

9/24/2010

YOU HOO KALAMAZOO, HOW DO YOU DO?

Leaving Raccoon Lake, we drove thru the Indiana farm country, on the back roads. We turned left in one town, past the Wiggles and Giggles Child Care Center and headed north! Now that the sweet corn season has ended, acres and acres of feed corn are being harvested. This is what fills the giant silos.

We avoided the Gary and Chicago area traffic by using these country back roads, and got on IS 94 east of all of it.

The last time we were here, the “Kalamazoo Promise” had just started. This promise, funded by anonymous donors, guaranteed a free college education for every child in Kalamazoo schools. The first students in this program graduated this year.

We camped in the driveway of one of Bonnie’s friends forever, Margene Fuller.

During our stay, we visited with her son Craig and his wife Sandy. Craig has a hobby of bee keeping, and is currently working with a professor at Western Michigan University, who is growing and selling new queen bees with a minimum of “killer bee” attributes.



I have been reading about the strange disappearance of many of our bee colonies and the fear that bees may become extinct. Asking Craig about whether they have found out the cause, he feels that they have. Currently, bees are a moneymaker for pollinating crops and tree fruit. Beekeepers have become so mobile that hives are transported from Florida seasons to as far as California seasons. They feel that the bees are overstressed and are dying off from stress related diseases.

Dave & Bonnie