the guy living there. He made a replacement for the handgrip of our large pan. In the evening we spend some time in the park, where music was performed, and where we met two Swedish bikers. Talked about biking. About 81 miles, 130 km.

Tuesday July 17, Farewell Bend, Oregon – Left at 06.00, strong tail wind. Arrived at Farewell Bend at 11.00. Entered a different time zone, so noon now. Increasing temperature, and passed one mountain pass to enter Ontario. Tough. Had several cups of coffee there and a few doughnuts. Camping was not allowed in the state park. Close by we camped in the garden of Don W. Henly, a retired army minister but now a Baptist minister, interesting guy, who collects gems, old knives, guns, mugs, etc., and makes miniature saddles. He gave us a few gem stones including moss agate. Because next morning he was still talking to us, we forgot our jar of peanut butter and JJs' towel. About 60 miles, 97 km.

Wednesday July 18, Boise, Idaho – We didn't sleep well last night. Went to bed too late, at 02.00 a dog started barking, and we overslept, waking up at 05.45. The fact that we are now in a different time zone, Mountain time zone instead of Pacific time zone, didn't help either.



Rather cloudy this morning. Biked to Boise, the capital of Idaho, big city, and saw four or five rattlesnakes, traffic victims. Bought cold drinks from children in the outskirts of Boise, 5 cents per cup! Their grandma, Betty Thompson⁵ invited us to camp in her garden, and offered us to sleep inside which we kindly refused. She gave us cherries and peaches, made us a Mexican dinner, and we talked with her most of the evening. Made a small tour in Boise. About 97 miles, 156 km.



Thursday July 19, Hammett, Idaho – Overslept again, left at 07.00. Scenery improving. Still very dry, but more hills, and occasionally real canyons, small tornadoes which sometimes reached the clouds. Road kills included rattlesnakes, Barn Owl and Coyote. Also found three caps today. In Mountain Home we took a rest in the shade of a supermarket. I unpacked all gear searching for a film roll, which I finally found in my sleeping bag. Very hot today. Biked to Hammett, where we spent some time in a café and played billiards. Took us four houses to find a place to camp. In the evening we got meat and salad, after which we made our own meal. Nightjars in the evening, Californian Quail. About 71 miles, 114 km.

Friday July 20, Richfield, Idaho – Although we heard the alarm clock, i.e. JJs' watch, at 05.00, we woke up at 06.00. Overslept again. Beautiful weather, slightly overcast and less warm. Biked from Hammett to Richfield via Gooding, all uphill. Spent more money than usual, buying coffee with pie. Both suffering from saddle pain. Plenty of meadows and semi-desert, small bushes and grass. Saw a dead Badger and 27 snakes, mostly big ones. Made a picture of JJ with a dead snake. Both of us were

a bit giggly in the afternoon, having lots of fun. Camping in Richmond, population 290, in a city park. Immature American kestrels flying around. JJ just said “*Gadverdamme*”, his tomato soup boiling over. About 76 miles, 121 km.



Saturday July 21, Arco, Idaho – Still pitch dark at 05.00, started biking at 06.45, and arrived at Carey around 09.00. Coffee with scones! Drinking coffee is becoming the highlight of our day. At 13.00 we arrived at Craters of the Moon National Park, but before entering we were biking already in a volcanic scenery with sharp rocks and solidified magma, interspersed with flowering cacti.



Craters of the Moon is “pretty”. We met two Dutch tourists from Brabant, their first question was “*Hoeveel reservebandjes hebben jullie meegenomen?*” (“*How many spare tires did you bring along?*”). A few miles before Arco I had my first flat, and we used the occasion to interchange my worn rear tire and front tire. In Arco we found a nice spot in an empty trailer park. Raining started

immediately after pitching up the tent. Last two days were overcast, which is fine when biking in the high desert. Tomorrow about 65 miles to Idaho Falls through the desert, without habitation. About 67 miles, 107 km.



Sunday July 22, Idaho Falls, Idaho – What a day. Started at 07.00. The entire day wearing my long trousers and jacket, in the desert. Boring scenery, about 60 miles no hamlet or a house, no coffee. Made our own, and while drinking coffee, we saw Prairie Falcons, big! Gloomy weather. Some hills and – probably - our first head wind. In the afternoon two female Pronghorns while eating our bread with peanut butter. Later saw eight. Beautiful animals, American antelopes. Rain started at 15.00, our luggage still wet from last night. About four miles for Idaho Falls a spoke broke in the rear wheel while raining cats and dogs. Biked to the first farm. JJ tried to fix the wheel but failed, which caused more damage, spokes simply torn out. Tomorrow we will attend a bike shop in Idaho Falls. The farmers' wife brought us a big hamburger, salad, and pie for desert. So, we are doing not too bad. About 68 miles, 110 km.



Monday July 23, Idaho Falls, Idaho – The farmers' wife took us to a bike shop by car. Problem solved within ten minutes, JJ bought a new rear wheel for USD 36, and we returned at 10.15. We had coffee and food, cleaned our bike chains and put some oil on them. Biked to Idaho Falls, where JJ had left his freewheel pulley tool in the bike shop. I bought a bike ribbon, red, real American color. The American bikes are slightly cheaper but parts are more expensive. We saw a great trekking bike with

18 gears for only USD 367. Today we visited the temple of the Mormons. Although the temple was closed, we attended the visitors center for a guided tour, and when we left both of us got the Book of Mormon. They had mixed up leaflets, so we sorted out the Dutch, German, French, Italian, and South African leaflets. Americans admire us for knowing multiple foreign languages. While searching for a post office, we found a Chinese restaurant, where we celebrated the 2,000 km. Before returning to our tent, we bought some more food, including cinnamon bread. Made our own coffee using American coffee. Drinkable when you make a strong brew. No biking.

