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Rob left Davis on June 19 for Henry’s Fork to work for Mike Lawson at Henry’s Fork Anglers. Since he will be going on to Montana for the fall quarters in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area, we will visit him during the summer. Mother and Daddy will meet us in Idaho on July 11.


July 7, 1981: Left Chandler at 5:45, 79142, rain during night, so cold that there was ice on plastic fly this morning. Wet tent, everybody cold. Chandler full last night. Sun over Abert’s Rim. Saw two coyotes [Kray decided later they were red fox], running over flats at upper end of Lake Abert, mile post 71. They were really moving, long ears. Bypassed rest stop, people sleeping there. Saw four pronghorns across from rest stop. Everything greener than usual. Alturas radio station says it is 35 degrees at 7:00 a.m.! Stopped for breakfast at rest stop before Burns, 79248 at 8:10. Very cool. Hines for gasoline, averaging 19.9 mpg. Junta, 79325. Vale at 11:25, 79382. Actually with time change it is 12:25. Went to Dairy Queen. Saw cock pheasant on road just beyond Vale. Ontario at 1:18, 60 degrees, 79399. Took 201 to Weiser, evidence of good rain here. Weiser at 1:45, 79418. Crossed Snake river, big and muddy. Stopped at rest stop above Midvale. Beautiful country from Council north, trees, mountains, cloudy and cool. 79498 New Meadows. Wide meadow valley bordered by forested mountains, beautiful. Riggins at 4:20, 79534. Rain. Went up the old road through White Bird. Spectacular country. Nez Perce battlefield. Grangeville 79582 at 4:30. 440 miles today.

July 8, 1981: At Wrights. Ran early in morning; day warm after very cool early morning. Bob and Kray worked on tent, replacing shock cords. Also found some wading shoes for Kray. Dinner of chicken, el, excellent. Good conversation with Susan. She has reservations about returning to Vermont but Steve is excited.

July 9, 181: Ran at 5:30. Much warmer than yesterday. Mad bread. Washed for Susan. Went to town to buy rolling pin and grader which I forgot to bring on trip.

July 10, 1981: Left Wrights at 7:00 a.m., 79584. Gas at Grangeville $1.39 averaged 20.5 mpg. Kooskia 79610. Middle Fork Clearwater is so beautiful. What a shame there are no fish. Lowell 79633. Junction of Lochsa and Selway rivers to create Middle Fork Clearwater. 79683 coyote running across road; deer alongside road; Highway 93 and 12 junction 79746 at 11:40 Pacific
time is 10:40. [Kray’s writing] Spring Gulch Camp for lunch 1:00 mt. time, 79815, No people in campground, pleasant. Lost Trail Pass 79831. Saw two pronghorns in grassland above Salmon river at 79865. Saw dead coyote beside road. 2:00 pm at Salmon, 79878. Left Chuck Keller’s after supper, 79894. Met his wife, Cindy and their baby Dawn, who was born April 12. Gas at Salmon $1.39. Chuck and Diana’s daughter Christie will be in second grade next year. Chuck’s parents also visiting. Slept at McFarland BLM campground on Lemhi River, 79932.

July 11, 1981: Left McFarland 79932 at 6:35 a.m. Saw buck in pasture, 30 head of pronghorn just beyond Leador. Saw another two adults, one with twins; 7 more pronghorn along road. This wide valley is spectacular; headwater of Lemhi River. 79965 at Gilmore Summit, 7,100 feet; more pronghorn, 10 more pronghorn. Headwaters of Birch Creek; fisherman access; several campers. Lone Pine, 79989. Café and store here. Birch Creek BLM campground 79993, no water. Lots of dead rabbits on road. 80022 junction of highways 28 and 33. Mud Lake at 8:20 a.m. Rexburg at 9:07, 80059, gas $1.27/gal. St. Anthony to Island Park, 37 miles; Island Park to West Yellowstone, 35 miles. Henry’s Fork Anglers 80108 to see Rob. Ponds Lodge 80112; Buffalo campground 80113. Mema and Big Joe arrived about 3:00. Fixed four ducks Chuck Keller gave us. Bob, Rob and Kray fished until after dark.

