

**DAY FIFTY-NINE KEOKUK IA to Bushnell Illinois 103.63km**

**Oct7 Sunday D 103.63km M 43.7 A 18.1 PT5h43 AT 9h total 4680.5km**

**Wind** Well finally wind in our favor.... Going east and the wind from the south and then a tail wind last 12k

**Temp** Record temps for this time of year.... HHOT HHOT and that's great.... 17C at 0900.... 32C [92F] in pm

**Road Condition** .Well #135 had a minimal shoulder and then they are twinning it in spots so we had 5km of fresh pavement that isn't open to cars yet... Sunday so minimal traffic Then 41 N little shoulder but smooth. Really glad to be going past this construction on a Sunday.

**Food: Breakfast** Included in the motel... and they had apples/bananas... of course Ken chose the donuts!

**Lunch** Stopped in Colchester for waffles ... after Ken fixed a "flat".... Glass on the Keokuk, Hamilton bridge!

**Supper** We stopped for so many "pop" breaks as we are sweating off moisture... like a sauna... so cold supper... my usual avocado/tomato salad with a jam rollup and about 2 liters of pop/water!

**ACCOMODATION:** Just a note about the Keokuk Motor Lodge... It has a lot of potential, but needs a thorough cleaning. They get a lot of hunters so I guess it is hard to keep up, but that is no excuse... The beds, sheets, bathroom etc were great, but don't take your shoes off! Timberview CG at Bushnell is really neat spot with 2 small lakes [man made] with a swimming

beach, beach volleyball, huge games room... mostly older people here now with school in. showers need a good cleaning but otherwise nice grassy spot with power \$15.Oh I almost forgot to mention the SPIDERS!!! Not that I'm afraid of toonie sized spiders, but when they come running out of the drain in the shower it makes you a little nervous! Just like to song.... Inky Pinky Spider crawled up the water spout! AND no I didn't kill them.... I let them surprise someone else!



Ken doing his bike maintenance



lazing by his favorite tree

**Overall:** Left by 0830 from the hotel as trying to beat the heat... not a complaint! The flowers at the hotel are still nice in October! We haven't seen any evidence of flower gardens or vegetable gardens to speak of. A great ride... so far Illinois is flat flat flat! We are back to seeing the water towers for ~13km across the prairie! Clear blue sky most of day, clouds rolled in and out and clear pink sunset tonight! Spoke to a fellow in camp that lives in Keokuk 2 blocks from Grandma's old house. He had a grade 3 teacher in 1934 named Miss French, but that shouldn't have been our family as they were gone from this area by then I think. He said the medical school was down by the new bridge so I think the photo I have is not of the school. Will look on the internet for pictures

## CARTHAGE, ILLINOIS

SEE  
HISTORIC  
ILLINOIS

HANCOCK COUNTY, ESTABLISHED IN 1829, HAD NO PERMANENT COUNTY SEAT FOR FOUR YEARS: ON FEBRUARY 13, 1833, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONED WILLIAM CILHAM, SCOTT RIGGS AND JOHN HARDIN TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT COUNTY SEAT, WHICH WAS NAMED CARTHAGE AND WAS INCORPORATED IN 1837.

JOSEPH SMITH, FOUNDER OF THE MORMON CHURCH, AND HIS BROTHER HYRUM WERE SHOT TO DEATH IN THE OLD CARTHAGE JAIL ON JUNE 27, 1844. JOSEPH HAD CHOSEN NAUVOO AS HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CHURCH IN 1839, AND BY 1844 HANCOCK COUNTY WAS A MORMON CENTER. HOWEVER, UNREST CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE MORMON LEADERS WAS EXTENSIVE. WHEN AN ANTI-MORMON NEWSPAPER IN NAUVOO WAS DESTROYED, JOSEPH AND HYRUM WERE JAILED AT CARTHAGE TO AWAIT TRIAL. GOVERNOR THOMAS FORD ASSIGNED THE CARTHAGE GRAYS, A MILITIA UNIT, TO GUARD THEM. A MOB OVERPOWERED THE GUARDS AND RUSHED THE CAPTIVES WHO, WITH TWO MORMON FRIENDS, WILLARD RICHARDS AND JOHN TAYLOR, OCCUPIED AN UNLOCKED, SECOND FLOOR ROOM IN THE JAIL.