Tuesday July 24, Victor, Idaho – Left Idaho Falls at 07.00. Sun, head wind and slightly uphill. At noon passed Swan Valley. Send the Books of Mormon and other stuff to the East Coast. Finally biking in the Rocky Mountains. This afternoon twice a 6% slope, about four miles in total. The second had a nice road sign, “Pine Creek Pass, elevation 6,720 ft”. So we biked our first mountain pass without knowing. Both grumpy for unknown reason.



Pitched up our tent for free, at Victor, a hamlet at the start of the Tetons. JJ is baking pancakes, burning his fingers because we lost the grip of the pan, and the glove being used isn't perfect. Looking forward to tomorrow, our first real mountain pass, 8,431 ft. To get there, we have to bike a long 10% slope. Likely will be sweaty. About 64 miles, 104 km.

Wednesday July 25, Jackson, Wyoming – After Victor the climbing started almost immediately. First modestly, but soon we entered the 3.5 mile 10% slope. When we arrived at Teton Pass, there was no sign, otherwise we could have made nice pictures. Down to Jackson. Going down nicely compensated the climbing efforts. Before entering Jackson, we watched two Ospreys at a pond. The supermarket sold not only souvenirs but fortunately also a grip for our pan. About 25 miles, 40 km.



Thursday July 26, Grant Village campground, Wyoming – Started 07.00, cold, wearing all cloths. After one hour only a shirt and trouser. Had good coffee with a view on Signal Mountain. Biked for a while with an American guy. In Yellowstone and Grant Teton we thought to see a Trumpeter Swan, which turned out to be an American White Pelican when using our bins. Entered Yellowstone National Park at noon.



Poor road conditions, pot holes, heavy traffic, and climbing. Passed a sign "Continental Divide". At 14.00 rain but fortunately only briefly. Camped at the Grant Village campground, bear warnings. Biked two miles to visit West Thumb, where there is a beautiful geyser basin. Invited by three American bikers to roast marshmallows. About 83 miles, 133 km.



Friday July 27, Norris, Wyoming – Passed the Continental Divide twice this morning before arriving at Old Faithful. Because we were one hour early, we had coffee first and wrote post cards. Old Faithful was nice, but so were the tourists. Also the geyser basin is beautiful. During lunch I dropped the peanut butter jar, damage \$ 2. Biking to Norris went fine. Saw many Elks and a few cranes. The Elks are beautiful, particularly adult males, only a pity they are so tame, standing along the road like cows. No moose or buffalo yet, hope tomorrow. About 60 miles, 82 km.



Saturday July 28, Pebble Creek, Wyoming – Up at 06.00. Poor weather. Bread with peanut butter under the roof of a toilet building. Sunny when we left. Entire day we keep reminding each other that we still have to see a Moose. Our goal was to bike from Norris to Canyon, but instead we arrived at Mammoth Hot Springs. Very pretty, likely the prettiest “thing” I have seen in Yellowstone. Happy we ended there. Bought coffee and post cards. Visited a “Petrified Tree”.





Brief downpour, sheltered under a tree. Via Tower Roosevelt to the campground at Pebble Creek. About 14.30 the sky turned dark, but before rain started, we saw four Buffaloes. Big thunderstorm. My shoes are soaked, first time this trip. Dinner is soup with French toast, "lekker". Tomorrow expecting a long day, two passes including Bear Tooth Pass. Likely going to be tough. About 58 miles, 93 km.

Sunday July 29, Red Lodge, Montana – Climbed from 07.00 to 14.00. After Cook City the climbing started, a slope of 5-7%. We were happy when we thought to arrive at Bear Tooth pass.



Unfortunately, after a brief descent climbing continued further to 10,970 ft. A beautiful view, really at the roof of the world! And then going down for 25 miles, sometimes so fast that we braked for cars. The descent compensated our struggles to reach the pass. In Red Lodge we were allowed to camp at the first guy we asked. A shower and then to church with Dave. In the evening our dinner in front of the TV, watching the Olympics. About 78 miles, 125 km.



Monday July 30, Billings, Montana – We left Dave and biked to Billings, both in a good mood. Beautiful weather, tail wind, and going downhill. After 25 miles my chain and derailleur needed some maintenance, and then JJ had problems with his gear shifters. Then I had a flat due to thorns, JJ's shifter problem continued. Meanwhile we got lost in Billings, where it was hot, busy and noisy. On our way to Hardin we were allowed to camp in the garden of Esther Myers⁶. I used the shower, while Esther was cooking. Tonight we will visit downtown with her sons and get a real American breakfast tomorrow. About 62 miles, 100 km.

Tuesday July 31, Busby, Montana – Visited Billings yesterday evening with Donald and his young brother, using a 1961 pickup truck. Donald bought us a beer, delicious. JJ and myself were pleasantly drunk when coming back.



