

## **Diary of Cheryl Lee Bradley, 1979**

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## My Travels Across the United States of America

Date of Departure: March 14, 1979

Date of Return: June 12, 1979 (Tues.)

States traveled through:

1. California
2. Arizona
3. New Mexico
4. Texas
5. Louisiana
6. Mississippi
7. Alabama
8. Georgia
9. Tennessee
10. Virginia [10A Washington, D.C.]
11. Maryland
12. Pennsylvania
13. New York
14. Connecticut
15. New Jersey
16. Massachusetts
17. New Hampshire
18. Vermont
19. Ohio
20. Indiana
21. Illinois
22. Wisconsin
23. Minnesota
24. South Dakota
25. Wyoming
26. Colorado
27. Utah
28. Nevada

Day One: March 14, 1979, Wednesday, Weather is clear and warm

We leave Whittier, California with our car packed thoroughly and after Clyde gave my V.W. bug one last check over we left around 1:00 p.m. His friend's Bob, the stereo guy and private car

dealer and Larry, his boss joked about all the things we were bringing such as our “spinning” frying pan.

I drove straight through to Blythe and we stopped for gas where I discovered I had left my gas cap back in Whittier. Cathy took over the driving from there, drove a couple of hours and stopped at a rest stop in Arizona and we slept inside the car, Cathy in the front seat and myself in the back, a most uncomfortable arrangement but the only possible one at the time. The trucks would come in and out all night long. We ate Chocolate Chip cookies all day long. Driving up the interstate we saw a beautiful orange moon peeking over the hills in front of us. I couldn't believe it and thought it to be a 76 Union Gas station sign. Also we have seen many Saguosa Cactus. It is good to be finally traveling.

Day Two: March 15, 1979, Arizona, Thursday, Weather is Hot

We are traveling in Arizona. Today we traveled at our own pace stopping several times, first at the “Casa Grande Ruins” a National Monument in Coolidge. They are remains of an Indian civilization. (Hohokam). The biggest structure remaining is a four story building built of “caliche soil” the soil of that area that acts as a cement does. It is over 600 yrs. old.

We drove through Phoenix, didn't need to stop. We stopped at a couple of thrift stores and an auto supply store to get a gas cap. We drove after dark trying to locate a campground. Finding it at about 10:00 p.m. set up the tent and went to bed!

Clipping of Description of Casa Grande Ruins National Monument with picture.

Day 3, March 16, 1979, Friday, Weather is clear

Woke up this morning to see the beautiful area we drove into last night. There are steep cliffs of rock in front of us and we are surrounded by trees. Left the campground approx.. 10:00 a.m. and stopped in the city of Wilcox, for gas. We have started counting other state's license plates, and have seen quite a few. It was so warm I put on shorts. The scenery has only slightly changed, the sarguaro cactus has disappeared and I see more mountain ranges. We passed through only a small portion of the state of New Mexico. We drove into Las Cruces, where the University of New Mexico is located. Have made it to Texas.

Day 4, March 17, 1979, El Paso, Texas, Saturday, Weather fairly warm

Now camped in El Paso, Texas we were able to go to bed fairly early last night and relax. This campground's facilities are set up for trailer camping but they have showers, laundry and a pool and we didn't want to drive any further. After 3 days of traveling we really needed dthe shower. I found a great place to run this morning, a dirt sandy road that turns into a desert wash or partial streambed that is dry. It wound(?) around the desert and running out there was a peaceful feeling. I was very happy to leave El Paso.

The scenery has become flat plains with not much to see.

Traveled to Ozona

I drove all day until we reached Fort Stockton, Texas approx.. 5:30 p.m. Cathy took over the driving from there. It became cloudy, cold & windy. Earlier the strong winds had blown our car rack off going over the back of the car and catching on the back bumper making the worst scraping noise. I was able to pull over and we stood there in awe hardly believing what had happened. Straightening out the rack we put it back on top with great skepticism and this time securing it down with "Bungy" cords. What a Scary experience.

Traveled after dark to find a camp area, and it has started raining. Here we are in another trailer park sleeping in the car again, only I am in the front seat tonight which is totally cramped. It's raining hard and the wind is ripping the plastic apart on top of the car. Again we have no other choice of sleeping arrangements except for a motel but we are "roughing" it, trying only to use camping facilities, so far succeeding. Ozona is just a small town and the wind is really blowing.

Day Five, March 18, 1979, Weather is clear; the rain stopped early this morning.

We left the camping area early at 8:15 a.m. We are driving through more scenic land and have just passed three vultures on a small hillside. We have also seen several dead deer on the roadside. And finally saw water, a couple of rivers. We arrived in Austin, Texas and found the Youth Hostel but had to come back at 5:30 p.m. before we could go in, which gave us two hours to use where we drove around and became somewhat acquainted with the city and stopped at a park to eat lunch. We watched a group of people fencing, wearing costumes that may have represented Renaissance times.

Before arriving in Austin we drove through a little town called "Fredericksburg" which had been settled by Germans. We stopped for gas and at a couple of Antique shops the first being a very old house that was built of limestone and is 110 years old. The name of the shop is "The Tulip and the Bird". Further down the road in the same town we stopped in another Antique shop which I thought very interesting quite large with many beautiful pieces of furniture. Cathy bought a most unusual print of a lady riding a bicycle in Egypt. Fredericksburg was one of the most beautiful towns in Texas.

Tonight we checked into the Hostel, met two girls from New England whom were on their way to Colorado. The Hostel was the home of two young parents and their two children. The little girl's name was Kristen Repunzul Smith and she had long blond curly hair and the younger boy's name was Adam and he too had blonde curly hair. We made dinner and decided to go out for the evening to listen to some music, and went to a place called "Steamboat Springs." A folk singer was there that evening and he told his stories, took a very long break in which we never heard him play. One rule about staying at a Hostel is the curfew which is 11:00 p.m.

Also earlier today we visited the Capitol which is beautiful inside. I called John Johnston to let him know we would be going through Houston early afternoon and would miss seeing him.

## Business card for "The Tulip & The Bird" Antiques

Day Six, March 19, 1979, Monday

Today we traveled in the rain. After leaving Austin it began to rain fairly hard. We stopped at a little antique village off the main highway. There were several shops and I have been interested in Teapots but have not yet purchased any. The most interesting shop was that of a man who had a private collection of Prussian War, an unusual collection of plates, pewter, war medals and other items of that time era. He spent an hour telling us about it with such great enthusiasm going over the history of just about every item in the showcase. Leaving there with a good feeling to hear such a story we drove off in the rain heading for Houston. What a mistake that time! We arrived at the time of rush hour traffic going home and got somewhat lost finding the right freeway to leave. Our rack blew off again this time over the front of the car blocking my vision. It broke my antenna and the rack stayed partially on the car because of the bungy cords. Fortunately the traffic was traveling at a slow enough speed that enabled me to pull over without causing any problems. After that we were tied up on the freeway for another hour due to another accident up ahead of us. I was so happy to leave Houston and Texas!!

I drove until 12:00 pm going into Louisiana (no sign of campgrounds) where spotted a rest stop to sleep in the car again. It was raining so hard. I had called my Uncle Bob from Beaumont, Texas from a K-Mart to let him know we'd be there the next day. We'd had been driving thru the worst Thunder & Lightning storm and welcomed the stop. Cathy and I went into the K-Mart and ending up staying until they closed at 9:00 p.m. trying on all kinds of clothes and having a blast. I didn't call my uncle until after we got out of the store. We left K-Mart while the rain poured down. Cathy drove for awhile but I took over again later on. Right over the state line we found a place to stop, totally exhausted.

Day 7, Tuesday, March 20, 1979, Weather is clear today.

We have been gone a week now, the time has gone fast. Louisiana is a beautiful state a good change from Texas. The trees are so tall! We drove in "Lafayette" and "Baton Rouge" the capitol. The countryside is so green, lots of swamps and bayous.

## Cutout of card for Historic Houmas House 1800 – 1840

Burnside, Louisiana

We stopped at the "Houmas House" in Burnside, Louisiana. Houmas derives it's name from the Indians who originally settled on the land. It was the home of George B. Crozat who devoted his last 25 years of his life to restoring the house and gardens. The house faces the Mississippi River and Cathy and I walked up on the levi to watch the boats go by and get a better view of the house. We just sat there lazily enjoying the warmth of the sun. Leaving Burnside, I was

eager to get to New Orleans which was not too far off. We arrived in New Orleans right at the time of rush hour traffic and managed to drive down "St. Charles" Ave. and stopped at a phone booth and called Uncle Bob and he told me to call Ellen at work for directions. She advised us to wait about an hour before crossing the bridge until the rush hour traffic wasn't so bad. The Bridge we would have to cross is the "New Orleans Mississippi Bridge" Which was completed in 1958 and is 350 ft. from the water. Cathy drove around for the next hour looking at the homes and ending up driving down through the "French Quarters" where the building are wall to wall with beautiful iron work. We drove over the bridge and called Bob to come and get us. He arrived within no time and told me I looked like a bum and I told him "what did you expect traveling for several days in V.W." Then he asked me if that was my car and I told him Of course it is. So Bob took us to his house on Behrman Ave. and when we arrived Ellen was sitting in an easy chair and she seemed a very relaxed person and made us feel welcome. Bob was so nervous he had to take a walk. We met Ellen's children.

#### Picture of Mississippi River Bridge

John whom was 12 yrs. And Ricky, 7 yrs. Old. John stays in his bedroom quite a bit. They took us out to dinner that night with the boys to a seafood restaurant names "Visko's". Cathy tried raw oysters for the first time, and loved them, I just couldn't get use to eating them.

Day 8, Wednesday, March 21, 1979, Weather is warm

A day that has had new experiences for us. We went down to the "French Quarters" and "Jackson Square and spent all day walking up and down the small narrow streets looking in all the shops, watching everyone, smelling new things and watching the artists. The first shop I went into was a T-shirt shop and I found a t-shirt for John. Cathy saw one she thought Larry would like too. The French Quarters is just about all shops, bars, and music halls with small apartments above all this. The building are old but beautiful. After we had spent all day there, later on Ellen took us back down during the evening to see the town at night. That is what New Orleans is famous for. We started out by going to a place called "Tradition Hall" where they played traditional jazz which was great. We stayed there about 45 minutes.

#### Card from Pat O'Brien's, 718 St. Peter, New Orleans

Oh, before that we had gone to a place called "Pat O'Brien's" and Ellen ordered us a Hurricane and by the time you finish it you feel like a Hurricane hit you. After leaving Tradition Hall we went to "Chuck's" where they play Country and Western music. The band was great!! All three of us were sitting together and this guy asked Cathy to dance and after he asked several times, he wasn't going to give up, she accepted and....ended up having a good time. He eventually introduced me to his brother Rusty who had such an accent and obviously was from Texas. He was very nice and a great dancer. So, Cathy and I are dancing and having such a good time, poor Ellen, said she felt like a chaperone. We spent a bit of time and feeling like Ellen didn't care all that much for Country & Western we decided to leave. Rusty and Steve walked with us away in which we said Good-byes. The three of us proceeded to see one more band called

"Frogman", he was the lead singer and sang jazz & blues. Also someone bought us drinks that we didn't know and never talked to which is something that I've never experienced before. After Frogman's we headed home around 3:00 am, exhausted!!

