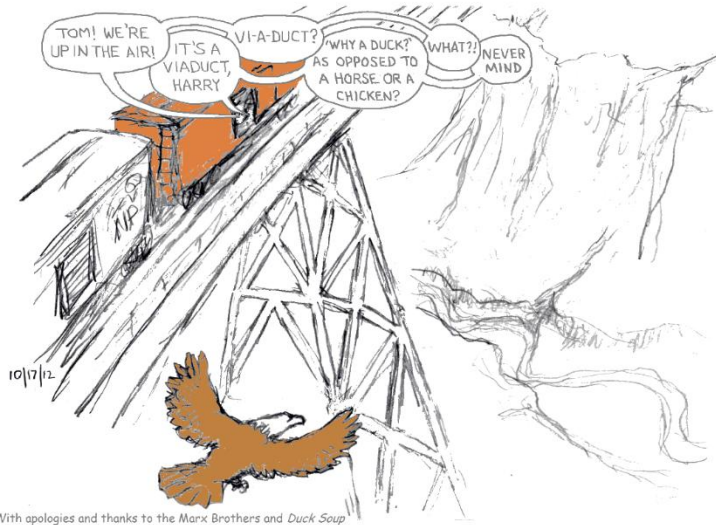


The continuing saga of



The Alaskan Adventure of Tom Duck and Harry

with our heroes starting Day 10, Westward
in the Yukon

The Alaskan Adventure of Tom Duck and Harry

by David Mudrick

Reston, Virginia

April 2025

Dedicated to the faithful readers who have been waiting since 2017 for further dispatches from our earstwhile travelers then stuck on the Cassiar Highway in British Columbia – both of them

The Alaskan Adventure of Tom Duck and Harry

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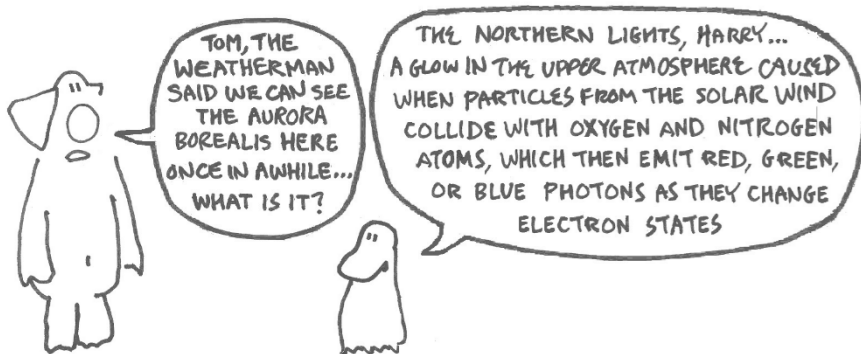
Foreword

Tom Duck and Harry (a pig) reside at Cow Manor, the home of African American farmers Al and Ellie MacDonald, a short hop as the duck flies from the hamlet of Gozaimasu, Ohio. Harry was born on the farm and has never traveled other than to the nearby town, but he has a broader, if questionable, world view gleaned from the *Southern Ohio Bugle* and radio and television broadcasts captured on the MacDonalds' front porch. Tom, a former resident of New York City, has fled the rat race to find relief in this pastoral setting. Although content with his new life, he thinks an exploration of the nearby lake and its environs would be educational for him and his porcine pal. The ensuing adventure with its unforeseen events and unusual acquaintances, sometimes bordering on the bizarre, proves enlightening, if not life changing, for both of them.

If the plot seems to be unscripted and the drawings look like they were executed on the cartoonist's lap while commuting by public transportation, you are correct. Although originally drafted in 2004 and 2005, the adventure was not completely posted for twenty years, in May 2025, which may be an auspicious way to let us know that things could always be worse.

Day 1 – On the Road Again

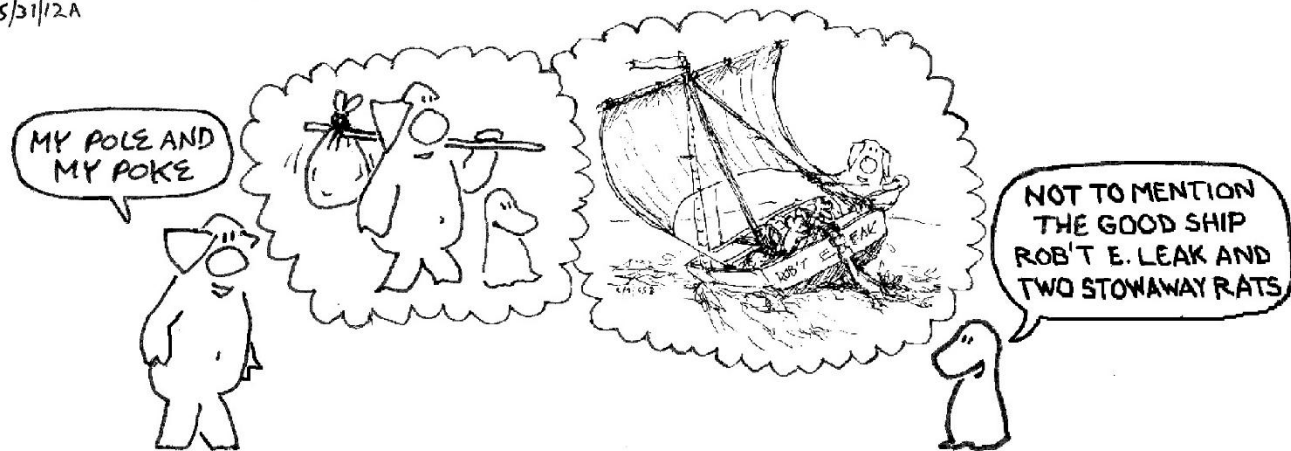
Tom beguiles Harry with talk of the Northern Lights, convincing him to set out cross continent to Alaska, provisioned only with his poke and pole.



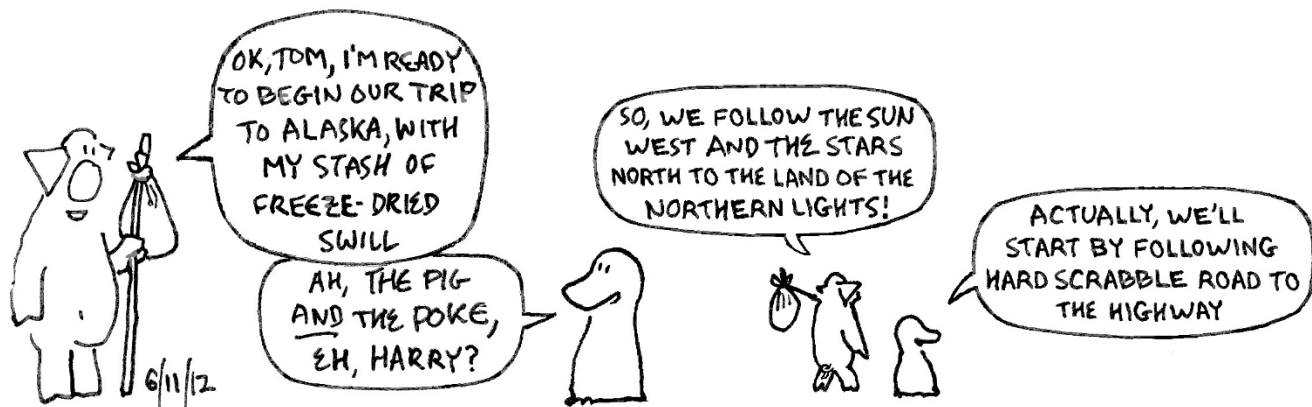
5/29/12B















WE'VE BEEN TRAVELING
A LONG TIME, TOM...
WE MUST BE NEARING
THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER
BY NOW

ACTUALLY, HARRY,
WE'RE STILL IN
OHIO

6/16/12

WOW, OHIO'S BIG!
THEN WE MUST BE
NEAR CINCINNATTI

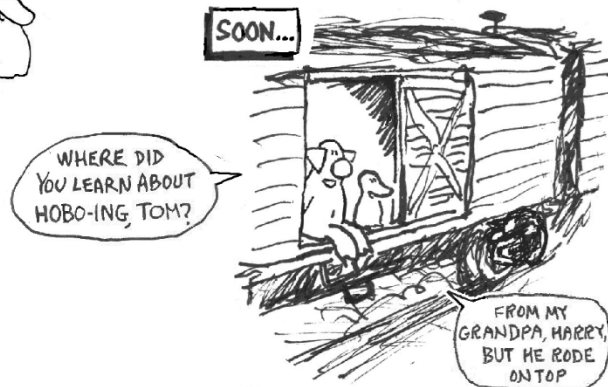
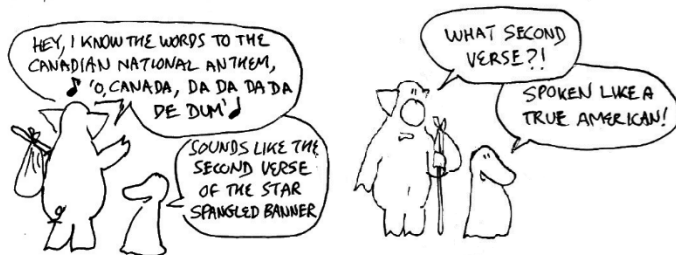
WE'RE STILL
IN SCIOTO
COUNTY

NEAR THE
HIGHWAY,
AT LEAST

STILL ON
HARD SCRABBLE
ROAD...



HAVE WE
LEFT THE
DRIVEWAY?

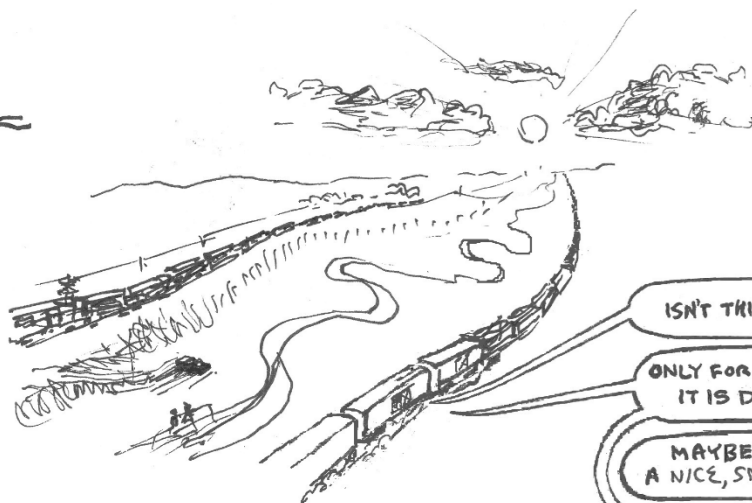


SO HOW DO WE
KNOW WHICH TRAIN
OR WHICH BOXCAR IS
GOING WHERE?

TO SOME EXTENT IT'S
LUCK, BUT WE ALSO WATCH
THE SUN, MOON, STARS,
AND TERRAIN TO FIGURE
WHERE WE'RE GOING



6/15/12



ISN'T THIS ILLEGAL?

ONLY FOR HUMANS, BUT
IT IS DANGEROUS

MAYBE WE CAN FIND
A NICE, SMELLY CATTLE CAR

IF WE'RE REAL LUCKY

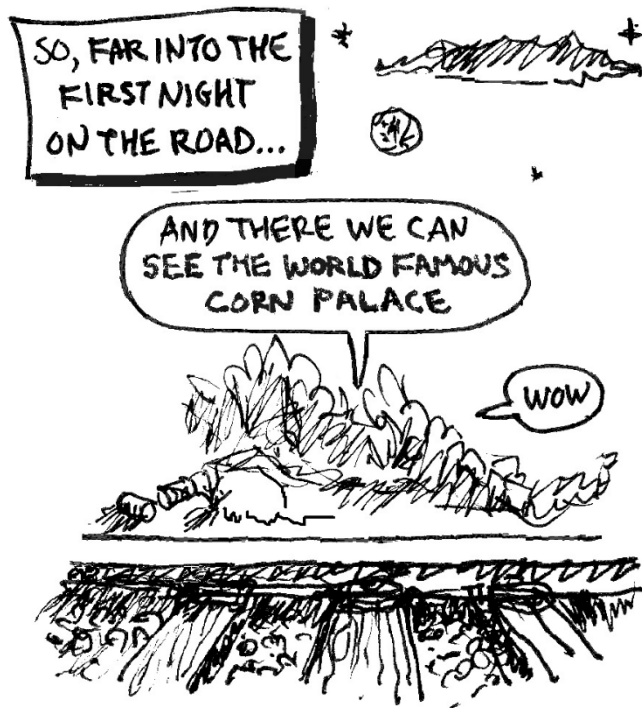


8/24/12
SUB FOR 6/19/12





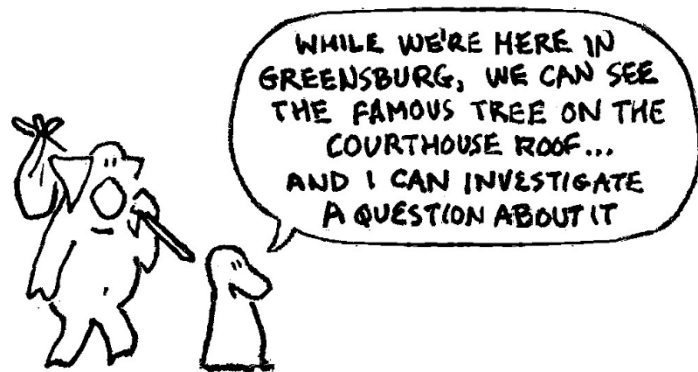
6/25/12



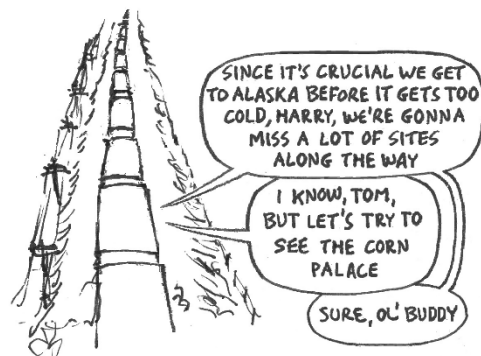
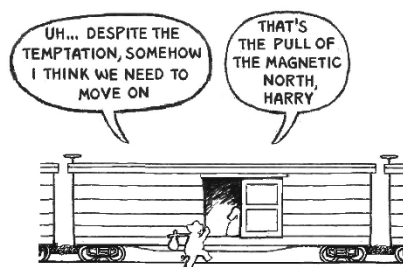
Day 2 – Into the Storm