July 12, 1981: Rob stayed with us. Ran early in morning. Fixed pancakes for the three fishermen. Mema and Big Joe came for breakfast, afterwards we drove over to look at Island Park reservoir and Henry’s Fork. The three fishermen were back for lunch. Big Joe helped Rob fix his bike. WE went to Laundromat. Windy again. Big Joe dried clothes on lines around camp. Fishermen fishing again in evening. White crowned sparrows with four or five babies around table. Terry Roelofs and Erica came by.

July 13, 1981: Rainy early in morning. Mema and Big Joe came for breakfast, then Kray, Joe and I went with them to West Yellowstone and drove through park. Saw lots of elk, bison, Canada geese. Went to Old Faithful, then to West Thumb to Fishing Bridge, along canyon, Norris, Madison Junction and West Yellowstone. Lunch at Silver Spur in West Yellowstone. Back to camp. Fixed soup for supper. Terry, Erica and Rocky were here for supper. Boys went to fish. Big Joe, Mema and Joe and I went down to watch them across from shop. Joe fished a little with his fly rod.


July 15, 1981: Very cool this morning. Ice on table. Fixed pancakes. Bob took Rob to work, then went to Rob’s trailer to shower and tie flies. Two western tanagers came around this morning. Also saw a song sparrow and a brown-headed cowbird. Bob saw crossbill in afternoon. Young moose was in Buffalo in sight of camp. Terry and Erica came by. They told of seeing the Great Gray owls and one young. Made bread in small round skillet after burning break in loaf pan.
Baked beans all day. Kray and Bob fished for brookies in afternoon. Terry, Erica and Rocky brought fish for supper. Tom Gast also here for supper. He and Rob fished. Moose in river again after we went to bed. Could hear them splashing around. Red squirrel.


July 17, 1981: Warm in morning. Rob had off work so the three of them went fishing during day. I made bread again; does okay if you use small skillet, not loaf pan. Mad hearty bean soup for supper. Rain storm and wind about 4:00. We ate under awning. Drove down to Chalet for scones and honey butter. Called Mother at Sara’s. They arrived there about 3:00 after spending night in Henderson, Nebraska.

July 18, 1981: Decided to stay at buffalo for few more days. Drove to West Yellowstone for groceries and laundry. Hard rain here yesterday, but warm and clear today. Bought food at Roundup; did laundry, 75 cents to wash and 25 cents to dry! West Yellowstone seems booming, new businesses including two new fly shops and Danskin’s old shop is expanded. Cloud buildup may mean rain later this afternoon. Rain and wind. Ranger waned of severe wind storm coming in twenty minutes. Bob had gone to pick up Rob so when they returned, we put sleeping bags in car and men helped flatten tent. Put logs on it. We ate in the car, macaroni vegetable casserole and hearty bean soup fro last night. Ate at Henry’s Fork Anglers parking lot. Rob just returned from driving to West Yellowstone to pick up some people who were coming to fish and stay at Elk Creek Lodge. Put tent back up, then Kray and Rob fished. Bob didn’t. Still heavy clouds.

July 19, 1981: Bob took Rob to work then went on to fish. I made cake and fixed taco shells. Took Rob his supper which he ate when he got off work about 7:30. After fishing, we had soft drinks and coffee cake. Saw moose early in morning crossing Buffalo. She had a young calf with her.

July 20, 1981: Monday. Bob took Rob to work. I made bread and cake. Will make Greek lentil soup for supper. Beautiful day. After supper, Kray fished while Bob and Rob tied flies at shop. Kray took 15 minutes to land a 20-inch white fish!

July 21, 1981: Bob and Rob fished today. I kept car so Kray, Joe and I could shower at Rob’s trailer. Drove up to Valley View Grocery to get a few things for a picnic tonight. Saw pronghorn and sandhill cranes. Cows chasing cranes! Joe fished off Elk Creek bridge in afternoon. Kray worked on hi arrow making. Took a picnic down to river about 5. Saw two white pelicans land on water.