But the nicest thing I did today was earlier in the day in Jackson Square was to watch the artists doing the portraits. I was looking at all of them and didn't see any that particularly interested me until we had walked almost all the way around and there was a guy over in the corner doing a charcoal portrait of a girl.

Cathy and I stopped to watch him and I was intrigued by his particular style. I stayed to watch him finish the drawing and started to talk with him. He was very responsive and eager to talk about himself. His name was Jack Thomasic and had curly dark brown hair, rather tall and slim. I had decided that I'd like to have him do my portrait but when he finished the girl whom he was drawing it was dark and Bob and Ellen were expecting us back. I asked him if he'd be here tomorrow and he said "I don't know, some days I'm here and some I'm not". I told him I would come back tomorrow in the afternoon. He was such an interesting person and when we asked about his ideas he discussed his techniques and even drew small pictures.

Day 9, Thursday, March 22, 1979, Weather started out warm but started to down pour in the afternoon.

Ellen took the day off of work to take us around. I put on a sun dress because it started out a nice day. She took us to the MadiGras' museum next to the cathedral in Jackson Square. We walked along looking in shops and she took us to a seafood restaurant for lunch to have "Po-Boy" sandwiches. They were good but nothing I would go out of my way for. She also wanted us to try "Pralines" a very sweet candy with pecans in them, which I did not like at all. We ended our day in a shop called "Marketplace" which had the greatest cards and stationery down stairs and beautiful baskets upstairs. Cathy and I saw a beautiful basket and both wanted to get it so I ended up buying it. The salesgirl didn't know the price of it so we both agreed on \$30.00 including tax. We were ready to go home and it was still pouring rain.

Card of the Marketplace, 1015 Decatur St., New Orleans

Day 10, Friday, March 23, 1979, Weather is cloudy but warm, no rain.

We are still in New Orleans; Ellen and Bob had asked us to stay longer and we decided that would be great!!

We stayed around Bob's house this morning to do our laundry and left early afternoon to again go looking in the French Quarters. Yesterday Jack wasn't there and I didn't see him today either. I think I won't see him again. Cathy and I lost each other for awhile and I decided to go back to Jackson Square and just sit down and about a little less than an hour she came there also. It started getting windy and cold this afternoon.

I haven't been able to find my Youth Hostel membership card.

## Picture card of "Pirates Alley"

"Pirates Alley" this alley separates the Cabildo from St. Louis Cathedral.

Day 11, Saturday, March 24, 1979

When I woke up this morning Uncle Bob was already gone; he took John bowling. He usually does this every Saturday with John. The kids father would also be picking them up around noon time to take them for weekend. Bob and Ellen took us for a drive today going across the "Causeway Bridge" which is 24 miles long. We went into a small town called "Ponchatoula" to look at crafts. The causeway bridge crosses the "Pontchartrain Lake". In town Cathy bought a large basket and how we are going to get them bought in my V.W.? They took us out to dinner at a different seafood restaurant which had really good seafood. Bob should have never eaten because he had been sick for the past couple of days and seafood was just too much; we had to stop at a McDonalds so that Bob could run in and use the restroom and we're laughing about this, poor Bob. In getting home, Cathy and I wanted to go back to the French Quarters to listen to Country & Western music again. I had wanted to park in the same parking Ellen did but it was full so I decided to find a spot along the street and fairly close. We were driving down a particular street where a guy just waves us down pointing to a vacant spot and stands in the middle of the street to stop all the traffic. After parking we get out of the car and this guy starts to follow us saying he didn't want to impose on us but he'd like to go with us. I did not want the company, his friends had by this time walked up and I was getting rather mad because this guy kept following us but Cathy continued to walk with him. His friends, one was his older brother stopped at the "Café duMonde" for "beignets" but Carl kept following us. I told him we were going to listen to some music and he could meet us there but that he should go back to let his friends know because he obviously couldn't walk around by himself. He felt very hurt and walked away and punched his hand through the art store window cutting it all up. Cathy felt sorry for him and went back to talk with. By this time his brother and friend who's names Dave & Steve had arrived and all three ended up going with us with Carl leaning on Cathy barely standing on his own two feet. I again enjoyed the music.

Day 12, Sunday, March 25, 1979, Weather is fairly warm.

Today Bob and Ellen took us on a 5 hr. Mississippi river boat excursion on the "Mark Twain" originally a paddle wheel converted to a diesel powered dual propeller water vessel. It holds 400 passengers and has three levels. We traveled through boat locks, industrial areas & bayous. I enjoyed being on the top deck the most. 5 hrs. was just too long though. It gave a good chance to see all the large cargo ships that came in to dock & the tug boats.

Card for Mississippi River Excursions, Since 1884

We also saw many barges, some docks others carrying cargo.

Card of BAYOU TRIP, Picture of Steamboat "Mark Twain"

Also we saw the inside of the locks and how they operate. I wish I would have brought warmer clothes because it got very windy on top deck and if you stay below inside you can't see anything.

After the ride they took us out to eat at "Anthony's" an Italian restaurant.

Day 13, Monday, March 26, 1979, Sunny, Still in New Orleans

Cathy and I went looking for roller skates today; went back to a store we had passed by yesterday called "Cheepskates". Cathy and I had wanted to get skates for sometime now and are still looking. But in this store this guy had two types of skates, two extremes, the cheapest for \$14.95 and the best for \$80.00 called the "Joggers" which were so great to skate on but I didn't want to pay that much!! We skated around his store for about a half an hour and I was hooked!! I wanted to look around for a pair similar but not that expensive.

We went to the Audubon Zoo and walked around.

Many of the larger animals had been removed due to remodeling. The Zoo is located in a beautiful park down in what's called the "garden district". I was most fascinated with the flamingos due to an unusual sound they had made. They had also outstretched their necks to the fullest and one would start this noise and the others would soon join in.

Ending our day back in the French Quarters we hadn't planned to but there was a shop down there selling skates and I wanted to check it out. Unfortunately I didn't want to pay their price either. The good thing is that we saw Jack but he seemed in a hurry as he walked by with his bright turquoise turtleneck shirt and the same cords he had on the other day. And I had said to Cathy now I've never get my portrait done. Walked around Jackson Square for another 45 minutes and Cathy spotted Jack sitting over on the other side and asked him if he would still do my portrait being that it was late afternoon, early evening. He said yes if we would come back in one hour so that he could go and eat his dinner. We agreed and told him we'd see him later. An hour later we came back and he still wasn't there and we both sat there shivering and getting cold. He finally did come back and sat down immediately and work on it for an hour and fifteen minutes finishing it at dark. He asked us if we'd like to see his other art work and we said yes. He took us to his house or apt. that was located in the French Quarters a very small one room place filled with all his collection of art treasures that were mostly old things. We looked at his drawings and paintings and just about everything else in his room. We left his house around 8:00 p.m. and went back to Bob and Ellen's. Tomorrow we are leaving New Orleans. I'd rather like to come back here soon. Jack is very interesting person with many fascinating things to say. He asked if we would pose for him and I said no I'm too modest. He is even unique looking, not overly handsome but tall and slim with dark brown naturally curly hair and was -----32 yrs. old.

Day 14, Tuesday, March 27, 1979, Sunny, Warm

Today marks exactly two weeks since we left home. Good-Bye to this great old town with so many people to see and meet. We took our time loading up the car. Ricky woke up sick this morning and John stayed home to take care of Ricky but all they do is tease each other. Bob came home on his lunch hour to say good-bye to us one last time. We left the two boys and they weren't that interested that we were leaving. We drove down to the French Quarters one last time and walked around Jackson Square. It seems that the artists are friendly and open to share their feelings and ideas. We left Jack a note in his mailbox. We just crossed the Mississippi state line and had to backtrack due to a detour. We camped in a town called "Waveland" along the coastline. During the evening we saw three black cats and at different times two of them came in our tent and Cathy named the one that stayed the longest "Bartholomew". He couldn't settle down and kept walking on my head.

Day 15, Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, Weather is Beautiful, Alabama – Sherling Lake Campground

This morning we stopped at a small sandy beach near where we had camped and laid out in the sun for about an hour. We drove all day today putting behind us all the excitement, experiences and my uncle's house in New Orleans. We are camping in the most beautiful campground with trees surrounding us and a lake below us. We are the only ones camping up here tonight and the ranger came up to talk with us for awhile. Hope to reach Uncle Joe and Aunt Marge's house either today or tomorrow.

Day 16, Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, Alabama – Georgia

We left Sherling Lake 10:15 a.m. I got up this morning and jogged around the lake through brush and muddy marshes.

Crossing the Georgia state line at 12:40 a.m. (the time might have changed.)

I saw unusual scenery on route 41 that I haven't seen anywhere else. Two things, the first being a type of grayish furry looking moss that grows on the trees and a grey looking vine that completely covers the grass on the banks and also on the trees. It just seems to grow over everything taking over completely.

We arrived at my (great) Aunt and Uncle's house around 5:00 p.m. Joe answered the door, he couldn't believe we had found his house. We talked for awhile and Joe fed us dinner. Marge was at work and wouldn't be home until 12:30 p.m. We waited up for her and sat and talked for about an hour. Exhausted we said good-night and went to bed.

Day 17, Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, Weather is warm but not much sun, Cartersville, Georgia

This morning Aunt Marge and Uncle Joe prepared us a big breakfast and at 1:30 we ate the main meal. They eat the main meal in the afternoon instead of the evening because she goes to work at 3:00 p.m. Aunt Marge was cooking crackling corn bread, chicken, beets, lima beans, mashed potatoes, and a desert. Joe helps her with all the cooking. I too would like to be able to cook like this. Cathy and I are copying down recipes. After Aunt Marge left for work, Joe

took us to the Post Office, & to a potter's house named William Gordy. He was a man of Joe's age (70 yrs.) and has been making a traditional style pottery all his life. We watched him work on the wheel and he showed us his kiln. We bought a few pieces from him, he hadn't anything left at the time to sell.

#### Business card of W. J. Gordy Pottery

Joe then took us to the "Indian Mounds". We climbed the highest one looking out over the land and the beautiful copper-rust color of the soil.

#### Notes on Etowah Indian Mounds and Etowah Valley

Joe also showed us a lot and crypt they have bought in a little lot close to the Indian Mounds when they die.

Day 18, Saturday, March 31, 1979, Cartersville, Georgia.

Having a light rain today.

Joe and Marge went to visit her brother whom is staying in a private home for the handi-capped. We went back to the Indian Mounds to see the museum. There has been several excavations done to learn the history of the Indians who lived there. We stopped to get some of the red soil to take back with us. Also went to the stationery store and I purchased a family tree book to start recording our family's record. It is something I have always wanted to do and this trip has given me the opportunity to find out more about my relatives especially on my dad's side. Marge & Joe took us to their shopping center tonight.

