

GEAR Plus 2014

2007 Route 66

Chicago – Los Angeles



2008 Dixie Highway

Michigan – Miami

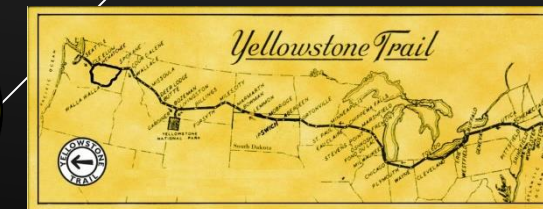


2011 Lincoln Highway

New York – San Francisco

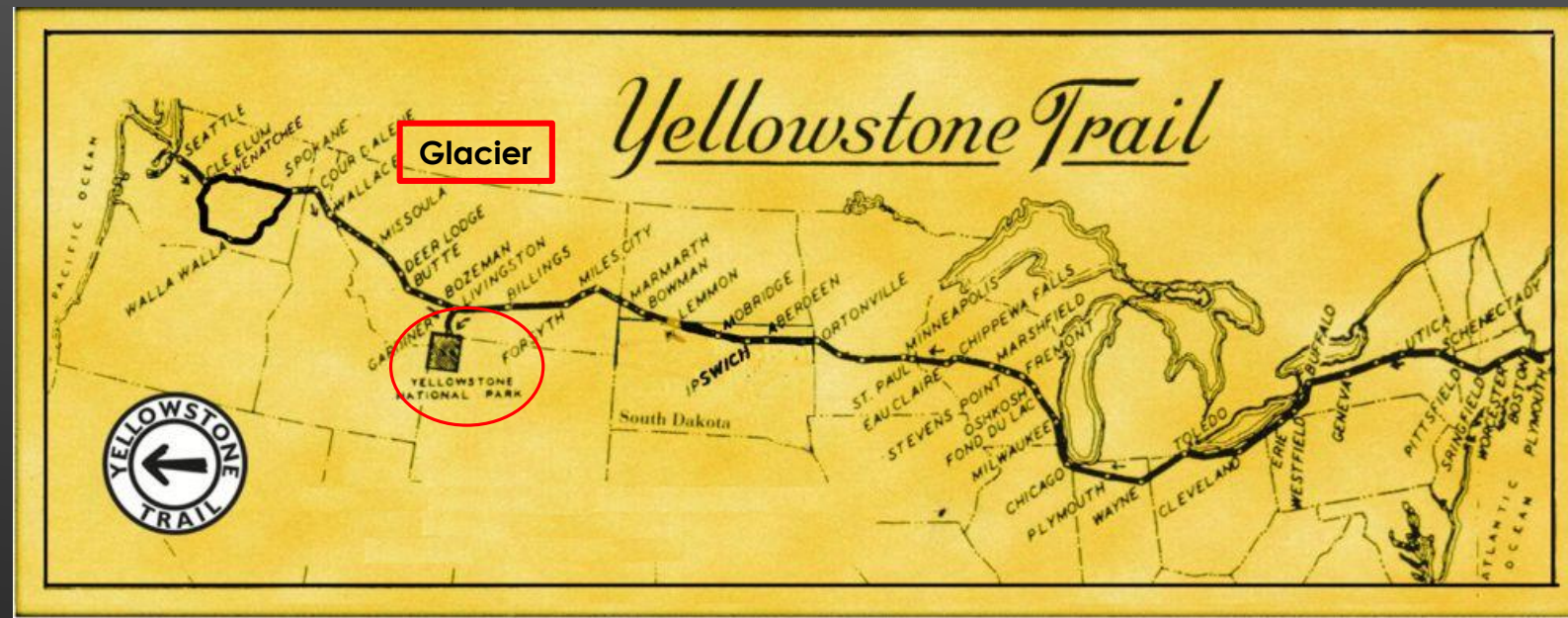


GEAR PLUS 2016: YELLOWSTONE TRAIL
ANOTHER TWILIGHT ZONE IN TIME AND SPACE



Yellowstone NP: Yellowstone Trail
Glacier NP: Great Northern US2

September 2014
7.250 kms,
14 days



Yellowstone National Park, first NP established 1872

Home of grizzly bears, wolves, elks, buffalos etc

Geo-thermal paradise (Old Faithful Geyser)