HYRUM WAS KILLED, AND THE PROPHET WAS SHOT SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE HE FELL FROM A WINDOW TO THE GROUND. TAYLOR, LATER THE LEADER OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (1877-1887), RECOVERED FROM HIS WOUNDS WHILE RICHARDS WAS UNINJURED. CONFLICT BETWEEN THE MORMONS AND THEIR NEIGHBORS CONTINUED UNTIL THE MORMONS COMPLETED THEIR EXODUS FROM ILLINOIS (1846). THE MORMONS HAVE RESTORED THE OLD CARTHAGE JAIL.

DURING THE 1858 U.S. SENATORIAL CAMPAIGN STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS SPOKE AT CARTHAGE ON OCTOBER 11 AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN SPOKE ON OCTOBER 22.

ERECTED BY THE DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS AND THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1964

Today I had a lesson on the migration of the Mormons across this area. There were a group the stayed in Keokuk who came up the river and “graded” the roads to make money to continue on to Utah. The others who came earlier across the USA with Joseph Smith and his brother, stayed in Carthage. There was some altercation and they were jailed. There was a break-in and they were shot. We need to ask Shelly if this was after he had been to Utah once already. There is an interesting center here, but of course it is closed on Labor Day. We have decided we will not do another trip like this past Labor Day as all the attractions are closed... although we have no trailer traffic or crowds so it’s a toss-up.



We have another acquisition to our gear... we needed a light, microwave dish . So we stopped at a “flea” market in Tennessee and got a corning ware bowl.... Lets see if I can break it! It fits right in my pot.

Ken picked up a shard of glass in his rear tire, so he rotated his tires tonight! 4600km maintenance check. He can put on the winter tires next! We hear Big White has snow already... first year I’m not there for opening so I guess they will open early!

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving in Canada and Columbus Day here. **Happy Thanksgiving to all at home!**

Ken likes the OAK trees. One of the best evenings spent sitting at our picnic table under the millions of stars listening to the OLDIES channel on the radio until 2130.... Oh we are so boring!

Physically... since my trial of off the celebex and now back on.... It’s an amazing drug! All I can say! Keeps all the aches and pains away, allows flexibility and keeps the bug bites down!

Still one day ahead of our schedule even though we went off course. We hope to be back on course in 4 days.

Clear sky night with Millions of stars!



