

Travel to England in 1970

28 February (Saturday). Left Davis. Planned for 8 am, but actually 10 am. Rainy off and on all day. Good trip. Arrived California City very tired, about 6 pm.

1 March. Attended First Baptist Church. Small group. Good message on prayer. In the afternoon got sales pitch and tour on California City. Almost persuaded, but no money. Good potential with new developments, and 65% of California population in 30% of the state, south of Tehachapi mountains. MERBISC – Most Extraordinary Bargain in Southern California.

2 March. Left California City at 9 am. Ran into rain at San Bernardino, and arrived Chino 11:45 am. Had lunch with Sy and Jan Westra and left again at 1:15 pm. Stopped briefly at Joshua Tree National Monument, but too early for much vegetation life. Arrived Blythe about 6. So far covered 700 miles since leaving Davis. Old lady at supper said to Dixie: “You have a darling family”. Joan thought that was great.

3 March. Saw cactus after Blythe, grapefruit at Phoenix (also Sun City for retired people), then snow at Flagstaff (about 7000 feet), steady climb from Phoenix to Flagstaff. Car and trailer behave very well. Saw Bumble Bee, Arizona. Children played in snow south of Flagstaff, and got their hands cold. Stopped for the night at Holbrook, at 6. Motel room was fair, but food at nearby coffee shop was lousy.

4 March. Got up at 6. Arrived Petrified Tree National Monument about 9 and spent about two hours there looking at painted desert and petrified logs. Beautiful colours and beautiful clear sky. Weather cool but very pleasant. Gallup, New Mexico, 1 pm. Lots of Indians around. Obviously this is Navajo country. Spent a real nice two hours at Rehoboth at the Mission.

5 March. Had a very nice \$10 motel (two doubles and a roll-away) in Tucumcari. It had been dark after Albuquerque, with quite a bit of up and down driving but we saw nothing of the countryside. Made a long day today, 670 miles through four states (New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri) to Springfield, Missouri, at about 11:30 pm. Found a good place to stay. Even Pat Nixon was in town, but not at our motel.

6 March. Stopped at Lebanon, Missouri for some walnut bowls. Road edges along the Ozarks. Saw no hillbillies but heard some strange accents. Weather beautiful. Stopped to look at Springfield, Illinois for a look at Lincoln Home (1844-61), after skirting around St. Louis, where it looked quite smoggy. Got within shouting distance (150 miles) of Madison, to La Salle, Illinois, about 60 miles north of Bloomington. Stayed at a truckers’ motel for \$15, with colour TV. No snow so far, but it seems to have melted only recently.

7 March. After a short (130 miles) drive arrived at Madison 1 pm, and visited with Wilco and Audrey until about 7:30. Then drove to Randolph, to arrive 9 pm. Mother Wierenga was waiting for us, and soon after Pete also turned up with a friend, from Grand Rapids. He only stayed for about an hour or so. Still plans to go to Europe in June.

8 March. Went to church twice, and heard Peter Vis preach. New in Randolph. At night heard Men-of-a-Chord, 22-man chorus from Chicago. Very nice. Afterwards met at Walter Tamminga's.

9 March. Phoned Grand Rapids and arranged to go there with Mark. Drove 90 miles to Milwaukee and flew 35 minutes to Grand Rapids, to arrive 7:55 pm. Met by Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Steenstra and Earl and Mary. Stopped at Earl and Mary's for a while, and then went on to Jacob Steenstra's house.

10 March. Had a haircut and rode around Grand Rapids a bit. In the afternoon rode around Holland and Graafschap and saw Chuck and Carolyn, and spent the rest of the evening at Marion and Annette's. During the day called John Hellinga. He has some disagreements with Heine Venema and had resigned from local AACCS chapter. Talked to JCS about gravestone. Must get this done when returning next August.

