

6/11/2007

## THE STATE WITH THREE INDIANS

Now that we have completed our detour to Indianapolis, we head north to Minnesota. Our route takes us to a State Park in Illinois by the name of Starved Rock. It is situated on the banks of the Illinois River. A long time ago, two Indian tribes were fighting, and one tribe retreated to the top of the rock formation and underwent a siege by the other tribe. Eventually the tribe starved to death, hence the name.

This Toth statue, whose name is Chief Walks in The Wind, occupies a place in front of the Park Lodge, along with 30 other carvings placed around the property, and all can be seen on a walking tour.

We took a narrated trolley tour of the park, and the included boat ride on the river. There are locks and a dam adjacent to the park.

I was astounded to find out that the water flowing in this river was from Lake Michigan. In early 1900s the State of Illinois created a series of dams and locks to connect the Illinois River from Chicago to the Mississippi River. Now, in effect, Chicago has become a port of the Gulf of Mexico!



In 230 miles there are 8 sets of locks that lower and raise the water level some 200 feet. The locks will handle 900 foot barges and are free to all. All this is operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

There are 3 Toth statues in Illinois, all within 50 miles of each other. We drove to Ottawa, Illinois to find the third one. Last night we had our first real big thunderstorm and rain. We have been so lucky on this trip. We will leave for the north tomorrow, into what the weather report says is severe weather!

Dave & Bonnie