By the way, mule deer for dinner last night, also delicious. Eggs, bacon, pancakes and coffee for breakfast. On the road by 07.30. Esther collects bells, and when back we should send her one, “Delfts blauw”. We biked and when JJ had to stop for a pee, we noticed that my chain was “sagging”, probably a broken rear derailleur. At least that is what we thought. About 45 miles to the first town, meanwhile only sagebrush, cacti, agaves and dry grass. Then another 11 miles to Crow Agency, which wasn’t much, and then another 26 miles to Busby. Poor road conditions, small road, heavy traffic, and hot. A thermometer in Busby recorded 33 °C. Camped on an empty and barren piece of land. By the way, there was nothing wrong with my rear derailleur, something was just slightly “shifted”. About 90 miles, 145 km.



Wednesday August 1, Broadus, Montana – Today’s story is quickly told, 81 miles extremely poor road conditions, many hills and a strong head wind. And no shade anywhere. Only hills covered with sagebrush and dry grass. Arrived in Broadus at 16.00, where we had some problems in finding a spot to camp. People seemed slightly scared, but finally we were allowed to camp at a farm. Along the

road today one Virginia Owl, one tortoise, a pair of motorbike goggles, and combination pliers. The last we took along. About 81 miles, 130 km.

Thursday August 2, Alzada, Montana – Better today. Both tired from yesterday. The first 29 miles were tough, climbing and head wind. Pronghorns and White-tailed Deer. Coffee in Hammond, shared a last piece of pie, and had some muesli cookies, good for JJs' stool. Next 25 miles went smoothly. Have to stop writing for a second because ants are entering my pants. Done. Every time a surprise what the next hamlet or village will be. Alzada consists of two pubs and two gasoline stations, one selling groceries, and five farms. Finding a spot to camp was easy, camped on the groceries' lawn. Cornstarch pancakes. About 58 miles, 93 km.

Friday August 3, Brownsville, South Dakota - Sweet diary. At 10.00 we had our second coffee stop, very poor coffee. In Belle Fouché we had done 37 miles already within a few hours, seen Pronghorns and a large newt. After Belle Fouché the climbing started, Black Hills. The highlight was "Strawberry Hill", immediately after we passed Deadwood. Deadwood was a nice village, busy today because there were fairs, rodeos, shows, etc. Campground expensive, over USD 8, so we camped in a forest near a hamlet called Brownsville. We had tasty clam chowder in a local restaurant, and because we passed the 3,000 km today, we had three sorbets each. Delicious! Tonight a can of beer each and some popcorn to celebrate. About 75 miles, 120 km.

Saturday August 4, Box Elder, South Dakota – This morning we visited Mt Rushmore, one of the most famous attractions within the US. Which was clear when looking at the number of tourists.



It was a tough climb, one mile 8% and one mile 10%, i.e. sweating hard. We had four cups of coffee each, free refills, and delicious strawberry pie with cream. Up to Rapid City. Temperature increasing, 34 °C. Bought a hot-dog from a disabled man, who collects post cards and would like to receive one from Holland⁷. We had a second coffee stop, coffee really cheap, \$ 0.10. By the way, my rear wheel makes a weird sound, a "tick". During a descent I hit some litter. Had food in Rapid City and biked to Box Elder. We pitched up our tent in the backyard of a lady, Lois Pierce⁸, who gave us a lounge chair each,

great! In the evening we got ice cream and a letter for her brother, who lives three days biking away, so we will have a place to sleep already. About 80 miles today, 129 km.

Sunday August 5, Philip, South Dakota – Early morning, around 08.00, we noticed that it would become very hot today. We were right.



When we left the café at 10.00, it was like walking “into a hot wall”. After a few miles we noticed that our roadmap was left behind in the café, but we got a new one in Wall, free for bikers. Ten miles before Phillip we stopped at a farm to ask for water. We tried in Cottonwood earlier, which was deserted, and the only tap we found produced alkaline water. Mr and Mrs Cook⁹ supported us with plums, coffee, cookies, a TV and a couch. When we left, I got an antler from a Pronghorn. In Phillip the supermarkets were closed on Sunday. Dinner in the local drive-inn, the American equivalent of our snack bar. Free camping in the city park, including toilets and a tap. Rest of the evening sweating and killing mosquitos, waiting for sunset and to cool down a bit. About 80 miles, 129 km.



Monday August 6, Pierre, South Dakota – Today biked from Philip to Pierre. Overcast. Awful coffee in Midland, spoiled milk and badly tasting water. In the male toilet was a piano, however, so I played a tune. Route 14 is the preferred road, but due to road constructions, new blacktop, we had to bike 45

miles over an unsealed road. Not too bad. In the end the sun came out. By the way, saw a large living snake, about one meter, not a rattle snake. This morning we left another box at the post office to send our rain trousers home. And I had a flat. A man working on the railway maintenance brought us twice cold water. We had also water from a farm, but this was hardly drinkable. Wearing long sleeves and trousers, mosquitos driving us crazy. About 87 miles, 140 km.