Day 19, Sunday, April 1, 1979, Cloudy with light sprinkles

Marge woke us up early for breakfast this morning. We went to church with Marge and Joe. (Methodist) and they took us out to lunch at "Davis Bros." smorgasbord after church.

Later on in the afternoon we drove to Cleveland, Tennessee to visit Linda (their daughter) which I don't remember (she saw me when I was 2 yrs. old) and her husband Tommy and their son Brad. We played their T.V. games and talked. Brad seems like a very nice boy and he loves to draw. Tom has his own business selling art & crafts supplies wholesale. On the way up to Cleveland we stopped at two cemeteries to obtain names and dates on my dad's side of the family. Got back home around 11:00 p.m.

Day 20, Monday, April 2, 1979, Rainy, clearing somewhat.

Cartersville to Chattanooga, Ten.

We ate breakfast and lunch at Marge and Joe's and waited until the rain let up before we loaded up the car. We left right after Marge left for work. Got on the road around 4:30 p.m.

Got gas and my generator light went on and stayed on for awhile so I drove over to a foreign car repair to ask if it was anything to worry about and the guy said no but the brushes on the generator are worn and would need replacing but not right away.

Cathy and I made it to Chattanooga to stop and see a relative of Joanne's. Her name was Hattie and she worked nights at the hospital as an R.N. We had just planned to stop by and drop off some shirts but she asked us to spend the night and we said yes. I am glad we did because it started to pour out. Hattie had to leave for work at 10:30 p.m. so we had the house to ourselves. Earlier we had watched a play on T.V. called "The Scarlet Letter", a four-night program. I had also stayed up to watch the late movie "Fahrenheit 451" and Cathy went to bed half-way through it. Earlier in the evening Hattie had given us a tour of Chattanooga, a very old town. We met her son Fred whom has his own apartment over the garage and her oldest daughter, Debbie whom also works at the hospital as a lab technologist, I believe.

Day 21, Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Chattanooga, Tennessee, Fairly warm.

It's a clear day and we decided to drive into downtown Chattanooga. We tried looking for Rollerskates but couldn't find exactly what we wanted.

Chattanooga is a town of hills and beautiful trees. We drove up to "Lookout Mountain" the sight for one of the last battles of the Civil War, overlooking the Tennessee River.

For dinner that evening, Debbie and Hattie took us out to eat at the "Chattanooga Choo-Choo" what once was a very busy train station. The food was really great there. Also met the youngest daughter tonight.

Post Card of Garrity's Alabama Battery, Lookout Mountain

Chattanooga, Tennessee

This battery was placed on Lookout Mountain on November 24, 1863 facing the Union army in the plateau below, guarding the heights of the mountain.

Also earlier they drove us through another battleground called "Chickamagua" which is just beautiful green fields now.

Menu for Chattanooga Choo-Choo Restaurant

Picture of Terminal Station, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Admission ticket to Chattanooga Choo-Choo

We spent the night at Debbie's house tonight, she only lives 5 minutes away from her mom's house.

Day 22, Wednesday, April 4, 1979, Chattanooga – Nashville, Started raining this morning.

Yesterday marked the day of being away from home for three weeks.

We left Chattanooga late morning in the rain and drove to Nashville, Tennessee. Before reaching Nashville we stopped at a Boot store in "Murfreesboro" and stayed there the longest time. I couldn't decide whether to get a pair of "Wrangler" boots that I really liked. I finally decided against it even though I really liked them I probably wouldn't wear them that often. We made it to Nashville and found a camping ground on the outskirts. We had the whole campground to ourselves. Also it was near a lake. I tried to build a fire but the wood was wet from the rain and wouldn't stay burning very well.

Day 23, Thursday, April 5, 1979, Nashville.

This morning I chose to get up earlier than usual to jog around the campground. I went down to the lake and sat down on a rock and stared out on the water and felt the calmness of the morning. It was so quiet with the sun just beginning to warm me up. I could have sat there all morning and thought how nice it would be to take an early morning swim. After jogging I took a shower and we packed up to leave. We met the Park attendant at the gate and he informed us that the campground had just opened Monday, that we were his first campers for this year. We drove into Nashville and saw the replica of the Parthenon with the Greek and Roman sculptures upstairs and a museum downstairs. Cathy got out her Frisbee and while we were playing this little boy just came over and joined himself in with us. We stopped at a sporting goods store to look for Rollerskates and I ended up buying a down vest. He didn't even have it out, it was in the back storage room and all he had left in sizes were XS and XL, I asked to see them anyway. I tried the XS on and sure enough it fit and I liked it right away and decided to get it. "So much for Rollerskates".

Tonight we drove into town after having found a much closer campground to the Grand Ole Opry and listened to some music. The guy playing there was "Shawn Phillips" whom has been around for quite sometime.

Earlier today Cathy saw the "Hermitage" the home of Andrew Jackson and I didn't feel like seeing it so I stayed in the car and read. We also bought our tickets for Grand Ole Opry tomorrow night.

Day 24, Friday, April 6, 1979, Nashville

I was able to wash my clothes this morning at the campground.

We drove into Nashville early afternoon and saw the "Country Hall of Fame". Became more familiar with names of country western singers. Elvis Presley's custom white Cadillac was displayed there also. I called mom from there and talked to her for a short time and was so glad to hear her voice. She said Dr. West still hadn't hired someone yet for a receptionist. Tonight we went to the "Grand Ole Opry" and it was good as the talent but there were too many advertisements which took a lot of pleasure out of it. We did see some well-known country western singers such as Roy Acuff, Lester Flatt, Bill Monroe, Jim Walker and others.

Walking out of there was so freezing, the air was crisp and cold!! And we were wearing dresses.

#### Card from the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum

Day 25, Saturday, April 7, 1979, Nashville – Marion, Virginia

We left Nashville today. Stopped at a Flea Market and I saw a beautiful teapot with an interesting design and a pewter top, for \$47.50 which I couldn't afford and passed it up in great sorrow. We stopped at another boot store and stayed for about an hour trying to decide. Cathy and I tried on so many pairs and she decided on two pair, I on none. I had my heart set on a pair of wranglers at the first store we stopped at. Then we splurged and had a "super heater", Sundae at Baskin and Robbins! Delicious. Camped at "Crosseyed Cricket" campground. A coon-dog stole our loaf of bread off the picnic table while we were in the restroom.

I called John for the first time since we left Calif. And at first I felt timid to talk to him but it was so good to talk with him, I do miss him a lot. We talked about 10 minutes.

Day 26, Sunday, April 8, 1979, Virginia, Cloudy and Rain

We traveled a lot today, mostly through the Smokey Mountains on small roads and highways. We stopped at a large Flea Market and I found two hubcaps for my V.W. that are in very good condition. I paid a dollar for both of them. Tonight we are camped in the "Hungry Mother" state park campground. We are able to cook a hot meal on the campfire tonight. Found a real nice cat friend.

Day 27, Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, Cloudy and Cold

Drove all day through the mountains (Appalachians) seeing such beautiful green countryside. We crossed over a tiny bridge barely room enough for one car and not very sturdy looking either. I have seen many old barns, most of them look as if they are ready to fall apart. We found a campground near a lake and in a thicket of pine trees. We are camped next to two other girls who just came from W. Virginia where it snowed on them. It's freezing cold and our sleeping bags are still wet from last night when it rained on us.

Day 28, Tuesday, April 10, Washington, D.C., Clear

We left the campground around 12:00 a.m. Cathy wanted to finish writing a letter to Larry and I finished reading my book "The Anatomy Lesson" and laid in the warm sun. Our sleeping bags were still damp from the previous night and last night Cathy was so cold we got up, walked down to the bathroom and put them in the dryer but the laundry room was locked so we hung them up and tried to fluff them up by hand. I think it helped a little because after that we both fell asleep. Also along the way, early afternoon we stopped at a beautiful basket store and a craft gallery. In the basket store the baskets made by the people of that area started at \$50.00. In the crafters gallery were beautiful displays of ceramics, glass, weavings and other items. It is one of the most beautiful stores I have been in, especially the pottery.

### Cards for Crafters' Gallery and Clover Lawn, the basket store

We drove around looking for a campground and being so close to Washington, D.C. it was rather difficult. We ended up driving 30 miles out of D.C. to Maryland to look for a campground called "Cedarville" and when we did reach it, it was closed and being late and now dark we just parked in one of the picnic areas which didn't have any facilities except a table and unloaded the car, put the back seat down and the front seats forward and made room to sleep in the car tonight. We got settled and ate a dish of ice cream for dinner. It was crazy because it was so cold outside. But we didn't feel like cooking so late.

Day 29, Wednesday, April 11, 1979, Maryland and Washington D.C. Warm and sunny.

Our first day to see Washington D.C. We first stopped at the National Visitor Center to find out about other campgrounds and where we can park the car. We parked the car underneath the Air & Space Museum and walked through the main lobby deciding to go back there later. Next we went into the main hall and room of the original Smithsonian Building. It was designed in a Romanesque style built of dark red bricks. Our third place to see was The National Gallery of Art where we spent a good deal of time with only seeing one half of it. We are planning to come back tomorrow to see the rest. We ended our day and evening back at the National Air and Space Museum which I enjoyed a lot more than I thought I would. It houses many of the original early planes such as Lindberg's "Spirit of Saint Louis" and others. It showed the history of flight starting with the earliest planes going to the most modern travel, space travel. The museum had hang gliders, gliders and parachutes also we saw a beautiful movie called "the living planet" showing some of the most remote & beautiful places on this earth emphasizing conservation. The photography was eye catching taken from a plane & helicopter.

### Ticket for the National Air and Space Museum Theater

Postcard showing the main lobby mural for the National Air and Space Museum called "Earth Flight Environment" by Eric Sloan, 1976

Exhausted it was time to look for a campground and definitely not wanting to go back to the one we spent last night in. We chose one eight miles from D.C. in the state of Maryland. It was not a very pleasant camping area, right off the freeway, overcrowded and basically set up for trailer camping but too tired to go anywhere else we settled here. There wasn't any one at the office to pay a fee to which I didn't mind since they were charging eight dollars a night.