No access road at the time private SD business initiative:

Yellowstone Trail developed 1912-1917

From Plymouth (MA) to Seattle (WA)





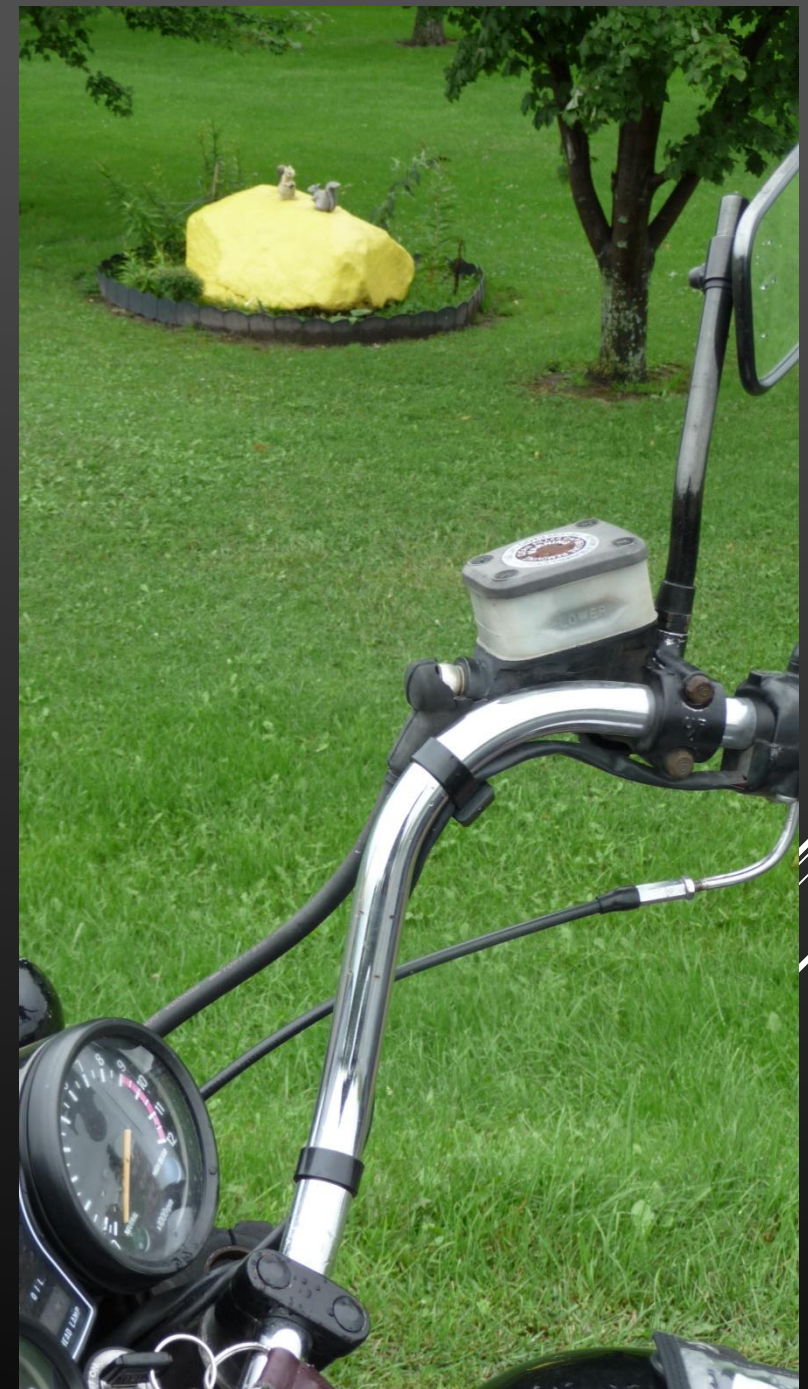
Teaming up with riding partner: David van Grinsven
From Bloomington (IN) to Appleton (WI)