Tuesday August 7, Wessington, South Dakota - Last night about 30 °C and pitch-dark at 21.00. Tried sleeping at 21.45. Too hot when the tent was closed. Mosquitos came in when we opened the tent. Driving us crazy. We went for a walk and discovered that we are in "Central Time" already. Both tired this morning, and to make things worse we had a head wind. Fortunately, at 09.30 the wind turned and we had a strong tail wind. Good road conditions, not too warm, and we made quite some speed. Too good to be true. At Miller a spoke broke in JJs' new rear wheel, which wasn't a surprise at all because the spokes used were too short. Fixed the wheel, but within 50 meters a flat tire. Replaced the inner tube, then another hour to the farm of the brother of the lady in Box Elder, where we camped in the back yard of Mr and Mrs Fritzsche¹⁰. They received us with a bowl of ice cream, cookies, and ice tea. Finished our dinner, and may take a shower. Tonight should be a bit cooler, and we bought mosquito oil, so hopefully we will sleep well. About 88 miles, 141 km today.

Wednesday August 8, Wessington, South Dakota – A resting day. This morning we had a delicious breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausages, doughnuts, toast, etc. Ed showed us his corn and we drove in a pickup behind him to the gasoline station, \$ 1.20, were shown the place where the harvested corn is stored, etc. JJ and I were free to use the pickup truck all day. Drove to a village or suburb close to Huron. Visited the AAA, bought ice cream and coffee. Went to Wessington to swim in a real swimming pool, made a call collect call to “heit en mem”, my parents, who told me I had passed my bachelor! Writing this while sitting in a field, JJ is driving with Ed over his pastures. We had dinner from 19.00 to 21.00, sweetcorn, salad, etc. Delicious. Talked and watched the Olympic games. JJ lost his pocket knife, probably while swimming. Again something less...



Thursday August 9, Lake Preston, South Dakota – After a great breakfast we left at 07.30.



Had a fresh breeze, tail wind, and biking went fine. Several stops to drink coffee, eat, and to make pictures. Nevertheless, we arrived at Lake Preston at 14.30, 73 miles. Pitched up our tent in the park, wrote letters, and made a stroll downtown. At the farmers cooperation, the CEMEX, JJ bought a straw hat. Slightly too big, but no smaller sizes available. We noticed a sign at the local restaurant stating “Fish fry – all you can eat!”, so that was the place to be. The fry was great, but the second serving was without toast, French fries or salad! After a while they brought us some more fish and

fries, and we waited until we were more or less satisfied. Walking back I had lots of fun about JJ with his too big straw head. Value for money. About 72 miles, 116 km.

Friday August 10, Baladon, Minnesota – Again nice weather today. Biking at 06.45 already. Found an unopened bag of cookies before Lake Preston. Broken, but tasted fine. Wind from the NE today, wrong. In Arlington we had coffee and doughnuts, the best so far according to JJ. We biked further, still having a strong head wind. Fortunately it wasn't too hot. At 13.00 we passed the sign "Welcome to Minnesota", state number seven. Camped at Baladon, at the edge of Lake Yankton, where we had a nice swim. Dinner of rice, curry sauce and chicken. Finally food is getting slightly cheaper, which makes us happy! About 85 miles, 137 km.



Saturday August 11, Courtland, Minnesota – What to tell about today? Not much, variations on a theme, silo, farm, corn, corn, corn. Still not too bad to bike "in this scenery". Had coffee. Icecream in Sleepy Eye. New Ulm looks like a typical German city. Everything "sauber" and half-timbered houses. In the supermarket they sold "apfelstrudel". Main disadvantage of this rather big town is that there is no city park to camp. Biked another seven miles to Courtland, where overnight camping was allowed. Disadvantage here was the water, rusty pipes and undrinkable water. Nice people but curious, got cookies and "brötchen mit wurst". About 95 miles, 137 km.

Sunday August 12, Northfield, Minnesota – Slept bad last night. From 21.00 mosquitos everywhere. Brushed our teeth very fast and dived into our tent. Unfortunately, we weren't alone. Until midnight trying to sleep and killing mosquitos. Today about 30 °C. Biked to 09.30, had coffee, decent water this time. Until the coffee break, we had a head wind, but after coffee the wind turned, and now and then we even had a tail wind. Poor road conditions, mostly two-lane roads of concrete slabs that imperfectly fit together. Afternoon ice cream at McDonalds, Northfield. Both biking and finding a spot to camp went smoothly. Camped in the backyard of a -likely- student house. Tomorrow we cross the Mississippi, entering Wisconsin. About 71 miles, 114 km.

Monday August 13, Durand, Wisconsin – Went to bed early, trying to avoid mosquitos. We slept well, thanks to me: killing the last mosquitos with my sock. Biked through a nice and undulating scenery for the first 35 miles till Redwing. There we had a can of coffee and our first American waffles, two each! Lunch bought in the supermarket of Maidenstock. The proud owner, a lady, had a guest book, in which bikers from 1980 onwards had written something. Still about eight pages in total, amazing. We were the first from Holland, so she was very happy. Rest of the afternoon biked to

Durand through the rainy scenery of Wisconsin. Seem to grow less corn here, seen dairy cattle and pigs now and then. Camped in the city park of Durham. Police passed but didn't stop, so we assume it is legal. Dinner of brown beans, onion and ground beef, chocolate pudding, coffee and popcorn. In total \$ 5. About 75 miles, 120 km.

