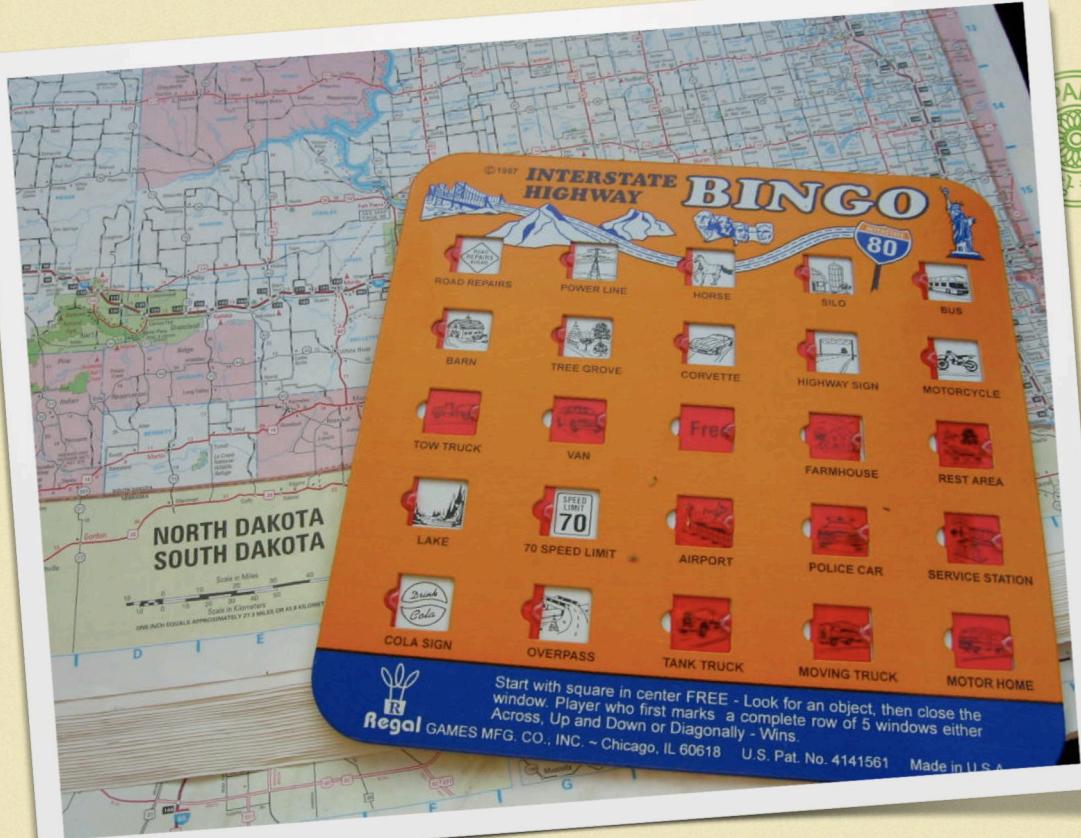




Wyoming: W.W.O.O.F. 2008

June 28th-July 6th



The Drive...Wyoming or Bust!

This story begins with two crazy kids from Chicago leaving the windy city for the open lands of Wyoming.

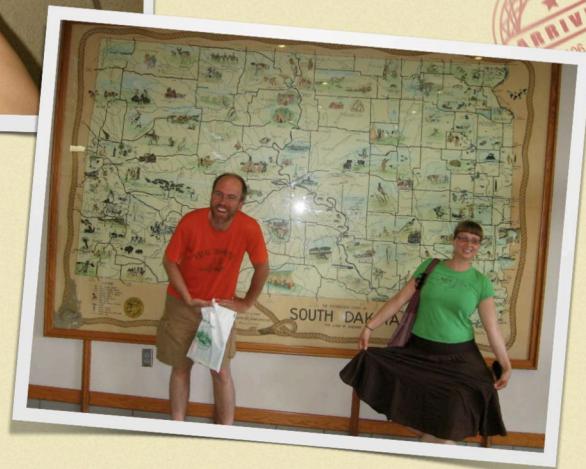
Stacie: The damsel in distress who needs to get to Wyoming

Greg: The hero who drives her Malibu across the plains like a champ.