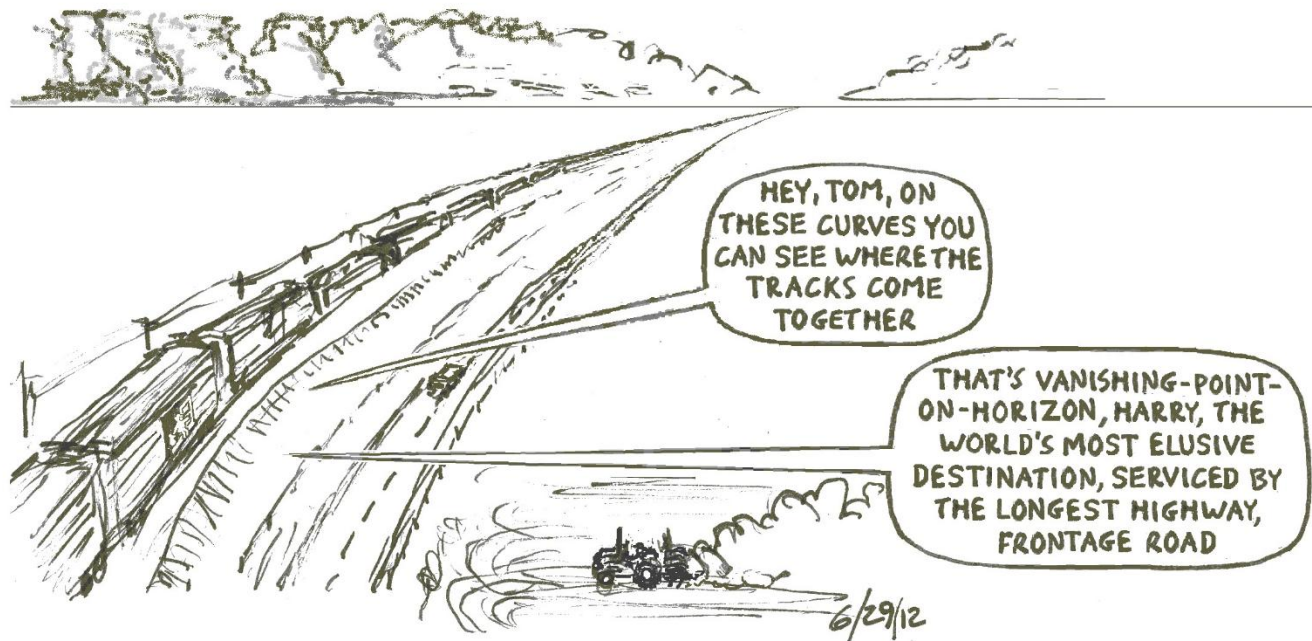
This day's train ride carries our travelers straight into an ominous line of thunderstorms fraught with precarious possibilities and engendering a dramatic rescue, all prior to the fall of night.

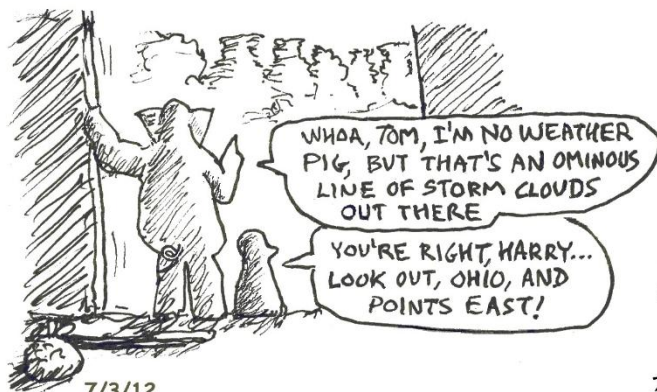




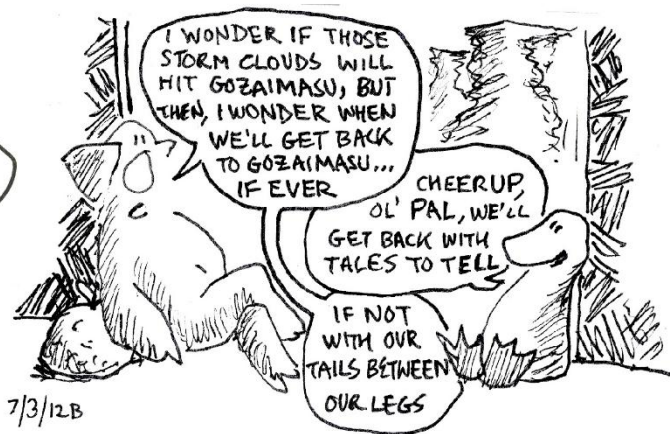






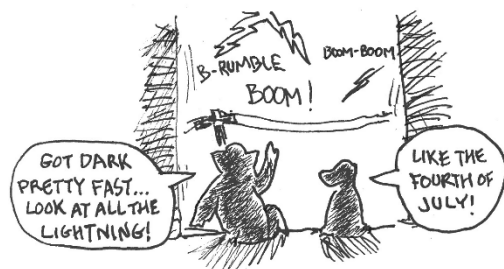


7/3/12

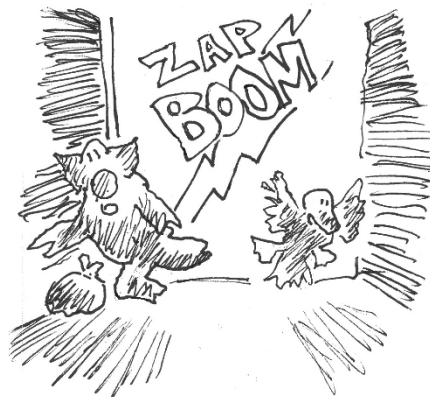


7/3/12B





7/5/12







Day 3 – The Rat Bat Underground

The road-trip crew starts to expand while encountering new dangers and pitfalls.

THE NEXT
DAY...

SO THAT'S
OUR STORY...
WHAT ABOUT
YOU?



NOT MUCH TO
TELL... OUT TO
SEE THE WORLD,
I GUESS



7/10/12

COULD YOU USE
ANOTHER COMPANION?
BESIDES, NOW THAT YOU'VE
SAVED MY LIFE, I NEED TO
RETURN THE FAVOR



WE WERE
ABOUT TO ASK
YOU TO JOIN
US...



AND,
HOPEFULLY,
WE WON'T
NEED ANY
SAVING



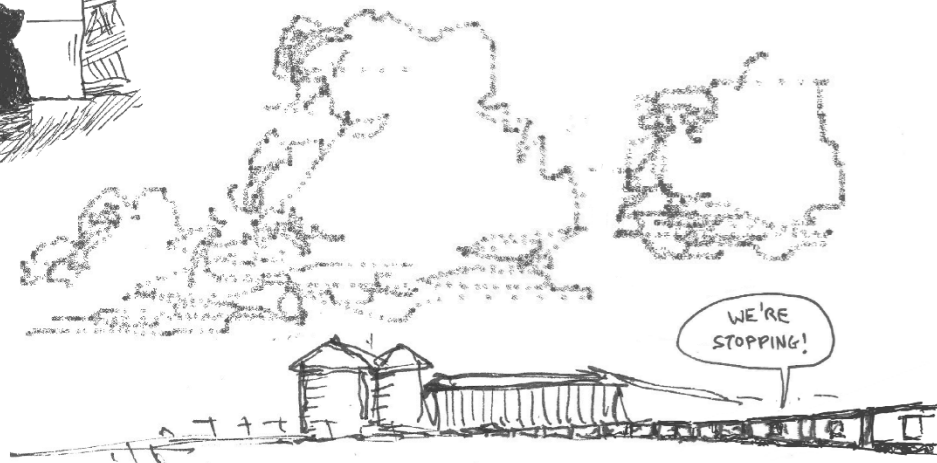




THE HOURS
AND MILES
ROLL BY...



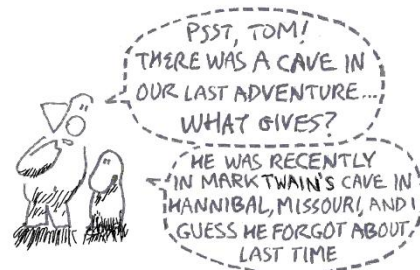
7/16/12



7/18/12











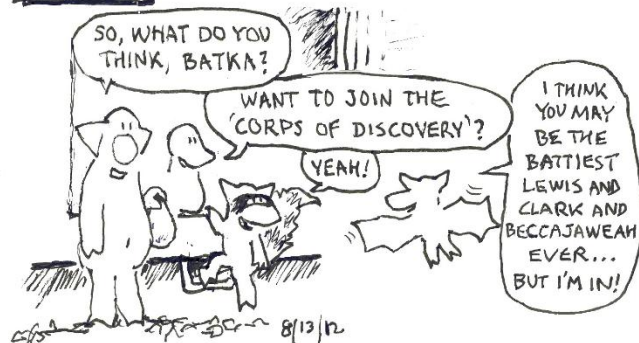


MANY PUNS
LATER ...

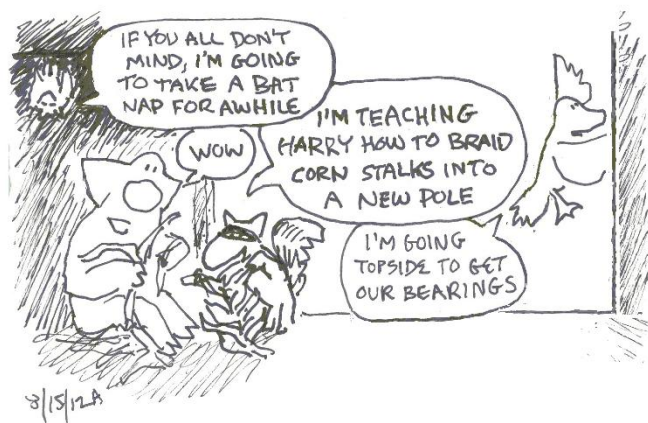


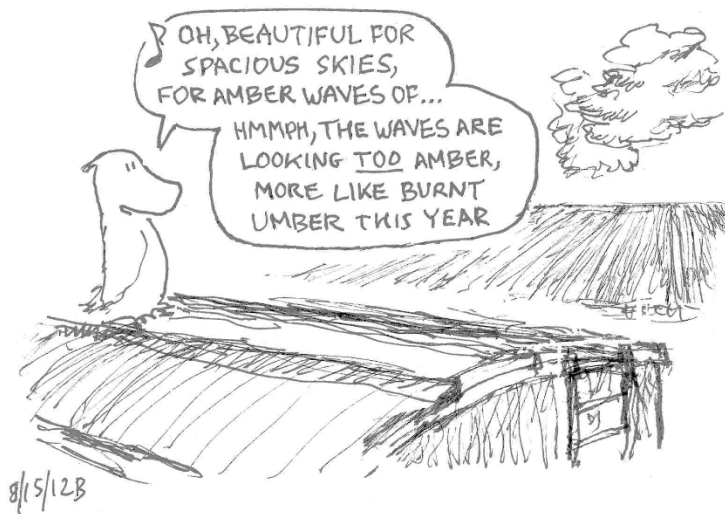
8/9/12

BACK TO
THE GRANARY

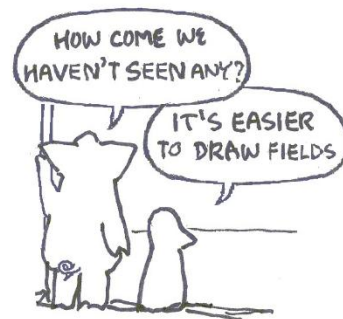
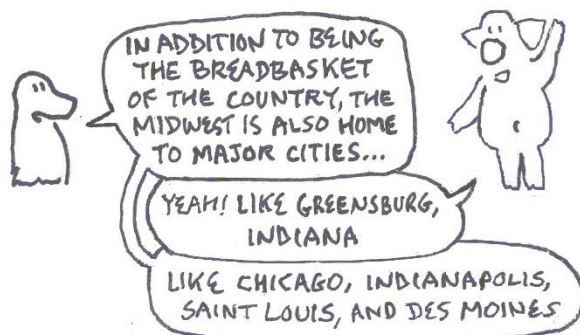
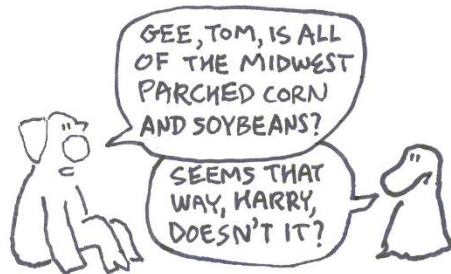