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance

YT is not on any modern road map –
must rely on old state-by-state maps scored on internet



And
the occasional
yellow rocks
people put
in their yards





And the occasional

- street name
- local business man or
- random road marker



YT today is deserted desolation
Long original sections still loose gravel & dirt
Makes for interesting riding

Straighter than straight from A to B to C to D to

So an arrow sign as wake-up call for a turn

Seems bizarre

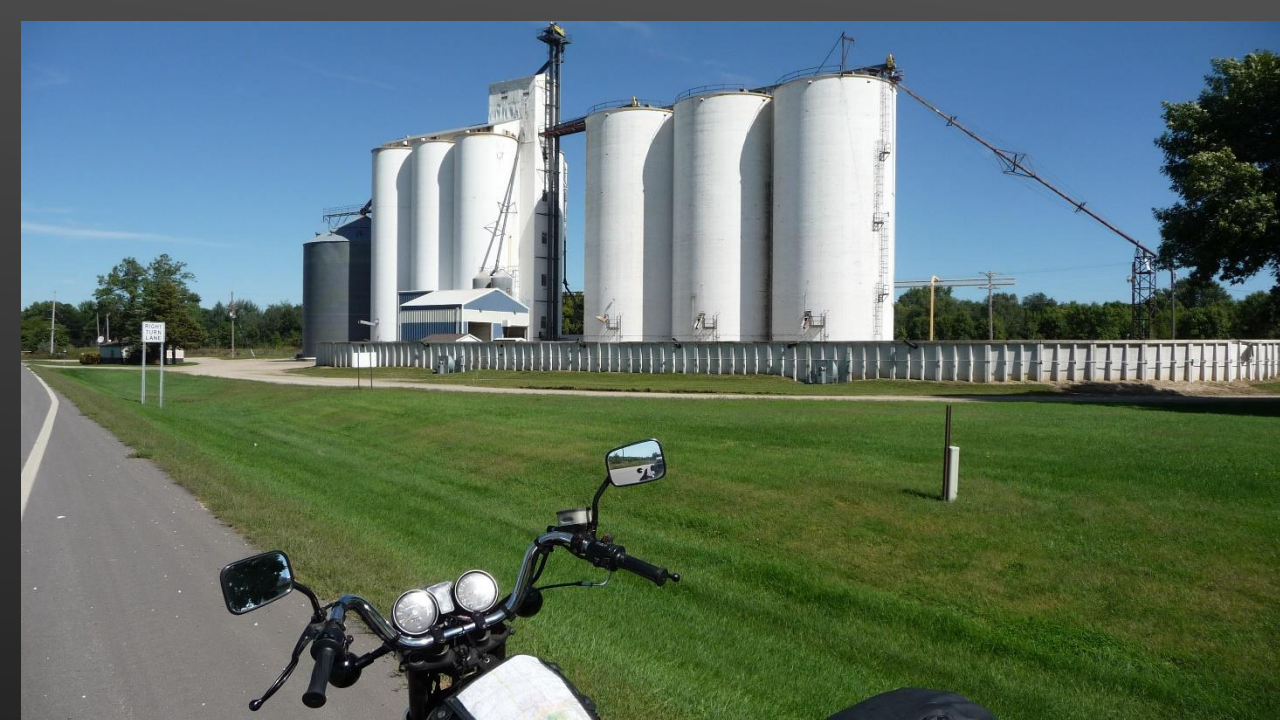
Is this real?

There is a reason....





Close your eyes and open again: is this really there? Yes!
In the middle of nowhere: Dutch Marieka Gouda and her award winning cheeses...