Day 30, Thursday, April 12, Washington, D.C., Cloudy

Got an early start this morning. We started out at the National Gallery of Art to finish seeing what we didn't see yesterday. I saw my favorite painting "Daniel in the Lions' Den" by Rubens. Saw other paintings by Rembrandt, Greco, Gainsborough, and many, many other masters. This half of the museum I seemed to enjoy more. Oh, today we were up early enough to find a parking space along the street where we didn't have to pay. We walked through the beautiful Botanical Gardens with all their Easter Flowers out. They had beautiful spring flowers in bloom,

a cactus garden, tropical rain forest sections of ferns and many other types. Third place we saw today was the U.S. Capitol and decided not to take the tour but walk around ourselves. We saw the "House of Representatives", The "Senate", the old Senate room no longer used, the great dome, the crypt built for "George Washington" but never used, and many, many paintings and statues throughout the entire capitol. The House of Rep. allows T.V. cameras' inside, the Senate does not. The outside of the capitol I am disappointed to see, the paint is peeling off and wooden beams are hammered to the front for support and the stone fence that surrounds the capitol is almost entirely black. Back to our car to make sure I hadn't gotten a ticket we ate lunch. Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches again. Next also close by we walked over to The Modern (East) Art Museum which for such a large building had a minimum amount of art there. This building contains pieces done by contemporary artists such as Matisse and Picasso. I was not so enthused here. Everything is so empty and cold looking and I am not stimulated by this art, I am sorry to say. Maybe later on in my years and education I will learn what makes an artist express him or herself in this way. I do not like to judge an artist of this nature by I do not have feeling for abstract art.

Next we walked to The National Archives, a building that houses all of the U.S. most important documents. All these government documents, are original and every night are lowered into a special safe to protect them. They are kept under glass with special lighting to keep them from fading anymore. Nixon's resignation is displayed there.

Cards designating Documents From America's Past, The National Archives and Questions on the Constitution

With early evening approaching we still had things we wanted to see. At the Washington Monument we waited in line for about 45 minutes to take the elevator to the top. By then it had gotten dark and the wind was blowing strong making it cold just to stand still. Finally!! Made it to the top and a beautiful view of D.C. at night, all the memorials lit up and the capitol too. We ran over to the Jefferson Memorial which had a statue of Thomas Jefferson standing with his words inscribed on the wall. We walked back to the car and drove to the Lincoln Memorial, something which I have wanted to always see, and now I have. On the walls are inscribed his "inaugural speech" and the "Gettysburg Address". It was great to see especially at night when the lights cast shadows on the statue. This was our last stop and we headed back to the campground that we stayed in last night. Totally exhausted I dragged myself into my sleeping bag.

Cards from The Washington Monument and The Lincoln Memorial

Two Pictures of the Lincoln Memorial

Day 31, Friday, April 13, 1979, Good Friday, Washington D.C., Rainy and Cold

Today was our last day in Washington D.C. and had planned to see The White House first thing but when we got there the line was already tremendously long going more than half way

around the fence that surrounds the house. Also being open only 2 1/2 hrs. we decided against standing in line, to see other places. It started raining as we walked over to see The National Aquarium. It was inside a very old building and have really interesting fish. We went next to The Museum of History and Technology and spent a good hour in just the book store alone. I didn't find the museum as exciting as the others we have seen. We briefly walked through, there was so much to see.

#### Card for National Museum of History and Technology

Our last stop was at Arlington Cemetery where we viewed J.F.K. gravesite and The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where we ran up to that area to the changing of the guards. They have such a great deal of discipline and show no sign of emotion except a respect shown in the actions. Everything the soldier did was in such uniform and concentration.

#### Card for Arlington National Cemetery and description

It's raining again and we stop before leaving D.C. to write and send a few postcards. I am exhausted and anxious to get to Gramma's house. Camping in Pennsylvania in a wooded area campground and arrived just in time before the ranger closed. Raining hard.

Day 32, Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, Rainy

I drove all day only stopping only for gas. It rained all day and I just wanted to get to Gramma's. Crossed over the George Washington Bridge in New England. Driving down dark roads we stopped at a family's house to get directions to Deepwood Drive. I recognized her house and we gave Gramma quite a surprise, she hadn't expected us since I didn't give her a call. I knocked on her door around 8:00 p.m. I was determined to be there for Easter. She greeted us with open arms & "Sam", her dog too!!

Day 33, Sunday, Easter, April 15, Amston, Connecticut, Light rain.

I woke up early this morning to take a bath and get ready for Church. We met Carmen, Buddy, Teddy, & Tommy at the roadhead and surprised Carmen. We all went to Gramma's church in Lebanon except Buddy. Gramma was so happy to have so many with her. We had to sit in one of the family sections. After church everyone drove to Ellie's house for Easter dinner. Nancy and Tommy left to spend it with their father. We had to leave right after dinner because Aunt Charlotte was bringing John over before he left to go back to school. I called mom after dinner.

Day 34, Monday, April 16, Norwich, Connecticut, Rainy

Ellie met us at her bank on her lunch hour to help me cash my income check. We did our laundry at her house. They have a dog named "Cecei" and unfortunately is kept on a chain all day. I wrote Aunt Marge and Uncle Joe today. Gramma picked us up at Ellie's and we stopped at Gramma B's for lunch. She has a little Chihuahua named "Samson".

Day 35, Tuesday, April 17, Amston Lake

Spent the day at Gramma's house. We drove into Colchester to the Post Office this afternoon.

This evening Gramma cooked us a wonderful dinner and took us to the library in Lebanon. This library is so nice, it is very comfortable almost like being in someone's home. A very small library but I found three books to check out. The librarian was so friendly to us all and I had a chance to talk to her. She has traveled quite a bit herself. Her name is "Dolly".

Day 36, Wednesday, April 18, Amston Lake, Beautiful & Sunny

I still haven't received a letter from John, I am quite disappointed about that because when I had called him in Tennessee he said he would have a letter waiting at Gramma's house when I would arrive there.

We spent the day at Gramma's again helping her out in the yard rolling it out. It was such a beautiful day. The moles have created holes and lumps in her grass. Later on Cathy and I took the row boat out on the lake. I rowed out to the little rock island and Cathy rowed back. She says she hasn't rowed that much previously. Gramma cooked us another delicious dinner, trying for the first time a string bean casserole. Cathy loved it.

I talked to Aunt Charlotte on the phone today and we are making plans to go over to her house soon.

Cathy is calling Larry tonight and she has a smile on her face.

Day 37, Thursday, April 19, Amston, Connecticut, Beautiful and Clear

Woke up late this morning and we worked out in the yard for a short while try to flatten out the humps again and raked up leaves. Later on we went out on the lake in the row boat back to our little rock island. I painted a little in my sketchbook. Gramma has been cooking delicious meals and tonight for dessert she made "cottage pudding", something mom used to make. It's a cake with a chocolate sauce poured over the top. We went rowing again after dinner when the lake was calm.

Day 38, Friday, April 20, Connecticut, Sunny and warm

This morning I jogged half way around the lake. Cathy, Gramma and I left the house this morning at 10:30 p.m. so that Gramma could go and have her hair done. After that we went to "Friendly's" ice cream parlor to have a banana split!! They call it a "Jim Dandy". We drove into Norwich so I could get a copy of my birth certificate. We stopped at the Norwich Free Academy to see the Slater Museum. They were having a display of artists' works from all over Connecticut.

We ate dinner over at Gramma Bradley's apt. and also did our laundry. Cathy clipped Samson's toenails while Gramma held him. He was pretty good and didn't move around a lot. Gramma B. has her own mug collection around her apartment from places all over. Her apt. is small has an upstairs and seems to be the right size for her.

## Card for the Slater Museum with description

Day 39, Saturday, April 21, Beautiful Weather

Got up early (7:00 a.m.) for the first time in a long time so that we could be at Aunt Ellie's early enough to go and watch Nancy in her gymnastics class. Ellie took myself, Cathy, Nancy, Tommy and John, Charlie's son over there and after Nancy was through Ellie took us for a drive to show us around. We stopped at a Flea Market and I saw a teapot I really liked and went back again later on to get it. Ellie took us to Mystic Sea Village but with the kids getting impatient we couldn't stay long. We ate dinner at Ellie's tonight. Gwen and Paula, Charlie's two of his three daughters were over tonight also Tommy, Paula & I played basketball, those two against me. Tommy's a real good guy and pretty helpful too. He pays the most attention to their dog, Cecei. We took Nancy to the drug store and she bought some "Barbie" shampoo, soap & perfume on sale but changed her mind three times on which package she wanted.

## Card from "Mystic Pewter Shop"

Day 40, Sunday, April 22, Warm

We went to Church with Gramma this morning. Some of the children of the members led the service this morning while the pastor (a lady) sat in the back. We left church right away to be back to get ready to go over to Carmen's but when we got home she called and said she wasn't feeling well so we spent the day at Gramma's and took it easy. I spent the afternoon planting Gramma's tulips and writing letters.

Gramma made corn chowder for dinner something I haven't had for quite some time. I called John after dinner and we talked for awhile tonight since I hadn't gotten a letter from him yet. Cathy and I went out in the row boat tonight. The Lake was calm.

Day 41, Monday, April 23, Beautiful warm weather

What a day. Got up around 8:15 a.m. to eat breakfast. We decided to go to the store and get gas and I got out to my car and it wouldn't start. The radio was left on. Gramma pushed me with her car and bent the rim around her wheel because she had rubbed against the garage when she backed out. It also tore the rubber on my front bumper. Poor Gramma, she takes good care of her car. But, we managed to get my car out of the driveway and got it started. We drove to Hartford and went inside the capitol. Very beautiful. Looked in a few stores and lost track of time. We got lost on the way home on route #17.

Picture of "a relief sculpture on the exterior of the capitol"

Connecticut State Capitol

Card of State Capitol

Small Book on the State of Connecticut

We went to Aunt Charlotte's for dinner tonight. She made Lasagne.

Cathy (my cousin) was rather quiet and wasn't really interested in talking with me that much. Uncle Don was itching to show us his collections. He seemed to refer to a lot of his antiques to "junk" and had things in drawers. He gave me a charcoal drawing, a fan and an old teapot with a story on it. We went down to the lake after dinner. It still looks the same. We said our good-byes and headed on home.

Day 42, Tuesday, April 24

I got up this morning to make "Beignets" for Gramma and Cathy and Cathy got rather sick, it may have been from the donuts.

We (all three of us) drove to Carmen's today. Took the two dogs "Pico" the oldest and a female sandy-colored mixed and "Nicholas" a Siberian huskey male and still a puppy down on the beach for a run. Pico loves the water. Carmen and Gramma made a very good fish dinner tonight. Cod.

After dinner I looked through all Carmen's photo albums. She gave me an empty photo album to take home and start one of my own.

I really like Buddy, he is sensible with a good sense of humor and Carmen and Buddy make a wonderful husband & wife. Teddy's a good guy too and not too bad on the drums either. He has a paper route after school that he delivers by walking.

Gramma drove home, she drives well for having such a large car.

Day 43, Wednesday, April 25

This morning & afternoon I changed my oil. What a disaster!! The container that I used to drain the oil into had holes in it. The oil spread all over Gramma's driveway. I covered it with sand and we were late leaving for Aunt Ellie's house. We went back to Mystic Village to see what we missed the other day. Ellie bought me two small needlepoints. I was interested in learning how to do it. We offered to cook dinner for Ellie while she went with Charlie to play tennis with friends whom were coming for dinner afterwards. We had Spaghetti. I spoke to Aunt Carol on the phone this afternoon.