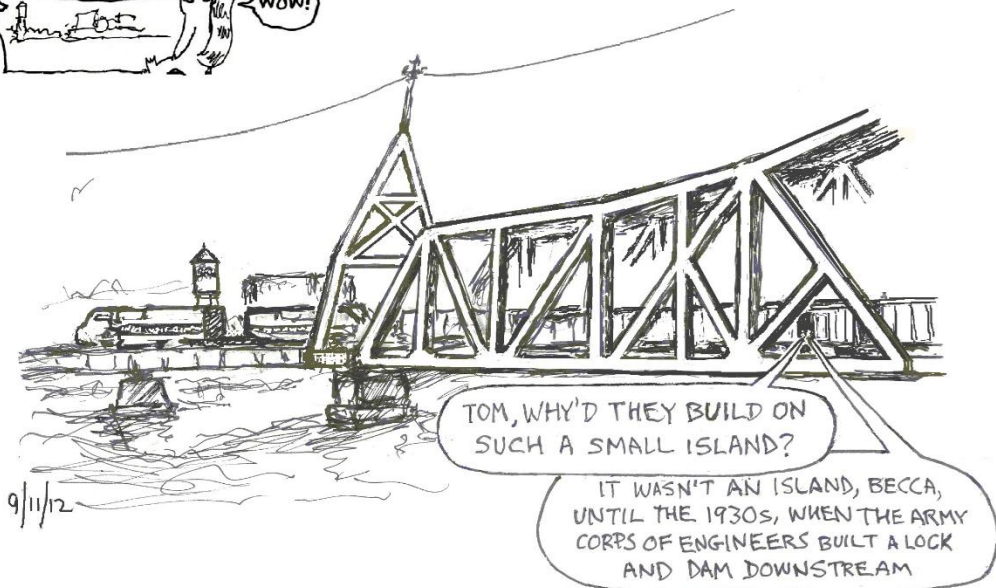
8/13/12

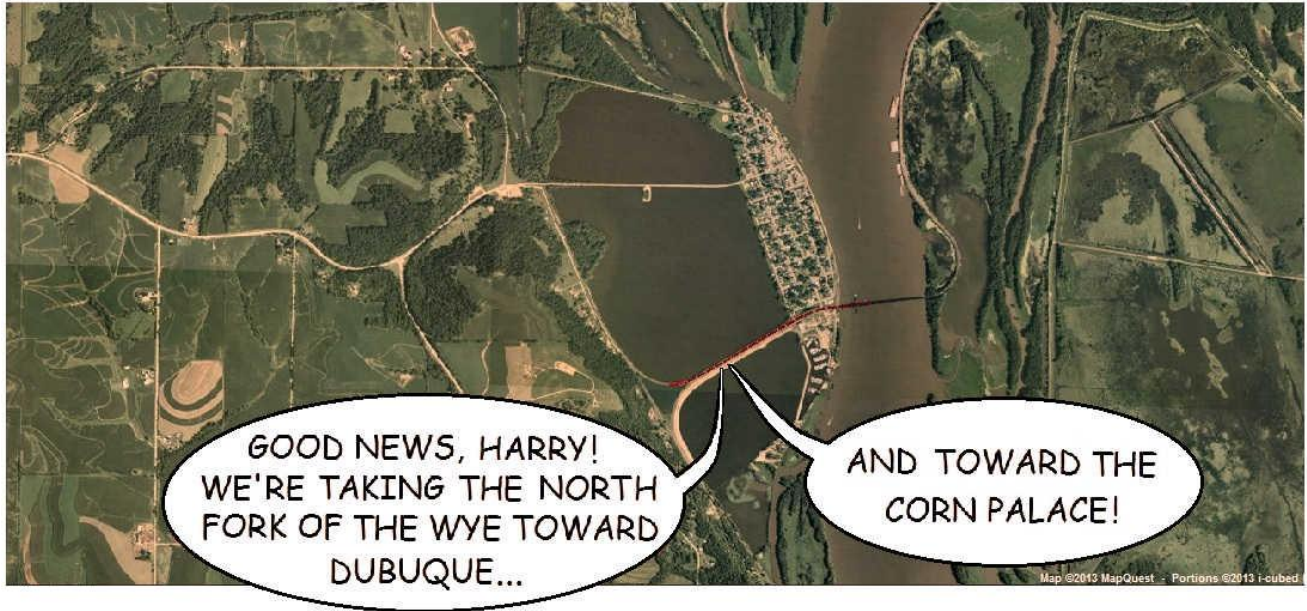










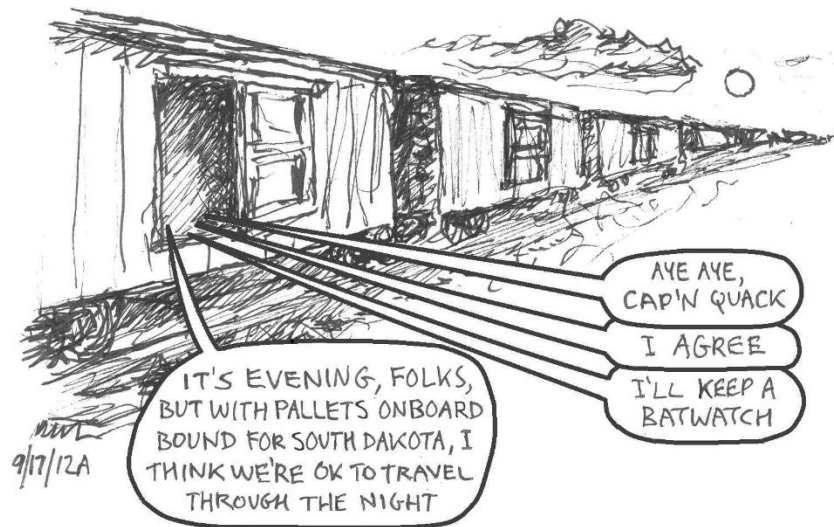


DEAR READER, PLEASE EXCUSE THIS INTERRUPTION:



"What we have here is a failure to excommunicate."

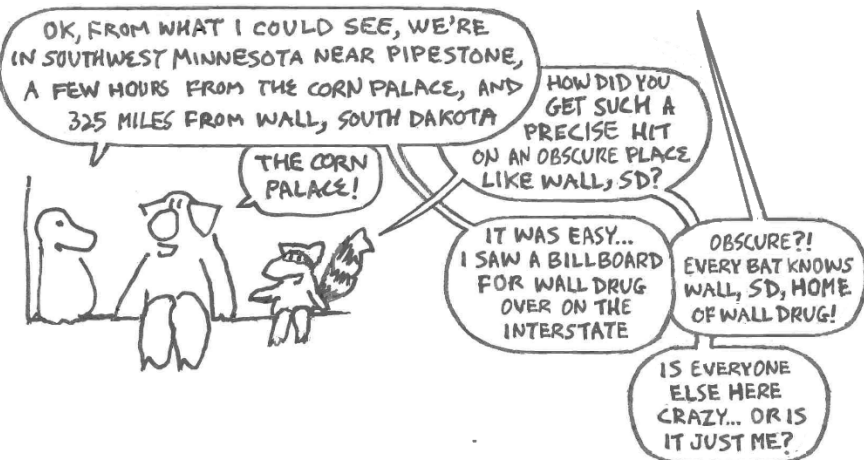
AS YOU CAN SEE, DEAR READER, THIS CARTOON WAS ORIGINALLY DRAWN IN 2012, THE ONCE AND FUTURE YEAR ON WHICH THE MAYAN CALENDAR STOPPED. IT HAS BEEN ASSUMED THAT THIS SIGNALLED THE END OF THE WORLD. SINCE APARENTLY THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN. HOWEVER, THERE IS ANOTHER EXPLANATION: SINCE THE CALENDAR IS A GLYPHIC OBJECT, THEY RAN OUT OF BIG FLAT ROUND STONES. THERE IS A SIMILAR EXPLANATION FOR WHY STONEHENGE IN ENGLAND WAS ABOANDONED: WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME, IT BECAME TOO DIFFICULT TO ROTATE THE STRUCTURE AN HOUR FORWARD AND AN HOUR BACK EACH YEAR.



Day 4 – The Corn Palace

A big question hangs in the air, not “Will they make it to Alaska?” but “Will they make it to the Corn Palace?”

Spoiler alert: If you read the name of this chapter, they apparently do.



SKRE-E-E-E...K!



9/17/12



TIME PASSES SLOWLY IN A
BOXCAR ON A RAILROAD SIDING

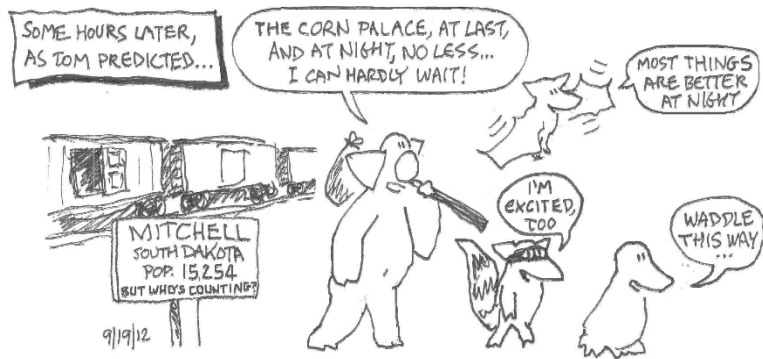
SO IT SCARED ME AS
A LITTLE PIGLET WHEN
MY MOM SANG 'ALONG
CAME A BLACKBIRD
AND NIPPED OFF HER
NOSE...'

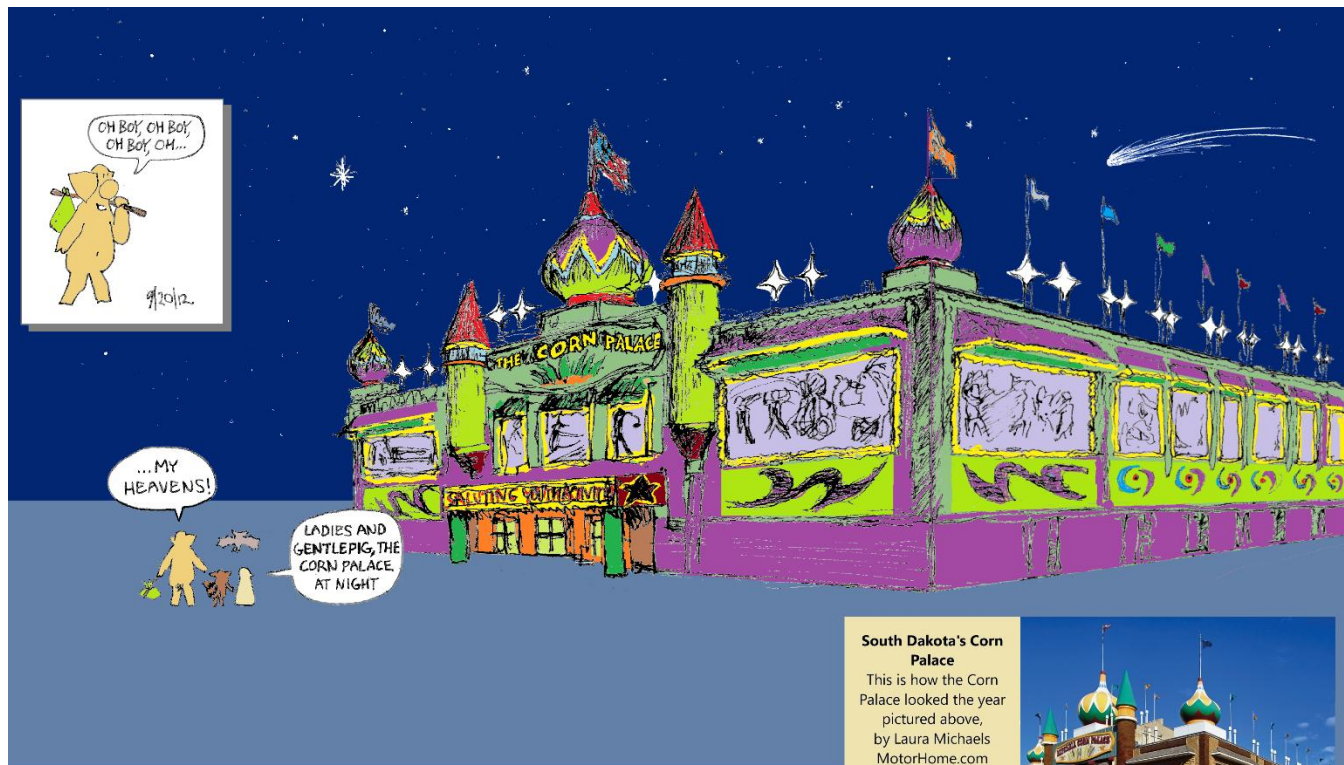
NOT TO
MENTION
BAKING THEM
IN A PIE!

