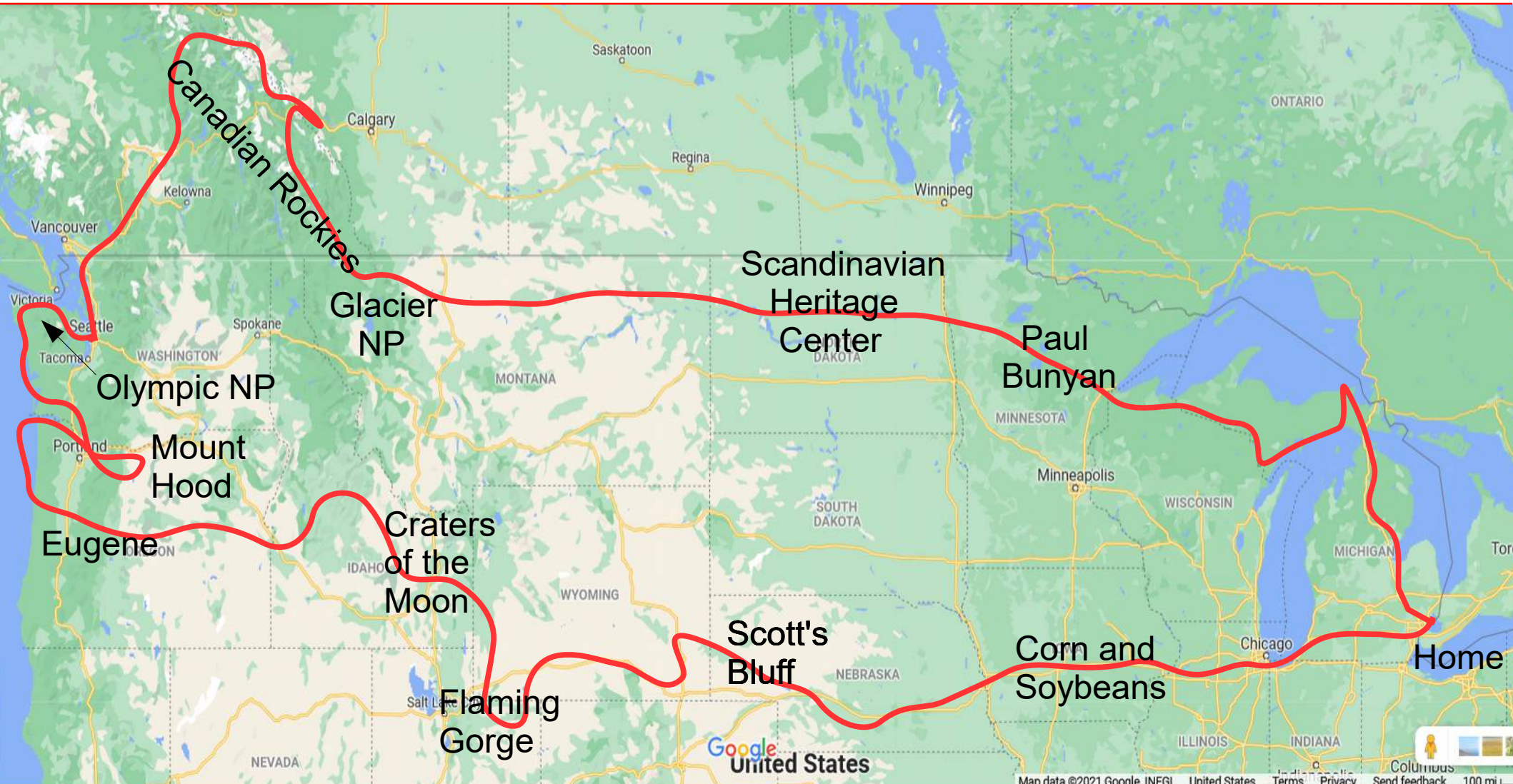
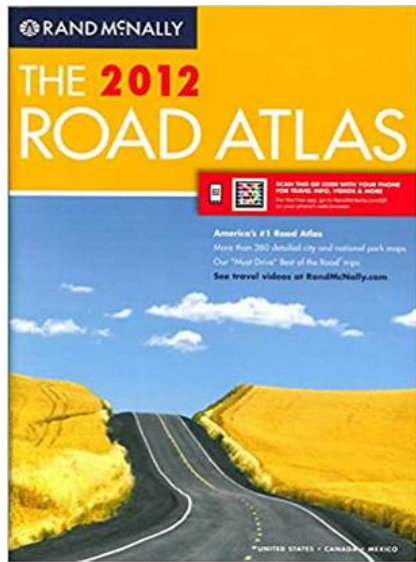


