

Saturday, May 5th – Day 14th

06:00 a.m. – and again : „Rise and shine ! Another long driving day is ahead !”. Packing and loading.



07:00 a.m. – to great breakfast in hotel buffet.

07:30 a.m. – „Good Bye, Saint Louis, we leave you for Omaha !”.

Cloudy, foggy, 67 F.

The Interstate 70.

09:30 a.m. – we went by Jefferson City, then headed across Missouri.

Flat, flat, flat ...

11:00 a.m. – we passed by Kansas City and turn up north by the Interstate 29. We all were in a nostalgic mood a bit ... we were

approaching the last destination of our common vacation.

Yes, of course me and Hana were all excited to visit Susie and Dan’s home, to meet old Frank, Ginny, all McDonalds’, to play with Sunka and Joey, to see many sights of Omaha ... but we also knew that the days in Omaha would be our last in the States for that time. A bit sad feeling. But what were we gonna do ? Just to throw that feeling away and relish everything what we could. And we did it ...

Our friends seemed to be also a bit more silent than usual. They went home, so it had to be even stronger sense of the end of vacation for them. And more ... they were concerned about the weather forecast that we could hear from radio. Yes, our friends were slowly coming back to reality. Sooner than us. However they tried to keep vacation mood as much as they could and they did it really well. Yes, whatever, our vacation time continued ! ☺

11:20 a.m. – Dan turned off of the freeway for the gas, stretching legs and snack. We bought some drinks, nuts and jerky meat (<http://www.JackLinksJerky.com>). Walking back to the car I appreciated safety of American roads. There is common to build gas stations and restaurants far away enough from roads so you have to depart from freeways and interstates to reach them. There are not any dangerous situations during returns to roads because there are pretty wide slip roads everywhere in the States.

01:50 p.m. – we got the Omaha suburb.

02:10 p.m. – we reached Cole Creek Drive, we were given the warm welcome from Stacie, Cassidy and Joey still in a car. Then Susie got off Toyota to prepare house for guests ☺ and Dan with us two continued a drive to a shopping center for supplies. Ah, Dan was a bit lost without Susie ☺ but we relished all that choice of food there. Wow ! Us three together managed to fill up the whole big shopping cart.

03:00 p.m. – the official welcome in the 1706 house. It was the very nice and cute building, that we could see only on pictures until that time. And we were here ... Our friends accomodated us in her basement rooms for guests. There was everything what we needed and more ... a water bed ! Shortly speaking, our friends spoiled us with all comfort. We had a quick shower to refresh our tired bodies and returned up to a dining room to join our friends. Dan was playing with Cassidy, Stacie showed us her photo album and Joey and Sunka did carfully their first touches with us.



03:30 p.m. – us four stayed alone. Peace, coffee, Coronas and home exploring.

Zuzanka and Dan have really nice home. Their house is tastefully decorated inside and it is a pleasure to be there. Dan’s art feeling is possibly to see everywhere. And there

is not only many sculptures and plastic arts but also special plasters on the walls and many other interesting architectonic and beautifying features. And all those shi-shis make together very neat and cute home where is dreamy to live in ...

We peeked in Susie's office room, said our hello to parrot Shoe, looked around a living room and admired for the first time live (*until that time we had known it only from pictures in letters*) their back yard with a japanese touch. Wooden boards, metal summerhouses with sittings, a small ponds with a waterfall and rocks around it. And a lot of ceramic flowerpots all sizes with many flowers and plants. The fairytale yard. A perfect place for leisure and lazy time ... and chatting and sipping coffee and wine.

04:10 p.m. – back in Toyota and toward a favorite Mexican restaurant of our friends - Señor Matías (http://www.neofill-dining.com/restaurant_26098.html) for lunch-dinner.



Yes, their favorite restaurant became ours immediately we got in. It was pretty decorated, with a family feeling. And what scents we could feel there ! Wow ! You could only breath and you were eaten up ! ☺

From a menu Hana and me chose Fajitas and because we already were experienced about American portions, we ordered one meal and two

plates. Waiting for the meal we made time shorter by friendly talking. I was interesting in a Corona decoration everywhere in the restaurant. When us three, it means Dan, Hana and me (*Susie got her Margarita*) were served with that beer, Dan questioned the owner about that and she answered that we hit the nail on the head, we came across when they gave Corona days ☺. Yes, our Coronas were dressed in nice ponchos ... and we got two bottles at price of one ! And even we were given by a blinking lavalier of Corona beer !



And then they brought our meals. Wow ! It was not any usual meal, it was miraculous food ! They served it right in a pan with tortillas hidden in a wooden container. What a scent ! What a taste !

When we finished eating, we said our hello to the owner and we left that neat place. Maybe some time in the future ...