YEAH! AND WHAT
ABOUT MARY'S
STALKER LAMB?

OR MISS MUFFET'S
ARACHNAPHOBIA? SPIDERS ARE
A GOOD SOURCE OF PROTEIN,
JUST LIKE CURDS AND WHEY

9/18/12





South Dakota's Corn Palace

This is how the Corn Palace looked the year pictured above, by Laura Michaels MotorHome.com August 3, 2012

<http://www.motorhome.com/motorhome-travel/south-dakotas-corn-palace/>



AFTER SOME TIME AND WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE, OUR TRAVELERS BID THE CORN PALACE ADIEU AND RETURN TO THE OPEN ROAD... OR RAILS

GEE, TOM, AFTER THAT DO WE STILL NEED TO SEE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS?

JUST WAIT, HARRY

SNAP!

YUM!

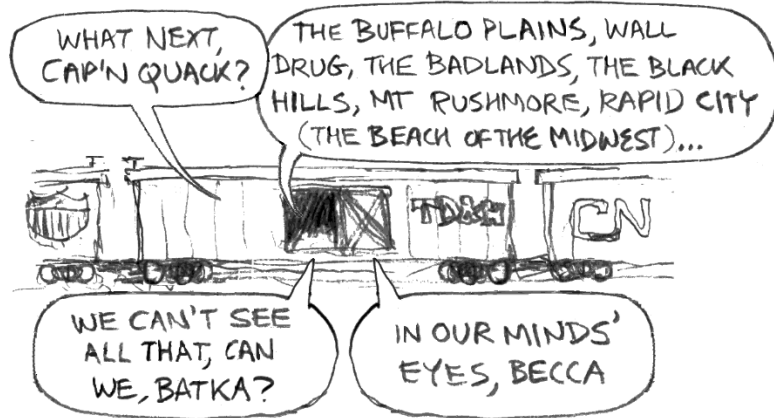
NICE CATCH, BATKA

9/25/12

HEY, TOM, IF THE DROUGHT IS SO BAD, WILL THEY HAVE ENOUGH CORN FOR NEXT YEAR'S MURALS?

I THINK SO, HARRY, BUT IN A PAST DROUGHT, THEY DID KEEP THE SAME MURALS FOR TWO YEARS

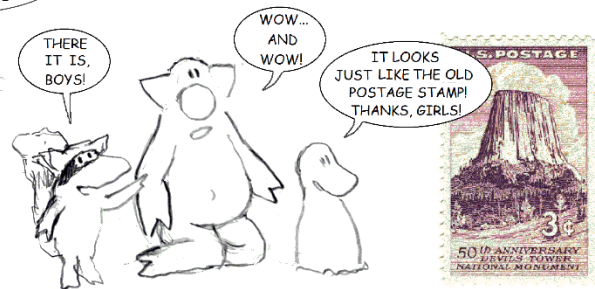
9/26/12



Day 5 – Devil's Tower and Beyond

The dawn's early light reveals Mato Tipila (Bear Lodge), otherwise known as Devil's Tower, on the plains of the buffalo, as our adventurers continue westward and northward.

BY THE DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT...







10/2/12



OH, GIVE ME A HOME
WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM...
AND I'LL NEVER GO
BAREFOOT AGAIN

WHERE'D YOU
LEARN THAT?

FARMER MAC
HAS A BEN CRANE
ALBUM

10/16/12B

I'VE GOT A SONG...
I RIDE AN OLD PAINT
AN' I LEAD AN OLD DAM,
I'M GOIN' TO MONTANA
TO THROW TH' HOOLIHAN...



ARE YOU SURE
YOU CAN EVEN LIFT
THE HOOLIHAN,
I'LL BUDDY?

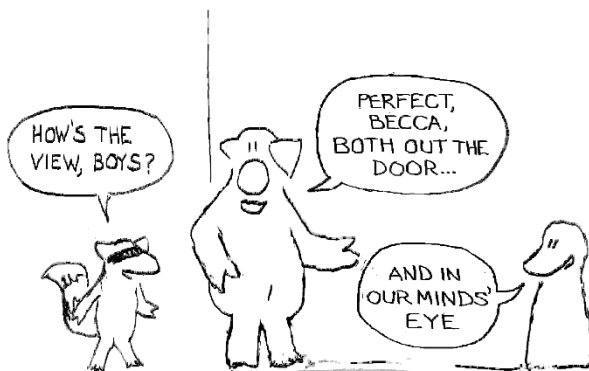




"LIKE LEWIS AND CLARK WE'LL
SEE 'MOUNTAINS BEYOND MOUNTAINS'..."



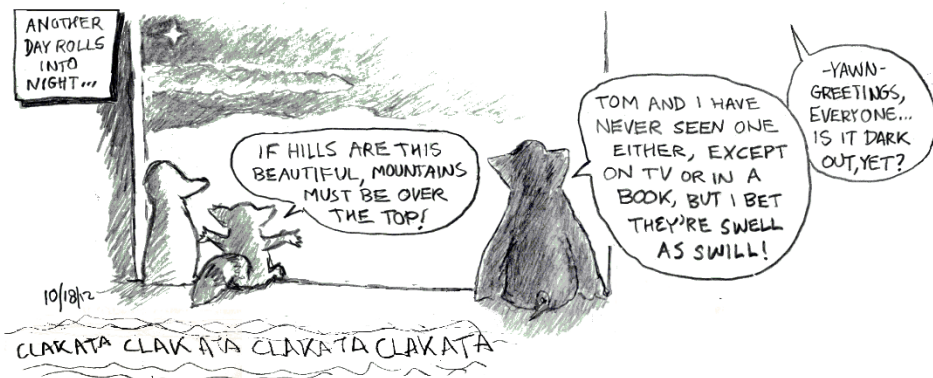
"SNOW-CAPPED PEAKS, GLACIERS AND ICE
FIELDS, MIGHTY RIVERS AND GREAT FALLS"







With apologies and thanks to the Marx Brothers and *Duck Soup*



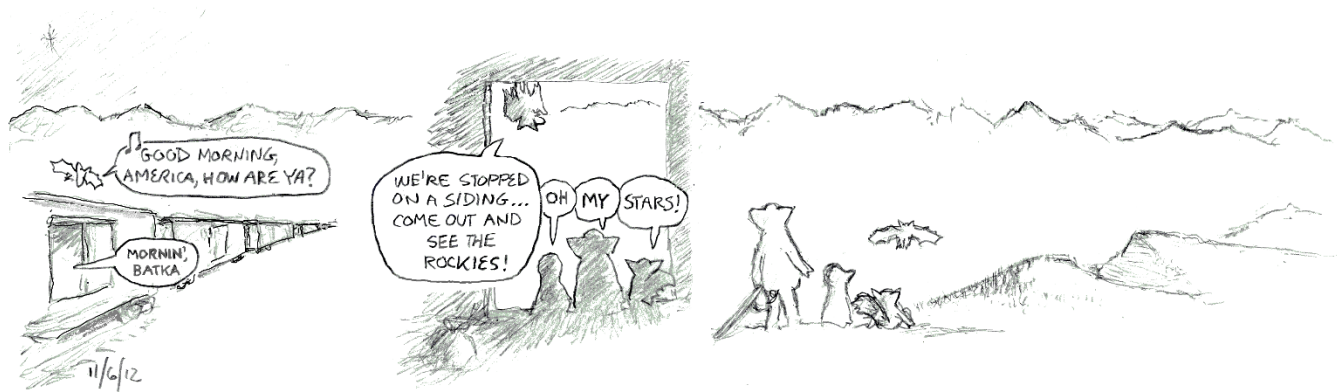


AND SO, ON
INTO THE
NIGHT...

CAN'T YOU HEAR THE STEEL RAILS HUMMIN'?
THAT'S A HOBO'S LULLABYE... ♪

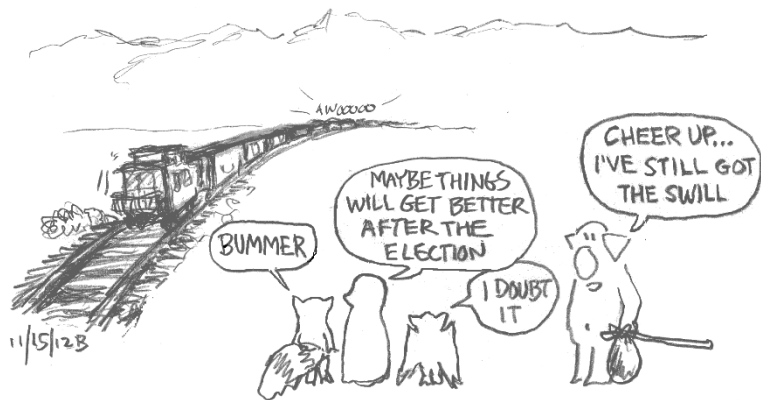
Day 6 – Good Night, Irene

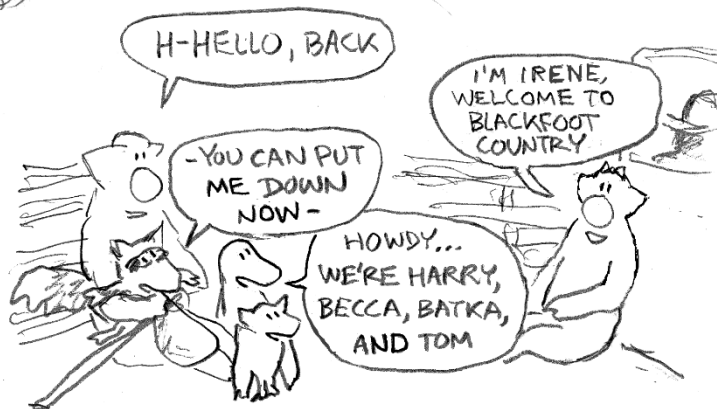
A day that starts on an incredible high note, Rocky Mountain high to be specific, followed by an un-trained low, continues with more ups and downs across the northern border.



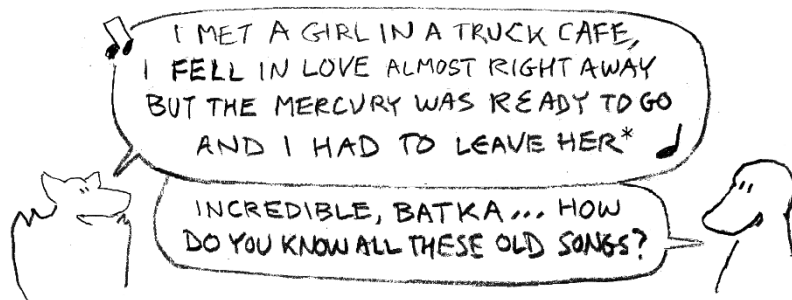




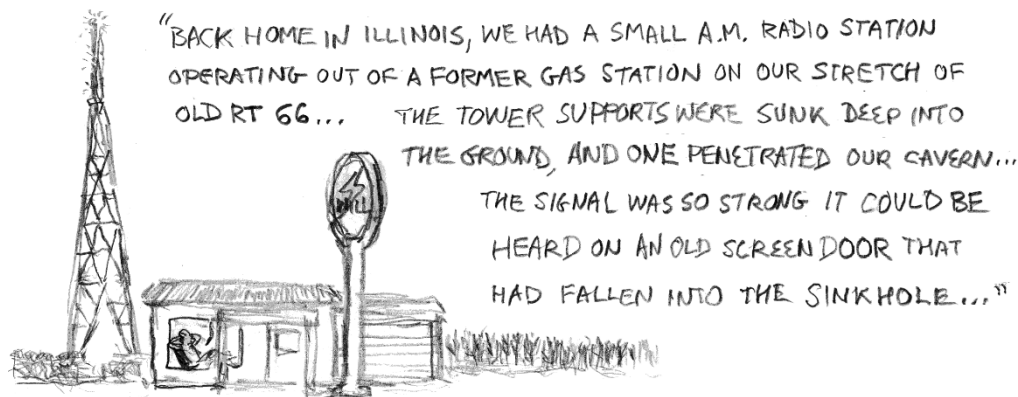








11/21/12 * "ON THE ROAD" BY CARL FRANZEN



WOW! THAT EXPLAINS A LOT AND
PROVIDES A CLEVER WAY TO INSERT
ALL KINDS OF INFO AND BACKSTORY
AFTER THE FACT

MAYBE WE SHOULD START
SCROUNGING UP SOME
LATE BREAKFAST



11/22/12

YOU GO,
GIRL!



