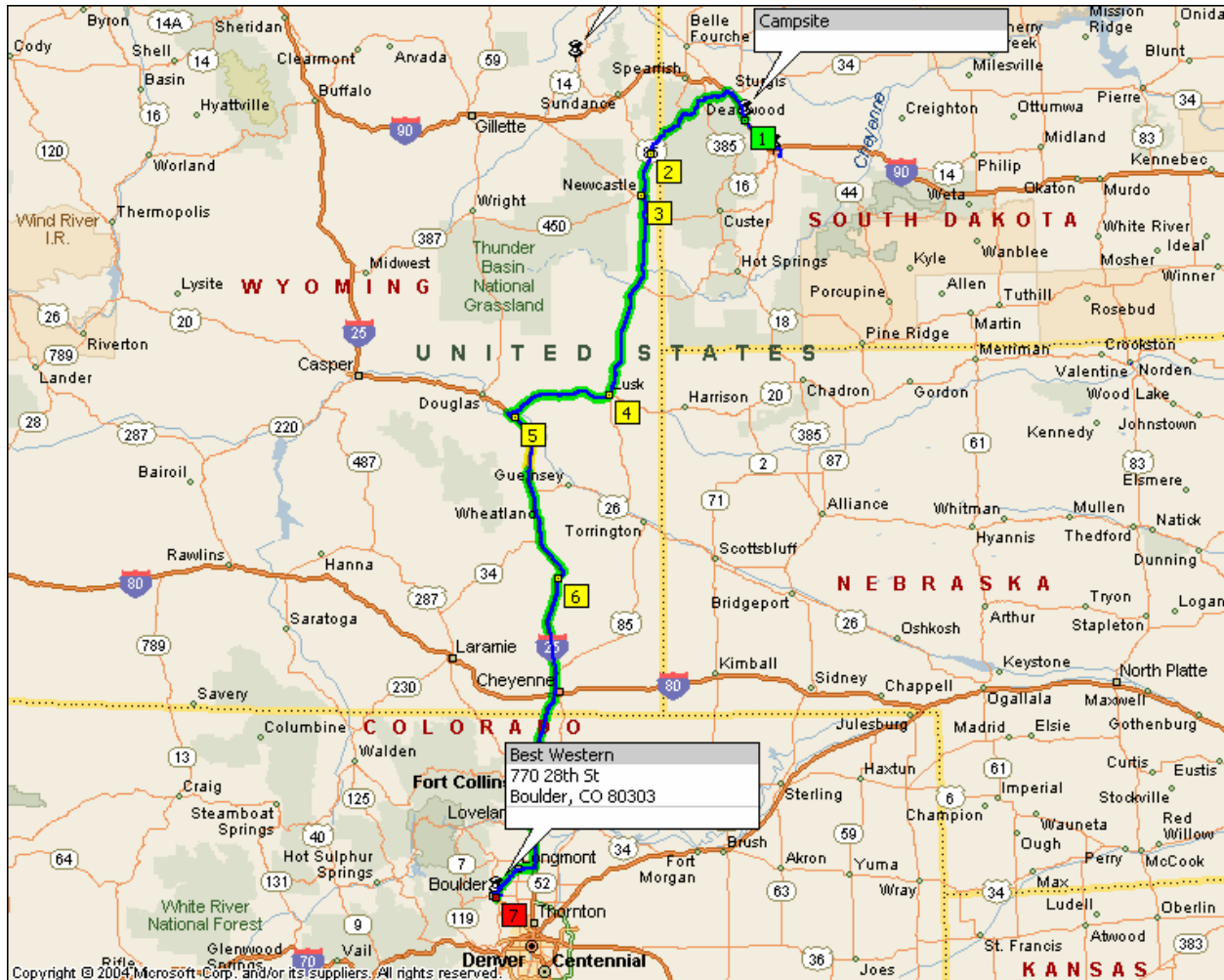


Sturgis 2006

[\(Continued from Chapter 2\)](#)

Chapter 3 "The Journey Home"

Day 9, Friday, 11 August (Miles covered – 415)



The morning started a bit early since Sherri and Sherrie needed to get to the airport by 0700 so at 0630 they were heading down the road. Albeit, a bit slowly after the previous night.

