

TOO MANY CROSSES

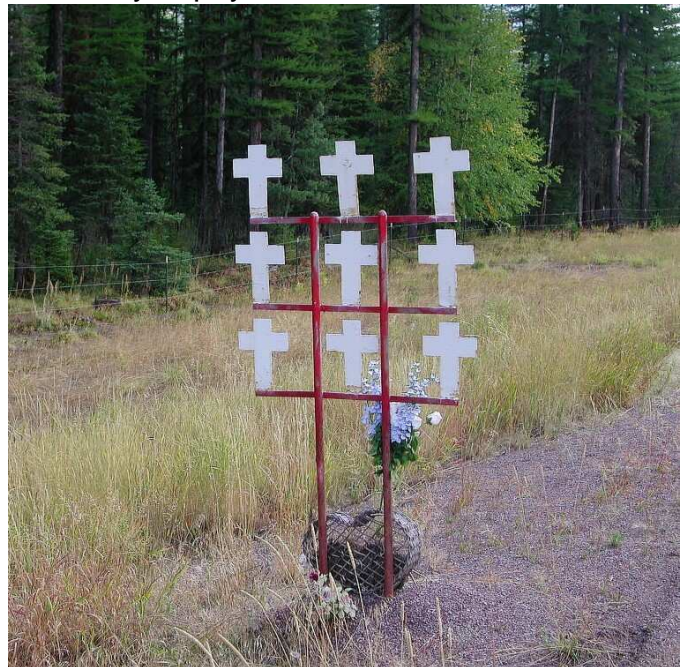
Leaving our pleasant lake spot, we headed for North Dakota. The trip on Route 2 turned out to be more than satisfactory. In North Dakota it was four lanes for a goodly portion, and there was very little traffic, including trucks. The GPS unit showed all the lakes, large and small, and there were enough to give Minnesota a run for its money! The route across North Dakota left very little of interest to see.

Driving across Montana is a little like driving across Texas. It is also a big state! We are still in it and so far we have seen hundreds of thousands of acres of wheat land.

One macabre diversion is counting crosses. Montana installs a small cross beside the road at the location of each traffic fatality. It really hits home when you pay attention to each one, or two or nine at each site. Yesterday we counted 38 crosses in a half a day. Today, we counted 106. You begin to realize that patterns develop. The majority of Route 2 in this state is two lanes and some of it has wide shoulders and some narrow or no shoulders. The most crosses appear beside the narrow shoulder roads, also on curves and driveways. The number also increases before and after a bar. We got to where we could almost predict where we would find a cross!

The number also increased when we passed through an Indian Reservation.

The road is gradually climbing to higher elevation. All day we were at about 4,000 ft. and all of a sudden on the horizon appeared the mountains of Glacier National Park. We are now at 6,000 ft. and it is raining tonight. This morning's temperature was 36 deg. We hear it is still hot back home!



This morning we were going to leave our site at West Glacier, so we could reach Spokane by nightfall, and when I pushed the button to retract the living room slide out, nothing happened! There was no power to the electric motor. After reading the manual and then finding out that I did not have the tools needed to manually retract the room, and then searching for help and finally finding someone... we started off about 11:00 am. We cannot use the room slide out, so we feel cramped even though it is now the same size as the old motor home! We will find a factory repair place somewhere down the line.

We will be in Pullman, WA tonight to visit our granddaughter, Erica.

Dave & Bonnie
9/20/03