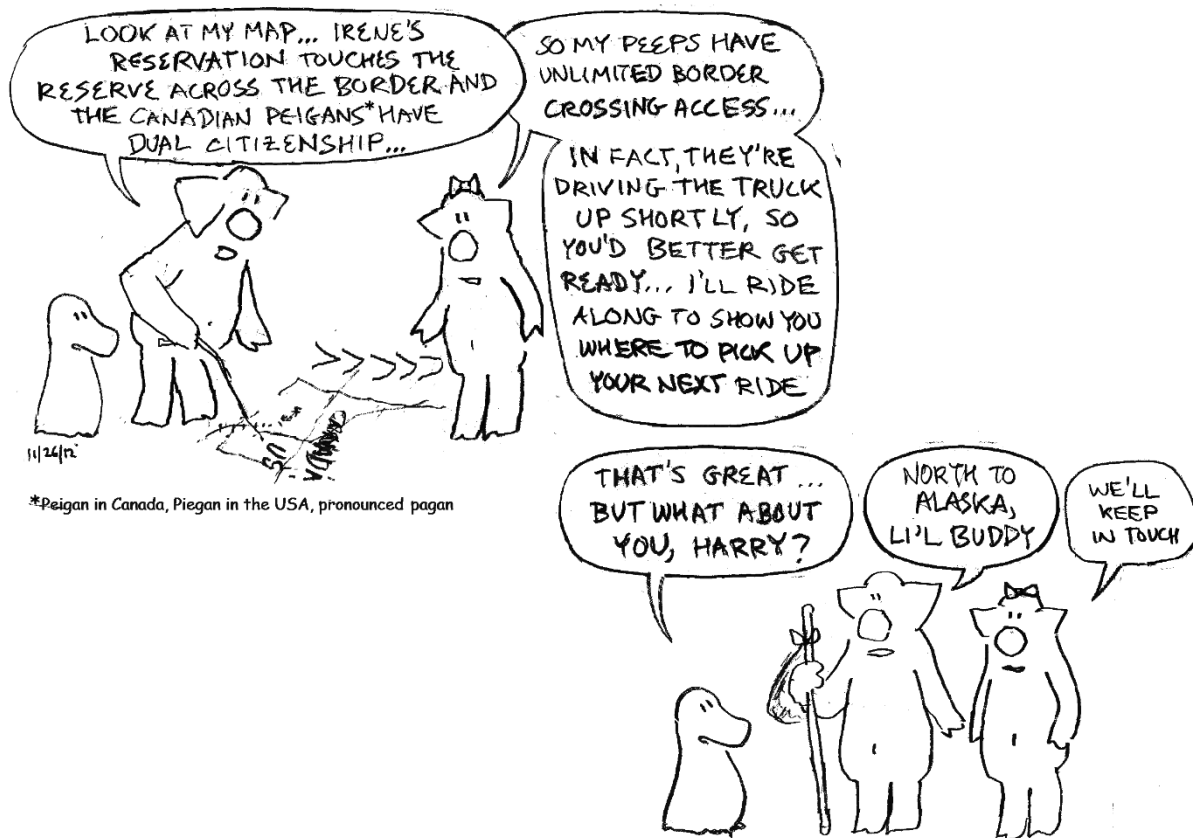
TOM! WE'VE GOT
SOME GREAT
NEWS!



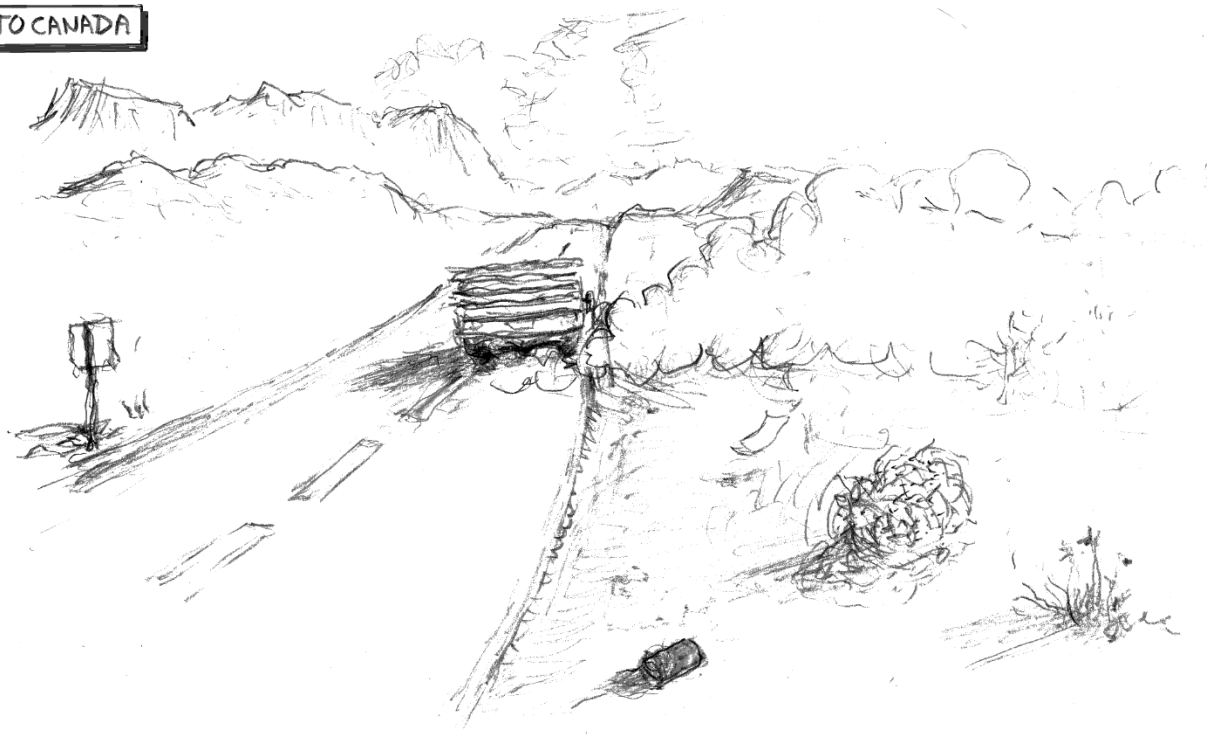
YOU'RE
ENGAGED?!



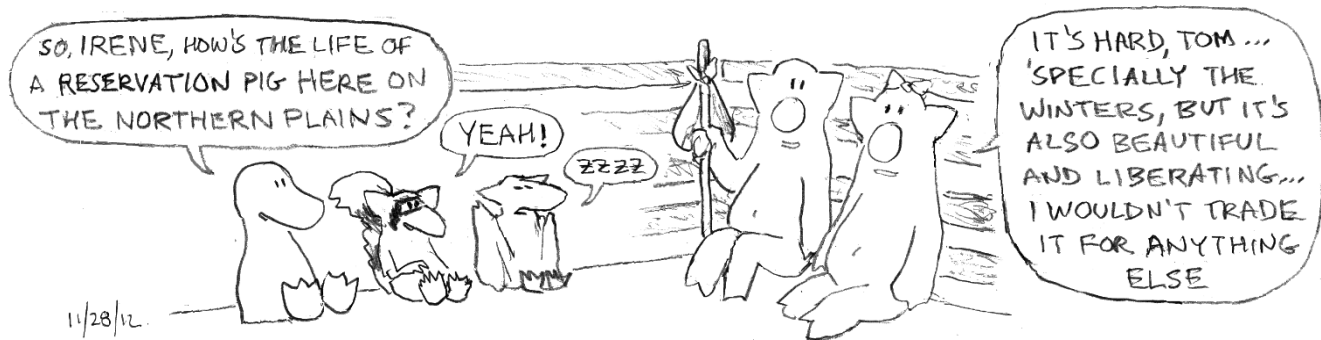
NO,
SILLY!



NORTH TO CANADA



11/30/12



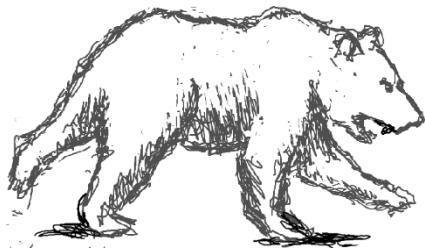
MILES ROLL BY...



12/4/12



"A GRIZ CAN HIT 30 MILES PER
HOUR IN A SHORT DASH"



12/5/12 - 4/4/25

Drawn from a photograph by George Sanker
<https://georgesanker.com>

"COULDN'T I CLIMB A TREE?"

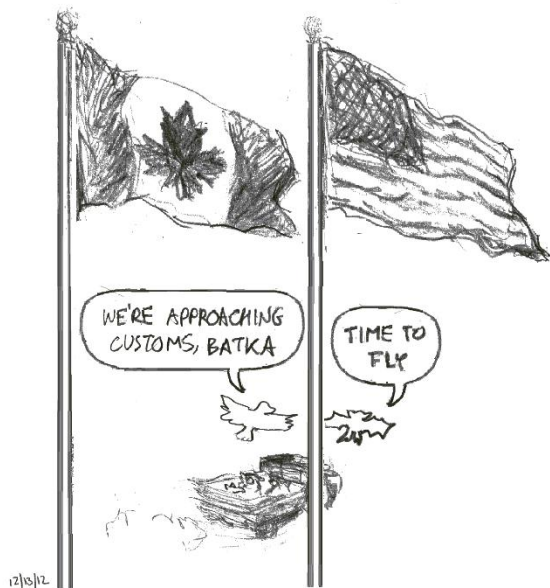


"EVEN IF YOU COULD FIND
A TREE, ANY SELF-
RESPECTING GRIZ
THIS FAR NORTH WOULD
JUST KNOCK IT OVER"

Drawn from a video image of a grizzly pushing a woman around in a box, apparently
from Japanese game show Sekai No Hatte Madde Itte Q!
<https://metro.co.uk/video/grizzly-bear-pushes-woman-cube-game-clip-1256091/>

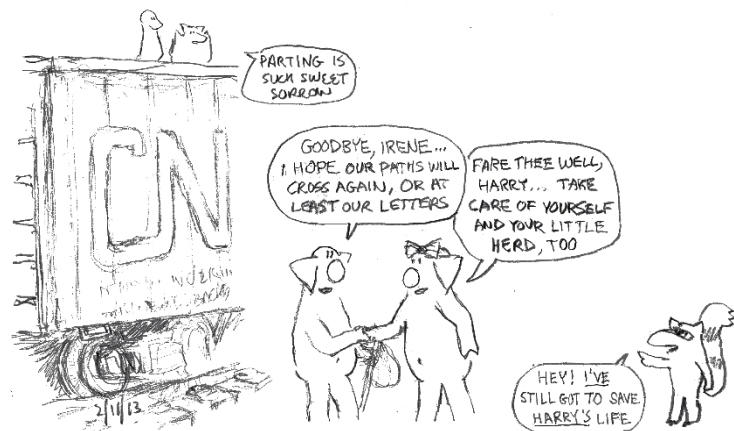




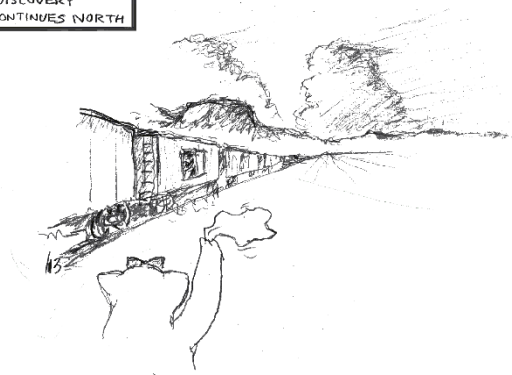








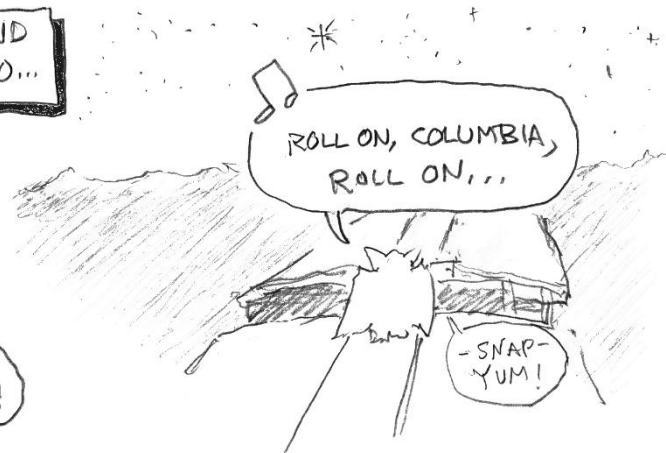
THE CORPS OF
DISCOVERY
CONTINUES NORTH







AND SO...



3/19/13

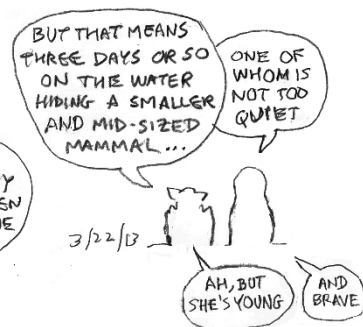


LET'S SEE...
THE NORTH STAR IS THERE ...
THE MOUNTAINS ARE RECEDING
A BIT TO THE WEST...
YUP! WE'RE CALGARY BOUND!

