

EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY

New photo book by St. Charles resident showcases U.S. states

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ST. CHARLES – After dedicating more than 10 years to painstakingly choosing photo subjects and shooting them in each American state and the District of Columbia, St. Charles resident Paul Ingevaldson has a new book out.

The 58-page, hard-cover photo journal showing what's great and unique about the United States is titled "50 State Odyssey From Sea to Shining Sea – An Amateur Photographer's Perspective."

Published by Gary Slavin and distributed by Ingram Content Group LLC, the book is being sold online by Amazon and Barnes & Noble – and is expected to be available at Town House Books in St. Charles – for \$34.95.

In most cases, one photo depicts each state throughout the book.

"These pictures represent all that is America – from her glaciers, waterfalls, deserts, businesses, historical sites and more," Ingevaldson said.

Meticulous travel and photo subject planning were required to ensure just the right pictures were taken. One of his favorite photos captures wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park in western North Dakota. In contrast, another displays the "Field of Empty Chairs" exhibit at the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum. The site honors victims of the April 19, 1995, terrorist truck bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

Ingevaldson hopes those buying his book will discover the diversity and beauty throughout the U.S. via his photos and be encouraged to travel the country more.

"We have this beautiful country, and so many people never get to see it. It's a shame," he said.

He also hopes his book will drive people to learn more about the U.S.

"A parent could discuss each photo with their children, covering the positive things about it, plus the history of our country," Ingevaldson said. "Although several photos are somber, each provides teaching points."

Ingevaldson didn't think about selling the book until he discovered that people enjoy viewing his photos – plus, few books quite like it apparently exist.

Travel always has been a passion of empty-nesters Ingevaldson and his wife, Jean. After working 25 years for



Photos by Sandy Bressner - sbressner@shawmedia.com

Paul Ingevaldson of St. Charles has published a new book, "50 State Odyssey From Sea to Shining Sea – An Amateur Photographer's Perspective," which takes readers on a pictorial journey of each state.

Oak Brook-based Ace Hardware Corp., Ingevaldson retired as senior vice president of international and information technology in 2004. While at Ace, he traveled all over the world – and twice traveled around the world – ultimately visiting more than 75 countries.

Jean Ingevaldson sometimes accompanied her husband on international trips, plus she experienced their entire U.S. odyssey. She also took the new book's photo of Four Corners Monument, where the corners of Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico converge.

Although retired, Paul keeps himself busy. In 2012, he published his first book, "The 9 1/2 Secrets of a Great IT Organization – Don't Do IT Yourself," which summarizes his recollection of what makes an IT organization successful.

"I'm also a guest lecturer in the master's program at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. I use this book in my classes, which I have been teaching for 11 years," he said, "I love teaching."

Jean describes her husband as "a very inquisitive person" who loves traveling.

"These two things combined made for a very interesting and fun journey throughout the U.S. I liked our domestic road trips for the most part ... but sometimes they were a little long," she said, laughing.



ABOVE: A photo for Michigan from "50 State Odyssey From Sea to Shining Sea – An Amateur Photographer's Perspective" by Paul Ingevaldson is titled "Grand Hotel-Mackinac Island-Morning Taxi Service."

LEFT: A photo for North Dakota is titled "Feral Horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park."