# Pacific Northwest Road Trip

Rich and Cheryl Odendahl  
August and September 2021





# Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Iowa

Yes, we really started the planning for this trip with a 2012 Rand McNally Road Atlas. Do these even exist anymore? It's a great book. It shows all the scenic routes and tourist highlights.



We drove 600 miles on each of our first two days. 80 miles/hour on I-80 was the fastest I've ever driven legally on a public road in my life. We stopped in Le Claire, Iowa briefly for the official pagan ceremony honoring the crossing of the Mississippi River. The first night was spent luxuriating at a Microtel located at the edge of an Iowa soybean field.



# Nebraska



There's quite a good museum of westward expansion in Kearney (rhymes with Carnie with no credit given to itinerant carnival workers). For some odd reason, it was built directly over I-80.

For the next several days, we roughly followed the route of the Oregon/Mormon trail.

It was 97 degrees, and the smoke from distant wildfires was obscuring visibility as we approached Chimney Rock, so I ripped off this better photo from the internet.



Scott's Bluff National Monument is definitely worth a visit, but the namesake town is dirty and industrial.



# Wyoming

The Rawlins, Wyoming Frontier Prison Museum invites tourists to pose inside the no-longer-in-use gas chamber. Ummmm, uhhh, OK. We guess so.



The state capitol building in Cheyenne has no security screening for visitors. This seems odd coming from a state where there was recently an attempt to kidnap the governor, but we suppose everyone has a gun in Wyoming for protection.

Climbing the stairs at 6000' above sea level left us breathless.



# Utah

We dropped down off I-80 for a few hours to tour Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area. Fortunately, there were no actual flames, only water and red rocks.



# Idaho

The Sawtooth Mountains on a sunny day. We had a little of every kind of weather.



Craters of the Moon National Monument on a rainy day.



# More of Idaho



State Capitol in the lovely city of Boise



We stopped for lots of history lessons along the way. I'm surprised that, in this day and age of judging historical behavior by modern standards, some stories continue unchanged. For example, the display in the Boise State Capitol still states that Mormons came west to flee religious persecution. There is no mention that some of that persecution may be rooted in the disagreement as to whether Brigham Young had a right to 55 wives. (Joseph Smith had 49 wives including two that he married when they were 14 years old.)

# Westward Ho to Oregon!



Our friends Jeff and Deb hosted us at their lovely house in Eugene. Jeff grew up with Rich in Warren, but was part of our expedition to climb Kilimanjaro 20 years ago and now needs to live near the mountains.

Rich finished third in his new age group at the Butte-to-Butte 5K. We were surprised to see the Eugene Symphony performing near the start.





# Success! The Pacific Coast



# Portland and Mount Hood Area



Our friend Kate, who was also part of the 2001 expedition to Kilimanjaro, has also moved to Oregon. She took us on a tour of the Columbia River and organized this picnic lunch in Hood River.



# Portland and Mount Hood Area



Back to the scene of the crime. We honeymooned at Mount Hood's Timberline Lodge in 1993.

Dinner at a Columbia Riverside restaurant with Niece Hope and future Nephew Chris



# Washington Coast and Olympic National Park



World's  
Largest  
Spruce



Who says that  
you have to be in  
Florida to drive  
on the beach?