---

Keokuk IA to Timberviews Lks, Bushnell Illinois Day 59 – Oct 7

---

00 Keokuk Motor Lodge 6km to the bridge

---

6k Bridge over the Mississippi River 1.5km

---

7.5 Arrive on Illinois side of River in Hamilton

---

17km Hwy 136 Elvaston pop 150

---

28km Carthage pop 3000

---

46k Tennessee

---

60 Colchester [AS] pop 1500

---

70 Macomb [AS] pop 20,000

---

82 Turn left on Hwy 41

---

100k Bushnell [AS] go thru town on Hwy 9 1m turn Right on 2000 Rd

---

104 Arrive at Timberviews Lks CG \$15 for tents with power 309 772-3609

---

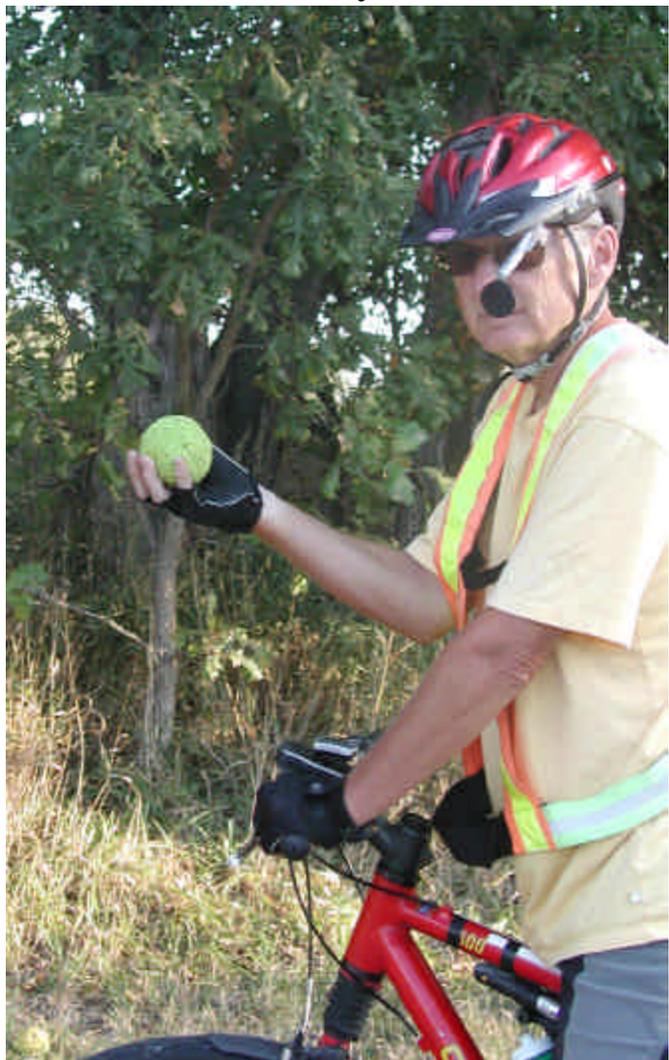


Flat Prairie once again!



THANKSGIVING DAY

Oct8 Monday D97.73 km M48.9 A 18.7 T5h 12 AT 6.5h total 4778.3km



No this is not a tennis ball.... It is some sort of "fruit" or nut growing on trees along by the campsite ??kind?/

**Wind** It is amazing how you can "fly" with the wind at your back... 30kph with no effort

**Temp** 20C at 0700; 90F ~30C all afternoon with some threat of rain but all blew over well 10 drops of rain at noon.

**Road Condition** .great...one recumbent [67yr old] said hwy 116 way to busy and unsafe... had shoulder, no traffic.. great.... Although it was Columbus Day so maybe on a weekday and more trucks it would have been awful

**Food: Breakfast** I think I might turn into a carrot... oh I think I forgot to record eating carrots every day! 0730 ready to go! That is after checking everything for spiders!

**Lunch** Subway in Farmingham was the cleanest restaurant and washrooms across America

**Supper** Veggie mushroom burgers cooked over an open fire. Very yummy

**Accommodation:** Spindler CG right on the Illinois River where it widens out after the dam right across from Peoria[pop 120,000]. Mostly seasonals... open until Dec 1 then they all fly away south. One fellow we spoke to goes to Denver Colorado to snowshoe... he says it is warmer than here.

**Overall:** Well we got up early as the daylight hours are so short... less than 12hours... and the wind we can't count on, but due to changes to the plan... we were going east and north all day so a wind from the south west was enjoyable! The Bushnell CG had almost constant trains in the distance... coal trains going to the hydro plant have the right of way apparently so other trains sit on the siding here waiting their turn.

Gave some thought to maybe Aunt Ada being the grade 3 teacher... she would have been 64 in 1934... maybe. The gentleman was not up when we were leaving so I left him a note with my card and address and I hope he will contact me.

Finished with the flat prairie for a while into rolling hills. Spoon River area had a “Junk Teak” weekend. This is the 40<sup>th</sup> year of all the small towns in and along this river getting involved and having bands, flea markets, antique sales, etc on the same weekend.. 2 in fact back to back.... But not on the holiday Monday! So we missed out on it.

Cann’t remember if I mentioned the neat stars put up on houses all across Iowa and now Illinois.... Thought might be I don’t know one church’s thing... no just a catchy decoration.

Huge farm houses along the way with signs noting they have been here dating back to the 1830’s or so. Interesting we stopped at a RV repair spot to see if we could get a Illinois accommodation guide and they confirmed our directions to this site. They were very helpful in letting us know we couldn’t go over the 116 bridge and how to get here otherwise... they had a great concern the we would have to go thru a “very dark area” of town! Prejudice still runs rampid here. I do admit to feeling a little out of place, but only because my skin is the wrong color not theirs. We stopped at a grocery store and everyone was very friendly and “normal” to me. We did note that so far northern USA is very “white”.