On the way out we noticed a wind farm off of the highway in Dexter, Minnesota. In pursuit of food, we accidentally found the windmills. We never did find food. A few exits away, we stumbled into the Oasis for lunch. I wish I had pictures to show, but I was too afraid to take them.

We also hit the corn palace in Mitchell, South Dakota. A must see according to anyone who has been.





The Badlands

We stopped in the Badlands to camp and hike. There aren't many pictures from this part of the trip, except this one because the Badlands kicked our asses. I think it's Greg looking "bad"-in the Michael Jackson way, not the mean way.

We arrived into the park after dark and did the best we could to make sense of our surroundings. It began like this:

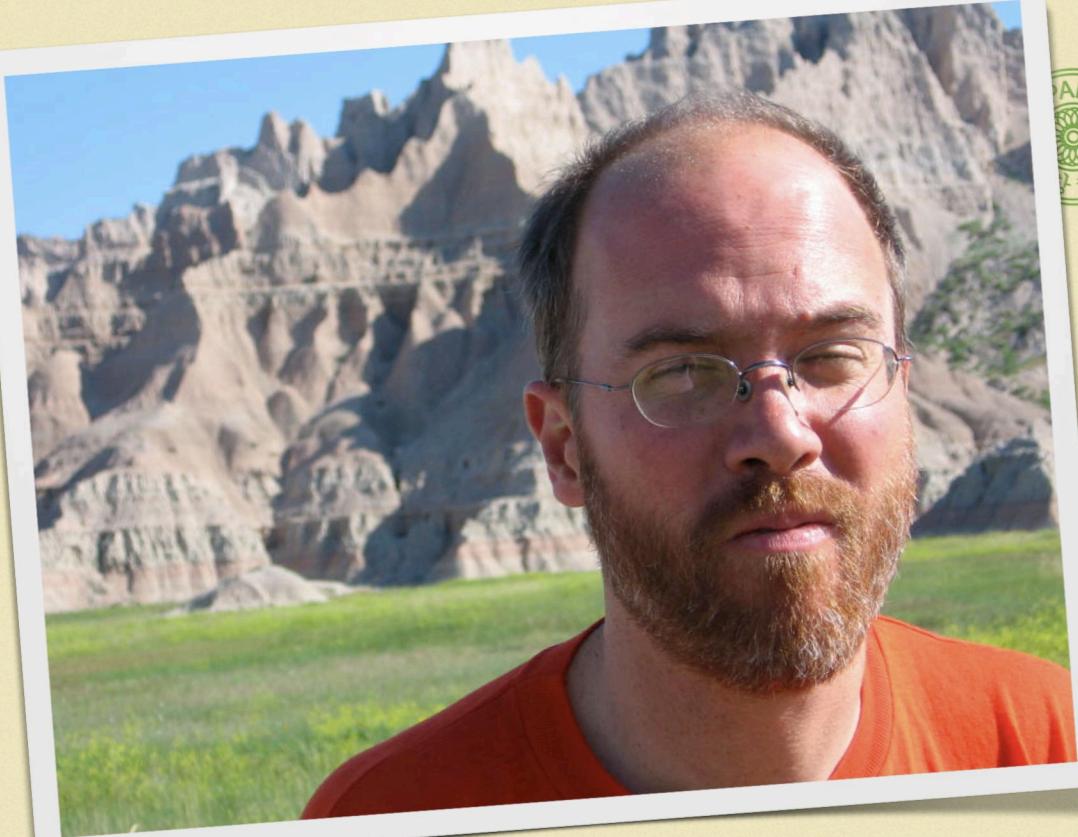
Greg: "There are a lot of dirt piles around here."

Stacie: "I think these are the Badlands."

It turns out we were both right. We set out on a couple mile hike that turned into about 10 miles. I was panicking that we were going to die of thirst because we didn't bring enough water. Then, in the middle of this deserted place with no sign of civilization, Greg's cell phone rang. It was Phil. Can you hear me now?