Ride through a twilight world where
mammoth corn silos and grain elevators
in the few and far between settlements
give a new meaning
to 'big' and 'small'

And in the world on wheels:
when is 'big' becoming 'real big'?





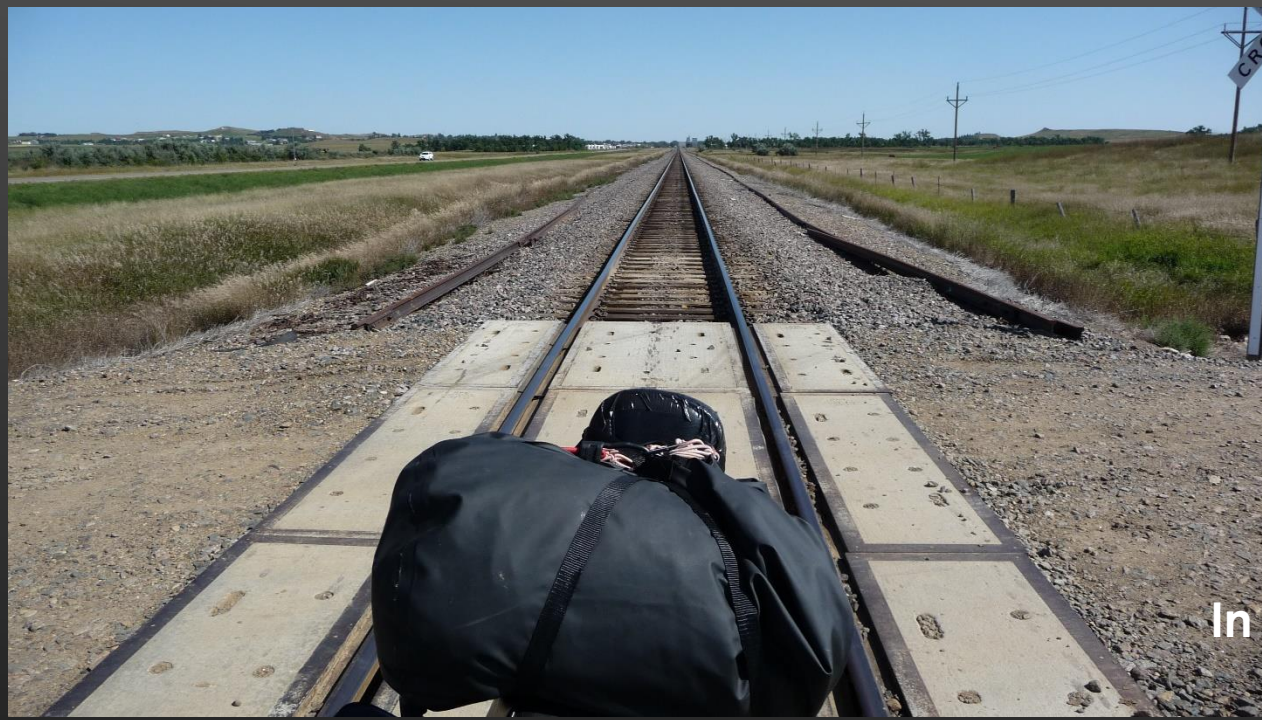
A rather futile question in an environment
where dimensions are dictated
only by the empty vastness of
the modern oil & gas frontier



Of the many millions of buffalos that once roamed the prairies
about 15.000 survive in the wild

The last big herds of tens of thousands were slaughtered right here in ND
Must pay my respects

Do read: John Williams - *Butcher's Crossing*



In the twilight zone where
space and time merge
a straight line is still
the shortest distance
between 2 points





