

TUE 23.8.

The temperature this morning was 6°C. After an early breakfast we continued on Hwy 90 northwest and when approaching the town **Bozeman** (population 43,000) we decided to try to make a contact with our home-base in CR once again. The town itself was very pretty and we soon found the local library where I hoped to use internet and send e-mails to CR. Before going to the library we did our shopping at Safeway. The library itself was the best one I have ever seen in my life - modern design, very pretty landscaping outside, easy to get to and park a car. When we got inside, I felt like in a wonderland: presentation/lecture rooms with ongoing lectures, a security man, main reception,

*Bozeman Library*



a coffee bar, secondary reception on the first floor, a large section for internet users (about 10-20 tables and a very helpful attendant) and above all, the most helpful staff. However, as we did not know the password of our home PC we could not use email service. And that finished my hopes to get a message home by e-mail. The good ladies assistants tried to help us as much as their duties/ time allowed, however their phone could not be used for calling Europe. I was sent to buy a phone card to an outside shop which was only 3 minutes away from the library. At that shop there were many such cards, but an assistant had no clue which card I needed for phoning to Europe, so the manageress was called in. That good lady also had no idea which card was needed for Europe, so she went on internet to find out. In a couple of minutes she was back, but her answer was not much hopeful "I would not buy any of these cards, as these might not work for Europe" Well I wanted to try it so did buy one worth \$10. The good lady offered to send an e-mail to my wife from her computer. Now, that was very kind!

With the \$10 card I returned back to that library reception and from there I was sent to the back office where another assistant got involved with me as she had tried to use my card and her office phone. Well, no luck again. At least we could get to Canada and leave a message to our friend Paul (who by the way contacted VP's wife by e-mail, saying that we might be in trouble, as we had tried to phone him. This made it even worse back at home as it had caused some concern). Anyway, after trying for about one hour to contact home, we gave up and left Bozeman. It became clear to me that the local people have no need to phone the World thus they do not pay for that telecom services for services they do not require. It makes sense.

Just as well I managed to send SMS to my wife from Norman's phone when we met at Yellowstone NP, or else the home base would not have received a message from us for two weeks.



Actually, talking about using our hopeless mobile phone, I must admit that as we had had the same difficulties with getting contacts during our last trip to US (2013), we should have found out more about this problem, instead of ignoring it and thinking we could use our Czech phone anywhere in US. After reading an article in local paper "Rocky Mountains Outlook" about a lost tourist "Lessons in trip planning for missing man", I learnt that there are things like a satellite phone or SPOT Satellite Messenger (*picture of SPOT in a flotation case*).

**SPOT** is a GPS tracking device that uses the Globalstar satellite network to provide text messaging and GPS tracking (depending on the subscription type purchased). It has a coverage area that includes a large portion of the planet, with the exception of extreme northern and southern latitudes and parts of the Pacific Ocean. SPOT is simplex and cannot receive user data.

With the purchase of a basic (annual) subscription, SPOT allows short (41 character) user-defined text messages to be sent to a list of telephone and e-mail addresses. This basic subscription also allows users to push their location to emergency services. For an additional cost, SPOT can transmit a breadcrumb trail of GPS points, which users can configure to be displayed on a custom web page. These points are transmitted every 10 minutes, but include only latitude and longitude data, no elevation/altitude is possible.

In March 2010, SPOT claimed to have successfully "helped initiate more than 550 rescues in 51 countries on land and at sea". In early 2013, a variation of the SPOT Satellite GPS Messenger called SPOT Connect was released. It allows the user to compose a custom message in real time using a smartphone. Hm, perhaps too smart for us after all?

Before I leave this pretty town Bozeman, let me mention just one other matter. For many years I have been listening to BBC Radio 4 programme called "Desert Island Discs", which is about famous people talking about their lives and the music they like. In 2013 the castaway to this imaginary island was the mountaineer Conrad Anker, and only now I have learnt that he lives in this town. And as our next location was going to be **GLACIER NATIONAL PARK**, where Conrad Anker, no doubt was as at home, let me introduce this mountaineer.