Day 44, Thursday, April 26, Rainy

Left Gramma's for New York today. It started to rain hard when we reached Interstate 84. It continued to rain all the way to N.Y. We made it to N.Y. city and would you believe right at the hour of the evening rush hour traffic. Drivers are crazy!, making sudden lane changes and not giving right ways. Everyone tries to get ahead of the other guy. Pedestrians are even worst not waiting for "walk" lights stepping out in front of cars suddenly! There are many trash bags piled everywhere on the sidewalks. I drove through tunnels, on skyways, bridges and trying to keep my sanity. The roads are poor, pot holes everywhere and steam seeping out of manholes.

Some streets are narrow and at times there are trucks parked on both sides making it almost impossible to even drive by. And there are People!, Everywhere.

Managing to secure a parking space we ran to catch the next boat out to the Statue of Liberty. The rain had stopped but it remained overcast and cold! The statue of Liberty is spectacular everything it has always lead me to believe. When we get off the boat we are facing the back of the statue.

Cut-out of card showing Statue of Liberty, 1979, New York, Manhattan

We went inside and climbed the narrow spiral staircase to her crown. Looking out you can see the harbor and the inscription on the book "July 4, 1776". The statue is made from a steel skeleton frame with two steel poles leading up the center. Copper is riveted to the steel frame and the statue is secured in a deep cement base by a four poled (square) frame.

The frame was designed by Eiffel, same person who designed the Eiffel Tower. The copper now green has changed with the weather. We stayed at the top for about 5 minutes. Making our decent down quickly we walked through the small museum on the history of the immigrant. Running back to the boat so as not to miss it we made it just in time. The seagulls are so graceful to look at able to come to a stillness in flight in mid-air.

Coming back to my car I was somewhat worried as to the safety of our belongings but everything was in place and we drove to Greenwich Village. Walked through the shops with night falling upon us and a light rain.

We also earlier has stopped at the "Prince George" Hotel, where the Youth Hostel was located and arrived just late of the AYH desk clerk leaving. This meant we had to speak to the regular desk clerk and that man wouldn't give us "the time of day", said he didn't have any rooms available and he couldn't even look Cathy in the eye when he said that. This made me pretty angry!! So we decided to try and locate Cathy's friend in New Jersey. (Long Valley) I drove until 11:30 p.m. before we found her house and the lights were all out and no sign of Joan's car.

We decided not to disturb anyone and slept in the car. Totally exhausted from driving I didn't care where I slept. Cathy in the back seat and I in the front. It was pouring rain out and I slowly drifted slowly to sleep. We had searched and searched for her house, stopped at three other houses to ask for assistance, including a bar. Finally a guy in the rain who was changing a tire quickly spoke of directions getting us to the right street. It's so dark around here we couldn't even see her house from the street.

Write to congressman: for: "Living on A Few Acres", U.S. Departmet of Agriculture.

Day 45, Friday, April 27, New Jersey

We got up this morning fairly early and Cathy knocked on Joan's door, no answer. She left her a note. Next we drove to Fran's house, another friend of Cathy's in Orange, N.J. She wasn't home either. Cathy left her a note, saying we'd come back tonight. We went back to New York

City and mostly drove around. Walked over to Central Park. Quite a few joggers. We walked up streets just looking. One sad thing I saw was a high school right in the heart of town on the corner. No recreation area outside. Everything is inside and underground.

When we both had had enough of New York we drove back to Orange, N.J. and this time Fran was home but just on her way out. She showed us around and told us to make ourselves at home and had to run. We decided to get ready to go out dancing back to New York City again. We found a parking space not too far from the disco we were going to. It was called 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Disco and cost \$5.00 to get in and I wouldn't not recommend it to anyone. The guys wouldn't even ask the girls to dance so girls either danced by themselves or with each other. Not that many people here either which surprised me. I thought they'd all be crowded. Then we had the long drive back getting home about 3:30 a.m.

Day 46, Saturday, April 28, New Jersey – Philadelphia

Fran woke us up at 7:00 a.m. to tell us of her plans, she seems to have a very busy schedule. We decided to go for a walk in the park (the reservation ) at 8:00 a.m. Beautiful morning, sun shining and so peaceful in that park. We stopped by a little stream and sat for a short while just listening to the sounds of the morning. When we got back to Fran's she made us a Jewish food for breakfast called "Matzoh-Brye" (meaning fry) and it was really good!! She mixed eggs with a wafer that she had softened in water. Also I had a tea that I thought had a good flavor to it called "Roast a Rommal". We left Fran's early afternoon and headed for Philadelphia. It started to rain on the turnpike and my windshield wipers started to make a strange noise and also slowed up in their movement. I pulled over underneath a bridge to check it out. I first tried tightening them and that didn't work, I took them off but not being mechanically minded I didn't know where to begin. Then a biker pulled over to get out of the rain and offered assistance and he couldn't find the problem. Also we could smell this awful burning smell such as rubber burning. I thanked the "biker" and decided to drive to Philadelphia anyway staying in the slow lane and using my hand for a wiper. Not too good! I found a V.W. dealer but their service department was closed. Went to a gas station next. He couldn't help us just said the windshield wiper motor was burned out. It stopped raining. We arrived at the Youth Hostel in Philadelphia. Didn't have much time left to see any of the city. We only saw Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. Also saw an alley containing some of the oldest houses left in Philadelphia. Drove back to the Hostel to make dinner. Met a guy from Germany who spoke very good English and the guy who was acting as houseparent actually worked in the Hostel in Washington D.C. Too bad we didn't know that earlier it would have saved us a lot of trouble. There were two girls sharing our room, were traveling together and were from England and Scotland.

Day 47, Sunday, April 29, Clear Weather, Pennsylvania – Lawrence N.J.

The time has changed today to "Daylight Savings" (an hour ahead)

There was a "Walk-a-Thon" in downtown Philadelphia.

We have been on the Interstate #95 for about one hour and my car has just made a strange breaking noise.

HELP, now my car has died completely on us!! The engine will not even turn over and here we are out in the middle of nowhere on a Sunday. Cathy is trying to get over the fence to look for a telephone. Oh, dear, what next?

A policeman (state highway patrolman) stops within 25 minutes to help us. He tries to determine what might be wrong but is not able to. He even pushes us with car to try and push start us. No luck. He calls us a tow truck, wishes us good luck and leaves. The guy and tow truck arrives shortly and he announces he doesn't know anything about Foreign cars.

#### Drawing of a Tow Truck

So he tows us to the nearest Volkswagen Dealer in the town of Lawrence right off the turnpike. He charges us only \$10.00 and says "I won't charge you the full amount because you're going to need all the money you have to get this car fixed". I call Gramma to let her know we're safe. We decide to sleep in the car tonight, we are parked under a roof. We want to be there first thing in the morning when the mechanics get there. The gas station across the street has a rest room without a lock we can use that tonight.

We decide to look for a grocery store to buy something to eat. Nothing in the area, so we decide to start walking down the highway. Cathy is trying to hitch a ride but no one stops. I don't like to hitch rides and won't. We come across a bakery-deli not too far up the road. We buy sandwiches and cookies to eat for dinner. I see a phone and decide to call John and let him know what has happened. I just needed to talk to a reassuring voice. I call him and he answers, says his brother is over visiting. While I am in the phone booth talking with John, Cathy is explaining to two young teenage girls our situation and why we are on the phone so long. They say don't worry. They were waiting to use the phone. At the same time this good looking guy wearing sun-glasses and dressed very nicely just walks up to Cathy, I guess after overhearing her and says to her "Do you need some money?" and also says "I'm not trying to solicit you, but if you need some money my father owns that furniture store over there, (one that Cathy and I been admiring the furniture in, earlier) and if you do need money you can reach me there". He then pulls out his wallet and hands Cathy a \$20.00 bill.

I'm watching this as I'm talking to John and couldn't believe what I just saw. The guy hops in his car and takes off as fast as he arrived. Cathy stands there amazed! I talk to John for quite awhile trying to decide what to do next. We say our good-byes and I tell John I will call him again tomorrow.

We then walk back to the car before dark to write letters and work on needlepoint. We are sitting in our car watching the people drive up just looking at cars and most of them are cars that look like they're ready to junk or old clunkers. Then there are also the cars that are being brought in and left there for the "early bird" service the next morning. Another car drives up

and who do you think gets out, the same guy who gave us the \$20.00 bill and he comes over to Cathy's side of the window this time dressed in jeans and an old work shirt and hands us a whole bag of pot and says there's something for tonight but we tell him we don't get "high" and give it back and thank him anyway. He asks us if we are all right and we say yes so he says good-bye and leaves with his two friends. He always just pops in and out and is gone.

We walk back up towards the bakery because there is a Drive-In movie and we go through the bushes and climb over the back fence. "Thank God It's Friday" is playing and we catch the end of it. A guy walks up with his flashlight and sees us and asks if we have tickets and we just mumble something and walk towards the restroom and the guy leaves.

We quickly walk out the back gate and go back to our car. Earlier we had told a policeman that we're sleeping in our car tonight.

Day 48, Monday, April 30, New Jersey – New Haven, Conn.

Woke up at 6:30 a.m. Last night when Cathy had talked to the policeman about sleeping in our car at first he was skeptical about it but when she was talking to him I, at the same time, was talking to a man whom obviously worked there and the cop came over and asked him, he said it was alright. The policeman then seemed a lot more friendly and had offered to help us find a place to sleep and even said he'd take us down to the station to take a shower. We thanked him for his concern but said we'd be alright. He said he'd let his buddy know of the situation and have him check on us later on because he'd be off duty pretty soon. Sure enough 3:00 a.m. we see this bright lights and I tell Cathy "He's here" and I hear the footsteps walk over to my car. He just checked and left.

Now this morning I am up and ready. When they open on of the mechanics checks my car out first thing. He informs us of the bad news! I need on engine rebuild. I call home, it's 6:30 a.m., Dad answers. I at first stumble to find works to tell him. My first words are "Guess what?" After talking to Dad I talked to Clyde and he's giving me suggestions but things I'm not able to do in my situation. I talk to Mom and she and dad will talk it over about sending me money and I should call her back tonight. I talk to Clyde once more and hang-up. We walked back over there and the mechanic comes over to talk with us. He says he has a motor at home already rebuilt that would take him a day to put in my car and he would sell to me for \$400.00. I have to make a decision quickly because the tow truck is already there.

I decide to go with his engine that I would save money by having his engine instead of the dealers. The tow truck hitches my car up and takes it away. I wonder if I'll ever see it again. A guy at the V.W. dealer gives us a ride to the bus station across from Princeton University.

Cards for New York Buses, Turnpike Express & Suburban Transit

Now we are on an express bus to New York with intentions of eventually getting to my Aunt Carmen's house in New Haven. In New York City we took a Greyhound to the New Haven Bus depot. I called Carmen told her what happened and she said she'd call Buddy at work because

he'd be getting off now. He picked us up and was I so glad to see him. We told him our whole story and he grinned and said we were two lucky girls. Carmen was glad to see us and had dinner going. After dinner I called Mom and she said \$500.00 dollars was on the way and wished us well. I thanked her and said good-bye. I called John next and he wanted to talk "luyv-duvy". I asked him to please write me!