Town of Java
Dutch colonial history
New places
Old names





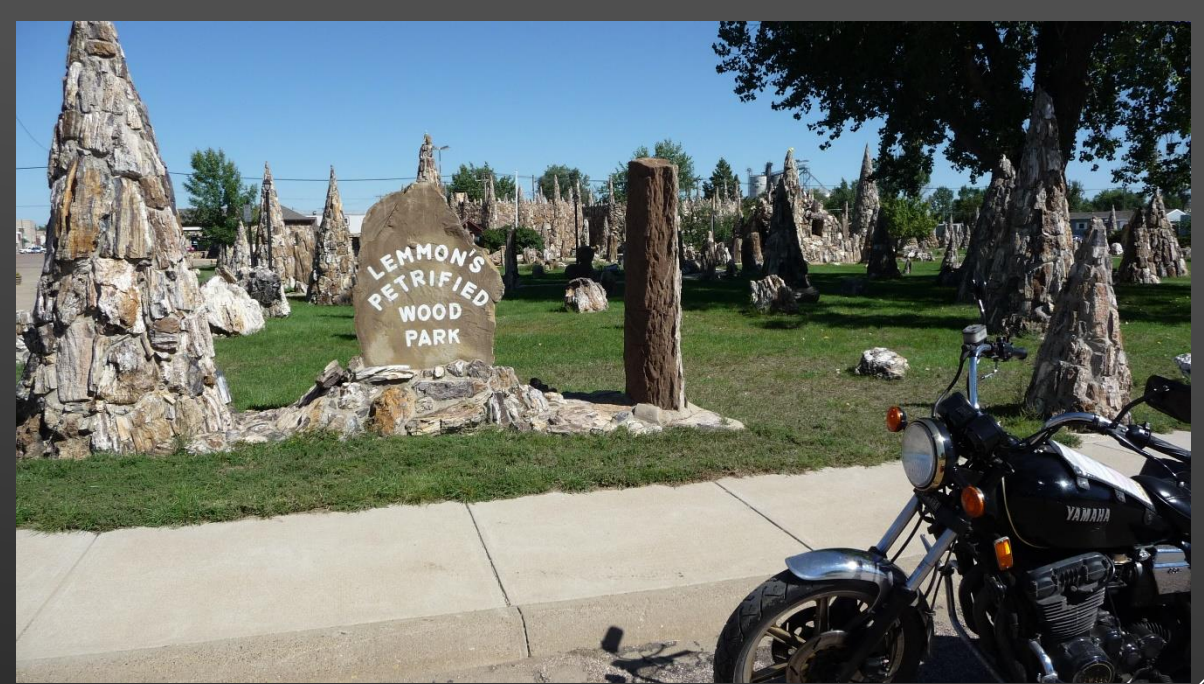
Personal encounter in Selby SD:

Spoke perfect Frisian language

BLT sandwich for dinner

84 years old





Lemmon, SD

First tourist attraction on YT

Petrified wood typees, fort..

Failure from opening



YT passes through Mildred MT

Many miles on tough road

Bike tires?

Carry no spares

First sight: the church



But a closer look upon entry
Home of dozens of panicky pigeons
The organ and the piano &
Bibles waiting in vain
Deserted ghost town



Approaching town
through a cemetery of
abandoned
overgrown civilization





Waiting for the final push



Former Main Street



**Population zero
says the horseshoe**



Once upon a time
the home and hope
of a rugged western pioneer family





One day, a desperate 'so long' to Mildred
Just left home, leaving everything
Vintage TV, heater, arm chair , fridge and stove



Only the 2-cell prison stands the test of time
The cell doors removed as precaution.....