Tuesday August 14, Lynn, Wisconsin – Welcomed by mosquitos when opening the tent this morning. Went for a pee meanwhile killing them. JJ wore my “fast” biking pants today. Sexy. His own are worn-out. While biking this morning my side suddenly hurt, stopped but didn't see anything. Biked further, when again –all of a sudden- my shoulder started to hurt badly. There was a wasp under my shirt. Coffee in Eleva. Getting used to the weak American coffee, you just have to drink more to get caffeine. Until now, refills are free. Followed the “10” to Lynn, bit hilly, temperature about 30 °C. We just “washed each other”: one holding the jerrycan up with water, the other washing. Great! When we continue like this we will enter Michigan on Thursday. Overnight camping in a garden, Lynn, allowed to use the bathroom, so luxurious defecating! Taken by a grandma to her son to see his farm. A real farm with dairy cattle. They were very proud of their milk containers, but we thought they were somewhat old-fashioned. When we returned, we got sweetcorn, bread and coffee, and real Wisconsin cheese, which tastes like Edammer. About 83 miles, 140 km.



Wednesday August 15, Bear Creek, Wisconsin – Hurray! Finally famous. Today everything went smoothly. Great biking weather, tail wind, and arrived at Bear Creek around 15.00. We met a guy in the supermarket who invited us to camp in his garden. Then we were going to buy gasoline for our camping stove and a can of beer. We didn't get gasoline because the fuel bottle wasn't red, but the beer is another story. When the people in the bar noticed we came from the Netherlands, they gave us one beer after the other. Six each. Moreover, the lady running the bar phoned a few reporters. After about one-and-a-half hour an elderly lady appeared who interviewed us and made notes about where we come from, where we are going to, how many miles per day, whether it is fun, etc. She made pictures of our tent and bikes using an old pocket camera that doesn't work too well. Either the film is not transported, or the flash doesn't work, etc. Fortunately, we used our bikes to stabilize ourselves a bit because we both had a laughing fit and desperately needed a pee, both being slightly drunk. Our dinner was just finished, sauerkraut, bacon and beans, when the owners of the house offered us dinner. A great steak, sweet corn, and a piece of pie as desert. So, we were quite "full" when taking a shower. Went to bed at 20.00, "sleeping it off". Tomorrow another meeting with a reporter is scheduled in Green Bay. They were even talking about TV, so who knows. About 100 miles today, 161 km.

Thursday August 16, Poland, Wisconsin – We had two aspirins at 00.30. JJ had a headache and I was dizzy. Guess we suffer from combined dehydration (beer) and salt shortage. Yesterday we had forgotten to take our salt tablets. Coffee in Seymour, slow service. They didn't charge us correctly, so that compensated a bit. At 11.00 we were at the "Stadium" of Green Bay, a long and "stretched" city, heavy traffic, a bad two-lane road, very tiresome. And yes, unbelievable, two guys with a real camera. We had a short interview and then we had to bike for at least one hour behind their car so they could film us. Will be broadcasted tonight at "Channel 11". Curious.



Bought groceries. We bought some wrong priced turkey legs, USD 0.80. Our second discount today. Now in Poland, tomorrow take the ferry to Michigan. Expensive, but the alternative is biking four more days and through Chicago. Camped in the garden of the supermarket owners, were invited for

dinner, and we may watch TV tonight! And yes, we were on TV for at least 20 seconds. The Schneider family¹¹ had a lot of fun. We had a great dinner and played a computer game. Got ice cream before going to bed. For sure we had a great evening. About 57 miles, 91 km.



Friday August 17, Ludington, Michigan – Today taking the ferry to Michigan. Because the ferry leaves at 14.30, we first made pancakes in the morning. Later that morning we met a guy from Oss, who has lived in Appleton for 26 years but still visits Oss every year...



At Kewaunee we had plenty of time to drink coffee. It was good to have so much time because the service was slow. We had lunch at the shore, where some good birds were present including an immature Black-crowned Night-heron. Crossed the lake and had lots of fun watching American tourists. We passed Ludington, about three miles, where we camped in a yard. About 20 miles, 32 km.

Saturday August 18, Grand Haven, Michigan – Bad start. Alarm clock set at 05.50, but a heavy thunderstorm just started and we were just in time to put the cover on the tent. At 07.00 we got up, dry. Biked to Hart. Thought we were making a detour. Phoned my aunt Amy that we arrive tomorrow afternoon. Strong tail wind but poor road conditions. Afternoon biking through Maskagon was bad, heavy traffic and poor road. Drizzle and overcast to 16.00, then the sun came out. Baking pancakes. Found a huge knife this afternoon. Camping at a lawn. About 76 miles, 122 km.

Sunday August 19, Ada, Michigan – After finishing breakfast of bread and peanut butter, Mr and Mrs Heyboer¹² offered us a breakfast. They felt sorry for us that we had our breakfast already, so they gave us USD 10 to buy food tomorrow!



They invited us for coffee and “koek”, and we spend one-and-a-half hour chatting, drinking lots of coffee and eating all the “koek”. When leaving, we got “Heyboer Excavating” caps. Biked to Holland, the famous windmill park, which has only one windmill and opens at 11.30. One hour to go, and USD 3 per person. Met a couple waiting there, who gave us USD 7! They wanted to give us 20, but only had USD 7 in their wallet. Then visited the Old Dutch Village, which looked nice but had an entrance fee of USD 2.50. They wouldn’t let us in for free, so we biked to Zeeland. Again, it wasn’t much, so we didn’t mind missing the exit to Vriesland. We arrived at Ada after some exciting biking over the motorway through Grand Rapids. After an excellent diner and coffee, we talked and attended church. And then, for the first time in seven weeks, we slept in a real bed! Great. Forgot to mention that we met a couple at Holland who recognized our Frisian flags. The lady was born in US but spoke Frisian very well. Finally some profit of our flags. About 88 miles, 142 km.