Day 49, Tuesday, May 1, 1979

I took Pico and Nicholas their two dogs down on the beach this morning. Pico loves to chase the board I throw. She also loves the water.

Carmen took us to see Buddy's Auto Parts store in New Haven. We met Peter the machinist downstairs, the two guys that worked there and the other bookkeeper, Marge. Buddy showed me all his stock and all the different parts. When we finished there Carmen took us into Downtown New Haven and let us off on the "Green" a large park with three churches in the center. We walked around the Yale University campus and spent most of our time in the Yale Art Gallery. They have quite a collection there. One of the most interesting was the "Trumbull" room, a collection of his works, many he had painted himself. We took a bus back to Carmen and Buddy's.

#### Yale University Art Gallery

For dinner we made crepes for everyone, vegetable for dinner and strawberry for dessert. Delicious!! I called up (Jim Brown) the guy who was working on my car to let him know we'd be there tomorrow around 5:00 p.m. He said he's pick us up at the bus station.

Day 50, Wednesday, May 2

Got up at 8:30 a.m. and had breakfast. Carmen took me to the bank. Today's the day to go get my car. She then dropped us off at the "green" again and we had time enough to see the Center Church which has the crypt underneath. The inside of the church is simple but with beautiful stained-glass windows. The one in the front was unusual in color due to the fact that it had mostly greens and greys instead of the typical blues and reds mostly seen. An elderly man was giving us the tour and next he took us downstairs underneath the church where the crypt (or cemetery) was. It originally was there before the church was even built. The church was later on built over it and dedicated in 1815. The stain-glass was put in in 1895. The first grave was there in 1812 and the last grave in 1865. Benedict Arnold's first wife is buried there in the crypt. Today the whole basement once earth is now cemented over. This Center Church was the original colony church, there are two other churches on both sides of the Center Church. Many of the grave stones were "ballast" for the boats and the top part had a rough edge.

We left the church and time enough to go over to Baskin Robbins for a "Super Heater" sundae! Made it back to the bus station just in time for it.

#### New Haven to New York Greyhound card

Now I am on the bus and somewhat apprehensive in handing over \$400.00 to a stranger who had exchanged engines giving me a rebuilt. We reach New York City and catch another bus to Princeton.

Arrive in Princeton around 5:15 p.m. Called Jim Brown at work but he already had left. Called him at home and he answered, said he'd be there in thirty minutes to pick us up. He took us to his house and there was my poor tired car. We all three went for a test drive and it seemed to run well. Jim also had installed a new clutch. I paid him, we shook hands and were off. It was all so quick it seemed! I had paid him cash in fifty dollar bills. We headed for Cathy's friend's house, Joan. This time we had no trouble finding it. We talked with her and a roommate until 11:00 p.m. but she had some work to finish up. She also lives in New Jersey. We stayed at her house for the night.

Postcard of Center Church, New Haven. The Meetinghouse. The fourth house of the church, dedicated in 1814.

#### Day 51, Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Joan left early for work but we had planned to meet her at work. She's an environmentalist. She works in an old house converted to offices that is located out in the country. She works for "Ceda". Saying good-bye to Joan we drove back to Carmen's to pick up some things we left there. It started to rain and without windshield wipers we spent the night there.

#### Day 52, Friday, May 4, 1979, Clear

Carmen left early for work and we were there by ourselves. When we left I hated to say good-bye to Pico and Nicholas. Drove by Carmen's bank and honked and Cathy yells "Carmen"! I don't think she saw us.

We got to Gramma's around 1:00 p.m. We took it easy. Cathy went rowing by herself tonight. Watched the movie "Ike".

#### Day 53, Saturday, May 5, Amston, Connecticut

I slept later than usual. In the afternoon we went to Norwich to see "Leffingwell Inn" and did our laundry at the laundromat where the lady who knew my mom works. Gramma wanted me to meet her.

We went rowing before dinner over to the other side of the lake. There were three boys on the bank yelling and swearing at us and threw rocks when we got closer. We rowed on ignoring them at first but they persisted in continuing their foul language.

Card with information on Leffingwell Inn

Colored Post Card showing Leffingwell Inn, oldest portion built in 1675

After getting around the next bend we quickly went ashore to go and get them. I was so angry and just as we got ashore we saw them over the hill and ran to get them and almost had them but I got caught in a barbed wire fence and they got scared and ran away. They needed a good spanking, they looked about 12 years old.

Gramma had gotten worried, we had been gone much longer than we had said but I explained to her what happened.

Day 54, Sunday, May 6, Connecticut

Cathy and I had a lot to do because we are leaving tomorrow. Aunt Charlotte and Donnie came over to say good-bye. She took my package to send it for me. She lives close to United Parcel.

I sent John a letter today one that wasn't very pleasant telling him my feelings. I still haven't received a letter from him yet.

We went over to Aunt Carol's and Uncle Carl's house this afternoon and stayed for dinner.

She gave Cathy and I each a hat she crocheted. They each had name's, Cathy's being "Connecticut Beaches" and mine "Spanish Mansions".

Aunt Carol cooked a Gourmet's dinner and everyone loved it.

They have a bulldog named "Monte" and what a character he is. He opened the bedroom door and came out himself while we were all sitting around the dinner table and I just started laughing so hard and couldn't stop. Cathy says "He sounds like he has bedroom slippers on" and I laughed even harder till tears came to my eyes. He looks so cute.

Aunt Carol showed Cathy and I some of her paper making and an old portfolio of insect, plant and animal drawings.

She also let me read a paper on a painting she had done for her poetry class at school. Aunt Carol is a very talented person doing so many things well and I respect her a great deal.

Packed a few things tonight and went to bed thinking about John and the letter I sent to him.

Day 55, Monday, May 7, 1979, Boston, Mass.

Left Gramma's today and I really hated to and she looked so sad. I couldn't help it but as I hugged her good-bye I started to cry and she felt so small in my arms. I'm going to miss her so much. I love her.

We made it to Boston and had the hardest time finding the Hostel and when we did it has to be the worst one we have and will stay in. The Hostel was in Brookline. It was downstairs of the boarding house and the kitchen sure was grubby looking. The supposedly houseparent, if you want to call him that, hadn't any enthusiasm. It cost us \$4.50 to stay there.

Day 56, Tuesday, May 8, 1979, Massachusetts

We drove into Cambridge today to Harvard University. Boston is really hard to find your way around in. We saw the "Fogg Museum" on the campus. They had a very good collection of watercolor's prints and small book illustrations donated by Frances Hofer. After seeing a bit of the campus we walked around Faneuil Marketplace.

Card giving the address of Faneuil Marketplace

238 Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston, Mass. 367-1050

Later on this evening we came back to Cambridge to Jack's to listen to some music. A warm night tonight. A guy with a Doberman Pincer stopped us to sign his cast. He was rather intoxicated.

Day 57, Wednesday, May 9, Massachusetts- Hancock N.H.

We spent the night at the Youth Hostel again last night. This morning I cleaned that grubby old kitchen up.

Never have met up with so many Australians at one time as in that Hostel. They all were traveling separately too. I miss took them for English at first but their words and accents do differ.

We went through Salem stopping to see "The Witch House" where they were sentenced and "The Witch Museum" giving the history of how it all started.

Picture of the Witch House with description

Also I drove into Amesbury, Massachusetts a town I lived in for three years as a child. It really hasn't changed that much except for the old schoolhouse I used to go to (a four-room school) is now a museum, once called "Barlett School". I was too shy to stop and see any one and so drove onto New Hampshire where we are camping tonight. N.H. is a beautiful state, lot of pine trees. Today was the first hottest day we have encountered on this trip in the high 80's maybe even in the 90's.

Card for Southern New Hampshire Camping

Seven Maples, Longview Road, Hancock, New Hampshire 03449

Day 58, Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, New Hampshire, Hot and Sunny

We left the campground early because the mosquitos were so bad. We made another cat friend, an all white male cat with one blue eye and one green eye who stayed in our tent last night.

Had to stop in a town called Keene, New Hamp. At a V.W. dealer to have my valves adjusted and oil changed. I took it in at 10:00 am in the morning and they had it done by 2:00 p.m.

While it was being worked on, Cathy and I walked over to an Antique store we had passed. I saw what they would call a man's dresser for \$200.00. It had about twenty drawers in it they were numbered in gold leaf and were inside a cabinet. Very beautiful.

We drove through Vermont which is also beautiful with lots of green trees and rushing rivers. We are camping just over the state line in New York in a campground that is officially closed but they let us stay anyway. No facilities open. We are without water but Cathy walks over to the Park Ranger's house and asks for water. We are camped next to a lake. Lots of mosquitos tonight.

Day 59, Friday, May 11, 1979, Lockport, New York, Hot weather.

We made it to Cathy's Aunt Emily and Uncle Joe's house just as they were sitting down for dinner. We had stopped at a barn sale earlier, I got a glass orange juice squeezer.

After we finished dinner we went to help Joe lay pipes to irrigate his fields. They have approx. 50 acres of farmland and fourteen cows. Most of their land is planted with vegetables. We work until 9:30 and Joe got the pump going and all the sprinklers work.

Day 60, Saturday, May 12, New York

This morning early the sound of thunder woke me up and it was pouring rain but now starting to clear up with the sun coming out. Emily and Joe wanted to plant their cantaloupe seeds (sprouts) tonight after dinner but it started to rain again.

I clipped around the edge of the lawn and garden. This morning we help Emily cut asparagus and clean and bag them. They sold as quickly as we bag them. We drove to the store with Emily tonight. I got a pair of cheap sneakers to save my jogging shoes from wearing out.

Day 61, Sunday, Mother's Day, May 13, 1979

We cut asparagus again this morning, they sprout up overnight and have to be cut before they flower out at the top. Emily's sons and family came over, Chris & his family stayed for dinner. They asked if we would watch their farm next weekend.

Emily taught me how to do the Polka. We explored the barn across the street, looked around. No one lives there anymore just stores things in the barn.

Day 62, Monday, May 14, New York, Warm Weather

We planted tomatoes today about 1000 between Cathy and I. Many of their plants had been killed by the dry weather and had to be replaced. Emily & Joe also planted melon. I would just sit on the back of the planter and lift the handle up & down to save Emily time.

I received three letters today from Gramma, Karen and Carol. I am so happy about that.

I am trying to make friends with their dog "John Dillinger" whom they keep on a chain. He runs for you with a mean growl and teeth. Cut asparagus again. Wrote to Carol and Grant.