05:20 p.m. – we moved to Susie's Professional Pet Grooming (<http://www.insiderpages.com/b/3717724311>), Zuzanka's beauty salon for dogs.

We had never been in such a shop like that, so we had not be able to compare, but we thought that Susie's salon had to be the best grade, premium quality. The shop was so clean, cute and well equipped with a lot of devices and machines and also well furnished indeed. And again there was possible to recognize Dan's work in the shop. Plasters, art decorations ... the skillful man. Of course ... the boss Zuzanka knows her own mind and can to pull the strings. ☺

There was a small entrance hall just behind a doorway for customers, then five working tables, a room with dryers and other technologies, a section with ,rooms' for finished dogs, a day room for employees and restrooms ...

Susie explained us, how it was going there, that she had about 7 employees and they groomed about 50 dogs every day, one dog for about 50\$. They have a stable clientele of about 3,000 furry bow-wows. Every that dog has its turn once two months.

By way of illustration of customer's satisfaction, I quote here some words of an owner of one four-footed friend, Mrs. Ashley P. that I found on the Internet :



„Susie's Pet Grooming is one of the best groomers in Omaha. The only problem is, they are so good there is usually about a month wait to get in but it is well worth it! They take very good care of all the dogs they see as well as making them look as cute as they can be. They are also very reasonably priced and do not use sedatives or tranquilizers with the dogs which is a big plus on my chart !”.

Shortly speaking ... Zuzanka is Number One ! But we have known it already long time

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05:40 p.m. – on our way to Cole Creek Drive we dropped in Zuzanka's Dad house to say hello to that old man who we had known up to that time from his and Susie's letters only. We all were quite moved by that meeting. Omaha Frank, as we call him in our letters, was really nice, pleasant and charming man with flames of jokes in his eyes ☺. We had a quick look around his back yard, had a short talk and we headed for home : „See you tomorrow !”.



06:05 p.m. – Toyota drove us back to the Newberry's, we spent a while admiring the landscaping of the front yard including wooden sidewalk with pabbles and a front porch. „The good job, Dan ! The good job, Zuzanka !”.

Susie told us they gave up their origin program to take us to Jackson Artworks where there was given a celebratory opening in that evening. They changed that plan because we all were tired after that long driving day and it would be better to stay home and enjoy our common company in peace and quiet. So we did that.

06:30 p.m. – sipping wine and talking on a front porch. We relished our casual time after that exhausting day and were happy together again. We also gave Zuzanka and Dan our another gift, small carved wooden figures of domestic animals, to fill in a set with the rooster.

„Ah, friends, how do you do that ? How many gifts have you brought along ?” and Hana and me were just smiling ... ☺



Then we moved from the front yard to the back yard under a metal shelter where we continued our easy conversation. About all imaginable. Even about American movie stars (*our friends did not know any Czech actors*), when we cataloged our favorite American actors. We mentioned Julia Roberts, Sandra Bullock, Meryl Streep, Helen Hunt, Andie McDowell, Barbra Streisand, Meg Ryan, Susan Sarandon, Michelle Pfeiffer ... and Jack

Nicolson, Dustin Hoffman, Paul Newman, Robert Redford, Steve McQueen, Harrison Ford, Richard Gere, Kevin Costner, Bruce Willis and others and others.

About seven we returned inside, in a living room to watch TV news. Our friends were mainly interested in the weather forecast. We did not so comprehend their concerns about that. It was almost like they guessed something bad ...



As I said up, we Czechs were not so interested in that topic but for all that we got that there would be going strong storms over Nebraska and that it would seem to be not so quiet night. Maybe some tornados ... Whatever ! It could not to be so horrible indeed. The storms came, the storms went again, we said ourselves according to our Czech experiences, yet we became a

bit uneasy for Susie and Dan's question whether we would not mind a noise of sump pumps in the next door room in our basement apartment if they would started working because of heavy rains. And we non-experts answered that it would be easy for us and we would stand it ...

09:45 p.m. – „Good night, friends ! And enjoy your sleeping on a water bed ! You will be the first sleepers on it.”, told us our friends and we left them for our sleep.

Well. The water bed, we had never slept on anything like that before. It was interesting and fun. You know, when me or Hana changed a position, the other of us was really swaying like on waves. ☺ But it was nice and we were contented with it.

Yes, we were pleased with lying but it was worse about our sleep. Before we were able to fall asleep, the strong wind started blowing and it started to rain. But it was not only normal rain, it was the downfall, downpour ... the flood from the sky it was !

Thus ... first the roar of the rain, then sump pumps began working ... well ... it was not so quiet night. 😊 However in spite of it we finally fell asleep in the deep sleep ... we used our earplugs. 😊