Monday August 20, Ada, Michigan – Delicious breakfast, lots of toast and coffee. After a shower cleaned and checked our bikes, which was rather essential, and put on new tires. My rear tire was in poor condition, at various spots the canvas visible. But now the bikes are “up and running” again. At 15.00 we were finished, played billiards in the basement, I tried to play the (electronic) organ, another great dinner in the evening, and then we walked one block, which took us one-and-a-half hour! After another cup of coffee, i.e. three or four cups, and a piece of pie, to bed again.

Tuesday August 21, Ada, Michigan – Pancakes, a typical American breakfast. Visited the mother and sister of uncle Eise, together with aunt Amy. Incredible, what a luxurious car! In the afternoon JJ and I visited Ada. First we had a guided tour at “Amway”. Bought a bottle of oil for our bicycles, and tried to buy an ice cream, but too expensive. Visited the Kent County Road Commission because I would like to have an official road sign with “Bike route”. They would try, and we should come back at the end of the week. After dinner we went with uncle Eise for waterskiing! Fun. After mostly falling down, impossible to get “up”, but I finally managed to ski. Goes pretty fast, about 40 km per hour. JJ was really good at it, first attempt he nearly stood on the skis. Thereafter, he resembled a walrus.



Wednesday August 22, Ada, Michigan – Biked to a quarry in the morning, about 15 km, where we found fossilized corals. Went with aunt Amy to the garage where uncle “Al” (Eise) works. They sell about 350 new cars every month! Dinner at a “smorgasbord”. All you can eat. Delicious.

Thursday August 23, Ada, Michigan – Biked to Grand Rapids today. After a seemingly endless drive through the outskirts, we finally arrived at downtown Grand Rapids. Only one street with shops, all completely uninteresting to us, boutiques, etc. To spend our time, we went to the zoo. Nice but small. Stroked an albino skunk. We had a hamburger and a scone at McDonalds, attended a shopping mall, and then we biked to the road commission before 17.00. And yes, they had a real Bike Route sign for me, brand new! Altogether, a day well spend. Biked a lot, but because we are back where we started, “0 miles today”.



Friday August 24, Ada, Michigan – Went to the quarry. JJ visited an optician to get a screw for his glasses. Apparently we are famous here because even the assistant knew us already. In the quarry I got the third wasp sting of this trip. In the afternoon we visited several little shops in an old factory

with aunt Amy. The plan was to visit the hush puppy factory, but we should have made an appointment beforehand. In one of these shops, JJ got the fourth wasp sting of the trip! Now a real “big foot”. Visited the X-mas tree farm in the evening, JJ driving. I drove back. We met my nephew Ed for the first time in my life. He is the “middle one”, who lives closest to his parents, Columbus, Ohio, six hours driving.

Saturday August 25, Ada, Michigan – Visited Lake Michigan with Harvey, son of the boss, and two girls. We took the speedboat so that we could try waterskiing. Both JJ and I managed to stand on the skis. To heat hot dogs, we made a little fire on a steep dune of a private beach. Because there was no breeze, sailing with Harveys’ boat was impossible. About 18.00 we returned “home” and stopped for an ice cream. At “home” we had hamburgers and left overs. No biking today, guess we have to get used to it again Monday.

Sunday August 26, Ada, Michigan – Our last day in Ada. Attended church twice, had a swim, another good meal, played some billiards, tough with lots of holes in the table!. We said goodbye to Ed, who travelled home. In the evening we prepared our bicycles, so that we can quickly leave tomorrow. Despite the luxury of last week, looking forward to bike again.

Monday August 27, Corunna, Michigan – We left after a full breakfast. Apart from a bit of saddle pain no other problems, a tail wind and the road not too bad. Morning coffee and cinnamon roll in Muir. Lunch in St. John, bought groceries and an inner tube (because I had a “slow leak”) in Owosso. After a bit of searching we camped in the backyard of a retired farmer / school bus driver. Again an incredible mess according to our standards. We had a swim in the private swimming pool of the neighbors. JJ is cooking, rice, corned-beef, peaches, one onion and lots of garlic. We really had a great time in Ada, but we also truly enjoy being on the road again. About 74 miles, 121 km.

Tuesday August 28, Imlay City, Michigan – Coffee in Flint. Yesterday evening the people where we were camping, Fayne LeCureux¹³, took us to an auction. When almost finished JJ bought an old American flag, a Bald Eagle, and flag pole for USD 1.50.



Then visited an ice parlor where we had an ice cream. Delicious. Had a look at a suspension bridge, saw the local brass band playing, and then went “home” again. By the way it is dark at 20.30. Got a large bag of popcorn and were invited to have breakfast tomorrow morning. After breakfast we left

at about 08.00. In Flint we had coffee with the cookies of Mrs LeCureux. After Flint we were soon in La Peer, where we had food and replaced a broken spoke in the rear wheel of JJ at the sidewalk in front of a bike shop. Moreover, I discovered that I had thrown my spare tire away at Ada and had put my old tire back. Tomorrow in Port Huron we have to try finding a bike shop selling the right size. Upon arriving in Imlay, we quickly found the house of the Van Dijk's, a nephew of uncle Al. Invited for supper already, so we aren't doing too bad. About 80 miles, 129 km.