July 22: 1981: Kray, Joe and I went for walk up Buffalo river. Saw moose signs and heard cranes but didn’t see them. Lots of wild flowers along trail. In evening went down to Henry’s Fork. Rob
rowed boat from Box Canyon down to Last chance for Derrick and Mike Lawson. Kray saw a fox near our camp in afternoon.

July 23: 1981: Kray, Joe and I took walk up Buffalo. Heard cranes in trees and watched two in flight. Very cautious of humans. Saw hairy woodpeckers feeding young still in nest cavity in aspen tree. Saw two bucks and a doe. Saw blackbirds feeding a fledgling. Young birds are just coming out of nest here during middle and last of July. Identified a number of wild flowers including the white bog orchid on trail just beyond Elk Creek. After supper boys went fishing, I went up trail to sit on log to watch for cranes. Heard them but didn’t see any. Saw chipmunk, red squirrel, osprey, kingfisher, kestrel, little rustling in grass to indicate mouse, heard splashing n water later and saw mink, I think, swimming then came on shore. Lots of chattering. Osprey hit water like a sack of potatoes, but came up empty. Kingfisher also went fishing with a splash, also came up empty. Campground empty last four nights, but lots of people here tonight.

July 24, 1981: Went for walk again. Saw mother hairy woodpecker, still feeding young; watched blue heron fishing; such patience. Boys couldn’t fish after supper because of heavy wind, which lasted throughout the night. We took showers at Rob’s trailer. Rob heard from Stuart, who is working in Alaska on logging show. Identified Franklin’s gull on Henry’s Fork, black head.

July 25, 1981: Still windy. Left Buffalo campground, 80700 at 8:30 a.m. for West Yellowstone and groceries, laundry. Will come back on our way home next week to get Rob’s bike. I think Rob would like to work here again next year in shop and then guiding on Ranch. Mike Lawson told Bob yesterday that he was impressed with Rob’s ability to pick things up the first time and then do them right. Lots and lots of people. Many from Utah. Bought groceries at Roundup and washed at Laundromat. Gas; warm in W. Yellowstone. Trip to Red Rock Refuge; saw red shafted flicker, starlings, swallows, ground squirrels, gang of ravens, Bullock’s oriole, lots of cattle; rough-legged hawks, beautiful clouds, blue winged teal, bald eagles. Ate lunch at Culver Pond. Clouds and thunder. Heard commotion. Looked up above hill to see several hawks and a large bird. Hawks after the large bird which flew to nest in large snag. Obviously an eagle’s nest. Then Kray saw another large bird out over prairie. When it approached nest the white head and tail were evident—a mature Bald Eagle. Bird in nest was immature, but flying. Immature plumage lasts for four years. While watching eagles, two sandhill cranes flew over. Three trumpeter swans, mallard ducks, pronghorns, yellow-headed cowbird, Forster’s tern. Drove up toward Lakeview, saw pair of golden eagles; beautiful country. Camped at Henry’s Lake. Two sandhill cranes, rough-legged hawk, mountain blue bird. Road very dusty. Sprinkled on us. Drove over Highway 87. Went down to West Fork Camp. Bob Kelly’s place. Arrived at Beaver Creek campground at 6:15 p.m., 80858. Very nice camp spot, A26. Wild flowers are beautiful. Cool and sprinkling. Bear warnings so we were careful to put all food in car before retiring. Bear did come around tent during night and visited bear-proof garbage can nearby. They probably have a little travel routine each night. Certainly today was the highlight of trip, seeing a mature Bale Eagle and a nest, too!

July 26, 1981: Cool and a few sprinkles. Ran to bridge over Beaver Creek on highway. Saw one baby duck and swallows. Kray and Bob went fishing at Slide Inn. While making bread and cleaning up pancake breakfast, we were visited by a mother red squirrel and two young. She looks like she is still nursing them, but they were feeding around the trees. Gray jay came for bits
of pancake, really handsome bird. This is such a beautiful place. I go other places and marvel but when I come back here I have to admit there is really something special about this mountain meadow, the river canyon, cliffs, etc. Heard coyotes all night, such carrying on. After I made bread, Joe and I walked up and met a young woman and children from Illinois. They have Dome Sierra Design tent, really nice. Looked at wild flowers. Rain in late afternoon. Managed to bake a cake and fix macaroni and vegetable casserole which we ate in the car. Went down to Madison River bridge, no rain there. Bob and Kray fished. Lots of people from out of state, including Wisconsin and Minnesota.