We were planning on doing some hard core camping in the Badlands wilderness that night, so we loaded up the water, packed the car, and headed for the primitive camping.



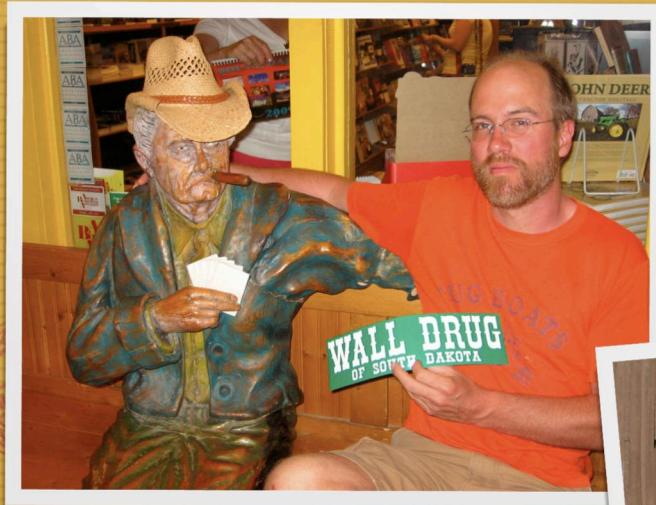


Wall Drug

...But we ended up at Wall Drug instead and found an air -conditioned hotel with a pool for the night.

Did you know that those green "Wall Drug" bumper stickers are FREE????





The Ranch

We checked out Mount Rushmore, the Crazy Horse Memorial, and headed out for Sheridan, Wyoming. I didn't get any pictures of these-you'll just have to go yourself.

Finally, we arrived...





These are pictures of the ranch. The top/right is the garden with the hills behind it. The garden is about 1 acre full of lots of yummy veggies. (And those damn weeds too!). Carol grows delicious heirloom vegetables, and the most beautiful lettuce I have ever seen!



This is Clear Creek that runs right by the cabins. The constant sound of flowing water is so refreshing!



This is Carol "The Queen of Green" and Bob "The Irrigation King" below out at the ranch. The green house is to the right where things start. Then they head to the garden, and the wash station below is to clean the veggies to go to the market.



WHY DO POTATOES MAKE GOOD
DETECTIVES? THEY KEEP THEIR
EYES PEELED!



BELOW IS THE
WASHROOM WITH
COMPOSTING TOILET.
YOU HAVE TO WORK TO
TAKE CARE OF YOUR
POO HERE.



THE LITTLE CABIN ABOVE IS
MINE WITH CLEAR CREEK
FLOWING BY. THE OTHER IS
CAROL AND BOB'S MAIN CABIN.



Still life as gardener:

Hat
Sun Block
Bug Spray
Gloves
Muddy Shoes



Ode to Wyoming:

Tumbleweed, Cattle Bones, and
Coal Trains



AMMESSO
FINO A *

SUNBURN 101

#1: HIKER'S TAN

#2: FARMER'S TAN

#3: GARDENER'S TAN

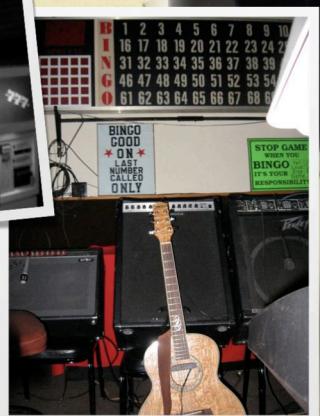






A NIGHT OUT ON THE TOWN!!! WE FOUND THE MOUNTAIN ROSE BAND PLAYING AT THE LOCAL EAGLES CLUB IN SHERIDAN. IT WAS KIND OF LIKE CAROL'S MINUS THE DRUNKS.

SADLY, WE DIDN'T GET THERE IN TIME FOR THE BINGO...



...MAKING FRIENDS WITH THE LOCALS



Headed Out

After about a week, we went to Billings so Greg could catch his flight back to Chicago. These pictures are of the walk out from the ranch to my car. I couldn't drive my car in due to the rough and muddy terrain. Not to mention the creek along the way-one false move and your car is going for a swim.