While they were gone, Ward and I finished packing up our truck. Ed, Roger and Marnie started sorting out all of the remaining gear and all the other FOOD. And BOY did we have food.

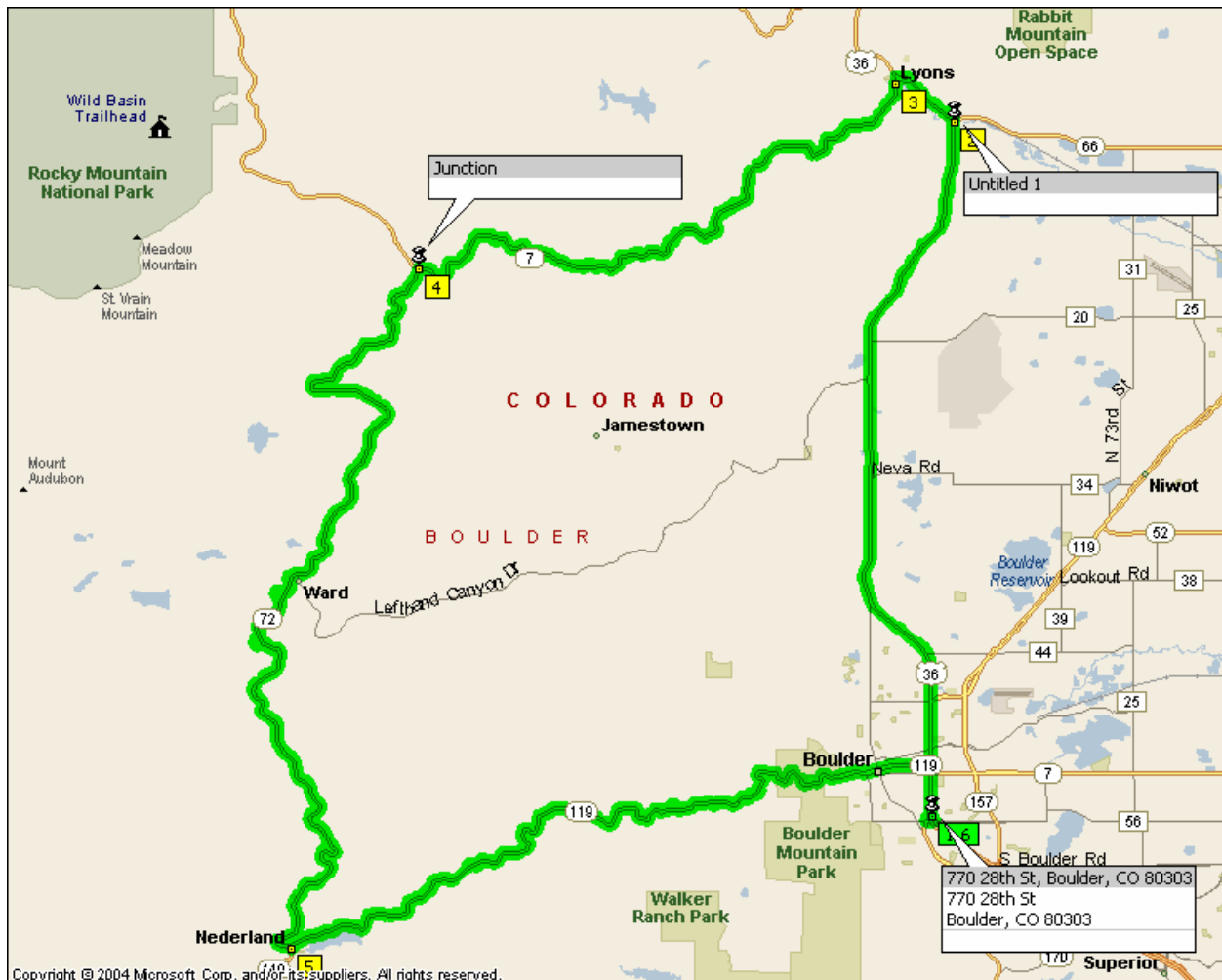
We all started back home. Ward and I decided to go back a different way to get some more awesome motorcycle riding in. I knew much of that area so I put together an itinerary and trip maps. Ed, Ty, Roger and Marnie went east. Since Richard lives in Houston, we invited him to join us because our route will take us right through Houston. I drove the truck most of the way back home but Roger and Ward took turns on the BMW.