"WITH ANY LUCK WE'LL CATCH TRAINS PAST JASPER, UP THROUGH
YELLOWHEAD PASS, BY MOUNT ROBSON, PRINCE GEORGE, VANDERHOOF,
BURNS LAKE... WE COULD MAKE IT TO PRINCE RUPERT AND CATCH THE
ALASKA FERRY...! BUT HOW DO YOU STOW AWAY A PIG AND A RACCOON ON A BOAT?"



Map source http://www.photoscandata.com/gallery/british_columbia_photos/map_of_british_columbia_canada?full=1





3/25/13



* SEE 'THE FIRST ADVENTURE OF TOM DUCK AND HARRY' DAY 5



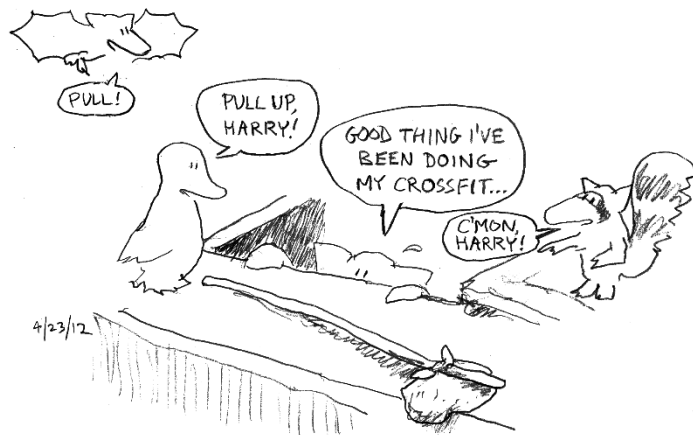
3/27/13

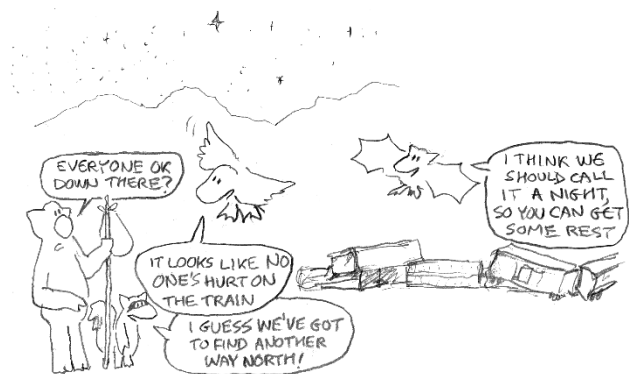






SKEERASH!!





4/23/12

AND SO...



4/24/13

BATKA OPENS A
CONNECTION...

BROTHERS AND
SISTERS, HEAR
MY CALL....!

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
WHAT IS YOUR QUEST?

-KNOCK OFF
THE MONTY
PYTHON, FRED-
WHAT'S UP,
SISTER?

5/1/13

... SO THAT'S THE
STORY

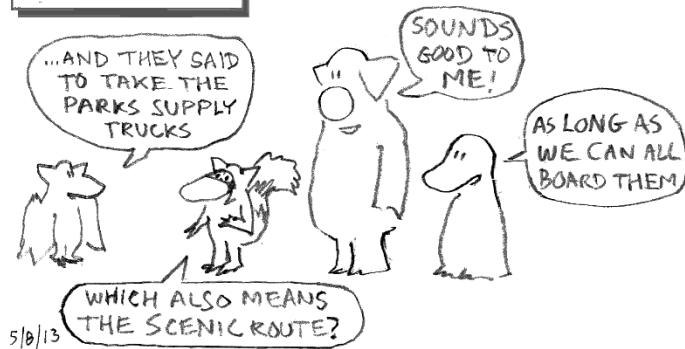
I'D SAY THE PARKS
SUPPLY TRUCKS...
VIA CANMORE

TAKE YA ALL THE
WAYE TO JASPER

Day 7 – Parcs Cananda

Unbeknownst to our travelers, for the foreseeable future, their means of transportation will continue to go back and forth between trucks and trains, even as they progress through varying circumstances and spectacular landscapes.

DAY 7... SOMEWHERE
SOUTH OF CALGARY









DO YOU
THINK WE
CAN RIDE
ON TOP?



5/22/13

THAT'S AN AWFULLY
SHORT BOX CAR!



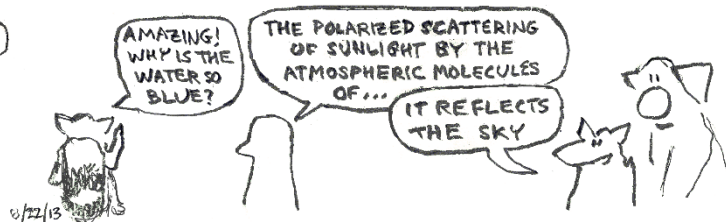
SO, BEFORE
TOO LONG...

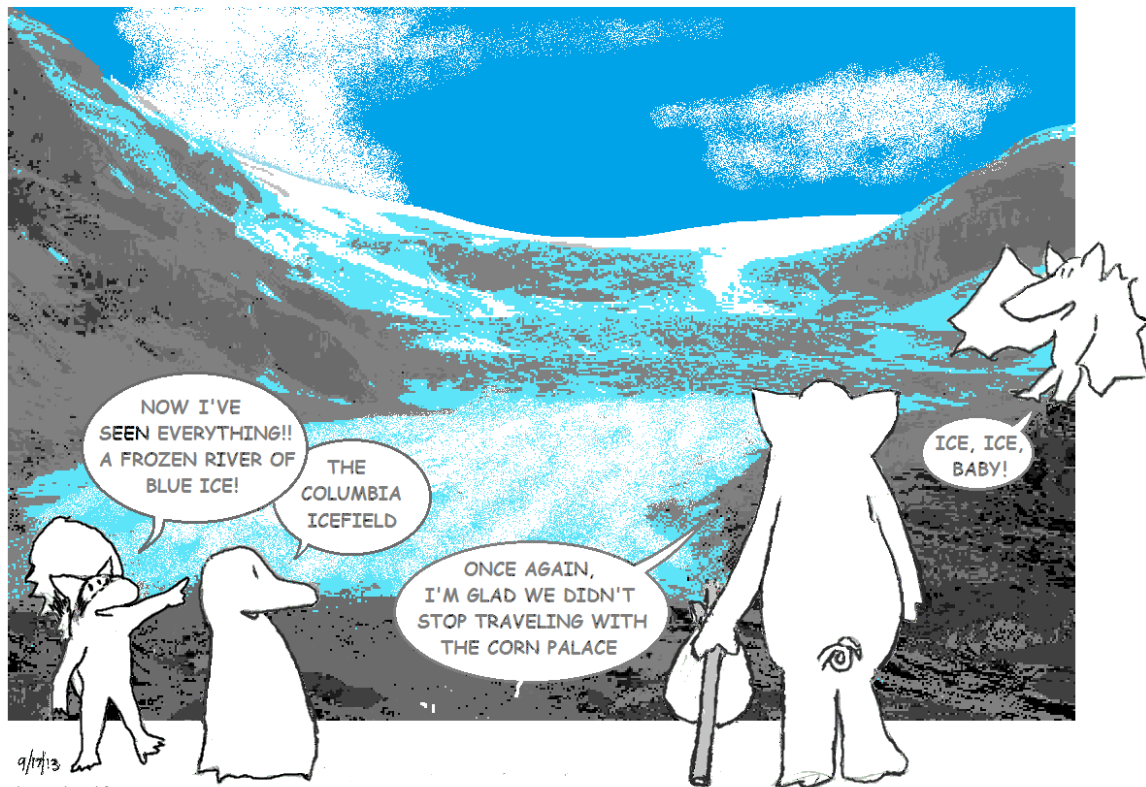
ON THE ROAD
AGAIN...



6/4/13

TRUE TO THE BATS' INFORMATION, THE NETWORK OF PARCS CANADA TRUCKS CARRIES OUR LITTLE BAND NORTHWARD ALONG THE ROCKIES, PAST SOME OF THE CROWN JEWELS OF ALBERTA...

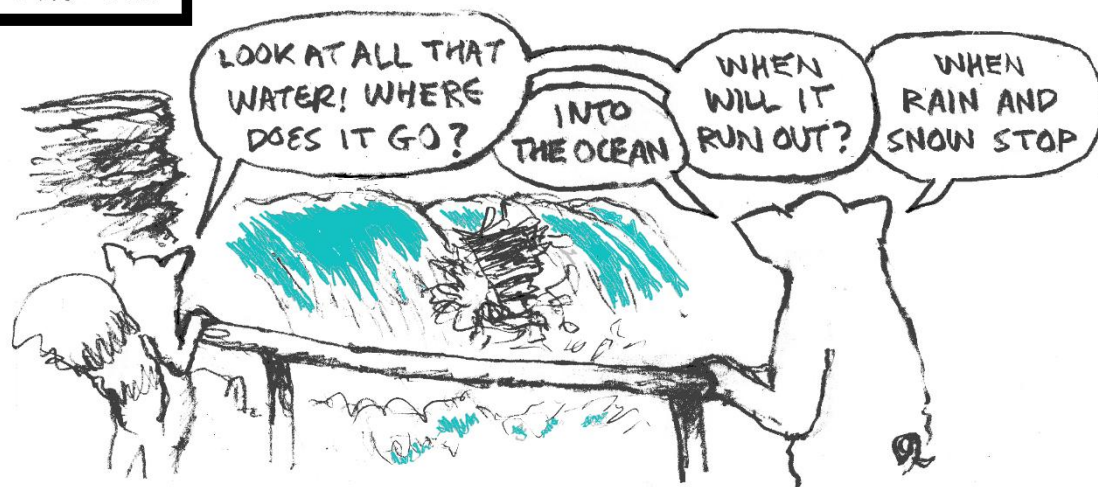




Picture adapted from

http://www.tripadvisor.com/LocationPhotoDirectLink-g154911-d186988-i46552175-Columbia_Icefield_Glacier_Adventure-Banff_Banff_National_Park_Alberta.html

ATHABASCA FALLS...



8/24/13





Day 8 – Their Bear to Cross

Morning finds the Corps of Discovery occupying a rooftop position with a commanding view of the surrounding, changing countryside but not of the interior of their boxcar, which is of far more importance at the moment.

THE SUN
RISES ON OUR
WESTBOUND,
ROOFBOUND
TRAVELERS



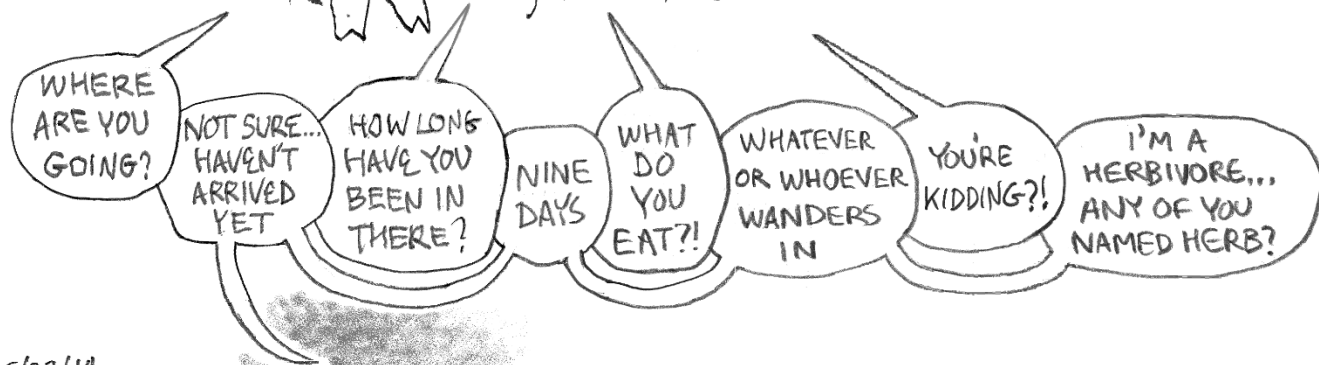
5/19/14

GRR·ROWLL!





THE BEAR
FACTS...