July 27, 1981: Foggy, coo morning. Bob and Kray went down to fish. Joe and I walked to Campfire Lodge. We got a ride back to entrance to campground with the Darigold delivery man. After supper we all went down to Madison. Cliff swallows are fascinating to watch. They feed babies then sit on telephone wires (counted 266) to rest and preen. At dusk they leave river to roost someplace, must not be room enough in nest now that the babies are almost grown. Kray and I figure that at a conservative four eggs per nest and probably 200 nesting pairs that would be 1200 birds! (babies and adults). It would be fascinating to watch the babies come off the nest and the entire community leave the area. My 1979 notes indicate they were gone by August 5. Shared our cake and hot chocolate with two gentlemen from California, One man is 80 years old, retired athletic director of Modesto Junior College. Bears came around tent again during night.

July 28, 1981: Morning warm and sunny. After breakfast of biscuits and eggs, Bob and Kray went to the river. We heard coyotes again last night and as late as 7:30 this morning. Bob and I ran. Saw water dipper in Beaver Creek at bridge. I think this is the area I want to live. Saw female merganser swimming, preening and feeding and flying at mouth of Beaver Creek. Watched an immature golden eagle climbing and soaring above Madison river. Joe and I walked up Beaver Creek to highway. When Bob and Kray returned from fishing, someone had thrown a rock through our back window. Bob is not speaking this afternoon. Fixing minestrone soup. Went down to Madison River bridge. Overcast. Watched Kray catch several beautiful fish, rainbows and brook trout, fat and colorful, 12-15 inches. Old gentleman came along asked me if that boy was my son. Said he is a good fisherman, well trained! Kray let Joe land a couple of fish. Swallows busy feeding young. At dusk, some of the swallows came up to paved parking area and highway to get gravel. When coming down to the river, we saw two moose below road, just above Quake Lake. Kray had a wonderful fishing even, ten fish over 12 inches.

July 29, 1981: Left Beaver Creek campground about 7:30 a.m., 80961, headed for Henry’s Fork to pick up Rob’s bike and say goodbye. 80961 Beaver Creek campground; 80969 Junction 87 and 287; 80987, Junction 87 ad 20; 81003 Pond’s Lodge; 81008, Henry’s Fork Anglers; 81031 Ashton; 81045 St. Anthony; 81056 Rexburg. Few groceries and gasoline at Rexburg. Always remember those log buildings at Howe. 81146 Arco for lunch; 81231 Shoshone at 2:45. Three Islands Crossing St. Park, 81280, 319 miles. $5 camping fee. Hot and windy as usual here. Showers were welcome.

July 30, 1981: Left Three Islands at 6:45 a.m., 81285, after very windy night. Lots off range burned along Interstate. Stopped for gas in Boise, $1.28 per gallon, 81360. Ontario Rest stop for breakfast, 81412. Saw female pheasant and two chicks alongside road beyond Vale; female deer and twins crossed road near Squaw Creek. We’ve seen lots of wildlife killed on highway this
trip, deer, rabbits, ground squirrels, chipmunks, birds, skunks, porcupines. Burns, stopped at Safeway; warm but not unpleasant. Gas at Hines, 81550; Valley Falls, 81666, Chandler 81672. After supper we walked up road, saw a cottontail rabbit, a spike buck, and a female mallard with 8 ducklings in Crooked Creek; lots of little birds.

July 31, 1981: Friday. We slept without tent. Stars beautiful. Cool morning. Left Chandler 81673 about 6:30 a.m. Saw four whitetail does and three fawns in pasture few miles from Chandler. Few miles later saw another white tail doe with spotted fawn. Lake at 81690. Canada geese in Canby area. Rush Creek, doe with twin spotted fawns. Saw two sandhill cranes in mowed hayfield. Adin, 81784; Hat Creek, 81828, ate breakfast; Redding 81890, gasoline and hot; home 82035 at 2:30. Total trip 3,257 miles.