Wednesday August 29, Warwick, Ontario, Canada – Rain and thunderstorms last night. Biked already 35 miles before coffee in Wadhams. And how! Poor road conditions. In case there was a shoulder, even that was full of potholes, stones and other junk. In Port Huron we each bought a new tire. Expensive and probably not the best, but we still have to get to New York state. Biked the Bluewaterbridge to Canada. Just before entering the bridge, JJ found a weird fossil, possibly a ray tooth. We didn't encounter any problems at customs, but we were forced to walk the two mile bridge. In Sarnia we exchanged money and had another coffee. The next 25 km were again a poor stretch of road, waiting for new tarmac. Pitched up our tent in a meadow, water tastes sulphury. Got free apples and bananas in a shop. Sticky weather, like yesterday. About 92 miles, 148 km.



Thursday August 30, Woodstock, Ontario, Canada – Soon after we started biking, the sky turned green, lightning all around. Just in time we sheltered in a shed, together with the farmer, who invited us for breakfast, so we had a very well-spent one-and-a-half hour. JJ called his aunt Jikke with the farmers' phone. We left at 09.00, no rain rest of the day. All went smoothly, except a flat before the coffee. A tail wind, so "covered some distance". Camped at the first house we asked, having a cheap but tasty dinner, liver and brown beans. About 68 miles, 110 km.

Friday August 31, Binbrook, Ontario, Canada – Slept to 07.00, left at 08.00. Tail wind, good road. In Brantford I fell from my bike at a railway crossing. Bike undamaged, a hole in my jacket. Pity, but so be it. They clean the roads in Brantford every morning by spraying water. Tells us something about the Canadians. Via Caledonia biked to Brantford, and we arrived at JJs' uncle and aunt at 13.00. Dried

our sleeping bags and clothing, had our first real Dutch dinner after almost two months. Before dinner, JJ repaired a flat – an earlier “plakkertje” was loose. About 55 miles, 88 km.



Saturday September 1, Binbrook, Ontario, Canada – Today the birthday of “oom Gup”, so coffee with cake. Lucy and Ted, and their children, were also present. After coffee we visited a garage sale. People empty their house and sell stuff to get some money. In the afternoon we visited Hamilton with uncle Gup and aunt Jikke, including a huge mall and a beautiful lookout over Hamilton. In the evening, Jane and Carl visited for coffee, as did Jaap and Geertje Bottinga. No biking today.



Sunday September 2, Binbrook, Ontario, Canada – Visited church this morning, comparable to ours. The entire community is Dutch, and quite some Frisians. In the afternoon John and his wife came for a visit, had tea, and left their daughter with grandma. We were supposed to get a beer at the Bottinga’s, but they weren’t home. So we went for a stroll through Binbrook. The weather is changing, and it is clearly September, windy and dropping temperature. Hope to arrive at the East coast before the first snow falls. No biking today.

Monday September 3, Binbrook, Ontario, Canada – Pouring with rain. In the afternoon visited the Bottinga’s. About time to leave otherwise we become Bottinga’s ourselves. By now, apart from Cor and Jane, all nieces and nephews had arrived for a BBQ. We went inside because the evening was cool, apart from horseshoe throwing which is better outside. Altogether we had a nice evening.

Tuesday September 4, Terry Corner, near Royalton, New York – Fortunately nice weather today. Left uncle Gup and aunt Jikke at 07.45. We were soon at Niagara Falls, worth being seen.



Crossing the American border went fine, apparently we look honest. We enjoyed having left the big city. Biking is more fun when there is less noise. At 15.30 arrived at Terry Corner, where we enjoyed blueberry cheesecake ice cream. Day turned into a real success when we were allowed to pitch up the tent at the first attempt. Got more tomatoes than we could eat, a picknick table, a portable TV, a bag of popcorn, etc. Decent people. About 72 miles, 116 km.

Wednesday September 5, East Bloomfield, New York – Brrr, cold last night and morning. Wearing all cloths we have. Great start this morning, my front tire flat. A spoke broke in JJs' rear wheel, and a poor coffee. JJ replaced the spoke and then we had another coffee. Special offer: coffee and breakfast, USD 1.25 each. Our second breakfast.



Nice weather, tail wind and finally some hills again. Now waiting at he Christian bookstore of East Bloomfield for a lady who may have a spot to pitch up our tent. Yes! Nice spot, friendly people, excellent coffee. If we ever pass by, we will make a stop for sure. About 70 miles, 113 km.

Thursday September 6, Varna, New York - Cool and tent soaking wet from dew. Sun shining all day, biking through the Fingerlake District. Found a dead hummingbird, took both wings. Despite a broken spoke, we soon reached Ithaca, where we visited Dr. Cook, who had good news. JJ had a full

scholarship. Because we had to collect some additional information, we arrived at Varna rather late. Difficult to find a spot, and we camped illegally in the experimental garden of Cornell. A nice spot along a brook containing crayfish, and Belted Kingfishers calling. Had a few glasses of beer and a political discussion with a drunk American in the evening. About 74 miles, 119 km.