1. So here's what the moderator Desert Island Discs, Kirsty Young, said about Conrad Anker:

*Some of us choose a life in I.T. or event planning - Conrad Anker has opted to swing from a nylon stepladder 19,000 feet up a cliff with a dose of trench foot and a wedge of stale cheese for supper. It may seem an odd way to spend one's life but it's his way.*

*One of the world's elite climbers he's credited with a long list of first time ascents. He's also summited Everest three times. During one renowned climb he discovered the icy corpse of the legendary George Mallory who had perished along with Sandy Irvine as they tried to scale the peak - in nothing more than hobnail boots and tweeds - in 1924.*

*When he isn't exploring the far corners of the world's wilderness he's at home in Montana with his wife Jennifer, the widow of his best friend Alex Lowe, who was killed by an avalanche that narrowly missed Conrad himself.*

*He says of his life, "Most people are so risk averse. The world is full of couch potatoes ... we climbers should get government stipends for keeping the risk-taking gene pool alive."*

2. And here is what we'll get from Wikipedia: **Conrad Anker** (born November 27, 1962) is an American rock climber, mountaineer, and author. He is famous for his challenging ascents in the high Himalaya and Antarctica. He is the team leader of The North Face climbing team. In 1999 he located George Mallory's body on Everest as a member of a search team looking for the remains of the legendary British climber (1924 climbed Everest with Hillary). He lives in Bozeman, Montana. Anker has also climbed notable routes in Yosemite Valley (California), Zion National Park (Utah), Baffin Island (Canada), and the Ellsworth Mountains in Antarctica.



Wikipedia once again:

**George Herbert Leigh Mallory** (18 June 1886 – 8 or 9 June 1924)<sup>[1]</sup> was an English mountaineer who took part in the first three British expeditions to Mount Everest in the early 1920s.

During the 1924 British Mount Everest expedition, Mallory and his climbing partner Andrew "Sandy" Irvine both disappeared on the North-East ridge during their attempt to make the first ascent of the world's highest mountain. The pair were last seen when they were about 800 vertical feet (245 m) from the summit.

Mallory's ultimate fate was unknown for 75 years, until his body was discovered on 1 May 1999 by an expedition that had set out to search for the climbers' remains. Whether Mallory and Irvine reached the summit before they died remains a subject of speculation and continuing research.

From Bozeman we continued north towards the capital of Montana – Helena. Shortly after Bozeman we had stopped at this campground to eat our lunch (something fresh at Bozeman's Safeway). This was the place we had our meal – right on the banks of **Missouri River**.

This place is not only a camp, but also a picnic site for travellers or weekenders. Notice that useful structure in the background providing sunshade. How useful!

Back on the highway, I noticed this info sign there (close to that picnic/camping area): "In the 1860's – 1870's there was a Gold Rush in the area. Some men got \$1500 - \$2000 per pan (in today's currency). The rush ended 3 years later."



A picture taken from our car, after leaving the picnic site at **Missouri River**



This mighty river led me to reflect on those rivers that we had passed so far on our trip:

### Columbia River



The Columbia River is the largest river in the Pacific Northwest region of North America (as described on page 23).

*Columbia River drainage basin*

### Hood River



The **Hood River**, formerly known as Dog River, is a tributary of the Columbia River in northwestern Oregon in the United States. Approximately 25 miles (40 km) long from its mouth to its farthest headwaters on the East Fork, the river descends from wilderness areas in the Cascade Range on Mount Hood and flows through the agricultural Hood River Valley to join the Columbia River in the Columbia River Gorge.

**Snake River** (*Map of the Snake River watershed*)



More than 11,000 years ago, prehistoric Native Americans lived along the Snake. Salmon from the Pacific Ocean spawned in the millions in the river. These fish were central to the lives of the people along the Snake below Shoshone Falls. By the time Lewis and Clark crossed the Rockies and sighted the valley of a Snake tributary, the Nez Perce and Shoshone were the most powerful peoples in the region. At one point, a hand sign made by the Shoshones representing fish was misinterpreted to represent a snake, giving the Snake River its name. Canadian explorer David Thompson first recorded the Native American

name of the Snake River as *Shawpatin* when he arrived at its mouth by boat in 1800. Famous Shoshone Falls are seen on page 37.