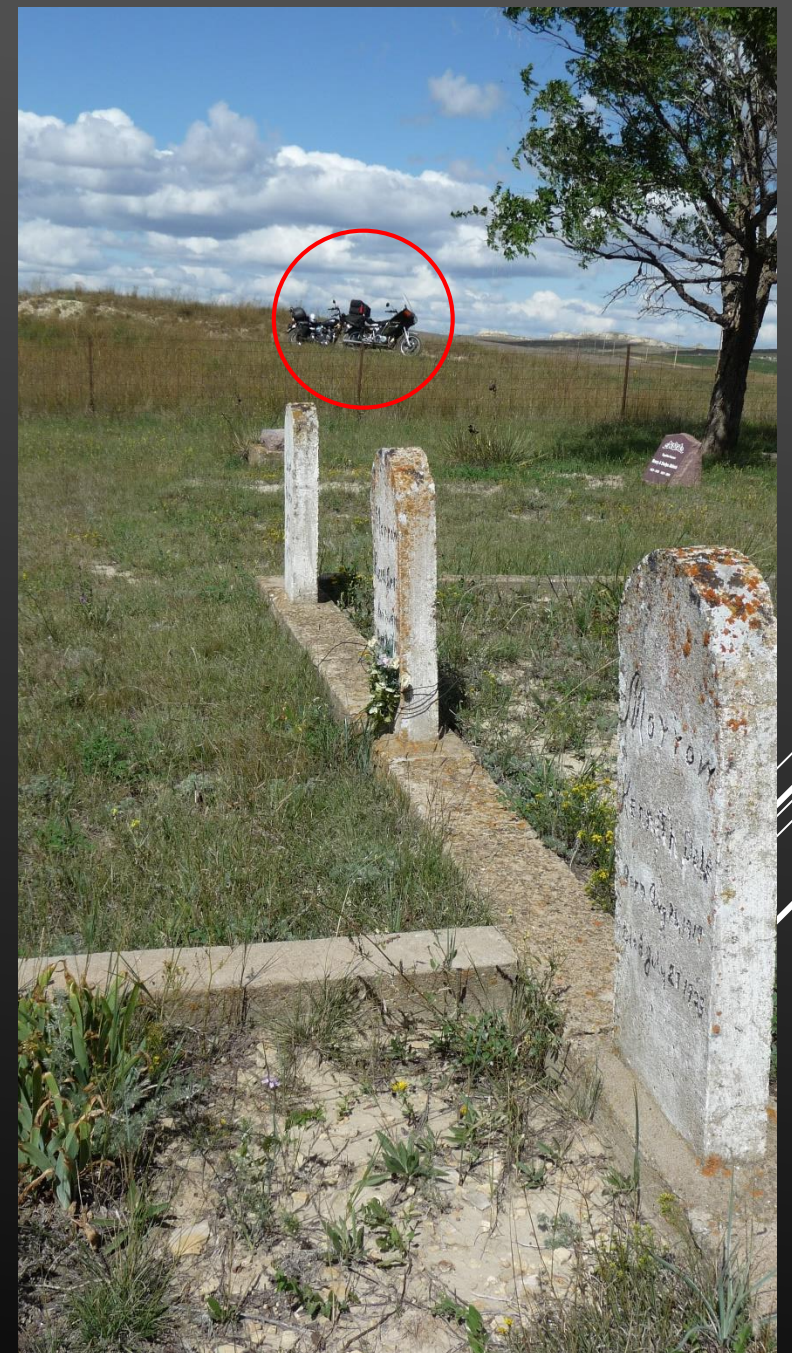
Farewell to
Mildred is at the
old cemetery