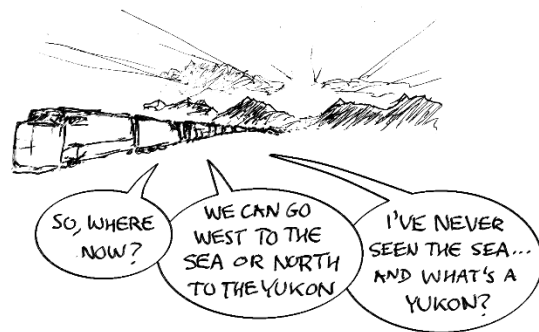


5/22/14

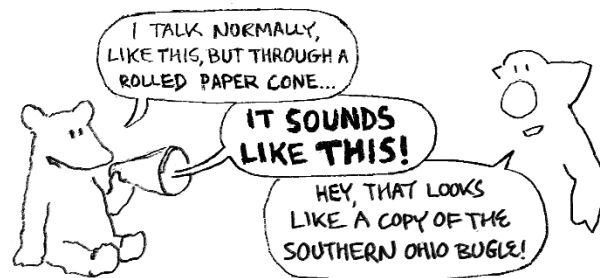
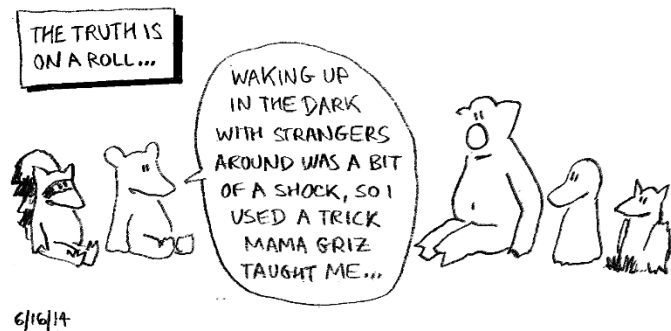
LET'S FORGET THE BEAR
FOR A SECOND...



4/8/15/14







NEWS FROM
HOME...

WOW, TOM! AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TEAM FROM THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
IS EXCAVATING PETERPAUL MOUND
NEAR GOZAIMASU...

WE'LL HAVE TO
DIG INTO THAT
WHEN WE RETURN
HOME, HARRY



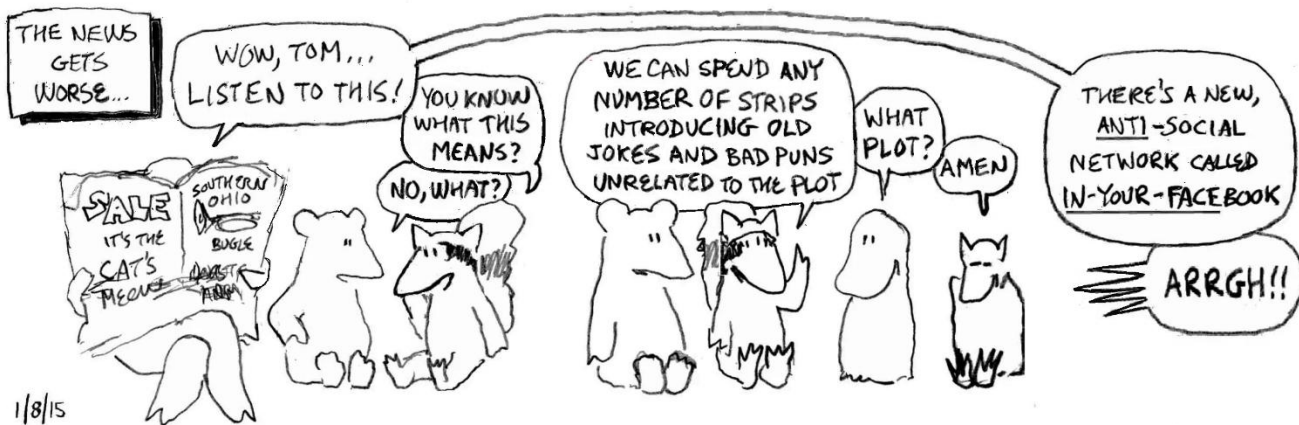
HOW CAN
HE READ A
NEWSPAPER?

HOW CAN
WE SPEAK
ENGLISH?

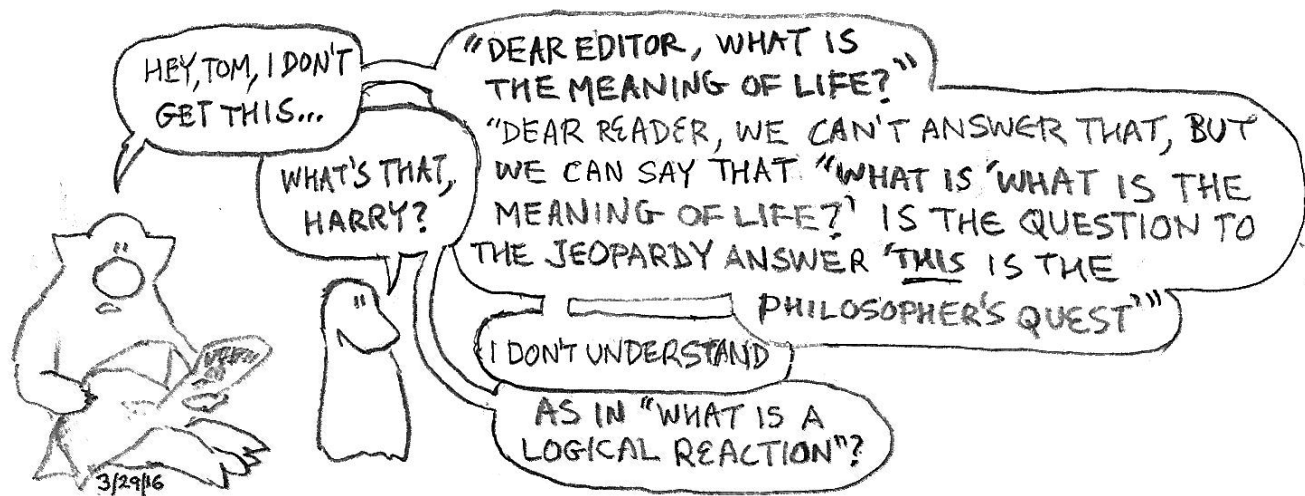
IS THAT THE
HOPEWELL OR
ADENA CULTURE?

WHAT ABOUT US
BACTERIAL OR FUNGAL
CULTURES?

8/27/14







BEFORE WE RESUME
OUR ADVENTURE, A
BRIEF WORD FROM OUR
SPONSOR, BAD PUNS...

YOU KNOW, TOM,
ENGLISH CAN BE
VERY CONFUSING

HOW SO,
HARRY?

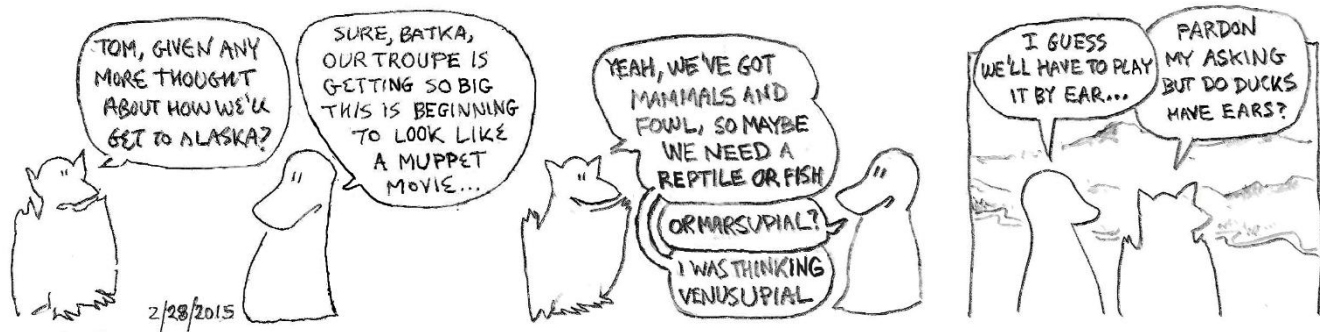
2/8/15

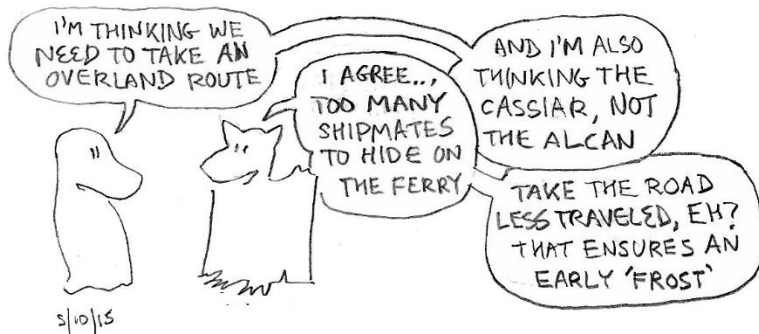
WELL, FOR EXAMPLE,
WHEN DO WE
'UN' AND WHEN DO
YOU USE 'DIS'?

LIKE, WHY IS
THERE BOTH
'UNCOVER' AND
'DISCOVER'?

WELL, MORE SPECIFICALLY,
WHY DO WE HAVE 'UNDER'
BUT NOT 'DISDER'?

OR MORE SPECIFICALLY,
WHY DO I ALWAYS LET
MYSELF BE SET UP?





AMID ALL THIS HIGH LEVEL
TALK, WE NEED TO KEEP IN
MIND THAT BASIC HUMAN
OR ANTHROPOMORPHIC
ANIMAL EMOTIONS ARE
STILL A FACTOR

HARRY, DON'T
WORRY...
WE'LL GET
BACK TO
GOZAIMASU,
SOMEDAY

I KNOW, TOM...
I GUESS I'M JUST
FEELING A
LITTLE SAD

SOMETIMES
TRAVEL MAKES YOU
FEEL THAT WAY

YEAH, ESPECIALLY
AROUND SUNDOWN
IN A NEW PLACE

Day 9 – North on the Cassiar

“Proceed north on Highway 37. In four hundred forty-nine miles, turn left at the stop sign onto the Alaska Highway...”

With the recommendation of their grizzly companion, Tom and Batka have decided to travel north by way of the Stewart-Cassiar Highway as the overland alternative to the water route, the ferries of the Alaska Marine Highway System. The Cassiar, farther to the west, parallels the north-south stretch of the normal route, the Alaska Highway.

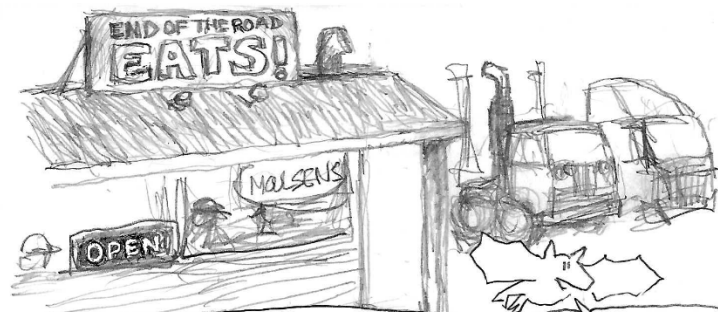
OUR ERSTWHILE BAND
RIDES THE RAILS
THROUGH THE NIGHT AND
THE MINITROPOLIS
OF PRINCE GEORGE
AND MICROTROPOLI OF
VANDERHOOF, BURNS
LAKE, SMITHERS,
AND BEYOND, UNTIL ...



6/6/15 (71ST ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY) REVISED 4/25/25

* "CARRY ON" BY AND WITH APOLOGIES TO CROSBY, STILLS, NASH, **AND ESPECIALLY YOUNG





SO NOW WE JUST NEED
TO FIND A TRUCK HEADING
NORTH UP THE CASSIAR

THEN IT'S WEST
TO ALASKA !!

WITH ANY LUCK
IN A FEW DAYS...
BUT WE COULD GET
TO ALASKA, LITERALLY
IN A FEW HOURS,
ON THE SPUR
TO HYDER



WITH ANY LUCK IT
WON'T BE MONTHS
BEFORE THE NEXT
POSTING...

OR WILL BE
BEFORE MY SACK OF
FREEZE-DRIED SWILL
RUNS OUT!

SO, MORE MILES AND
MILES OF MILES AND
MILES... THIS TIME
ON THE BACK OF A
TRUCK HAULING WATER
PIPE UP THE CASSIAR



HARRY, DID YOU EVER
HAVE SOMETHING YOU
WANTED TO TELL
EVERYONE?

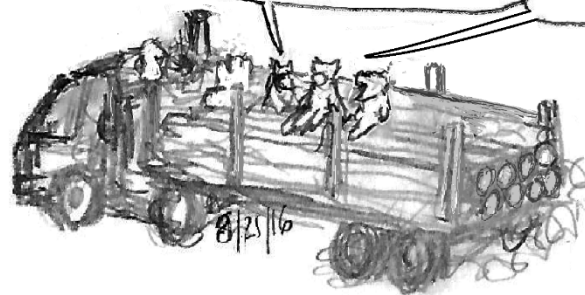


7/31/16



OTHER THAN TO USE
ENGINE BRAKING ON
ICE, BECCA, I'VE
NEVER HAD ANYTHING
PROFOUND TO SHARE...
WHY DO YOU ASK?