Ended the day off with talking on the phone to Quinn, Keith and Julie.... Quinn has the cutest song... “Mommies are people... Daddies are people..... Quinn is a person!” So hard not to see them for this time, but the internet is great to keep in touch.



Water towers are the first sightings of towns



Crossing the river into East Peoria

---

Timberviews Lks, Bushnell Illinois to East Peoria Day 60 – Oct 8

---

00 Timber view Lakes CG don't go left as it is a dead end and adds 3km to the day!

---

3k back at CG

---

4.5k Right on 2250 6k Prairie City

---

11k Right on 17 @15k

---

25k Ellisville had an opera house in 1891

---

36k Fairview exit town on 17 then right on 24

---

54k Farmingham [great clean Subway restaurant] exit town on hwy 116

---

62k Trivoli

---

70 Hanna City

---

86 Peoria continue into town on Hwy 116 until turns onto bridge on right you go left onto Adams St

---

Turn Right at police station onto Bob Michael bridge via sidewalk  
First Left after bridge at the street lights Camp Street until back on 116

---

97k follow signs for spindler Marina and CG on left side of hwy no services close by

---



Looking over at Peoria



Our little home by the shore



Watching the sunset

## DAY Sixty-One East Peoria to Pontiac IL 91km

Oct9 Tuesday D 98.37km M 43.0 A22 T4h15 AT 8 h total 4876.6km

Just looking at my logs reinforces how simple life becomes on the road....like a babe...food, pedal, food, pedal, where to sleep....

**Wind** Blew strongly all night. Then blew us to Pontiac except for a short piece north (out of the south west]

**Temp** Perfect cycling weather I think 15C[60F] in am ,up to 20C by pm , cooling down come evening,but not cold!

**Road Condition** .Hwy 116 great all day

**Food: Breakfast** fruit, Ken his bread, cheese and fruit and then Pancakes by 1hr into the ride! He's losing weight!

**Lunch** Nice stop in park at Benson {Veggies with Hummus}

**Supper** Best yet with mushroom burgers over an open fire, coleslaw and beer. Ken would eat that every night

**Accommodation:** We are at the Pontiac 4 H club CG in the Fair grounds... no showers, but hot water and indoor bathrooms \$10. Seems like mostly weekly's here, but knowone has approached us. They are setting up a "Haunted House" in the Fairground buildings for next weekend. The Americans really seem to like Halloween. Lots of decorations up at houses.

**Overall:** Good day. Never a bad one if the wind is at your back and strongly.... Going 35 without any effort We left East Peoria on a busy Hwy 116, but once away from town it quieted right down. We lost a little ground going slightly north again, but was a good day for it with the wind so obliging. One wonders what there is to do in some of these towns. Anywhere from 250-2000 in population, but they seem to be viable towns. Doing the same things as at home with keeping the yards nice, painting the homes, going to work and shopping. Lots of evidence of Menninites in this area... a museum that would have been interesting, but it was closed except for weekends. We arrived early to Pontiac to spend about an hour going around the town looking for the visitors info... finally got a map at the Chamber of Commerce and directions for the campsite. I got a very short hair cut at of all places... Walmart! We went looking for an internet café and were told to go to Dairy Queen. So we did, but Ken couldn't get the computer to link in to their wifi so the manager lent us his laptop to check our email....very nice! We were told to check other restaurants... some McD's also have it! Ken's comment is: he couldn't believe how many "corn leaves" could blow by while your sitting in front of Walmart! Ken met a fellow, while I was getting a haircut, who was really interested in our trip and doing something similar. He asked us to call him on Christmas Day and let him know where and if we made it all the way. He has a business "Starbound" Music for all occasions Tony and Terra 815 822-3807 or 3806 They run a Casey Gas station also. Will have to try to remember to call him as no email address....or not. We have met all kinds of people. Earlier today a teenage boy and his dad were stopped for gas and we were having a pop. The [overweight] boy was very friendly and when he left us he said... Well we will probably not meet again someday, so bye for now!.... very polite. We are not on an "Adventure Cycling route" at the moment and everyone we meet is so amazed at the journey we are doing and cann't believe that other people do it to! We are definitely an oddity in this part of the country. We have seen no other tourers . None in Iowa. I think Derryl is our last.... We will have to check his web site to see where he is now. Ken is listening to the radio and he said there is a "Mature Lifestyles Expo" here on the 15<sup>th</sup>.... I don't think we can stay that long.... We did see a interesting assisted living complex that had apartments and then small duplex homes but not set up like a street of homes... all at odd angles to each other to fit many into one area. They had garage doors, but no road up to it.... Maybe they just have golf carts! Seeing the water towers for 13km out.