Sturgis 2006

Our day's destination is Boulder, Colorado. We left Sturgis and headed south on 85, into Wyoming, then 18 west to I-25. We took I-25 through Cheyenne, into Colorado, through Fort Collins and Loveland. When we got to Boulder, we took 119 around to the west part of town to get close to the mountains where our morning motorcycle ride would be.

Day 10, Saturday, 12 August (Miles covered – 72 + 404)

We started out with a fantastic mountain motorcycle ride. We covered 72 miles of winding, scenic Rocky Mountain roads. This was some of the best roads on our trip. In going through Nederland, we saw a steam shovel on display that was used to dig the Panama Canal. We also saw a hydroelectric dam and mountain streams with fly fishermen. On our way back from Nederland to Boulder, Ward got separated from Richard and me. Richard and I went back up the mountain looking for him. We were worried that he may have gone over the side. After an unfruitful search we headed back to the hotel without Ward only to find him waiting for us in Boulder.



Sturgis 2006



We checked out of the hotel, trailered the Harleys and headed for Los Alamos, NM. Richard rode his BMW. We rode for a couple of hours and then Richard and Ward swapped places. Ward was now driving the BMW. Richard was now resting in the truck. We were not driving too long when it started to rain. Ward wanted to ride the BMW in the rain with no rainsuit because he said that he would stay dry if he could ride fast being shielded by the BMW's windshield. Unfortunately, his plans did not work out. We were heading into Colorado Springs on I-25 going south. We were in a very heavy downpour and heading into stop and go traffic. To add to Ward's problems, the 18 wheelers in the oncoming traffic on I-25 were splashing bathtubfulls of water on him. Every time one dumped on him Richard and I cracked-up. We went through about 20 minutes of that before we reached the southern end of town. Richard and I never laughed so much the entire trip. Richard said that he was the only BMW owner he knows that has a Harley driver for a chauffeur. The traffic started to move slowly but steady. We could see the end of the clouds about only 2 miles down the highway in front of us. It then started to hail. Ward could not take it anymore and frankly, neither could Richard and I. Ward took an exit to find a spot to get out of the storm. Just as he did that, it stopped raining and hailing. Ward pulled up in an empty parking lot and Richard and I pulled up right next to him. Richard and I struggled to put on our serious faces. From the warm, dry side of the truck door, we rolled the window down on poor cold, drenched Ward and asked him, "Excuse me. Do you have any Grey Poupon?"

Sturgis 2006



We got back on I-25 and headed for Los Alamos. We crossed into New Mexico and got off of I-25 at Raton and went on to 64 heading for Eagle's Nest and Taos. The Eagle's Nest and Taos area is a great area for motorcycle riding. This ran into 68. We ran by the Rio Grande where it was just a trickle. We ran through several Indian reservations, into highway 30 and finally into 502 that brought us into Los Alamos. We ate dinner with some friends I have there in Los Alamos. The hotel we had reservations in had a problem. We reserved a room with 2 beds and a rollout. When we got there, they told us it was against the local fire codes. My backup plan (I always have a backup plan) was for me to sleep in the truck because I can easily relax and go to sleep there. My friends in Los Alamos offered to lend me a "spare" apartment they have a few blocks away. So I bundled my things and my friends drove me to the apartment.

Day 11, Sunday, 13 August (Miles covered – 30 + 600)

We gassed up our motorcycles and began a morning ride in the mountains around Los Alamos. We started in down town Los Alamos (absolutely no traffic here on Sunday morning). We drove past all the government laboratories where all kinds of secret things are being developed, including the labs that developed the first atom bombs. We headed west and south out of town. I almost ran right into a very large 10 to 12 point deer. We saw all the areas that made national news last year because of the forest fires. We moved east and north till we came to an area with many ancient Indian ruins, campsites, farm areas and rock drawings. I had a pass to the area, so we got in for free. We then headed north and west, back into downtown Los Alamos. We went to the Museum there where they