*In the middle reaches of the Snake River as it flows through the Snake River Plain, introduced species have fared better than native species*



*The headwaters of the **SNAKE RIVER** remain heavily forested, especially inside protected areas.*

*The **SNAKE RIVER** exits Jackson Lake and winds southwards through Jackson Hole*





## Yellowstone River



The **Yellowstone River** is a tributary of the Missouri River, approximately 1,114 km long, in the western United States. Considered the principal tributary of the upper Missouri, the river and its tributaries drain a wide area stretching from the Rocky Mountains in the vicinity of the Yellowstone National Park across the mountains and high plains of southern Montana and northern Wyoming. The Yellowstone River is the fifth longest tributary of the Missouri, which it joins in North Dakota.

### *Map of the Yellowstone River watershed*

On August 19, 2016 the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department indefinitely closed the river and its tributaries from the Montana border at Gardiner, Montana to Laurel, Montana to all recreational activity. The 295 km closure resulted from a massive fish kill attributed to proliferative kidney disease, a rare but serious salmonid disease. The parasite--

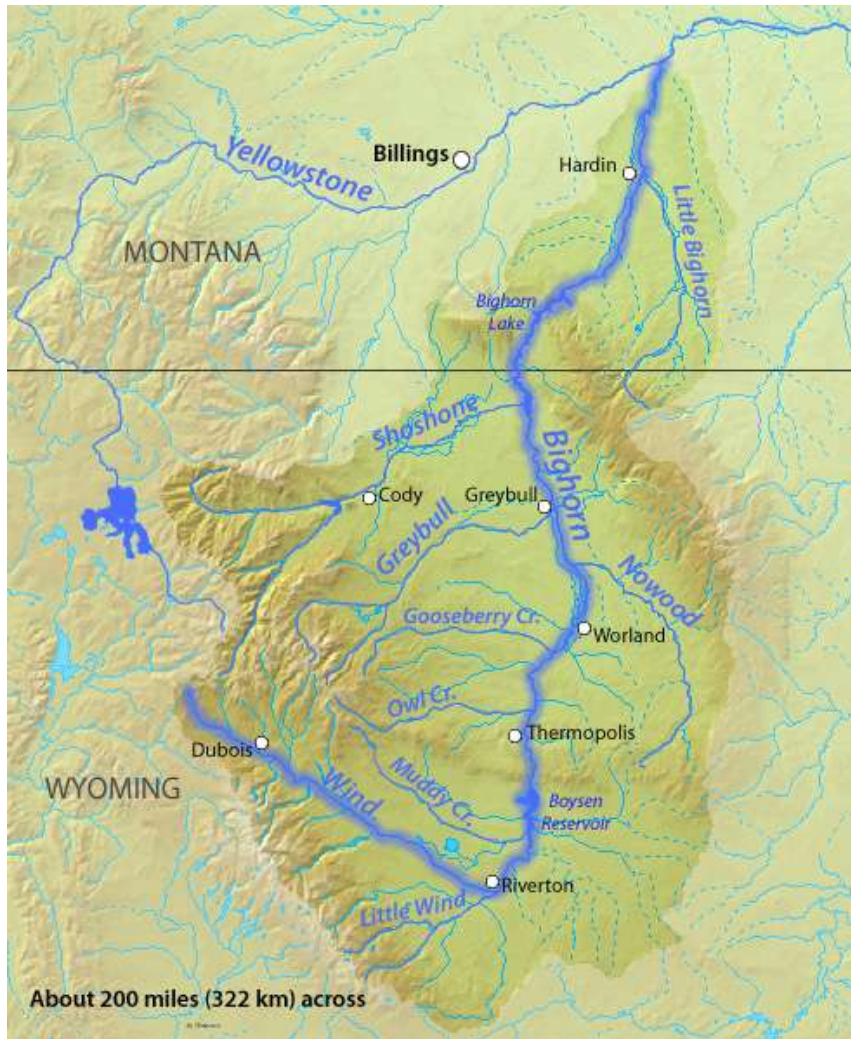


*Tetracapsuloides bryosalmonae*—is not harmful to humans or other mammals. Wildlife officials estimate tens of thousands of fish may have died, mostly mountain whitefish, but Yellowstone cutthroat and rainbow trout have been affected. The closure is expected to cause significant adverse economic impact to businesses which depend on summer tourist and recreational activities along the river.