†

Emptiness. From where we came to where we will ride



Big sky country





Destination! Wyoming.
'Where the buffalo roam'
Geo-thermal wonders

9.000 km²
2.500 masl





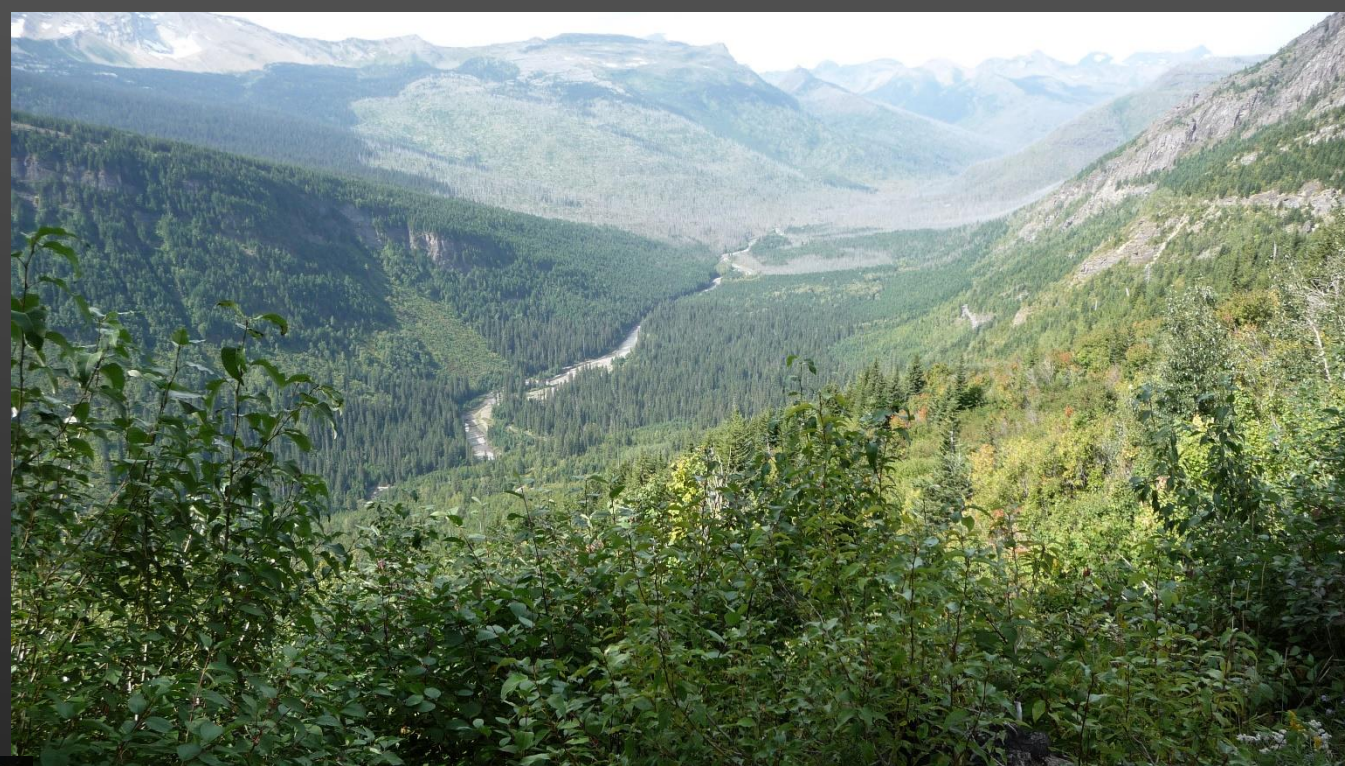
Ranger explains the driving geo-forces



Most famous of all: Old Faithfull geyser

Every 66 minutes, 45 meters high, boiling water

Spectators wait, seated as if at a cricket match



A full day to the north: point of return

Glacier National Park, Montana & Canada

80 kms long 'Going to the Sun Road'



*The rider who came
into the cold*

Divide and glaciers
mean business:
snow & ice cold weather

Park closed



Layer over layer
over layer over layer
of clothing



**Days of riding east strong headwinds
on the desolate Great Northern
along the Canadian border**

Beat the snow! We win

**Passing the geographical
midpoint of the North
American continent**

**After a last full day
in cold solid rain:
Safe return to Dave's garage**

**Yamaha XS 850
Midnight Special
1980**

**4 historical road trips
27.500 kms
23 different states**

Colorado	Nebraska
Florida	New Mexico
Georgia	North Carolina
Illinois	North Dakota
Indiana	Ohio
Iowa	Oklahoma
Kansas	South Carolina
Kentucky	South Dakota
Minnesota	Tennessee
Missouri	Texas
Montana	Wisconsin
	Wyoming



MidKnight Rider



**What twilight zone
in 2018 ??**

PS:

Why Mildred
became a ghost
in the twilight zone
of space and time