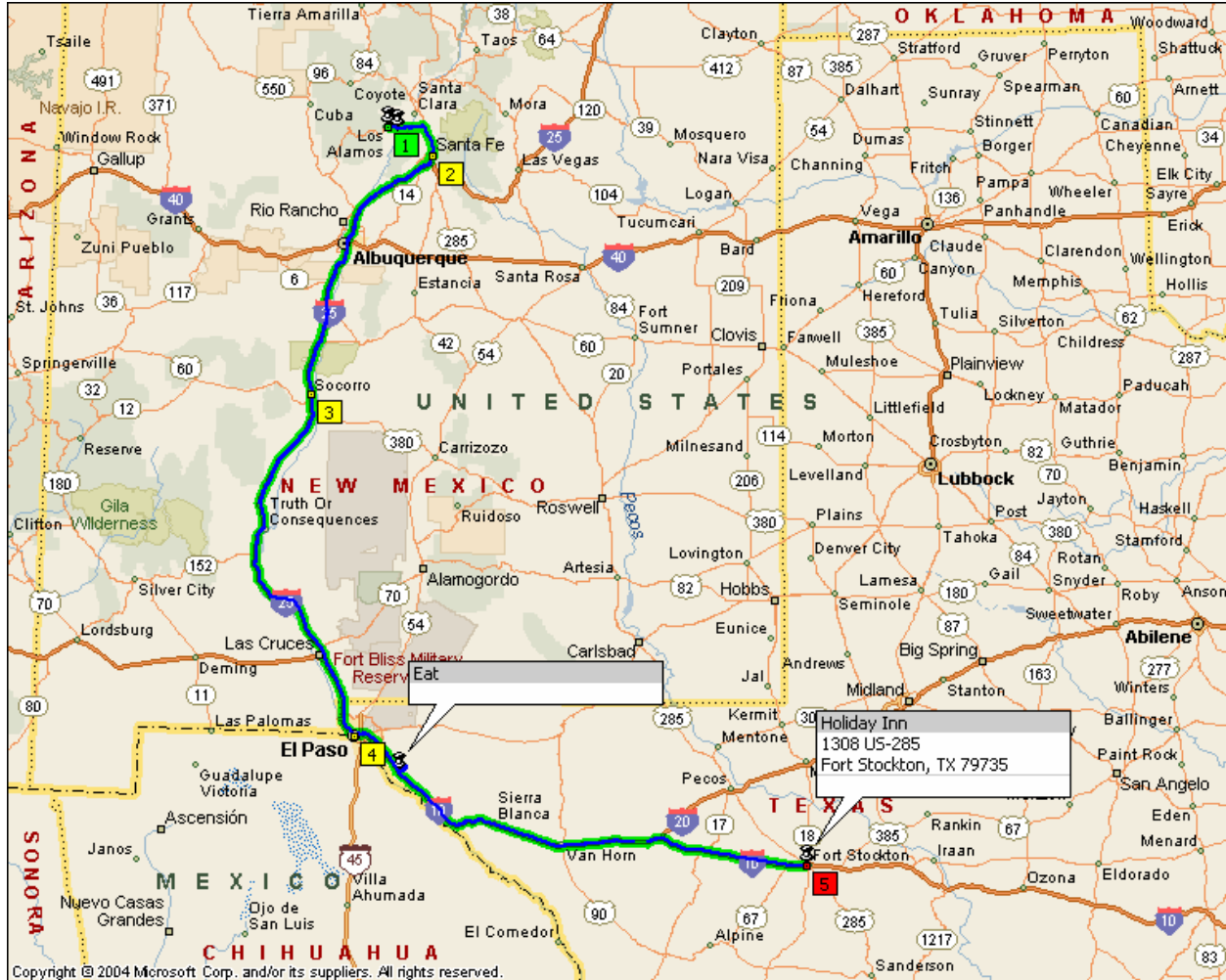
Sturgis 2006

have the actual duplicate atom bombs that they dropped on Japan but they were closed on Sundays. You could see them through the windows.



Sturgis 2006

We packed up the Harleys and headed for Fort Stockton, Texas.



We got back on I-25, rode through Albuquerque and continued down I-25 to I-10. We rode through El Paso and stopped at the best restaurant in all of Texas in a very remote part of the desert. This place is famous and has been on many travel specials on cable TV and in the movies.