Day 63, Tuesday, May 15, Rainy

Rained today off and on so we weren't able to do much work outside. Joe offered to take a look at my windshield wipers. He ended up taking out the glove compartment, radio, & defroster to take the motor out. It definitely was burned out but that was not the origin of the problem so Joe next took the windshield wipers and attachments off. They had been frozen up due to dirt and grime and metals pieces. After cleaning them and assembling it back together I helped Joe put them back into the car and they work beautifully.

Earlier we had gone to several junk yards to look for another windshield wiper motor finally locating one. I am so thrilled because the motor cost \$15.00 and a new one would have cost \$50.00 and \$80.00 total to install it.

Day 64, Wednesday, May 16, 1979

Moved the pipes and elevator this morning. We cut asparagus again but the weather was cold last night which did not bring many up today. We are becoming better acquainted with how to cut them now. Emily is worried there might be frost tonight and may have to get up at 3:00 am to make "Smudge Pots". Emilyu tells me farming is a hard life, hey seem to work everyday.

We made friends with John Dillinger today, he let us pet him but still jumped at Cathy we walked away. Cathy jogged with me today and we stopped at Gordy's house for a short while.

We planted a flat of tomatoes (50) over in the other field on the other side of the lane.

I sent a package and a letter to Karen. She wrote she hadn't had the baby yet.

Day 65, Thursday, May 17

Today is Cathy's birthday and Emily baked Cathy a cake. She is 23 yrs. old!

I have felt hurt and angry at the same time all day because I haven't heard from John yet.

We had a fairly easy going day. Joe's brother Paul came over to help with the plowing.

I got sick to my stomach after eating a hot-dog for lunch.

After dinner we went over to Chris's farm to see what we had to do. We are sun-burned and have poison ivy.

Day 65,(?) Friday, May 18, Sunny and Warm

I got more sunburned and probably dirtier than I've ever gotten. We helped plant squash today and the dirt was dry, ending up on us. This morning Cathy and I cut Emily's lawn and trimmed. Planted squash until 6:30 p.m., ate dinner and went over to Chris's farm. We fed all of their animals which includes eighteen cows in different stalls for various reasons, three lambs, three dogs, four cats, and a horse. The farm is fairly large and they live in an old house with lots of rooms up stairs. After chores we went riding double on "Peanuts" their quarter-horse. We were riding thru an orchard and the horse got spooked by a bird flying out of a tree. I lost my balance and my impulse was to grab around Cathy's waist and pulled her off. I fell off too along with the saddle. Cathy hit her head. While she put the saddle back on, I held Peanuts by the reins and she put her head down and came up real fast hitting me real hard in the elbow with the metal part. I just went down in pain.

I called John tonight he said he had sent a letter off. I must have caught him at the wrong time, he seemed pre-occupied and in a hurry. I was hurt by what he said.

Day 66, Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, Lockport, New York.

The type of cows Chris owns are called "Charolais" an all-white cow originating from France. We spent the night at their house again. We cleaned out Peanuts' stall today which took ten wheel barrels full. It started to rain again and we went inside to relax. Cathy cooked an omelet for us and we rode Peanuts again. She behaved much better today. Blackie (Lady) followed us up the road.

I finally got a letter from John with \$20.00. I am so happy. It was really a nice letter too.

Day 67, Sunday, May 20, Sunny & Warm

Cathy and I had a disagreement today and she wants to or it seems to go her own way. I didn't care for the way she spoke to me last night and told her. It was over a small incident but brought out feelings.

I have felt she wants to try and do my share of the work and I am capable of doing my own share. I don't do everything her way but I feel she seems to want this. So if we have to go our separate ways then that we will. But I hope we can work this out.

I felt her insinuations weren't fair. Most of the day we spent away from each other which is what we needed. We went back to feed the animals before dinner. We each rode Peanuts separately. Gave her a good work out.

Drew a picture of Mark, Adam, and Eric and gave it to Susie. They all sat very patiently on the couch while I drew each of them.

Day 68, Monday, May 21

Rained this morning. This weather is so unpredictable one day warm and next is rain.

I spent the morning making an asparagus card for Karen's kids. I got a letter from Mom and she had a lot of news so I wrote her a letter tonight.

We pulled weeds in the onions today after the rain stopped.

Watching the movie "Blind Ambition"

I believe Cathy and I have not let a few differences get in our way and resolved them. Nothing more said.

Day 69, Tuesday, May 22, 1979, Lockport, N.Y.

All three of us finished weeding the onions before and after lunch.

Right after that we cut asparagus. They were nice and big today, the biggest I've seen them yet.

Joe let me drive the tractor back up to the house with the disc on the back.

Watched part two of "Blind Ambition".

Day 70, Wednesday, May 23, Lockport, New York

Joe asked us to trim the trees down the lane so the branches wouldn't hit him in the face when he drove by on the tractor. So with Cathy in the front driving and I standing on a large board laid across the back with the tree trimmers, and a saw, we trimmed all the branches down the lane. We came to branches with cocoons and caterpillars hatching out. Joe says they are a nuisance to him. We had to finish by three to be able to have enough time to go to Marx's concert tonight. He's in the sixth grade and plays the clarinet and sings in the choir. The concert was really good.

Day 71, Thursday, May 24, Lockport, New York, Cold weather, Light Rain

Our decision is to leave tomorrow morning, we stayed to help plant tomatoes down in the back field and more squash this afternoon.

Emily wanted to make something special tonight for dinner called "Pierogi's" a Polish Dish made from a homemade noodle dough that has farmer's cheese inside mixed with egg and sugar & salt.

Pierogi's

2 cups flour, a little water

2 eggs

3 tablesps. Sour cream

½ tsp. salt

Work dough until it holds together. Keep rolling with flour.

Cut out Pierogi's with lg. circle, put filling inside and fold over.

Drop Pierogi's into salted boiling water and cook for 15 minutes. Take out. Serve, sprinkle with cinnamon & sugar if desired.

Later on in the evening Cecil (70 yrs. old) dropped by and Joe's friend Joe came by and they stayed pretty late, everyone just talking away.

Day 72, May 25, Friday, N.Y. Indiana, Pouring rain & Cold

This morning was the day to leave Emily and Joe's. I hated to leave them especially with all the work they had to do. Emily's eyes look so sad, she's a very good person and hard working lady. I'll miss them both a lot. We left around 10:00 a.m. and the rain was coming down hard. I drove all day stopping only for gas. Ohio is beautiful and the scenery is so green. Shortly after crossing the Indiana state line we see a sign for a Bluegrass festival and decide to check it out. The rain has stopped and we pull in. It costs \$4.00 each. Set up our tent. The music starts at 7:00 p.m. There are quite a few bands here tonight, good banjo pickin' and mandolin playin'. We went to bed around 10:30 p.m. and have music to sleep by and they play on into the night. It's cold tonight by my sleeping bag is warm. The day has gone by fast. The music is great!! Lots of farmland through Ohio and Indiana.

Card for Northern Indiana Blue grass Ass'n.

Tri-State Festival, Friday, May 25, 26, 27, 1979

Day 73, Saturday, May 26, Indiana-Wis. Memorial Weekend, Sunny

Stayed this morning to see and hear the banjo contest. First place prize is a brand new \$850.00 banjo, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$100.00 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$50.00. A girl won first place. Left there at 10:00 a.m. to get on the road again. Its nice today, no clouds visible. We just passed an old man plowing his land with horses, something rarely seen these days. As we drove further and further we saw more of those horse carriages and it turned out we were driving through an Amish county. The carriages look like black boxes and the driver sat inside of the horse carriage with a glass window in front. We drove all day and part night until 9:00 p.m. Camping in Wisconsin in Mills Bluff State Park tonight. The scenery is very beautiful, mostly farmland is what we have seen. Haven't had any problems getting gas yet, hopefully not tomorrow either.

Card showing Map of South Dakota

Day 74, Sunday, May 27, Badlands, Memorial Weekend, Wisconsin – South Dakota

Made it to the Badlands tonight. It just started sprinkling. We have probably driven close to six hundred miles today probably the most we have driven in one day. Wisconsin had beautiful scenery, Minnesota was all farmland and South Dakota just flat but green land. We couldn't see the Badlands that well because of coming in at night but the outline of the rocks are beautiful. There is a warm wind blowing tonight and we have seen lightning and I just now heard the first thunder of the night. It's so nice to be here. Much of I-90 that we traveled on we stayed behind this one particular guy on a motorcycle. Occasionally he's pass us and we'd pass him. When we turned off route #16 to the Badlands I believe he kept going on. It almost reminds somewhat of Joshua Tree in California. A long exhausting drive ending with this peaceful night and one of nature's beauties.

Drawing of mountains with rain clouds and lightning

On Mount Rushmore Washington's head is 60 ft. high and the nose is 21 ft. and mouth is 18 ft. wide.

Day 75, Monday (Mountain time), May 28, 1979,

South Dakota – Wyoming, Warm, Overcast & sunny

With the last day of Memorial Weekend coming to end we have covered quite a bit of distance today. Hadn't any problem getting gas at all. The prices are high. Woke to a beautiful sunny morning to travel through the Badlands. Left very early this morning. In the Badlands I saw two deer on the roadside. I do not know what kind. The rocks are beautiful colors of reds, browns and yellows. We also visited Mt. Rushmore today. I saw it many years ago but I was excited to see it again. I called John from there and we had a nice conversation. He is sending me another letter.

Card of Mt. Rushmore National Memorial plus a quote from Gutzon Borglum

Crossing the state line of Wyoming, we briefly viewed Devils Tower where the movie "Close Encounters" was filmed. We are going to bed tonight around 10:30 we got here just about 20 minutes. Camping in Alcova State Park. These past four days we have been traveling have gotten longer, it doesn't seem to get completely dark until 9:00 pm and has enabled us longer traveling time on the road. The distinct features of Wyoming seem to be it's rusty red soil and colorful rocks. Now that Cathy and I are in our sleeping bags after another long exhausting day of driving I can hear thunder in the distance. Traveling through the Black Hills in South Dakota was beautiful, pine trees so dense and green hills which the road winds through.

Day 76, Tuesday, May 29, 1979, Wyoming – Utah, Overcast, Light Rains.

It rained and thundered all last night but this time we stayed dry in Cathy's tent. Right now traveling through Wyoming it has started to snow! Amazing. It's coming from the Southwest. We drove all day today covering a lot of mileage. Traveled through a small portion of northern Colorado where the mountain ranges began to appear. Finally arriving in Utah the rock walls were what we traveled through on Route #128. Found Aleja after first going to where she's building a cabin, to her job and back to Randy's old address and back here again.

Day 77, Wednesday, May 30, 1979, Castle Valley, Utah, Sunny morning, Windy

The time just seemed to go by fast today. Aleja showed us how to use the power saw and we cut wood for the floor of her house. We walked over to Joe's homestead the person who is selling lots. He took us around to the four he had left for sale and showed us each one. The going average price is 13,999 dollars for five acres. We helped Aleja plant her trees today, she said they were birch. Went into Moab to take a shower. A guy from "Pissa Hut" offered Cathy and I waitress jobs, but we need something that would pay sooner. Went to Aleja's job and her boss offered us a job covering pipe on the steep in in front of the restaurant. We took the job!! It got windy tonight and the stars are so beautiful.

