

Dear Friends,

Greetings from **Redding, California**.

We are a bit behind on our travelogues. We are still in Redding and don't expect to leave Green Acres RV Park until June 26. So between now and the 26th, we will try to catch up on some of the more interesting travel from last summer.

Now you already know that we are big fans of the Black Hills of South Dakota and that our permanent domicile is **Rapid City, South Dakota**...Hart Ranch RV Resort, to be specific. Did you know that if you combine all taxes in a state such as income tax, sales tax, property tax, etc., that South Dakota has the overall lowest taxes in the nation? It's true--minimal bureaucracy and minimal taxes. A delightful combination to our way of thinking.

Did you know that **North Dakota** is very rich in oil? In fact, much like Alaska and hence, the state is not up to its ears in debt. Quite a contrast from California and Nevada, for example. At any rate, we wanted to visit North Dakota because of its fiscal condition and also because Donna's father lived there from 1917 until 1937. Oh the stories he would tell about North Dakota winters. But we will cover that in another travelogue.

We drove north on Highway 85 which goes straight into North Dakota. You can cover a lot of ground on 85 since it tends to be straight and featureless. We were glad to be traveling in our new Honda as this would not have been a very interesting motorcycle ride.



Highway 85 in South Dakota heading toward North Dakota.

But after approximately 200 miles, the terrain changes dramatically and becomes very interesting.



Painted Canyon overlook near Medora, North Dakota.

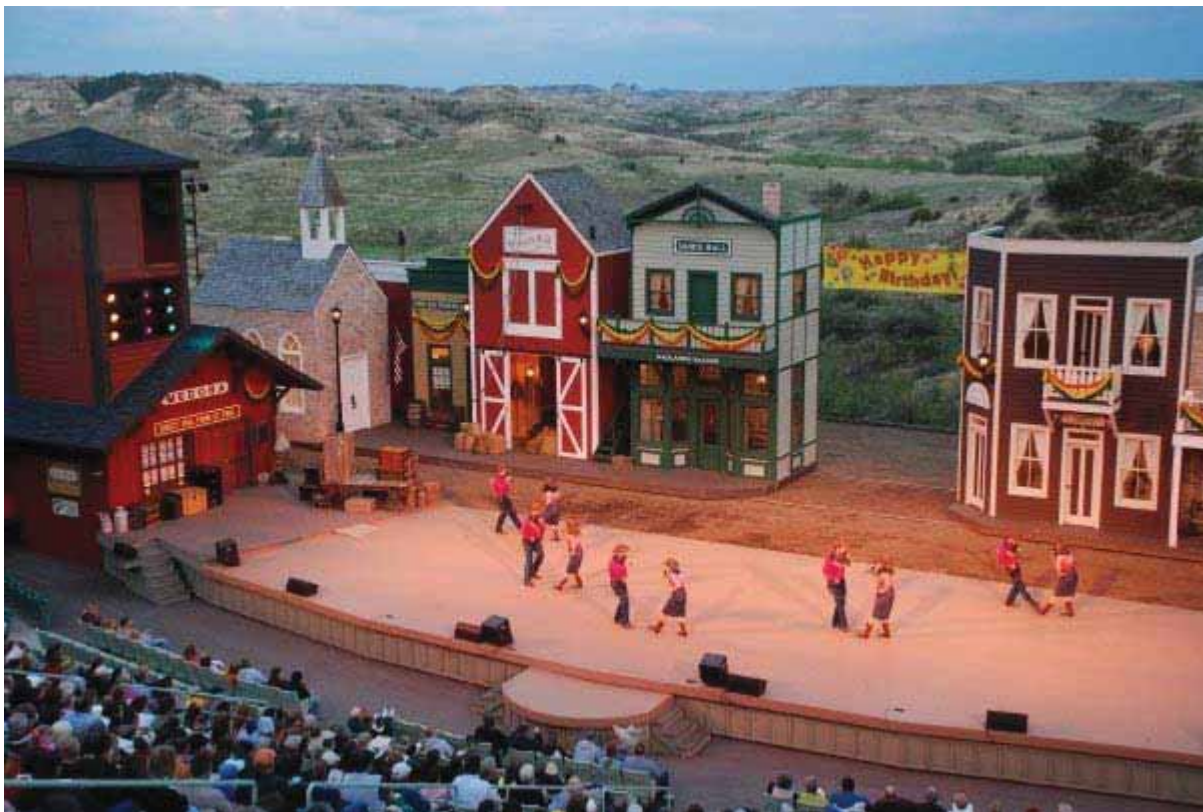
Above is a photo of the **Painted Canyon** from the Visitor's Center which is open 24 hours a day from April to mid-November. It is at exit 32 off I-94 near Medora. Wow, after hours of fairly boring road, the Painted Canyon knocks your socks off.

From the Painted Canyon, it's a short drive into the town of **Medora**. Some people would describe Medora as a tourist trap, but we prefer to characterize it as a very interesting and historic area, well worth the visit. Medora is the number one vacation destination in North Dakota and is also the gateway to the **Theodore Roosevelt National Park**. There is a lot to see and do in this area and Medora even has an RV park as well as a hotel and several motels. A week in Medora would be time well spent.

Medora has entertainment as well as natural beauty, buffalo, and wild horses.



The town of Medora, North Dakota.



Medora Musical at the Burning Hills Amphitheater.

The Medora musical is a big deal and a "must see" event if you visit Medora. The show goes on at 8:30 p.m. every night between June and September and is seen by hundreds of thousands every year.

Dining in Medora can be as simple as a hot dog or a hamburger, or more elaborate at the hotel or darn right unusual and touristy. Perhaps the most unusual meal in Medora is steak at the pitchfork fondue.



Pitchfork Fondue in Medora.

The Pitchfork Fondue is a unique western experience, held nightly at 6:30 p.m. between June and September. Served at the Tjaden Terrace, which is adjacent to the Burning Hills Amphitheatre, you will enjoy this unique western meal as you watch the sun set over the North Dakota horizon. Rib-eye steak is fondued on a pitchfork and served to you with baked potatoes, baked beans, cole slaw, fresh fruits and vegetables, toast, brownies, lemonade, water and coffee. As you enjoy your dinner, you will hear

the melodies from the nearby Medora Musical. Costs for the dinner range from \$12.00 to \$22.50, depending on your steak choice.

Well, what do you think? Is Medora worth a visit? Perhaps you would like to know more about the history of this quaint little town. Medora is on the east bank of the Little Missouri River about 120 miles west of Bismarck, North Dakota. It seems the world has had a love affair with Medora since the town was formed in April of 1883. Marquis de Mores, a 24-year old French nobleman, named the town for his bride, the former, Medora Von Hoffman, the daughter of a wealthy New York City banker. The Marquis de Mores arrived in the Little Missouri River valley in early 1883. With financial backing from his father-in-law, he founded the town of Medora east of the river, building a meat packing plant, a brick plant, a hotel, stores, and a large home (Chateau de Mores) overlooking his new town.



Marquis de Mores



Medora von Hoffman

We don't know about you, but we haven't had enough of Medora and the surrounding area. It looks like we will have to go again this year and take the motorhome along. Who wants to RV with us?

Are you aware that you can go to our website below and read any of our travelogues which we have indexed by area? This is a super resource if you're planning a trip.

Until next time, home is where we park it.

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