

Laura the Potter
August 2010

Yes!!! I had myself a mini vacation! I Was LAFARGED!!! Some of you from WI will know exactly what I mean when I say that! In fact Preacher and Laurie (owners of this paper) travel this area quite often. I had the privilege first of all, to be invited by some awesome friends to come along on the trip. Sam, Jan, and Bob. Our bikes were put on a trailer Thurs. and we just flew there on the freeway to get there fast. We were guests at Earl Nelson's place. We stayed in a barn where he converted the upstairs into a living area with 3 bedrooms...we parked our bikes below. Sam has been going down there for 12 years – often times summer and fall...and he has become good friends with Earl. They have taken many motorcycle trips together.



Well we arrived Thursday night and it was darker than dark when we got there...I had no idea what it would be like to walk out onto the deck of the barn and see the view I would have for 3 days! Wow! I think I said that a lot last weekend. Yea...WOW! The first place we went to was the Wild Things Store...they advertise in this paper! We traveled pass this shop several times over the weekend, and there were always a ton of bikes there! Met the "Cave Man" – Don Biermann the owner...and he knows Earl very well...and they all remembered Sam too. There are so many great things in that shop! I would love one of those fur hats!

We visited the S&S factory where Earl actually constructed a lot of the additions to that building, and built the bridge over a creek at the entrance of the site...He used to have an Excavation Company. That was very interesting to say the least. Then...off to Yuba to visit Sogs! This guy looked just like Walter Mathou!!! Oh! He was so glad to see Earl and Sam & Bob too! He has owned that bar for 30 years. All the roads there were so much fun! Here in MN – we have great riding here, some curviness depending on where you are...but nothing like this area at all...it was a constant 2nd gear, 3rd, 4th, 3rd, 4th, turning a corner and up a BIG hill...needing to be in 1st gear...so much of that – I would at times forget what gear I was in! I felt like I was in West VA again. On the way to Sogs we had to travel in some gravel. The first road wasn't so long, but the gravel was more like big rocks. They had a very bad storm just before we arrived there...there were lots of roads washed out. There were parts of the road where it was sandy from the rain run off...and it wasn't too bad...just had to be aware of it. But then we hit the 2nd gravel road...

this time the rocks weren't as big...but sharp corners, and then this huge steep hill going down, braking constantly, my back end swishing back and forth at times...man!!!!!! I got off my bike and said "Holy Gravel!!!!!" I have a tear drop shaped cut out on the front fender of my bike. Rocks sometimes get lodged in there...I did not like that gravel road. Then we went to a natural cave. You walked thru the cave down a long bridge into a picnic area.



It was beautiful there! Then we went to a barn converted into a bar called the Bull Pen. The woman who owns it is really into Mickey Mouse...the bar is shaped like it – lighted dropped ceiling shaped like it – and they are constructing a stage now too that is also shaped like Mickey. Then Off we go back to LaFarge for dinner at the Sisters Café...owned by Earl's wife and her sister. They hired an awesome chef from Las Vegas who seemed really fun...great food!



Back to the home front to jump into this big cargo van, and off to Rockton!!!

Now...we didn't put on that many miles on Friday, but to ride 8 miles took an hour! It was an adventure every ride! Such beautiful country!

While we were in the Rockton Bar there were some service men at a table there and Sam alerted me to this group. They were 3 brothers and a wife to one of them. Jonathan Palmer served 12 mo. In Afghanistan, Steve Palmer served 2 stints in Iraq – total of 26 months over seas...and Eric Palmer leaves for Basic training on August 23rd to Fort Benning, GA. Steve touched me when he points to his wife Ashley and says "We are ok there – she's the one back home that has it the hardest." I thought that was a great tribute to his wife. They were at a family reunion just a couple doors down and they really wanted me to go there and talk to his Grandma...she's had lots of her loved ones go to wars...Thank you for your service! God Bless you all and I will pray for you Eric! Those young men were so nice. This is what I am finding out is that everyone I met was very sincere...good people. Vern and Polly...Polly lives in a cabin that has no running water, electricity, no tv, has a solar panel that generates enough for a radio and some lighting. How Humbling. Sat morning we went to Wild Cat Mountain, a beautiful overlook, then to an Amish Bakery, and then off to the Amish Wal-Mart...it is actually called Trails End. This was another long gravel road, but this one wasn't so bad at all, tight curves, but no big hills...on the way back I heard a rock really make some bad noise in the core of my bike – a metal sound...I rode a ways to the bottom of the hill and then when I went to take off...I couldn't put it into gear...not even 2nd gear...then Bob got off his bike...and pulled out my belt that was lying on the ground...Yep...that was the Trails end for my bike...bummer!!!!!! But...Off go Sam and Earl to get the trailer and then I was riding with Bob for the rest of the day. I made the best of being a passenger. I could really look around now! We went on some very remote roads home...it was one Amish farm after another. It is so humbling to see the Amish. I wouldn't want to live like that. It was 100 degrees and that doesn't change what they wear, or stop them from getting in the fields and gardens to work.

When we were in Rockton I started to get a sense of the kind of man Earl is...I heard so many stories! Hard luck stories...success stories...if you want to visit the area there is a Resource Center that talks about a Dam that was going to be constructed in LaFarge. It was in 1971 – the day after Earl graduated high school, he was told that his parents land was to be seized in order to build this damn and huge reservoir...well, after spending a ton of money, excavating, laying all this rock down...progress stopped because of an exotic flower! Instead of the government giving the land back to the owners...they gave it to the Indians. That is a very short version of all that happened...

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For dinner we went to my favorite place of all...Jan thought so as well. It was called Bar(N) in Ontario. It was a barn made into a bar/restaurant. Now you have to call ahead to say how many steaks you want. (it's the only item on the menu).



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LARGEST WEEKLY BIKE NITE ON THE PLANET!

WEDNESDAYS at 5PM Middleton, WI

April

- 14th Opening Night w/ The Shibs
- 21st Two on a Bike w/ Pupy Costello
- 28th Nuts & Bolts Night w/ Poor Rich Kids

May

- 5th Mother's Day Ladies Night w/ The Jimmies
- 12th Spin to Win at Huby & Abraham w/ Blue Olives
- 19th Coolest Cruiser w/ Fondue Party Band
- 26th Coolest Sport Bike w/ Primitive Culture

June

- 2nd Giveaway w/ Mighty Short Bus
- 9th Cougar Night w/ Bob Rocks
- 16th Father's Day Night w/ Westside Andy/Mel Ford Band
- 23rd Best Leather Night w/ Lube Band
- 30th Giveaway w/ Abaris

July

- 7th Buckets for Hunger Charity w/ Mighty Short Bus
- 14th Coolest Custom Bike w/ Bob Rocks
- 21st Two on a Bike w/ Blue Olives
- 28th Giveaway w/ Mighty Short Bus

August

- 4th Best Leather Night w/ Fedoras
- 11th Nuts & Bolts Night w/ Undercover
- 18th Cougar Night w/ Lube Band
- 25th Giveaway w/ Madison County

September

- 1st Coolest Harley w/ Primitive Culture
- 8th Sept. 11th Tribute w/ Westside Andy
- 15th Spin to Win at Throttle Threads w/ Johnny Rocker & The High Rollers
- 22nd Coolest Leather w/ Mark Croft
- 29th First Bike Get FREE Dinner w/ Pupy Costello

QUAKER STEAK & LUBE **BEST WINGS USA**

Hot Wings, Cold Beer, HOT BIKES!