Friday September 7, South New Berlin, New York – Cold this morning, ice on the tent. Something we had not taken into account. First minutes were bitterly cold. Two spokes broken in Cortland. When we stopped, also a car stopped. Journalist of a local newspaper. Picture! Possibly our second picture in a newspaper. Coffee in Cortland. The scenery is beautiful in New York, great hills, forests. Via Norwich, where I got my fourth wasp sting of the trip, to South New Berlin. Easily found de De Glee family. Our second interview with a news reporter today. Had a nice shower. JJ went with Jens to play a computer game. Sleeping in a real bed, great. About 68 miles, 109 km.

Saturday September 8, South New Berlin, New York – At 09.30 we biked without luggage to Norwich. Seems we like biking. First attended a bike shop, bought a few film rolls, and had a good coffee. Just before South New Berlin another spoke broke. Had a hot meal at 14.00, climbed the hill and walked back via South New Berlin. Last stretch with “Jensje” by tractor.



Sunday September 9, South New Berlin, New York – At 11.00 visited the Baptist church together with Anne. At noon a real Dutch meal, potatoes and string beans. Weren't too active in the afternoon. Heard a story that you can only graduate at Cornell when you can swim. If you can't swim, you get swimming lessons for free. Apparently a benefactor donated money in exchange for this condition. Practiced shooting with a rifle standing at the porch.

Monday September 10, Prattsville, New York - Left 08.20 after a final breakfast with the De Glee family and after taking pictures. Coffee in Oneonta. Unfortunately no free refills. In Harpersfield lunch in the garden of a lady from the supermarket. In Prattsville we had a chat with a guy from the gasoline station, Brian Ferner¹⁴. Later, when he passed us, he stopped and bought us a free lunch. No problem at all to have a second lunch. The owner of the gasoline station informed us about a nice

spot to camp. In the countryside, near a brook, and again Belted Kingfishers. From the farmers' wife we got cola and talked a while. About 62 miles, 100 km.

Tuesday September 11, Great Barrington, Massachusetts – What a day. Left 07.30, decent time. We decided to have a coffee in Catskill, 35 miles. After much climbing and sweating, there was only one restaurant open. We used the toilet, but no service. Then found out that also this restaurant was closed. Coffee in Hudsonville where we discovered that our Massachusetts map was still in the Catskill restaurant. Miraculously, there was a AAA in Hudsonville. In Hilsdale bought a carton of milk, when I noticed a beautiful thumbtack in my rear tire. Removed the thumbtack and replaced the inner tire. Warm, humid and sticky, about 28 °C. A little later JJ discovered that his rear tire had entirely worn out, canvas visible. Changed tires – JJ got my new front tire and I put his rear tire in front. Enjoyed a nice ice cream in Great Barr. Camped between pines in a huge garden. We got a piece of pie, and now JJ is showering, so who knows... About 68 miles, 109 km.

Wednesday September 12, Palmer, Massachusetts –None of the hamlets we passed sold coffee, biked 37 miles to have coffee in Westfield. My front tire was in real bad shape, but, fortunately, Westfield had a bike shop. Closed on Wednesday. Next bike shop in West Springfield didn't sell the right size. After an adventurous drive through Springfield, we found another bike shop selling the right size, we could even choose between two types! We changed the tire in front of the shop, and replaced a broken spoke. After a few miles we had a nice coffee shop – a free doughnut with every cup of coffee! Unfortunately, also that shop was closed. "Please call again". At 14.00 had a tasty lunch of bread, grape jelly and chocolate milk. Palmer was close by, visited a supermarket, and camped on a lawn in a rear garden. Busy day, biked only 63 miles, 102 km.

Thursday September 13, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts – Last stretch today. Left on time, visited a flea market. Coffee before Oxford, just after Oxford another spoke broke, and two more early afternoon. In total 17 spokes replaced by now, a single spare left, still 35 miles to Boston. Fortunately, we made it to Newton Highlands where the Palmers¹⁵ live, arrived at 16.30. Nobody home, but there was a note. JJ made a phone call and we had coffee. Almost at the Atlantic Ocean. Not happy today, both regret that the trip is over. Although travelling this way is a bit tiresome now and then, it does have its charms. About 70 miles, 113 km.



1. 9620 Burnham Dr. N.W., Gig Harbor, WA
2. 14204 SE Evergreen, Vancouver WA 98684
3. Del T Harton, Box 252, Stanfield, Oregon 97875 (Reg Quarter Horse Ranches; Western division horse & mule exchange; import & export horses, mules, burros, & ponies.
4. PO Box 35, Meachan, Oregon, 97859). Herschel and Esther Thornburg, PO Box 434, Newsburg, Oregon 97132
5. Betty Thompson, 2401 Bruins Circle, Boise, Idaho, 83104
6. 504 US 87 Eastm Billings, Montana 59101
7. Jerry Smith, 623 St Patrick, Rapid City, South Dakota, 57701
8. PO Box 11, Box Elder SD, 57719
9. Granville and Lillian Cook, RR1, Box 67, Philip, South Dakota, 57567
10. Wessington, South Dakato, Box 21, R.R.I., 57381
11. Ken and Adele Schneider; R2 Green Gbay, Wisconsin 54301
12. Maynard Heyboer; 14230 Lakeshore Dr., Grand Haven, Mich 49417
13. 3503 E Copas, Owosso Michigan, 48867
14. Brian Ferner, PO Box 446, Lanesville NY 12450
15. Palmer family, 119 Wood End Road, Newton Highlands, MA 02161

