



Sullivan MO Wedding Trip Notes - Colin and Chelsea August 17-20, 2018

Headlines

- Nephew Colin, Sister Beverly's youngest son, is getting married to Chelsea in the boonies of Missouri. Well, boonies according to a City Girl. Lovely area south of St. Louis.
- Bittersweet because we lost Beverly's oldest son in March.
- Both nephews Chad and Colin had been my hiking buddies so there were extra tears shed.
- Tom had a Koi Pond emergency and couldn't go at the very last minute.
- Interesting touring for me.



The St. Louis 8 1 8 1 8 wedding

The St Louis area wedding date is 8-18-18 or 8 1 8 1 8 works forward or backward.

This trip is for sister Beverly's youngest son, Colin, and his longtime partner Chelsea. Colin had been grandson Joseph's travel companion with us for a few of their younger years and later for a couple of trips he was my hiking buddy.

Interesting! The Most Popular Day for a 2018 Wedding

<http://time.com/money/5369594/americans-will-spend-more-than-1-billion-on-weddings-this-weekend/>

Or cute and lasting: 32 Times Dogs Dutifully Helped Their Owners Tie The Knot

https://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/us_5b6df56be4b0530743c9df35?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TheMorningEmail_081718&utm_content=TheMorningEmail_081718+CID_b3230ad474d87bfc26f325ac2e84c5e2&utm_source=Email+marketing+software&utm_term=dogs+dutifully+helping&ncid=newsltushpmsgnews_TheMorningEmail_081718

The cutest wedding guest award goes to ... the dogs. 🐶🏆

Weddings are, by nature, happy occasions, but you know what adds even more joy to an already joyous day? Dogs. Some brides and grooms simply can't imagine tying the knot without their beloved pup at their side. And lucky for these couples, dogs are always happy to help, whether they're there as a flower girl ring bearer, or just another well-wishing family member. See 32 photos of wedding pups that will warm your heart.

Surely Colin and Chelsea's little Mallory Jane (later learned to be Mallory JoAnn after grandmother's middle names), who is about 14 months old, will top them all. I'm on the case! Photos coming up as

I have a Friday evening rehearsal dinner and then Saturday is the wedding. I'm told little Mallory Jane is walking down the aisle with the maid of honor.

A sad part of the story that you may prefer to skip: The family event is somewhat bittersweet in that Chad, Beverly's oldest son, chose to leave us in March. He was near 40 years old and in his short life he likely put more into it and made more friends and had more impact on the living than many people's longer lives. The memorials for him were impressive. At the wedding forum there is an area with framed pictures of those who were in heaven instead. Chad's picture is from our hike in Montana's Beartooths.

New subject. I'm on my way - alone. Tom had to stay home babysitting the Koi pond. The day before departure our pond developed a serious leak causing loss of more than half the water. I often had nightmares expecting to find the fish flapping in the bottom of the pond and this was almost that. The morning of departure found at least two fish expired and the rest gasping for air.

Adam and Tom have a plan but equally are concerned that the closing up of the one leak will reveal still another. These ponds date back to 1989 and are with EPDM liners that have 20 to 30 year life spans.

Carry on! I didn't really mind leaving Tom with the problem since there was nothing I could do anyway. He was able to drive me to the airport and then report back that he had safely "buried" the dead fish.

I'm never happy to be flying out of terminal A because that means tiny little United Express aircraft. But the club lounge in terminal A has been renovated and it is bright and cheery and the best experience of clubs for a long time. The attendants in the club told me that they are building a new club in terminal C in the location of the pop up. Also that there is a problem with the new Polaris Lounge in that there's a lot of wasted space and thus it too has had crowding problems. They also have been short of workers.

Ugh. One should never take a last flight. If the trip is important it is good to add a day or two to the start. The flight prior to mine going to St. Louis went out on the runway and returned to the gate. My flight already had standbys. Those on the aborted flight without priority status are likely to have a couple day wait.

Maybe that is why the gate area is jammed but it is also because it is in the end of the line / hall where they have multiple gates in a small space. But me? I did quite fine. So far.

The little town of Sullivan is about 4 miles from the wedding for him. The hotel choices are limited but we had upgraded our comfort inn room to a suite which helps. I'm spoiled. The town also was limited in shopping to a giant Walmart and lots and lots of fast food eateries. I found a teeny grocery store in the town at Bourbon Missouri that was part of a true value hardware store. That seem to be all there was. It included package liquor sales which seemed an odd combination.

Continuing on. I drove the farmlands and found the wedding forum. It is unique in that it is within farmlands. It is sweet in that it covers everything from dormitory rooms for the wedding party to a bridal suite. Beverly and Carl had arranged for the rehearsal dinner where I was introduced to Chelsea's huge family. The food was good and the company was comforting but after one glass of wine and a nice dinner I was pretty much out of it so left early. I hadn't been up since 5 AM. The food was good and the company was comforting but after one glass of wine and a nice dinner I was pretty much out of it so left early. I had been up since 5 AM.



