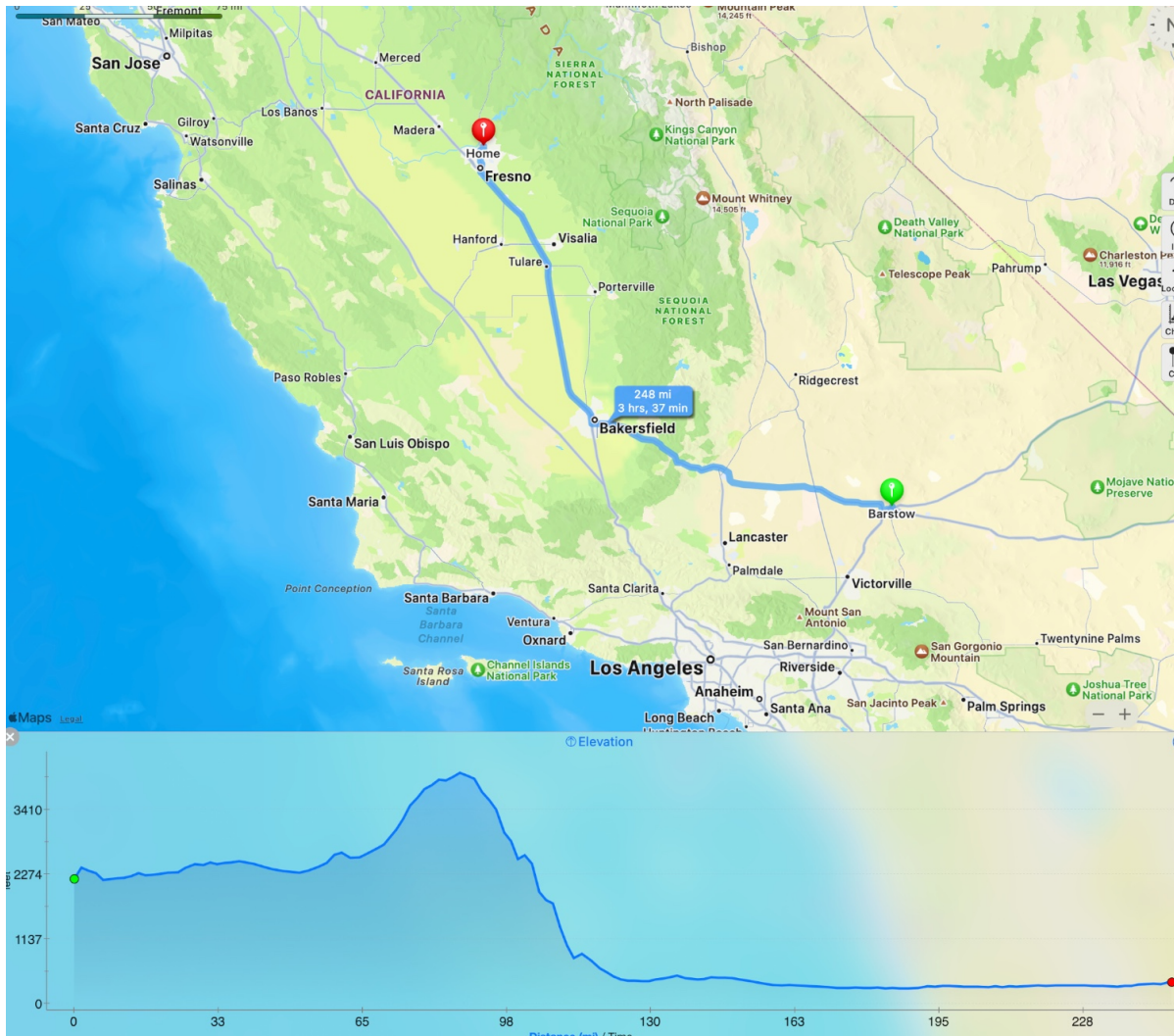


## Day Seventeen | Roger's Travelers Notebook



Seventeen Days across the much of the United States of America. Our little RAV4 did its job comfortably, efficiently, and reliably transporting us to each destination.

We drove **3,931.4 miles** at an average speed of 58 MPH. Our average fuel efficiency was 31.4 miles per gallon. We refueled our tank nine times, using about 125 gallons of gasoline.

The average gas price was \$3.50 per gallon, but it was lower in most parts of the country. It was around \$2.99 and even as low as \$2.69. However, in California, the cost was much higher for two fill-ups at the start and end of our trip. See **Day Two**, when, in the Mojave desert, I paid \$8.55 per gallon! This affected the overall average. I might have made a mistake with the math, but that's the basic idea.

Approximate cost for gas: \$437



We traveled through seven states: California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Arkansas, taking our time and driving only around 300 miles per day.









***"O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain. For purple mountains, majesty, above the fruited plains. America, America, God shed His grace on Thee. And crowned they good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea."***

Are those words, penned by Katherine Lee Bates in 1895, true today? I believe so.

America is a stunning country. Even though we only explored a small part of it, we enjoyed its magnificent skies, breathtaking mountains, and vast plains. One of the great things about America is that we can freely travel from one state to another with no need of a passport or any papers. The only thing that identifies and distinguishes us from others on the road is the license plate on our car. Americans are Americans.

**We need to protect that privilege and right of being an American citizen. All are welcome in America, but all need to come to America legally.**

My grandparents immigrated from the Netherlands to America in the 1920s. They came with a purpose - to start a new life. My grandfather, Henry, was a dairy farmer. He and his wife, Tillie, entered America legally through Ellis Island. They brought a ranch hand with them, identified on the Ellis Island manifest as a "Milkier."