BACK HOME IN
INDIANA, I THOUGHT
I HAD A LOT TO SAY



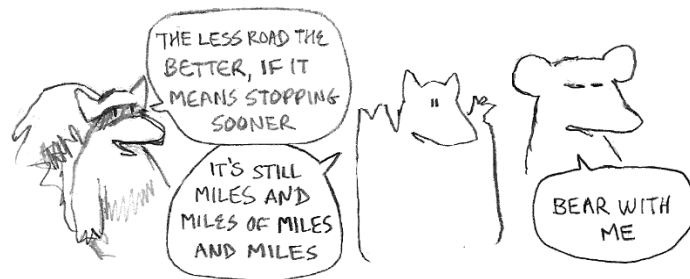
8/25/16

SO WE
NOTICED

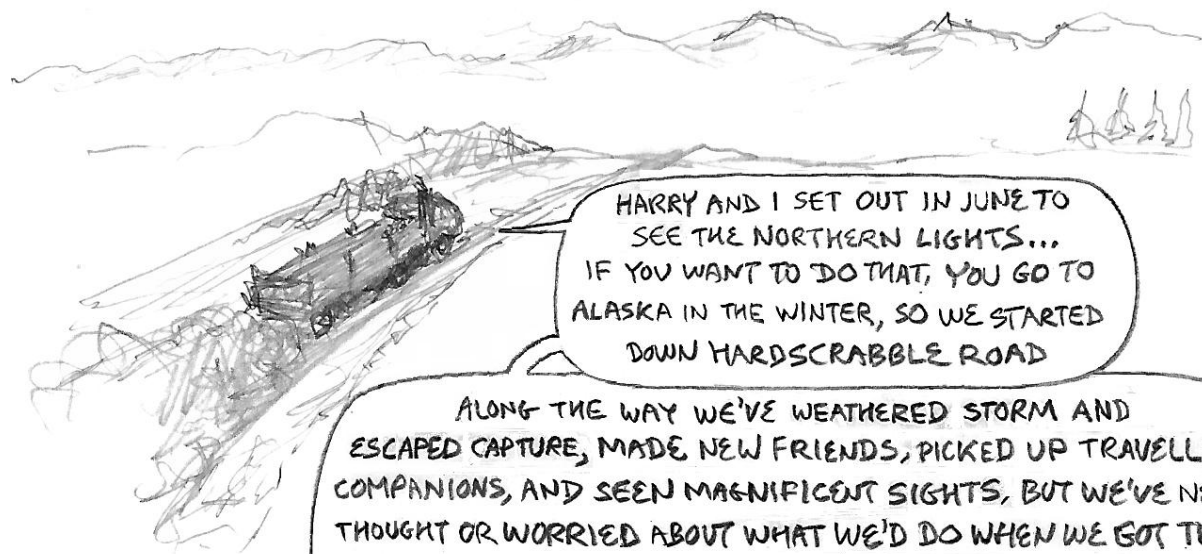
BUT NOW
I'M NOT SO
SURE

THAT'S A
GREAT LESSON
FOR ONE SO YOUNG

THANKS... I THINK







HARRY AND I SET OUT IN JUNE TO
SEE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS...
IF YOU WANT TO DO THAT, YOU GO TO
ALASKA IN THE WINTER, SO WE STARTED
DOWN HARDCRABBLE ROAD

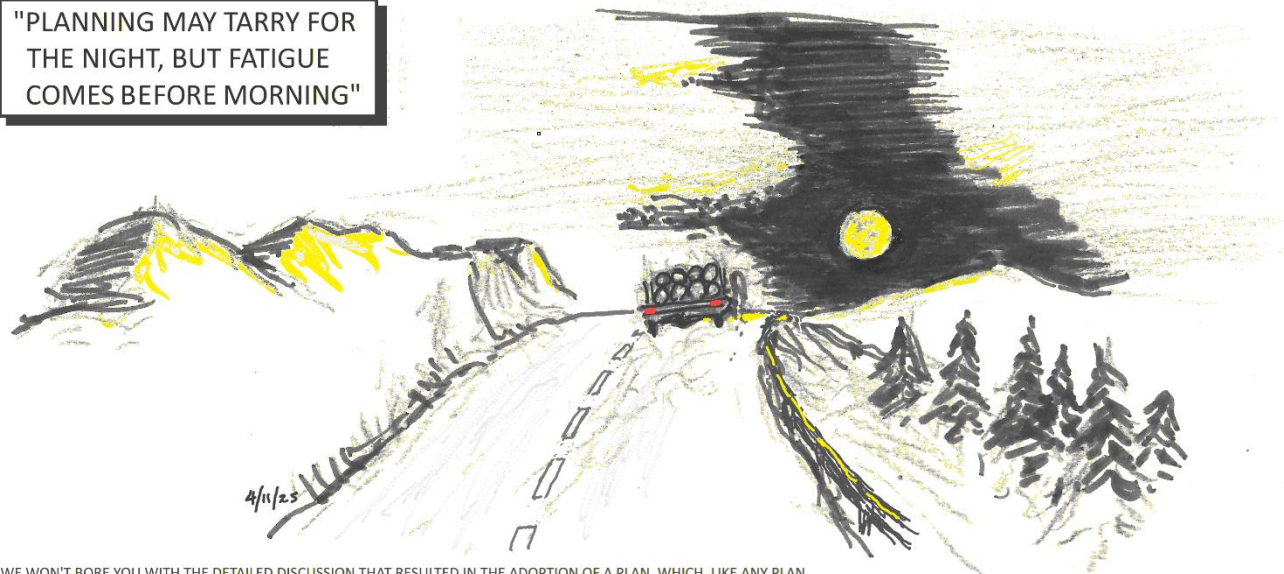
ALONG THE WAY WE'VE WEATHERED STORM AND
ESCAPED CAPTURE, MADE NEW FRIENDS, PICKED UP TRAVELLING
COMPANIONS, AND SEEN MAGNIFICENT SIGHTS, BUT WE'VE NEVER
THOUGHT OR WORRIED ABOUT WHAT WE'D DO WHEN WE GOT THERE,
CALL IT FAITH OR RELYING ON DUMB LUCK, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT...
WE NEED TO HAVE A PLAN IN MIND, SO LET'S PLAN!





VISIT US AT TOMDUCKANDHARRY.COM
OR IN PRISON, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST

"PLANNING MAY TARRY FOR
THE NIGHT, BUT FATIGUE
COMES BEFORE MORNING"



4/11/23

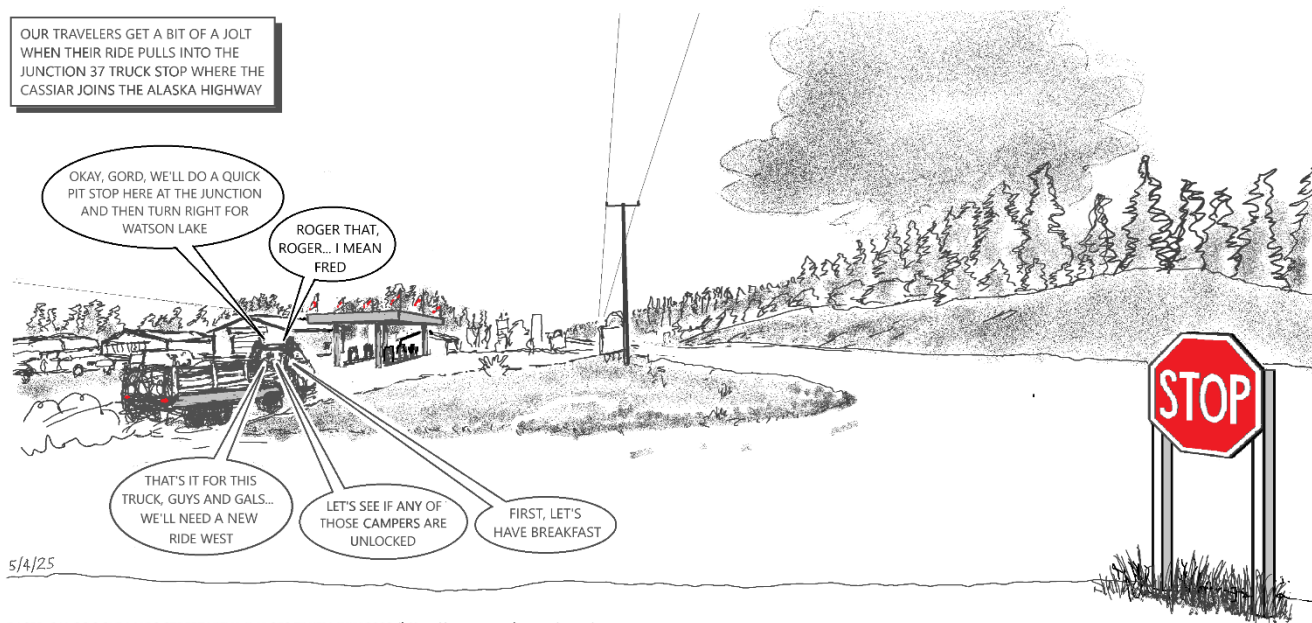
WE WON'T BORE YOU WITH THE DETAILED DISCUSSION THAT RESULTED IN THE ADOPTION OF A PLAN, WHICH, LIKE ANY PLAN ABOUT TO BE EXECUTED ACROSS AN UNKNOWN, UNFORGIVING LANDSCAPE, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY NEVER SEE FRUITION. AFTER ALL, THE CARTOONIST BARELY KNOWS WHAT MAY COME IN THE NEXT STRIP!

Day 10 – Westward in the Yukon

The previous day's directions, "In one hundred forty-nine miles, turn left at the stop sign onto the Alaska Highway..." assumes our roving band can find a ride in the right (meaning left) direction.

NOTE: The previous drawing of the truck proceeding up the Cassiar at night was the first new addition to this story in four and a half years. As we proceed west toward Alaska, this cartoonist still has no idea how, when, or even if they'll get there, what they'll do there, and how and which of them will get back to Gozaimasu. Bear with us, or more likely the bear soon won't be with us, as each strip starts with a blank sheet and little or no premeditation, which has been the story since this adventure started in 2012.
- DM, 4/25/2025

OUR TRAVELERS GET A BIT OF A JOLT
WHEN THEIR RIDE PULLS INTO THE
JUNCTION 37 TRUCK STOP WHERE THE
CASSIAR JOINS THE ALASKA HIGHWAY



5/4/25
BASED ON GOOGLE MAPS STREET VIEW IMAGES TAKEN JULY 2009 (<https://www.google.com/maps>)

OUR DISPLACED YOYAGEURS TAKE A STEALTHY LOOK AT THEIR PREVIOUS RIDE AS IT PREPARES TO TURN EAST, BUT PERHAPS FORTUNE HAS PRESENTED THEM WITH A NEW OPPORTUNITY IN A DUMPSTER FULL OF CAST-OFF HOCKEY UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

OKAY, FRED,
WE'RE TOPPED
UP AND READY TO ROLL...
HMMM, THERE'S SOME TURKEY
FEATHERS BACK HERE

TURKEY?!

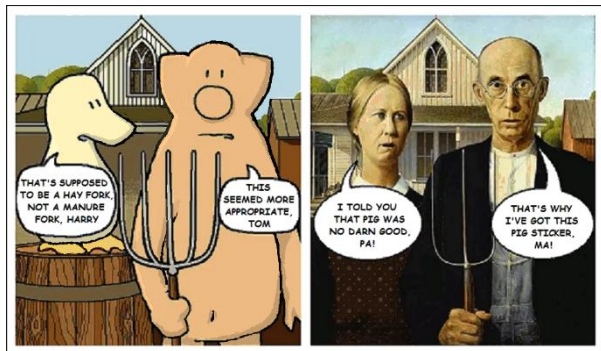
IT'S TIME WE LOOK FOR
ANOTHER TRUCK TO HEAD WEST,
OR AT LEAST SOME FORM OF
TRANSPORT WE CAN SAFELY HIDE
YOU THREE LARGER MAMMALS

WE MAY NOT
NEED ONE...

THEY'VE GOT
MY NUMBER!



Want More Tom Duck and Harry?



Check out their website, *Tom Duck and Harry: Ohio Gothic* (<https://tomduckandharry.com>), with additional Tom and Harry features, such as 150 daily and single-panel strips in *A Tom Duck and Harry Sampler*; *The First Adventure of Tom Duck and Harry*, 164 graphic pages of weird, wonderful, and dangerous occurrences; *the history of Gozaimasu, Ohio*; and other comic strip backstory and trivia.

If you want *less* Tom Duck and Harry, there are major non pig-duck sections, including the following:

- Our Alaska cartoon books: *Too Far North* and *Living Too Far North*
- *Physics Cartoons for Photonics and Quantum Mechanics*
- *The Duck Blind, Where Mess-cellany Lurks* – odds and ends, mostly odds
- Wacky website policies and other metadata
- *The Marmaduke Files*, setting the record straight on that comic strip
- *A Return to the Dark Ages of One and One Half Wits Dot Com*

The Critics Rave/Rage about *The First Adventure of Tom Duck and Harry*

“A stunning *tour de force* among graphic novels!... Oh, I thought you were asking about the latest volume of *Bone*. In that case, a *tour de farce*.”

— *Rolling Stonehenge*

“We waited twenty years for him to finish posting this?!”

— *Journal of Idiotology*

“Thank goodness comic strips can’t be published on Audible!”

— *Audiobooks Review*

“The humor and story line are dubious. The artwork looks like it was executed on the cartoonist’s lap while riding the bus or subway.” [editor’s note: It was]

— *Washington Postage Book World*

“How come the *Rob’t E Leak* keeps changing size?”

— A reader in Ms Finley’s 3rd grade class

“Pork filled... a disgusting abomination!” — Elon Musk