On September 1, 2016 the agency reopened two stretches of the river. The first stretch, from the northern boundary of Yellowstone National Park to Carbella, Montana, was open to non-fishing

recreation only to allow the fish population to recover. The second stretch, from Carbella, Montana to Laurel, Montana, was opened to all users.

### Little Bighorn River



*Map of the Bighorn River watershed in Wyoming and Montana*

The **Little Bighorn River** is a 222 km long tributary of the Bighorn River. The Battle of the Little Bighorn was fought on its banks in 1876, as well as the Battle of Crow Agency in 1887.

The Little Bighorn rises in extreme northern Wyoming, along the north side of the Bighorn Mountains. It flows northward into Montana and across the Crow Indian Reservation, past the towns of Wyola, Lodge Grass and Crow Agency, and joins the Bighorn near the town of Hardin.

In 1859, W.F. Reynolds led a government expedition up the Big Horn River to the mouth of Big Horn Canyon, and then southeast along the base of the Big Horn mountains.

He camped on the Big Horn just below the mouth of the Little Bighorn on September 6, 1859. He noted in his journal for that day that the Indian name of the Big Horn River, into which the Little Bighorn empties, is *Ets-pot-agie*, or Mountain Sheep River, and this generates the name of the Little Big Horn, *Ets-pot-agie-cate*, or Little Mountain Sheep River. The trappers who came to the Big Horn Mountains in the fur trapping era continued the usage of the English translation of the Indian names, and the names for both rivers have come down through history.

In my notes on the Battle (page 108): River had more water than usual – more snow in the mountains.

### Big Horn River

The **Bighorn River** is a tributary of the Yellowstone, approximately 742 km long, in the states of Wyoming and Montana in the western United States. The river was named in 1805 by fur trader François Larocque for the bighorn sheep he saw along its banks as he explored the Yellowstone.





*The river carves a canyon through Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area*



*Bighorn River in Montana*



## Missouri River (the Missouri River watershed)



The **Missouri River** is the longest river in North America. Rising in the Rocky Mountains of western Montana, the Missouri flows east and south for 3,767 km before entering the Mississippi River north of St. Louis. For over 12,000 years, people have depended on the Missouri River and its tributaries as a source of sustenance and transportation. More than ten major groups of Native Americans populated the watershed, most leading

a nomadic lifestyle and dependent on enormous buffalo herds that once roamed through the Great Plains. The first Europeans encountered the river in the late seventeenth century, and the region passed through Spanish and French hands before finally becoming part of the United States through the Louisiana Purchase. The Missouri was long believed to be part of the Northwest Passage – a water route from the Atlantic to the Pacific – but when Lewis and Clark became the first to travel the river's entire length, they confirmed the mythical pathway to be no more than a legend.

The Missouri River was one of the main routes for the westward expansion of the United States during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The growth of the fur trade in the early 1800s laid much of the groundwork as trappers explored the region and blazed trails. Pioneers headed west *en masse* beginning in the



1830s, first by covered wagon, then by the growing numbers of steamboats entering service on the river. Former Native American lands in the watershed were taken over by settlers, leading to some of the most longstanding and violent wars against indigenous peoples in American history.



*The Missouri in North Dakota, which was the furthest upstream that French explorers 125 travelled on the river*



*High silt content makes the Missouri River (left) noticeably lighter than the Mississippi River (right) at their confluence north of St. Louis*

Although this time we were nowhere near the “**Old Man River**”, I just have to mention this mighty **Mississippi River**, since I did get on its banks in 2000 when cycling on ROUTE 66 via St. Louis. When I saw the mighty force of this water power, I was totally flabbergasted! Incredible might! Whilst we can seek to control its forces, nature will still do its own thing. We’re regularly reminded the wild and destructive nature of rivers and their power to wreak havocs.