After settling in southern California, they purchased a farm. The farm was located in what is now Cerritos, California. It was in the house on that farm, in 1926, where my father, Cornelius Henry Feenstra, was born.

The house and farm no longer exist today. The area has been turned into an auto center due to progress. I remember seeing the outside of the house during my childhood. My father took my brother, sister, and me to see it. However, all that remains now is a distant, and faint memory of a little white boarded house.

My grandparents would have traveled on parts of Route 66, just like Carol and I did. However, for them, the journey would have been quite difficult. We drove it with ease and comfort.



Americans are friendly, kind, and considerate people. When spoken to in the same manner, they are open to conversation. However, our media often falsely portrays America as a cold, hard, and racist nation. In reality, it is quite the opposite. While there are certainly some individuals who aim to divide us, in our travels across seven states, we encountered no one who matched the media's distorted description.

Many times, people went out of their way to help us when we needed something.

The store clerks, gas station attendants, hotel staff, restaurant employees, and fellow travelers were all engaging.





### **And now for a political rant.**

Any disappointment came from the massive fields of solar panels and wind turbines that have, in my view, destroyed the beauty in some areas.

*How are these environmetally friendly?*



**Answer:** They are not.

*Where are the bleeding heart tree huggers and die hard environmental protectors of previous decades?*

**Answer:** They are the ones who have constructed these eyesores. They believe in the lie of the Green New Deal. They think that if we don't eliminate so-called fossil fuels, including natural gas, our planet will perish. The truth is that fossil fuels are what have made America great. Can you name one thing you own or use that is not made from oil or natural gas? There is only one on this chart. Can you find it?

**MADE FROM**  
**OIL AND NATURAL GAS**

Literally thousands of products you use and depend on every day are made or made better using **petrochemicals**: plastics and other materials that come from oil and natural gas.

**CAN YOU SPOT IT?**  
Only one of the 30 every-day products shown here is not made using petrochemicals derived from oil and natural gas.  
*Can you find it?*

1 toothbrush  
2 safety goggles  
3 lipstick  
4 airplane  
5 contact lenses  
6 smartphone  
7 laptop computer  
8 rubber gloves  
9 crayons  
10 helmet  
11 washing machine  
12 ski jacket  
13 wind turbine  
14 dentures  
15 fitness tracker  
16 yoga outfit  
17 shampoo  
18 headphones  
19 garden hose  
20 syringe  
21 running shoes  
22 carbon-fibre bicycle  
23 toy blocks  
24 electric piano  
25 kayak  
26 saran wrap  
27 cotton towels\*  
28 pills  
29 chemical fertilizer  
30 electric car

\*The only product that doesn't rely on petrochemicals is #27.



As for electric vehicles, we didn't see any on the open highway. Zero. We only saw them when we entered a city.

The truth is, electric vehicles aren't suitable for long road trips. If the liberals and globalists have their way, they will restrict our travel and limit us to a small fifteen radius around our homes. They want to take away our freedom. We must resist.

America is currently experiencing a highly significant election. While every Presidential election holds importance, this one stands out above all others in our lifetime.

The decision at hand is truly between freedom and communism. Sadly, communism has already made its way into America. It is crucial that we choose a President who will vigorously combat and eliminate any communist influences.

Voting against (and I am against them) ALL Democrats means opposing their platform on open borders, trans equality, child sacrifice, protecting the criminal over the victim, and manipulation of the American people. That is the short list!

Democrats are destroying America by manipulating elections and gas prices, along with overspending and creating inflation. They embrace DEI stupidity, environmental/climate hysteria, using various propaganda techniques and misinformation to influence the young and the ignorant.

Republicans, though not perfect, aim to protect the American dream and preserve our freedom, including the freedom to travel.

Therefore, I am proudly endorsing and voting for President Trump, and every other Republican on the November ballot. What? You're not surprised?





Yes, traveling America the Beautiful is a fantastic adventure. I hope Carol and I get more chances to explore it again.

I'm ending this Travelers Notebook for now, but I plan to return in February 2025 when Carol and I, Lord willing, travel to Egypt!

At that point, the fate of America the Beautiful, and likely the world, will be determined.

**The lyrics of Katherine Lee Bates serve as a prayer for America.** In these challenging times, we need these words more than ever.

**America! America!**

**God mend thine ev'ry flaw,**

**Confirm thy soul in self-control,**

**Thy liberty in law.**

**O beautiful for heroes proved**

**In liberating strife,**

**Who more than self their country loved,**

**And mercy more than life.**

**America! America!**

**May God thy gold refine**

**Till all success be nobleness,**

**And ev'ry gain divine.**

Until next time. Thanks for reading.

- ✓ Friday **August 23** - Barstow, California
- ✓ Saturday, Sunday **August 24,25** - Flagstaff, Arizona
- ✓ Monday **August 26** - Albuquerque, New Mexico
- ✓ Tuesday **August 27** - Amarillo, Texas
- ✓ Wednesday **August 28** - Weatherford, Oklahoma
- ✓ Thursday **August 29** - Branson, Missouri
- ✓ Friday **August 30** - Branson, Missouri (Conference Begins)
- ✓ Saturday **August 31** - Branson, Missouri
- ✓ Sunday **Sept 1** - Branson, Missouri
- ✓ Monday **Sept 2** - Branson, Missouri (Labor Day - Conference Ends)

- ✓ Tuesday **Sept 3** - Homeward Bound
- ✓ Wednesday **Sept 4** - Tucumcari
- ✓ Thursday **Sept 5** - Gallup, New Mexico
- ✓ Friday **Sept 6** - Kingman, Arizona
- ✓ Saturday **Sept 7** - Barstow, California
- ✓ Sunday **Sept 8** - Home Sweet Home