Local Ranch Vernacular:

Hill=Small Mountain

Walk=Hike

Example: "I'm going for a walk on the ranch" really means "I'm going for a hike in the mountains-don't step in the cow patties."





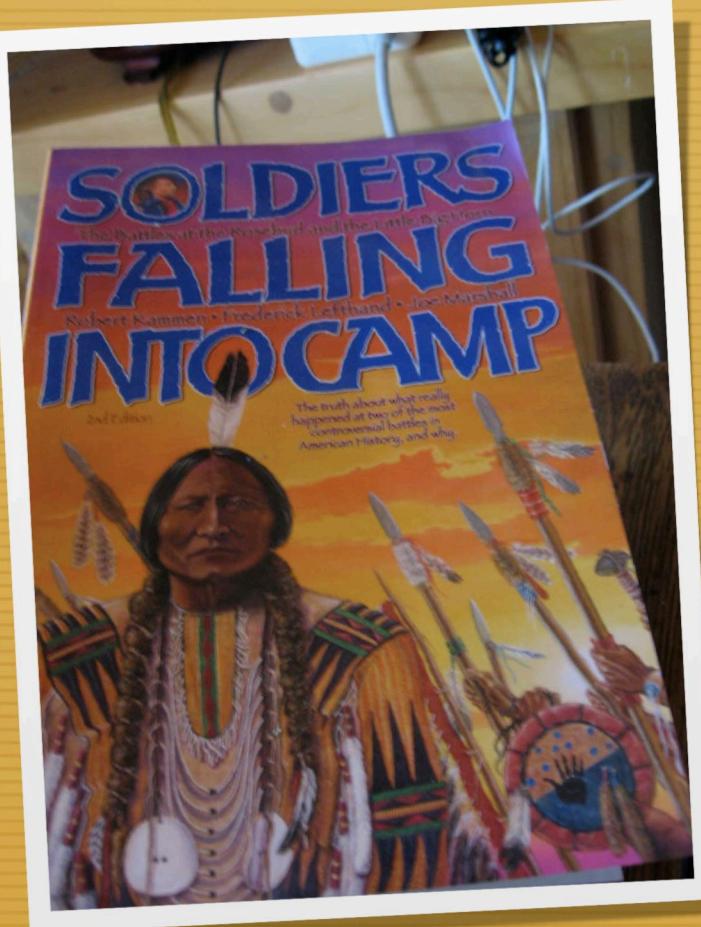
Crow Reservation

We began driving up to Billings, Montana from Sheridan, Wyoming on I-90 which runs through the Crow Reservation. We stopped on the reservation to try to find something to eat and ended up on the local parade route. Fortunately, the parade was running late so we didn't interfere.

We talked to a couple men waiting for the parade about food recommendations in the area, and one of them began promoting his book. He said he contributed the Crow perspective on the Battle of Little Big Horn along with a Lakota to write from their perspective, and a White man to write for the Calvary perspective.

He said the Field Museum in Chicago has a great selection of Crow artifacts, though he's never seen. I decided to check out the Little Big Horn Battlefield on my way back from the airport, and try to find that man's book.





THE MEMORIAL

The remains of about 220 soldiers, scouts, and civilians are buried around the base of this memorial.

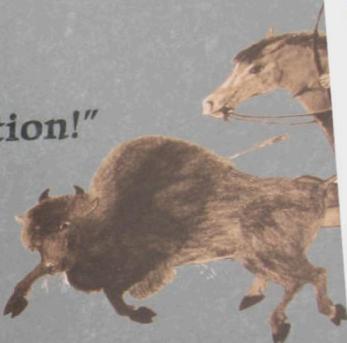
The white marble headstones scattered over the battlefield denote where the slain troopers were found and originally buried. In 1881 they were reinterred in a single grave on this site.

The officers' remains were removed in 1877 to various cemeteries throughout the country. General Custer was buried at West Point.



"We did not ask you white men to come here. The Great Spirit gave us this country as a home. You had yours...We did not interfere with you...We do not want your civilization!"