11 March. Caught 8:10 am flight back to Milwaukee and returned 10:15 am to Randolph. Mark had been very good, and talked quite a bit to his relatives. They were happy to see him, of course, and commented on his growth. We should send Earl and Mary a picture yet. Dixie went shopping in Madison and at night we went to a gathering at Doumas. Wilco and Audrey also came and got acquainted with some of the Randolph area natives.

12 March. Got the trailer put away in Uncle Andrew's metal shed and put the balance of our stuff in a room at Doumas. Finally got packed up. Dixie's dress almost lost through courtesy of dog. Said good-bye to Mother Wierenga and Aunt Albertje and left for Chicago in our car with Frank and Jeanette about 12:45 pm. Good trip to Chicago, arrived about 4 pm. Children very impatient, of course. Total baggage weighed about 185 pounds. Finally boarded 6:10 pm and took off 6:25. Quiet, smooth flight. At Montreal the plane nearly emptied, and then filled to within 5 or 6 seats. No stretching room. Departed Montreal about 9 pm. Flight to London quiet and smooth most of the time. Food excellent and plenty, even when unwanted. Sleep scarce, because no room to stretch.

13 March. At 1:30 or so the new day began, with breakfast about 2:30. Landed London 3:45 am, or 10:45 local time. Overcast with occasional spitting. Temperature 40F. Everyone tired, with sore legs. Took bus and taxi with our ten pieces of checked luggage and about six or seven other items to VW dealer where van (purchased in California) had arrived the previous day. We got to the dealer about 1 pm. Arrangements quickly done. Driving on left side not too bad with other traffic. Right turns are a bit awkward. Stopped for some groceries and left for Oxford. Van handles very well. Traffic and roads messy and slow. Out of London by about 2:30 or so, and finally at Hampton Poyle about 5 pm. Everyone except me slept a good part of the way. Mrs. Gordon-Smith at the house. Terribly cold, so stoked the fire, and got comfortable.

14 March (Saturday). All except Mark awoke at 2 am and then slept soundly until noon. I got up at 10 am, lit the fire that had gone out (with the only match in the house), rigged a hookup for my shaver, and went to a gathering at the university at noon. Met several people there. Almost an accident on right turn into a main street. Forgot to look right. Chris McCready had brought a box of

groceries. Still some snow here and there from a surprise 8-inch snowfall a week ago, but the daffodils and crocuses are coming out already.

15 March. Did not go to church. Went to McCready's for dinner. Very enjoyable. They also drove us around a bit after and showed us where some things were.

16 March. In the afternoon did some shopping and looking around.

17 March. Stopped at a bookstore. Choice of books available fantastic. Bought a New English Bible at £1.50.

18 March. In the evening invited to Jim and Sheila Holt's (Americans) in Hampton Poyle, where we also met Clifford and Barbara Austin, and Bill and Peggy Milne. Very enjoyable.

19 March. Bright and sunny this morning, but still cool. Called Stan Morrison and decided to go see them on Saturday.

20 March. Took Mark's glasses in for a screw. Would take some time. Went to Cowley Shopping Centre for groceries. Dixie asked if it always was that busy. Answer: 'This isn't busy. Come at 6!'. Place was already jammed. Department pays for coffee and tea. What do you know! Decided with McCready to do an experiment next week.

21 March. Went to see Morrisons in Shelford near Cambridge. About 85 miles, took two and a half hours to drive. Saw a lot of Brussels sprout fields. Had lunch at Morrisons. House heated by electric heaters only. They had a rough winter. Kids fought a lot in the van. That part not too pleasant.

22 March. Attended Kidlington Baptist Church this morning and partook of communion. Very edifying and fruitful service. Talked to several people. Found out about a Presbyterian church in Oxford. In the afternoon walked along public footpath a half mile to Kidlington Anglican Church. Dates to 1220 or so. Old and musty inside, but still in use.

23 March. Started to check experimental method. Also worked on Fa-Yan's paper and typed up some notes on UCD experiments. Kids are taking up knitting. Coal seems to be disappearing fast.