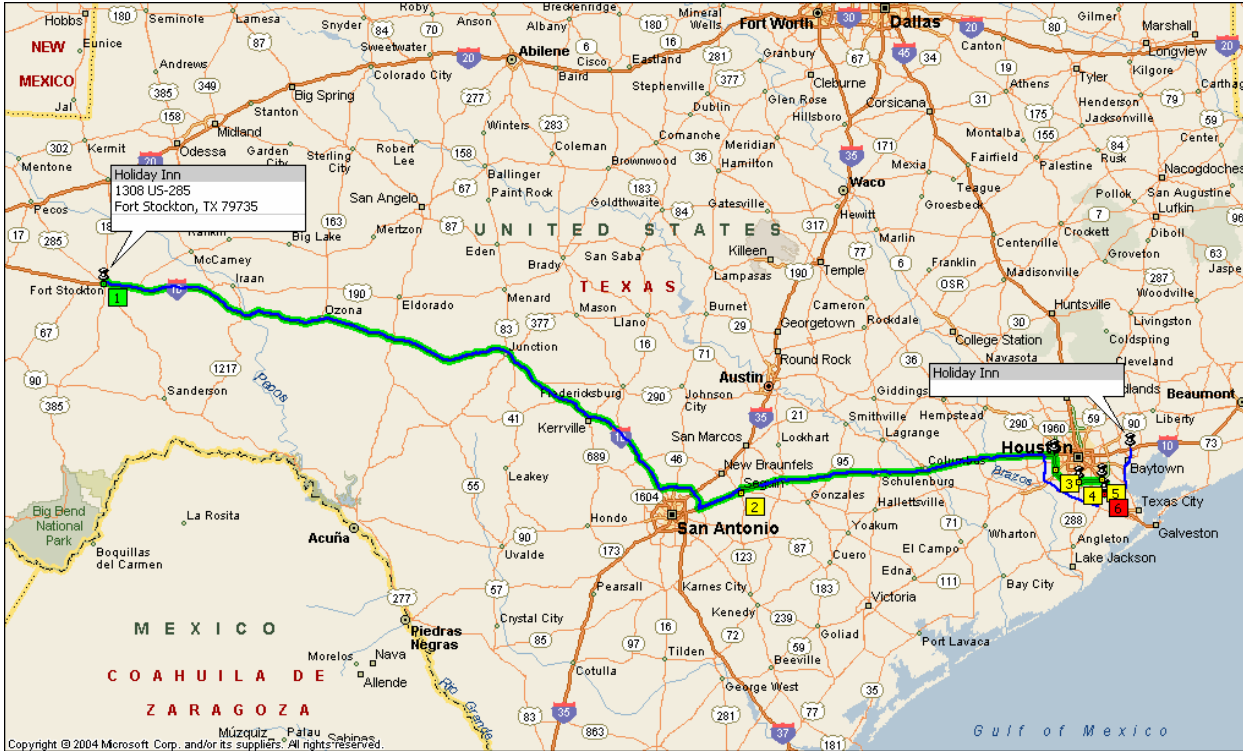
Sturgis 2006



After our dinner we headed for Fort Stockton, another 200 miles down the road.

Sturgis 2006

Day 12, Monday, 14 August (Miles covered – 543)



Traveled from Fort Stockton to Houston, Texas. There is not much to say about this leg of the trip except that Ward, Richard and I had a nice end of the day meal at the Kemah Boardwalk near Galveston Bay. We said good-bye to our new friend Richard and headed to our hotel in Baytown on I-10.

Day 13, Tuesday, 15 August (Miles covered – 315)

The final day we drove from Baytown to home down I-10 to I-12.

Summary

In the beginning I was worried about not doing enough planning but everything worked out very well for us and our living arrangements. Not counting souvenirs, Ward and I together spent about \$3200 dollars for all food, fuel and lodging. We traveled about 4713 miles. We did not see any of the bands or events at the Buffalo Chip but that is not what we wanted to do there. We wanted to ride our bikes and that is just what we did. We got to see some awesome natural scenery and national monuments. We met some new friends as well.

The End

Dwight Bradbury & Marnie Gaffey