This is the Midwest after all and wouldn't you expect to find liquor in a hardware store? It works. It was in Bourbon Missouri One of this sweet little tiny towns I drove through.

Beverly and Carl at the rehearsal with granddaughter Micah Jane and little granddaughter Mallory JoAnn.

Chelsea and Colin at rehearsal. Yes it was hot but it was August 18, 2018.

Micah and Mallory will be part of the wedding ceremony. It will be interesting to see if Micah can corral Mallory. They couldn't control the growth of a little one however and Mallory's wedding dress was grown out of the wedding so last minute shopping was needed.



Mallory has a lot of wonderful caretakers. This is Julie, Chelsea's mother, and then Janice and her daughter also take care of Mallory, and Beverly drives to St. Louis once a week to serve a couple days also. It is heartwarming to see so much family togetherness. Well Mallory benefit? Probably so. Lots of good food to include pulled pork and barbecue sauce and green beans with bacon bits. My having second helpings can't be good but was enjoyed.

The seemingly happy couple. We can only hope they still are after 50 years. This August Tom and I celebrated 50 years together.

Beverly & Carl hosted the rehearsal dinner and Beverly had spent a chunk of the day putting up a memorial and decorating the table.



These pink ribbons were from my mother's supply.
 Pictures of the framed pictures.
 Albert and Eileen Waite's wedding picture. My parents.
 Beverly and Carl's wedding picture with our parents.

Would you like to see a picture of Tom's and my wedding? I think not. Smile. It was at a justice of the peace in El Paso Texas next door to a bar. We found someone in the bar and a patrolman to be witnesses. We had run away from Las Cruces New Mexico to El Paso thinking no one would know we got married. (it was not fashionable in those days to live together prior to marriage so we just had told everyone we were married). Alas. A sergeant in Tom's office happened to be reading El Paso announcements and we were caught.

And on that "funny" I should probably stop but remind you despite no real wedding, despite no wedding rings, we are still happily here 50 years later. We can hope for that for Colin and Chelsea.

Missouri Tourist Day

What kind of a great-aunt am I? I even had to ask if the great-aunt term was correct after receiving the following:

Oops! It's Mallory JoAnn: a combination of Grandma Julie and Grandma Beverly middle names- thus JoAnn. Yes, they liked this date: every day this week is a palindrome: 8/12/18, 8/13/18....pretty cool.

Just as bad are all the errors I allowed Siri to make on my behalf.

After konking out early after the rehearsal dinner, I was up early for breakfast, met a few of the wedding party, had some time with Beverly, and then onto being a Missouri tourist.

I often think how the world is flat. Most everywhere I visit I think that I could live there. Here too. Yet there are differences and surprises in Missouri - listed here in no particular order or with no opinion whether good or bad.

- They drive fast. Even faster than the much higher speed limit I am used to. They also drive bigger and older cars than I am used to.
- There are billboards everywhere and they are not only informative but entertaining.
- Trucks (and huge trucks at that) seem to be everywhere. New Jersey doesn't have trucks of that size and our Garden State Parkway doesn't allow trucks at all. So I felt a bit overwhelmed on the highway.
- The area and the land expanse goes on and on. As far as you can see in some areas. You can tell I come from the most densely populated state of New Jersey.

- There are more hills, and more greenery, than I am used to. Yet I'm told this is their second year of serious drought. Cattle farmers like Chelsea's father are now having to purchase hay for their livestock.
- The people are mostly bigger, and looser (as in no exercise and or poor diet or both) and it's frightening what is going to happen to our medical system as they age.
- Radio stations have country music whereas in my East Coast area I'm sorry we lost all of our country stations. Yes, I am a big fan.
- Churches abound. They are often times in big barns or big airplane-hanger looking buildings. There are a lot of trailers and supply sheds too.

Touring. I went to Bourbon, and to Cuba, and I drove around St. James marveling at its historical look, and then ate in a lovely family type restaurant that would be at home in any big city. Sybil's in St James - <http://www.sybills.com/>

Chelsea had once worked at Sybil's and her many-member family has a farm and all live in the town of St James. I was barely into the restaurant until the hostess told that three of the wait staff had taken the evening off to go to the wedding and coincidentally one of them waited on me.

I went by a lot of vineyards to include wineries with the largest seeming to be in St. James.



You may be surprised to know that Cuba is on the original route 66 by way. And near to here is one of the oldest stops on the Route 66. Mural City was an understatement.



Missouri hick barbecue has been featured on the Travel Channel and said to have garnered some of the listings for top barbecue in the country.

Sybil's restaurant and gift shop in St. James where they all seemed to know Chelsea and three employees would be at the wedding this evening.

Don't you think the cat is even better than a welcome mat?



Yes! Chicken livers coming up. I don't know why the pictures got fuzzy but after wine so did I.

Then a fruitful shopping trip in the gift shop.