24 March. Took van in for 600-mile servicing. Quite cold still.

29 March. Easter Sunday. Went to Baptist church. Heard a good sermon on resurrection. After church visited Paul Morgan's for coffee and Easter egg hunt in the garden. Children entertained by sons Jeremy and Roger while adults talked. Learned a new term from Morgans, 'culture-vultures' – middle-aged American ladies with guidebooks in hand, looking up at old buildings. Went back to church at night and heard another good sermon. Seventeen people plus our family in church.

30 March. In the afternoon visited Blenheim Palace, where the 10th Duke of Marlborough lives. Winston Churchill, whose uncle was one of the dukes, was born there. Sunny at times, but a cool breeze. Had to stand in queue for half hour, and palace was jammed with people. Lots of nice stuff inside.

31 March. Went to work in the morning and did some work at home in the afternoon. McCready home with the flu. Department building almost deserted.

1 April. Snow in the morning and cold wind, but decided to go to London anyway. Left about 8:45, drove 60 miles to Hendon, and got on tube for half hour ride to city. Walked to Buckingham Palace 11:45, but missed guard change. Looked around, had lunch, and went to Science Museum. Huge place, with all sorts of things. Quite a few people there. Showery and windy outside. Rode bus to Trafalgar Square, fed pigeons, and rested in National Gallery. In restaurant met Mr. And Mrs. G. Wallace, schoolteacher from Edmonton (!), teaching in Germany for Canadian Department of National Defence. About 8 or later reached the van again, and took about 1.5 hours to drive back home. No lorry traffic now, and driving is a breeze. Still occasional snow.

2 April. Karen and Ann exchange sugar and salt, belated April 1 prank. Karen said she couldn't stand to see me drink tea with salt. Frosty this morning. Went to work all day, worked on Paul Sharma's paper. At night kids decide to stay up all night. What next! Got chased to bed 10:15 or so (fight!).

3 April. Worked on Paul Sharma's paper some more and read some references. In the afternoon, stayed home while Dixie and Ann went shopping. Decided to go to Holland tentatively 27 April to 5 May.

4 April. Drove into Cotswolds in the afternoon, on a one-track road. Nice, but probably better when leaves are out on the trees. Burford is said to be popular with 'rich Americans'.

5 April. Churched twice. In the morning service communion again. Twice a month here. Went for a half-hour walk in the afternoon. Quiet, lots of birds, cool north breeze but not uncomfortable. Sunny most of the day. Eric and Jean Cox over after church., Quite a pleasant time. She talks a lot.

6 April. Snowy again this morning. Fa-yan Chang finally got a place to go. PDF at Guelph. Good for him.

7 April. Worked on Sharma's paper on CO₂-fixation etc. Made considerable progress. Looked at a used tent for sale in Islip, L28. Quite a bit still.

8 April. CMC still felling poorly from flu. Did an experiment to check on digestion effect on 2,4,5-T and 2,4,6-T.

9 April. Still cool. Some snowflakes at noon. Finished experiment and worked more on paper. Good progress, but I am really hacking it up. Made ferry booking for 28 April trip to Holland. Will cost \$50 one way!!

10 April. Started another experiment and read a bit. At 11 Dixie phoned Mom re Happy Birthday. Connected right away, three minutes at L1.15.6. Not too bad.

11 April. Rain, rain, rain, and fog. Sunny and nice in the afternoon.

12 April. After church had dinner with John and Margaret Houghton and Janet and Peter. Physicist, atmospheric physics. Reader in university and Tutor in Jesus College. Very pleasant visit. In the afternoon cold and windy again.

13 April. Finished experiment. Tomorrow children go to school. Bought a couple of books. Choice almost unlimited. Finished letter to Sacramento friends. Cool this morning but sun peeked through a few times in the afternoon.

14 April. First day of school for children. They slept little last night because of the excitement (worry?) but it came off alright. Headmistress very businesslike.