# Bainbridge Island and Seattle

Our friends and fellow Ranger-Tuggers Steve and Laurie hosted us at their house on Bainbridge Island and treated us to a hike, tour and a ride on their boat to the Seattle waterfront.



# Kirkland Family

We stayed with Rich's brother David and Sister-in-Law Lori at their house in Kirkland, Washington. Nephews Mark and Alex stopped by for barbecued meat. We also met Alex's girlfriend, Charlotte.



# Where do Seattle Area Crows Go at Night?



Dave and Lori took us at sunset to a soccer field near a community college in Bothell, Washington. (Bothell rhymes with “Brothel.”) Thousands of crows arrived in murders (groups in crow parlance) to meet, discuss their days, and then roost in the nearby trees before their morning departures to points near and far. The same crows will meet in the same place tomorrow, and the next day, and the next.

Here's link if you would like to see this for yourself; <https://youtu.be/DSDhkFv6SDU>

# Hat Island Fun

John and Laurie took us on their Ranger Tug from Everett, Washington to the house that John built on Hat (Gedney) Island. Cheryll, Laurie and Maggie tended to the volunteer garden while Rich and John took on the Hat Island golf course. Laurie instructed Rich in the fine art of eating freshly caught Dungeness crab.





# Welcome to Canada?

Getting into Canada required proof of vaccination, a negative test within 72 hours, a quarantine plan (in case we get COVID after we arrive), and a whole lot of data entry into the ArriveCan app. Even though we complied with all of this, we were nevertheless “randomly” chosen for a second test immediately after arrival. Much more data entry was required to register with the Canadian contracted test lab. Next, we had to swab our noses again while being witnessed by a member of the Canadian Red Cross. We were then free to go, but if our test results came back positive (in 48 -72 hours), we were required to immediately quarantine in a hotel for 14 days and arrange to have our food delivered without leaving or coming into contact with any Canadians. This process seems to be doing a very effective job of discouraging American tourism. At least we were greeted by this rainbow from the balcony of our hotel in Kamloops.



# Canadian Rockies

Sorry Colorado, but the  
Canadian Rockies are far  
more Spectacular



Spahats Falls



Lake Louise

# Time to Leave the Canadian Rockies



We received an email from the COVID test lab contracted by the Canadian Government informing us that Cheryll's second test could not be processed for some unspecified reason and was therefore inconclusive. She needed to arrange to have a third test kit shipped to us someplace, then find a certified observer to witness the test, ship it back and then wait 2-3 more days for results.

This was followed by an email from the Canadian Ministry of Health reminding us of our responsibilities under the Quarantine Act and the stiff penalties for failure to comply. We called the test lab after we crossed into Montana and were informed that they could not ship a test kit to the USA.

# Glacier National Park



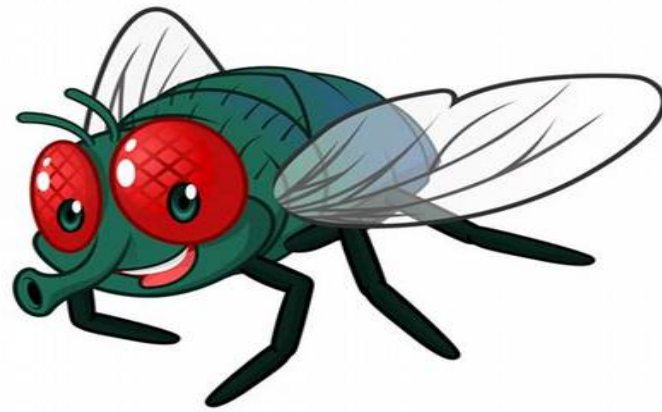
The views are spectacular, but the wind had shifted to the southwest blowing in smoke from the wildfires in Northern California.

# Across Montana



# A Moment of Silence

We now pause in tribute to the thousands of brave insects who selflessly gave their lives to clear the way for our Equinox across the Northern Plains. May you all rest in peace.