*Mississippi  
River  
tributaries*

*The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 was the most destructive river flood in the history of the United States.*



The flood began with extremely heavy rains (it rained for 8 months) in the central basin of the Mississippi in the summer of 1926. By September, the Mississippi's tributaries in Kansas and Iowa were swollen to capacity. On Christmas Day of 1926, the Cumberland River at Nashville, Tennessee exceeded 17.1 m, a level that remains a

record to this day, higher than the devastating 2010 floods.

For the local population it was not only a fight a man against nature, but also a man against man. As the water started to rise arm guards were place on levee to prevent the people from the west side of the river to dynamite and break the levee on the east side of river, and the people from the east side



of the river to blow up the levee on the west side of river; doing that those poor folks hoped to save their own lot. In the end this was useless because the pressure of water broke the levee in at least 145 places anyway.



*When levee broke Over 13,000 evacuees were stack on levee 18'wide and 5 miles long. They were without water food or shelter for several days*

The water flooded more than 70,000 square kilometres of land, and left more than 700,000 people homeless. Approximately 500 people died as a result of flooding.

The flood affected Missouri, Illinois, Kansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi,

Oklahoma, and Texas. Arkansas was hardest hit, with 14% of its territory covered by floodwaters extending from the Mississippi and Arkansas deltas. By May 1927, the Mississippi River below Memphis, Tennessee, reached a width of 97 km, in place 10m deep. Because of labour force, 75% of population was African Americans. Although people were told to go to higher place, the black Americans were conscripted to fill sand bags. The Red Cross was doing what they could, supplying food and taking people to safe places. The cotton



farmers were complaining because they were afraid that black labour force would never return back to their farms, so the blacks were not permitted to leave, they were under guard. But in the end the farmland was so devastated that it started the largest migration to north, especially to Chicago.



### **What Really Happened in The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927?**

Have a look at these youtube videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFcmN4RfJfM;>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGy4DgeaZNo>

Here are some comments:

- *I was born along the Mississippi in Fort Madison Iowa and have always had both a great fear of her as well as stood in awe of her power. I can remember my father working as a reserve deputy going out to find those who had lost their lives to her. I was 18 before I was brave enough to even try to swim in those wild waters and still have nightmares about her to this day.*
- *Very interesting as always Jerry. The reality though is that no matter what humans think they can do to curtail these kinds of disasters nature will always win. It's always been that way, and it will happen again unfortunately in that area.*
- *People were a lot tougher in those days and knew how to pitch together in adversity.*
- *The levee system constructed by the US Army engineers is the greatest and most successful engineering project in US history, but largely forgotten about today.*
- *Good video, I have family still heavily populated in the Greenville area and Glenn Allen area near the Ms River . I remember when my great great grandmother was in this incident, told me how they were held at gunpoint and some were shot for trying to leave. (the blacks were not allowed to leave , as they were expected to work on the levees and later on destroyed farmland).*
- *No native America Indians would ever be killed in such events, they knew to move around and avoid these things, us white people build and farm, we're tied to the ground, i think it's caused us lots of problems.*
- *The white people were also given the better food and the black people were given very little.*

The Mississippi River had inspired many songwriters and many singers, to name but few:



**Lonnie Johnson** singing Broken Levee Blues (recorded 1928) about this awful flood, about people who lost their homes: "...I have to leave my home because I can't live there no more...the police run me...the water up to my windows...the high water got me barred. If it keeps on rainin', levee's goin' to break If it keeps on rainin', levee's goin' to break And the water gonna come in and we'll have no place to stay."

Original recorded version of the song later made famous by **Led Zeppelin**.

**Johnny Cash** with his song "Big River" is about the Mississippi River, and about drifting the length of the river to pursue a relationship that fails. The places mentioned in the song are Saint Paul, Davenport, St. Louis, Memphis, Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

**Paul L. Robeson** in movie musical *Show Boat*'s central musical piece is the spiritual-influenced ballad "Ol' Man River". Its composer, Jerome Kern, also composed an orchestral piece entitled "Mark Twain Suite".