— Crazy Horse
Lakota



Am
Court





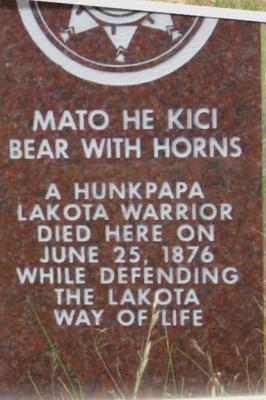
Dear Jean,
Today art gave me reverence for history and land. The battlefield was no different than the local terrain, but the battle images right in front of the actual land really changed the landscape so that you could see the battle in your mind.



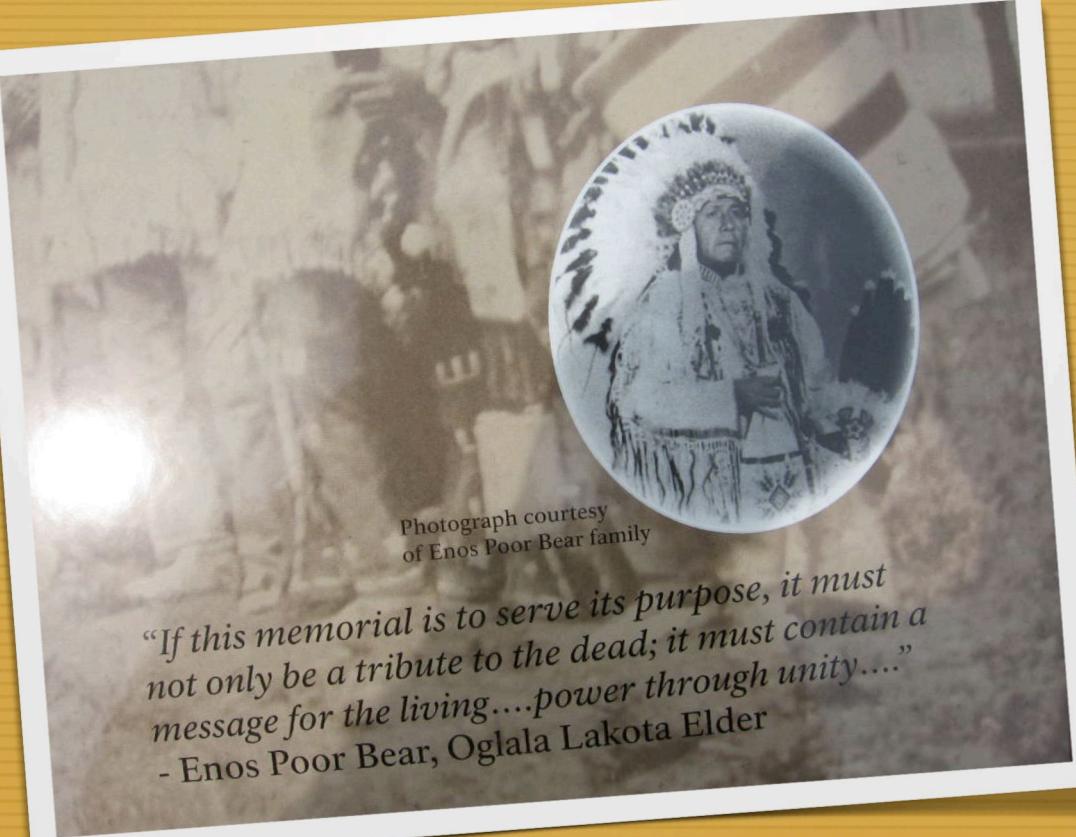
THESE ARE ALL PICS FROM THE NATIONAL MONUMENT.



The red stones are for the warriors. Not all sites for the warriors are marked with this stone as it is not a customary marking for the culture. A pile of stones is preferred. Special permission from the family had to be given to place these stones.



The white stones are for the calvary. The white stone with the black on it is Custer's.



...Power Through Unity...

A timeless message we all could use to be reminded of.



More to come.

*Love Ya,
Stacie*