The 8 1 8 18 wedding



My sister Beverly with her two granddaughters.

With husband Carl

Carl's parents who have been married 74 years.

The two granddaughters ready to walk the aisle of the wedding party. Micah corralled little Mallory quite efficiently.

Chelsea with her father



Chelsea's family were there en mass as were many local friends. This is the Greeson contingent minus Carl's parents



Game playing was cute except it had to happen before we were allowed to dance. Smile. I hope no one was taking pictures then . . . I had a good time.

From Sullivan to Hermann to St. Louis.

I started with an early breakfast despite not turning my light off till almost 2 AM. There were plenty of people in the breakfast room talking about their blisters or sore bodies and there were probably equal numbers who never made it to breakfast. Some would eventually make it out to the gift opening party. I was bent on being a tourist. Exploring.

Hermann is primarily a wine region that produces about a third of Missouri's wine. There are at least seven wineries and many have been built by German immigrants. The entire town takes on the architectural look and feel those Germans brought with them.

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermann,_Missouri

To get from Sullivan to Hermann was quite the ordeal. Or story.

Do you remember the stories about people who listen to Siri's driving guidance and so believe her that they even run off a cliff? I wasn't quite that bad but half an hour in and onto the gravel and dirt roads and then the gravel and oil slick roads all of which included narrow curved roads with hilltops where you couldn't see the other side of the hill and with only ditches on both sides.

Problem was I had gone far enough I was concerned about simply turning around. The one hour trip took two hours. My vehicle now needs a Washateria and if Thrifty charges me, that will be fair.

Some of the teeny country roads had a lot of wildlife. Small deer and then a small animal that's bigger than a rat but smaller than a groundhog. Maybe possums. Definitely one time a big turtle that I swerved to avoid.

First I went through Japan Missouri but other than a school with the name I never saw quite where was the town. Maybe I blinked. In Roseland they were said to have a population of 409 so I was surprised to easily count four churches. Drake had signage but the town of Swiss only had the Swiss meat and sausage processing plant.

There was plenty of amusement, lots of roadkill, and a few times I caused myself to gasp. Or, can you imagine having an address of Sapsucker Drive in Japan, Missouri?

Once in Hermann I drove way out of town following a sign to a Mexican restaurant which apparently doesn't exist any longer. The Mexican restaurant on their main street was closed. I was hesitant to have wurst thinking how sick we got in Budapest but I found an outlet, pub, restaurant, with a lot of

traffic so there I stayed. Besides it was called “best of the wurst”. I saw a number of wineries and intended to eat at Hermanhof but they only had a coffee shop.

There had apparently just been a motorcycle rally because many are in town and unsold T-shirts are available for a pittance.

What wurst to order? I pointed to someone else’s plate as though I were in a foreign country and then still had to choose which type of sausage out of five choices. I did similar with the wine because I had already been more and that it was not exactly award winning area. All of which was fine with me.

I would eventually end up at a Marriott hotel at the St. Louis airport where they granted me the concierge lounge for dinner and breakfast and I would catch a plane the next morning.



Hi upon a hill overlooking the Mighty Mo River.

Lots of sweet little guest houses and beer pubs with a few of them closed.

I might have seen four of the wineries with the signs for a couple more.

Update to Tom from the runway

We left the gate on time and now 20 minutes after departure we are on the runway with a 30 minute delay.

I’ve got a book, I’ve got food and drink, and as long as this sold out plane doesn’t have to go back to the terminal for crew being timed-out, I’m fine.

Everything has gone so well. Though yesterday’s drive was odd, it was an adventure, different and enjoyable. The hotel gave me upgrades and the Concierge’s floor which included evening food and drink and breakfast.

I slept usually well and for about eight hours straight through. All body parts were working. My drive to return the rental car went easy and that after the hotel waved the \$18 parking fee. TSA had no line and the terminal was uncrowded and pleasant.

Is this why I now have a delay? It’s ok.

Itinerary

Fri Aug 17

10:20am Depart Newark EWR via UA#4932
12:13pm Arrive St Louis STL

Rental car Thrifty Car Rental Conf# 722837669

Hotel Comfort Inn – 2 nights
736 South Service Road, Sullivan, MO 63080 Tele: 573 468 7800

6:00pm Rehearsal at Seven T Farms
7:00pm Dinner at Seven T. Farms

Sat Aug 18

6:30pm Wedding in Sullivan/St James at Seven T Farms venue - <http://seventfarms.com/>
82 E Bacon Ridge Road, Sullivan, MO 63080
Reception to follow

Sun Aug 19

Drive to St Louis Airport

Hotel Marriott St Louis Airport – 1 night
10700 Pear Tree Lane, St Louis, MO 63134 Tele: 314 423 9700

Mon Aug 20

12:45pm Depart St Louis STL via UA#4355
4:17pm Arrive Newark EWR

Chelsea Dillon and Collin Greeson,
Parents: Mr/Ms Greg Dillon