**Paul Simon** mentions the river and the Mississippi Delta in his song Graceland.

**You can think of rivers what you like, but:**

- There're certain therapeutic benefits of watching the rivers flow.
- What about river's ability to detach us from the hectic world around us and from the churning of inner thoughts and concerns when staring into them.
- Rivers are constantly moving, forever changing and developing, almost alive. Like us, they are on a journey.
- The effect of watching the river flow brings calm and liberates the imagination.

- The water flowing through a river is never the same water, it's always changing and it's always on the move.
- Rivers are natural barriers dividing towns and even demarcating nation states.
- The symbolism of rivers...crossing river to the other side on which things are very different; for the ancient Greeks the river forms a boundary between the living and the dead.
- Even the great rivers-Nile, Ganges, Mississippi must have been no more than trickles before they grew into mighty rivers.
- But again you may come across arid river bed (stagnating rivers), like Rio Pecos at Santa Rosa, New Mexico (saw it when cycling across on ROUTE 66 trip in 2000).

**A sense of mystery can come over us, as presented by singers:**

**Joni Mitchell** (1943), a Canadian singer-songwriter and painter. Rolling Stone (an American biweekly magazine that focuses on popular culture) called her "one of the greatest songwriters ever".



*river I could skate away on..."*

Her song **River** may be a symbol of escape - *"...I wish I had a*



**Bob Dylan** (1941), an American songwriter, singer, artist and writer. 2016 Nobel Prize winner for literature. He has been influential in popular music and culture for more than five decades. Much of his celebrated work dates from the 1960's, when his songs chronicled social unrest.

Watching the River Flow

The music of "Watching the River Flow" has been described by different critics as a "Blues-powered sound"; "featuring some blistering guitar work... and rollicking piano work from Russell", and as "an energetic, funky-gospel rocker".

Dylan had claimed that he was content to watch while "The river flows, flows to the sea/Wherever it flows, that's where I want to be". In "Watching the River Flow", Dylan writes that he is restless, wishing he was "back in the city/Instead of this old bank of sand". Perhaps there's more to the experience than just enjoying peaceful atmosphere at the end of day and this song captures it best.

On our way north to **Glacier National Park** we drove through the land of Indian tribe BLACKFEET NATION. The name Blackfeet comes from the fact that the Indian's moccasins were always black due to the fact that they walked in burnt prairies / woodlands. Indian tribe BLACKFEET NATION maintained that "The white men plugged the hole from which Buffalos came. So, the food disappeared."





Driving through the last three states I had noticed major agricultural areas, primarily producing wheat. The combine harvesters were about twice the size of what I was used to seeing back at home. Once or twice I did notice that some of the big machinery was being left in the fields over night. Would that be possible back at home? I doubt it.





I used to be a beekeeper myself and therefore I just could not have missed this picture - the beehives of a local Indian beekeeper looked deserted in this large and dry prairie. I wonder what kind of honey the bees produce as the variety of plants seems to be rather limited. It may be different in spring.

Camping at **Glacier National Park**, at Johnsons St.Mary- 2 nights @ USD 64.00. The camp manager was most helpful and friendly (he visited Prague and knew a lot about Czech beer). As there were no metal boxes on campsites, and we were a little worried about keeping our food safely against the bears, the manager came just before it got dark and provided two large plastic bags for our food, later on he arrived on his small battery power vehicle and took the bags to his save store room. The following morning the food was back on our table before we got up.



Great Dinner at JOHNSONS of St.Mary @ \$ 23.00 (A large bowl of excellent soup, roast beef and mashed potatoes, a sweet desert, drink).

They had been serving one kind of soup for 66 years, it's called Good Soup!

When the Johnson family, Lester and Ruth, first opened this restaurant in 1952, there was no electricity and no running water. The whole cabin was 40'x 40' and the Johnsons slept in

a tent behind a restaurant for five years. They started the restaurant with no experience. Ruth worked 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day. Lester was still taking care of a ranch with cattle.

Lester and Ruth are and will always be true Montana legends and will be missed by all who knew them. Lester passed away at the age of 96 (2008) and Ruth at the age of 95 (2014).

So far we had done 5691km. Today, I had driven 670km, stopping 3 x for petrol!