---

East Peoria to Pontiac IL Day 61 – Oct 9

---

00 CG turn left onto Hwy 116

---

10k Germantown Hills

---

Metamore

---

Roanoke Nice IGA

---

45k Benson

---

68 Flanigan

---

91 Pontiac {AS}

---

## DAY Sixty-Two Pontiac IL to Iroquois 102.64 km

Oct10 Wednesday D 102.64km M32.8 A 21 T4h50 AT6 h total 4979.3km

**Wind** Another day with a fabulous tail wind!

**Temp** Not so hot today.... 5C overnight 8C by noon and 18C rest of day with high clouds and thoughts of rain

**Road Condition** very good on 116 with minimal shoulder, but little traffic... harvesting corn trucks

**Food: Breakfast** We left a cool campsite at 0740 and went 24k to Saunemin for our usual breakfast inside so Ken could have coffee.... The Cenex for one gas stations all have cafeteria like junk food, but mostly have tables one can sit at and have a coffee.... We just bring our own other food as theirs is greasy, deep fried and meats.

**Lunch** Ashkum was to be our destination, but with the wind we only stopped for lunch

**Supper** inside at Iroquois they had a microwave for us to make veggie dogs and beans Oh so exciting

**Accommodation:** Well this is one for the story books... we arrived in Iroquois to stay at the Town Park to find the washrooms locked... upon enquiring of 2 of the 250 residents we were offered to stay inside the town office with a shower and microwave at our disposal! We are not the first cyclists they have housed inside, and won't be their last as they are on the Adventure cycle route, but it is so nice... small town USA is really quite remarkable. The park itself is really nice with tables ,fire pits and huge Oak trees. They really put off a lot of nuts... I don't think they are edible.

**Overall:** We got up to a cool overcast morning, but we were not cold overnight. We set off looking for coffee and ended up out of town so continued on to the first town on our route. No services other than a gas station in Saunemin. Continued on to Askum. There was a lot of kernels of corn on the road,, at one point we were showered by a corn truck as he passed... I guess he was over full. We saw them piling the corn on the ground beside the Elevator in Donovan. A huge pile... Upon reaching Iroquois one of the town councilors opened up the town offices for us to stay in... he stayed and talked to us for over an hour. He said at Sheldon they have 3 huge walled areas on the ground... each holding 800 thousand bushels of corn kernels at \$3.25 per bushel that's about \$10million sitting on the ground! They have had such a bumper crop that all the graineries and trains are full and they have contracted to buy the corn. He said you could walk on the top of train cars full of corn, parked on sidings from here to New Orleans. It is used for pig and chicken feed, making ethanol and corn sugars. He also said they sell it to China by train to New Orleans, ship thru the Panama Canal and then to China. He also talked about the hunting season on now... Squirrel and Dove hunting is open now! Never would have thought to eat either of those. He said squirrel is very good. He also said if you hit a deer on the road, you can keep the meat. Interesting fellow who also told us that it is a really nice town to live in with the same problems as big cities... ie. METH is a problem here too. Very patriotic... at least flags in every yard. No "bums" or beggars. They seem to feel we are being patriotic with this ride. Little do they know!



This spot could rival "Corner Gas"



Old Pumps



pump Christmas lights



This is seeing the water tower from 7km away



This is 4km away



and right up close. Amazing how far away one can spot them on a clear day.

# ILLINOIS IS....

**I**NDIANS / **I**ROQUOIS {NONE SEEN}

**L**OTS OF TREES, **L**INCOLN

**L**OVE OF FAMILY, **L**UTHERANS

**I**NDUSTRY

COR**N** HARVESTING

**O**AK TREE ACORNS

AM**I**SH MENNINITES

**S**QUIRRELS, **S**MALL TOWNS