



Who wouldn't stop for this sign? Turns out Sapp Brothers have heated toilet seats and bidets in their gas station rest rooms. I stopped at the one in Percival, Iowa. I'm still laughing from the expressions on kids' faces as they exited stalls after there first experience with bidets.



From Percival, Iowa, it was a short hop to Lincoln, Nebraska, where a visit to the International Quilt Museum is a must. If you haven't been there, find a reason to visit. A highlight of this visit was seeing Freddy Moran's "Faces" exhibition. When in Lincoln, I also like to stop by the Cosmic Cow quilt shop, which is always a friendly stop. They had all of Marcia Derse's newest collection. I just had to get some half yards.





I have been enamored of Nebraska tourism ads for several years. We hear them a lot here in Colorado. The slogan is the best: "Nebraska: Honestly, It Isn't for Everyone." Last fall, I learned I like Nebraska. The state has good highways, interesting sights, well maintained public campgrounds and nice people. I guess Nebraska is for me. At left, my first stop in Nebraska was overnight the Lake McConaughy campground. Lovely. The next day, I drove Highway 26 west with a stop at Chimney Rock, pictured at left. Interesting museum, and I got the Nebraska slogan T-shirt at the museum. Yes!



My stop at Scotts Bluff National Monument included meeting 80-something-year-old volunteer Doug Kent, the best greeter I've met at any national park or monument. Doug's life motto: "Enriching lives of others one life at a time."



I was excited to see a rack of Cheryl Phillips' quilt tools at Prairie Pines Quilt Shop in Gering, Nebraska. At left, meeting Colleen Joyce in the parking lot of the grocery store near the quilt shop was a joy. We connected, shared life experiences and laughed a lot. It was maybe a 10-minute conversation but I won't soon forget Colleen. Below left, some of the point-of-sale items at Nebraska quick marts were unusual. Below right, my next Nebraska trip will include a visit to Carhenge. Too





A stop at Legacy of the Plains Museum near Scotts Bluff, Nebraska, is a treat for all who like barn quilts.



The restored Burlington Northern train depot in Wellsville, Missouri, sports a barn quilt.



Above left, Bruce Springsteen in Lebanon, Kansas, to film a Jeep Super Bowl commercial. Above right, a sign seen at a FiberMax sign seen in cotton-growing corridor in Texas.

## Knowledge from the Road: Things You Never Knew You Needed to Know

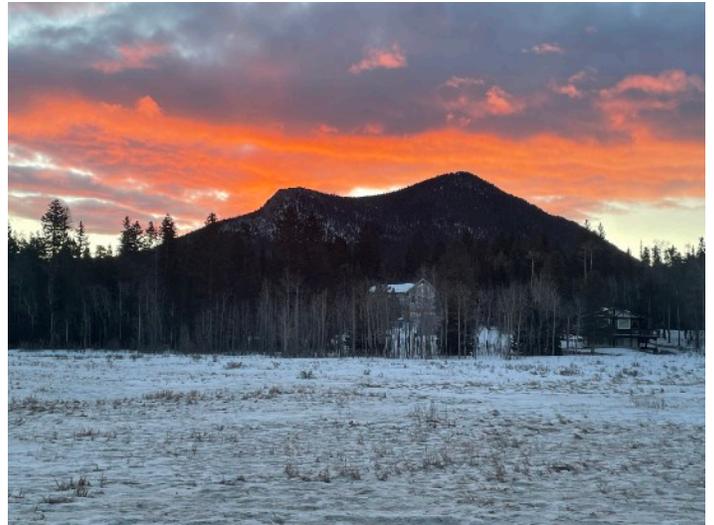
Driving cross country can expand what you know about neighbors in other states. Here are tidbits I've picked up on recent trips:

- Lebanon, Kansas, is the geographical center of the United States. Bruce Springsteen starred in a Jeep Super Bowl commercial filmed there.
- Athol, Kansas, is the birthplace of "Home on the Range."
- Kingston, Kansas, is "The Biggest Town of Its Size."
- Powder River, Wyoming, is home to Hell's Half Acre.
- Stink Creek Road in Texas is aptly named.
- Wentzville, Missouri, is the site of the Horseshoe Pitching Hall of Fame.
- A stretch I-72 in western Illinois is the Free Frank McWorter Memorial Highway. McWorteer (1777–September 7, 1854) was an American born into slavery who bought his freedom in Kentucky and in 1836 founded the town of New Philadelphia, Illinois. He was the first African American to found a town and establish a planned community in the United States.
- There's a phone booth in Cope, Colorado, which is on Highway 36 in eastern Colorado, not far from the Kansas border. At least I saw one there last fall. Apparently the iconic booth was stolen in August 2021. I don't know if the one I saw is the stolen one that's been returned or a new one. Anyone know the answer to this mystery?



### Two more new-to-me facts:

- My next must-have T-shirt will be one I saw in St. Louis: "Never underestimate a woman who understands baseball and loves the Cardinals." That would be me.
- Domestic Science made the list of "extinct" majors at my alma mater, the University of Illinois according to the university's *Alumni News* magazine.



Sunrise and sunset in the beautiful Rockies where I live. Left photo taken from the deck outside my quilt room; right photo taken just down the street near the small lake in our

### Thanks for Reading

If you've made it this far in this lengthy newsletter, Wow! Just Wow! Thanks. I close with a few photos of my recent life. It is a good life, and each of you contributes to that. May yours be equally blessed.



At right and above, after three weeks of only wood-stove heat and no hot water, my new boiler was installed. It's a work of art. At far right, I've become an Avalanche fan. Initial reason: Best jerseys ever. Now: I love the game.



### Be in Touch

I'd love to hear from you. Email me at [danaellenjones@gmail.com](mailto:danaellenjones@gmail.com). Happy Stitching! Dana