# North Dakota

Tripadvisor lists the Scandinavian Heritage Center in Minot as North Dakota's Number One Attraction



If you were so bored that you decided to cut out an image of North America and balance it on a pin, that pin would be located at Rugby, North Dakota



# Minnesota

Setting out from Duluth Harbor for a Calm Lake Superior on a Spectacular Sunday Afternoon

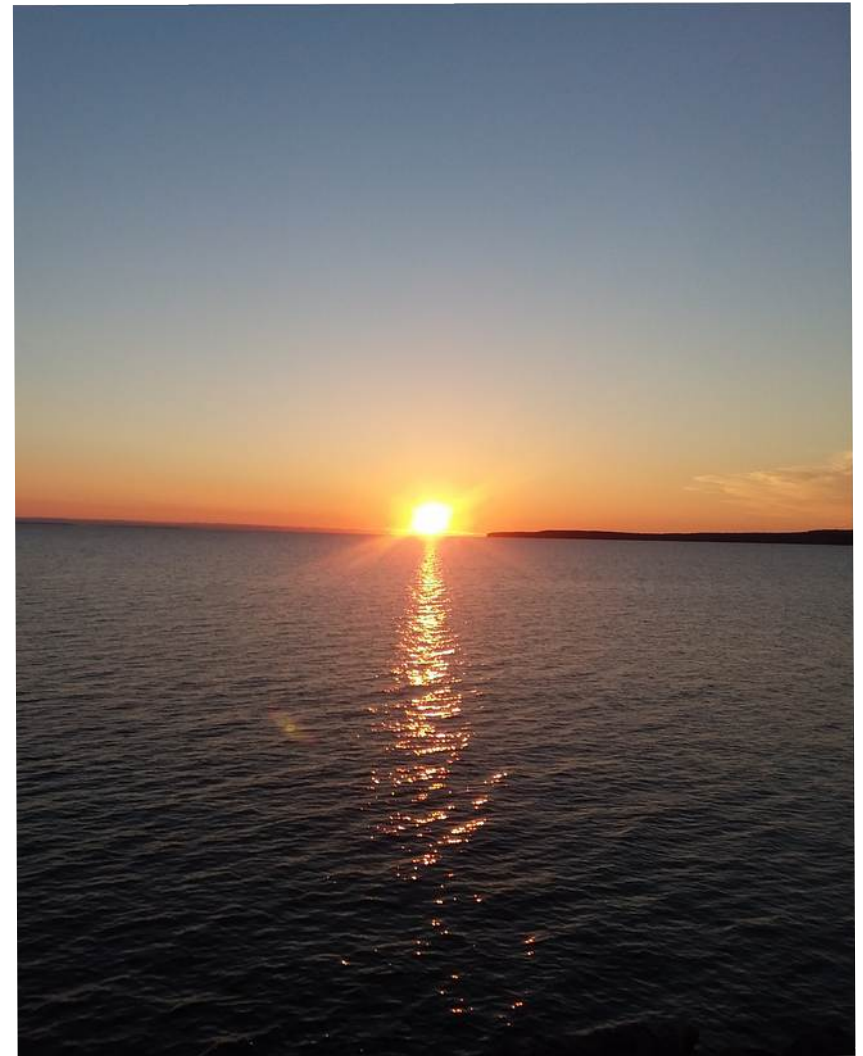


Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox in Bemidji



# Michigan's Upper Peninsula

Pondering Taquamenon Falls



Sunrise from our Balcony in St. Ignace looking towards Mackinac Island

# Epilogue

We've returned to our condo in Michigan, and here is a shot of Roam from our balcony. We drove 6800 miles in 30 days. The Equinox covered 33 miles for each gallon of dead dinosaur juice that she was fed, but wants another oil change soon. Dead bug juice doesn't work.



After returning, Rich spent a couple of hours on the phone with the Canadian Ministry of Health trying to confirm that we'd done everything required by the Quarantine Act and were still in the good graces of the Canadian officials. The best that he managed was a reference to a website where we could submit a request limited to 200 characters. The quick response was that they would no longer send notifications. Time will tell if that is sufficient.

More trip reports at:  
<http://odendahls.com/>