

From: Dale Dieckmann <dj.dieckmann@swbell.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 9:10 PM
To: vaca.dieck.2000@swbell.net
Subject: Postcard

Somewhere west of McPherson, Sheila looked at me and said “What’s wrong?” I said “The car’s going straight but the steering wheel is crooked. Look – it slants left”.



Not too far ahead of us, in Great Bend, was Marmie the Jeep Dealer. We drove straight there – but with the steering wheel, of course, slanting left.

We met Dan. He asked how he could help us. I said “The car’s going straight but the steering wheel is crooked. It slants left. And we’re on vacation.” Dan said he was booked up for the next 7 days. We groveled. He said OK, the guys are at lunch, come back in an hour and we’ll look at it. But we won’t fix anything.”

So we went to Brit Spaugh Park and found a place to eat roast beef sandwiches. Of course we were next to the tornado siren at noon on test day. It erupted in a hideous piercing shriek that lasted the longest three minutes of our lives. When it was over, Sheila said something. I shrugged and pointed to my ear. Then I looked at it in the car mirror to make sure it wasn’t bleeding.

Brit Spaugh Park is also home to the Great Bend Zoo. We walked to it. The lady at the front desk asked if she could help us. I said “Our car’s driving straight but the steering wheel is crooked. It slants left. She said no, she couldn’t help us. So we watched poison frogs, got candy bars from a machine and bought a jigsaw puzzle.

Back to Marmie’s. Dan was talking to a lady with a dog. Critters had been chewing on some part of her car. The damage had been repaired

and the lady with the dog asked how to keep critters from doing that again. Dan told her to put out poisoned bait. Marmie's is full service.

Dan pulled our car in and sent us to the sales building to wait. In a short time he appeared. Well, there were apparently 3 loose bolts on a control arm. Dan could tighten them but warned us it might not be in alignment anymore. We promised to get it realigned as soon as we got home.

Thrilled and relieved we set off to Colorado. Somewhere east of Larned, I said to Sheila, who was now driving: "What's wrong?" She said "The car's going straight but the steering wheel is crooked. Look – it slants left".

And so begins the trip.

D&S