Day 78, Thursday, May 31, 1979, Castle Valley, Utah, Sunny & Hot

Day's Birthday is today, I'm not sure if he's 46 or 47 years old. What a beautiful day it was. We helped Aleja with the floor of her house for about two and ½ hours this morning from 9:30 to 12:00. It's really great to do work like that outside especially and the sun shining the warmth on my skin. Later on when we stopped working Aleja took us to see "LaSal" (?) mountain ranges. This whole area has so much to see. The valley here is surrounded by vast walls of red rocks and Mt. Peel and Mt. Tomaski standing out in the distance with snow still covering their slopes. We went into Moab this afternoon for a short while. Coming back here to Aleja's we came back to work on her floor again with Andrew's help one of her neighbors. Finally quit when we ran out of wood.

Some of Aleja's friends stopped by, Bob a carpenter whom lives in Alaska, Jim her neighbor and Andrew and Flora.

The people around here are really nice and help each other out a great deal. I climbed to the top of one of these cliffs behind Aleja's house what a view. There are many flowers of all colors to be found in this valley.

Day 79, Friday, June 1, 1979, Utah, Sunny and Hot.

Cathy and I got up early this morning to go work covering up a sewage pipe on a steep incline for the restaurant where Aleja works. Anxiously starting out at 9:30 am we got the two shovels and pick axe and made our way down the hill. The sun was already out and shining hot. I first would pick axe a ditch sometimes going through rock and Cathy would follow filling in and over the pipe with what little dirt we had to work with. Took a two hour lunch, went back and worked another hour and a half and Cathy went up before I did and yelled down to me that I

had a letter from John so I called it quits and struggled to the top. After showering and cleaning up the manager of the restaurant, Doug, treated us to our choice of dinner and Aleja suggested crab and it had to be the best I ever had. Got back here and went to bed!!! "Sweet Meat"

Day 80, Saturday, June 2, Castle Valley, Utah

This morning I washed my clothes in cold water and shampoo, they came rather stiff. We helped Aleja for a short while and went into town to talk to Doug and mail some post cards. We rode Aleja's Yamaha (400) back here and it ran out of gas but still had reserve. Aleja was gone when we got back, so we just relaxed and she came back from a hike with Bob and Jim. It's really nice here at night with very few lights and not a trace of noise such as traffic or anything to remind me of the city.

Day 81, June 3, Utah (Green River), Sunny and Hot

Decided to leave Aleja's today I am sad to say but had to move on. Five miles outside of Moab is Arches National Monument where we made a stop at the visitor center and Cathy ran into a friend of her's from Whittier names, Steve Grah. What a surprise! There are the most unusual shaped rocks and arches throughout the park left to the imagination to invent what they are. We then headed for Calif. Only made it as far as Green River, we stopped for gas and my car wouldn't start up. I wished at that moment I had taken Aleja up on her offer. So we pushed my car off the road and sat. Two guys appeared asking if we needed help and we said yes. They pushed my car to the shade to check it out and said it was the fuel pump. Next thing we all are in a van driving down to the river where the guy who sells auto parts is partying. We stay for awhile, walk in the water, play Frisbee and leave. He didn't have what we wanted. The two guys are Jack and Lee. Jack lives here in the Motel that we broke down in front of. Lee became his roommate as of yesterday. We came back here and helped them clean the apt. They cook us spaghetti for dinner. I take a shower before dinner and we talk after dinner. We are spending the night here so they roll in two beds into the living room for Cathy and I. Lee has a dog that I really like called a "Pit Bull", she's a beautiful dog. Tomorrow Jack says he will work on my car.

Post Card of Delicate Arch, Arches National Park, Utah

Day 82 & 83, Tuesday, June 5, 1979, Utah – Cal. (Lake Tahoe)

I'm not writing a separate page for yesterday since I'm running out of pages. We woke up around 8:00 am when someone knocked on Jack's door. He took my fuel pump apart, didn't find anything except a loose screw, so he put it back on my car and we were gone at 9:00 am. We traveled all day & night (until midnight) through Utah and Nevada desert and mountains. I was totally exhausted when we reached the campground. In "Delta" Nevada a man helped to get my car started by towing us with his truck and chain.

This morning we will reach Cathy's grandmother's. Through Nevada at times became overcast and light sprinkles. Arrived at Cathy's grandmother's about 11:00 am. She was so happy to see

us because she is leaving for Sweden tomorrow so we will be staying here for a few days by ourselves. Last night we drove through Carson City and Reno and did not stop at either to participate in their night life excavades, but Carson City is just a smaller version of Las Vegas. Lake Tahoe is beautiful with all it's Pine Trees. Spent the day mostly talking with Mrs. Peterson. She told us how she came to this country from Sweden when she was 11 yrs. old. She has a beautiful kitchen of blue and white filled with antique dishes and bottles all blue and white. It's really hot here in Placerville. Located in Northern, Calif. About 58 miles west of Sacramento. Placerville is located on the "Mother Lode Trail" it was once an old mining town.

Day 84, Wednesday, June 6, 1979, Placerville, Calif.

We visited with Cathy's grandmother today and do our laundry. Take her to the bus station. Cathy and I wash my car finally. That had must have been the dirtiest I ever saw it. Called home tonight and Clyde has moved up to Davis! Chris is graduating next Friday from Whittier High School. It was so hot today.

Day 85, Thursday, June 7, 1979, Placerville, Calif.

We drove eight miles down to the American River to a small town called "Coloma" where the California gold rush got started back in 1848. That water is freezing cold!! I went in three times anyway. We laid in the sun watching the rafters passing by down river. One large group in three separate rafts had a bucket water fight. We got sunburned there too. Came home packed the car and I went jogging for 40 minutes. A lot of hills around here. Came back took a shower and going to bed early tonight.

Day 86, Friday June 8, 1979, Placerville – Mt. View, Cal.

Left Placerville fairly early this morning to stop and see Clyde but when I called John W. number no one answered so I assumed they were all at work. Also when we stopped in Davis I couldn't get my car started again and a guy going by in a truck, gave us a tow, fortunately he had a chain. Drove through San Francisco and didn't stop, went to where her brother Tim works at the hospital clinic. What a surprise to us!! He shaved all the hair on his head because of some kind of bed he wouldn't explain. He took the rest of the afternoon off and came here with us. We went swimming in the pool while the sun still shone hot. Tim later on took to the mountains first to a nature train in Sanborn Skyline Park. Next Tim drove us up to Big Basin where the Redwoods were growing. Stopped at a small waterfalls and across the road walked up Slippery Rock. At the base of it was established by a Semprevirens Club to make an area of 3,500 acres the first California State Park. It was dark by the time we reached the van. We stopped at a Baskin Robbins on the way home and Tim treated!!

When we gbot back we went swimming again, the water was nice. Tim taught me how to play Backgammon a game of strategy right in the beginning.

Day 87, Saturday, June 9, 1979, Mt. View, Calif.

This morning Tim cooked us a feast for breakfast, an omelet with shrimp and mushrooms inside and cheese on top.

Card for San Francisco, 1979

I haven't mentioned the living situation here yet but here are four people total living here in this three bedroom apartment. There is Tim, Carlos, and Sue and Kurk whom share a bedroom together. They all seem to get along well. After breakfast Tim took us into San Francisco and we spent the whole day there. Drove thru the street, up & down steep ones finally stopping to walk around the different shops. There is so many things and people to see there, a lot of street artists and musicians. We ended up by Pier 39 shopping mall where we split up and Cathy and Tim went to the shopping mall and I stayed and fell asleep on a flat railroad car. Next thing a guy comes over and wakes me to see if I would like to go on a helicopter ride, that he would pay my way, \$8.00 for four minutes. I say yes and go up. What a view of Alcatraz and the bay area. Went down to Seal Rocks saw remains of a giant bath house. When we got back to Tim's apt. he and I went jogging and did about four miles, three on the track. What a beautiful night to be out jogging and a full moon. He's very fast too. A very nice day & evening. Cathy had dinner prepared when we got back.

Day 88, Sunday, June 10, 1979, Pismo Beach

Packed our things, stopped by Tim's job to say our good-byes and gave us the grand tour of the clinic. Leaving there our next concern was to get gas. The only gas station in that town that was open had a line so we decided to drive on further. Made it to San Lui (?) and stopped at the grocery store. My car wouldn't start again. We tried push starting it and a guy named Hutch came over and helped us. He worked on the points, my car started right up. We thanked him and were on our way to Pismo Beach to camp for the night. Didn't quite make it. On the freeway and now dark my car just started smoking and it died again. I wanted to cry. I, at this point had become so tired mentally about car problems. I got out and walked down to the nearest motel, a "Great Western" (Shoreline) to use the phone. No answer at John's house. I went over to talk with the desk (Mike Wash) clerk to ask about foreign auto repair, he was really nice, looked up several places in the phone book for me. He even said we could sleep in the lobby. I discouragingly walked back to the car but thought we should at least try to push the car off the freeway which we managed to do into the motel parking lot. Went inside to call John this time reaching him. Talked to the desk clerk again, Mike. He was about to close at 11:00 and said we could be behind the desk. What an eventful evening. I closed and locked the pool, had to ask people to get out, typed, attempted to break up a party, the police had to come to break it up. Only got an hour's sleep because Mike woke me up to look at my car. Around 4:30 am he and I went to relax in the Jacuzzi. He went in naked, but not I! Did it feel

wonderful the hot water especially on my left foot that I had injured the night before jogging. We stayed in for about an hour just relaxing. Cathy made the 5:00 wake up call.

Day 89, Monday, June 11, 1979

This morning Mike's boss connected one of the electrical wires and got my car started! Drove to Santa Barbara to visit Cathy's friend Lisa Clark.

Spent the day at the beach not too far from Lisa's apt. Went swimming, played volleyball and laid in the sun. She is taking care of a friend's bird, a cockatoo named "Bilbo" whom is the most friendly bird I have ever seen. Tonight Lisa's brother Mark, Cathy, and a guy named Lewie and myself walked through the center of town looking in the shop windows. Got cool so we went home. Am spending the night here.

Tuesday, June 12, 1979, Santa Barbara – Whittier

We spent most of the day at the park. While everyone played Frisbee I walked over to the Santa Barbara Mission and walked through. I seemed to be the only person there and it was cool and peaceful. In the church (chapel) there were a couple with beautiful voices singing and I sat down and relaxed to listen to their voices echoing through the entire room. Anxious to get home the tour ends in the old cemetery where many Indians and priests are buried.

Went back to Lisa's, packed the car and said our good-byes. Stopped once more so Cathy could take a swim.

Drove straight to Whittier. Entering LA I could see the heavy smog line above the mountains and it gave me a sense of disgust. Why I am returning to that? Dropped Cathy off at her Mom's unloaded the car immediately and came home.

The end.