15 April. Spring is in the air now. No sun, but it feels much warmer.

16 April. In the afternoon went to see The Battle of Britain. Impressive film. I didn't realize that Britain was in so much difficulty in 1940.

17 April. Visited WRO (Weed Research Organization). Talked to nine people! Interesting and useful, but a busy and confusing day.

18 April. Went to Botanical Garden - a bit early for flowers. Magdalen College Deer Park was closed in the morning and we did not go back. Visited Hampton Gay. Farmer not home so no key to church. Interesting old place.

19 April. Church in the morning only. A young student preached, but not very profound.

20 April. Worked on Chang paper on polar transport. Making progress.

21 April. Finally sent Chang's paper back to him, though I am not quite satisfied with it.

22 April. Bought a sweater and cravate, much to Dixie's enjoyment. Started on green foxtail paper again.

23 April. Letter from Jack and Avlyn. He read a good part of my last letter to consistory. Some nerve. Still rainy. Made some progress on first green foxtail paper. Stopped at Oxford Information Centre. The more I walk around downtown, the more interesting things I see. Now Karen has a cold. Who's next?

24 April. Oom Jaap phoned 10:45 pm to let us know that visit would be OK.

27 April. Left for Holland 9 am. Notes in red steno book. Returned Saturday May 9.

10 May. Heard Haydn Piano Trio No. 9 in A major on radio. Very nice. Add to record list.

11 May. Dull, rainy. Hard to get back into routine of work for some reason. McCready still busy with various things.

12 May. Designed experiment #4 and prepared solutions. Made first treatment.

13 May. Continued experiment.

14 May. Last sampling of experiment #4. Replied to Sharma's letter and sent him a reprint of Sargent's paper on picloram. Worked some on green foxtail paper and went to look at tents (found none). Gave green foxtail paper to Jill to type four copies.

15 May. Karen's birthday. In the morning went to Witney to look at blankets. Bought one to send to Mother Wierenga, and two for ourselves.

16 May. Mark's birthday. In the morning bought groceries and some books. In the afternoon went on family walk to Hampton Gay. About four miles, 2.5 hours. Tiring but very nice.

17 May. Pentecost. Good sermon from Ramsbottom. Beautiful morning. Sunny, quiet, birds singing, including cuckoo. Even in church we heard the birds sing. In evening

showed slides of Alberta and California to the young people (about eight altogether). Enjoyable, even for me.

18 May. Van in for 3000 mile service. Wandered around and took a number of pictures. Beautiful day after morning mist. Gave FYC paper on polar transport to McCready to read. Mark's class went to London Zoo today.

19 May. Worked on experiment #5 in morning and evening. In afternoon read some German references on ATP effect. Called May and Baker for visit, to be Friday 29 May.

20 May. Went to London with Dixie. Visited Covent Garden market (fruit from Israel, Spain, South Africa, California, Tasmania, Italy). Wholesale market. Also Westminster Abbey and National Art Gallery. Were in London about 10:30 to 3:30. Parked by Earl's Court - very convenient.

21 May. Worked on Sharma's paper. Got some useful comments from CMcC on paper with Chang on polar transport. After supper took some black and white pictures of chestnut flowers and Hampton Poyle church.

22 May. Got results of experiment #5. More work on paper with Sharma on carbon dioxide fixation.

23 May. Went to Stonehenge and Bath. Interesting and impressive. Were in traffic jam for about half an hour. Bath Abbey was site of first coronation. Too late to see Roman baths.

24 May. Church in morning. In afternoon walked around in Wootton. Beautiful day. Nice village on hillside. Tried Carfax tower, but too late (closed).

25 May. Went to Whipsnade Zoo. Expensive to take car in (30/0 on bank holiday) but very nice zoo. On top of hill range. Quite windy, but nice with sun out. About 30 miles from Hampton Poyle. In the morning bought a tent from A.W. Sollis for £35.

26 May. Left 7:30 am for London. Saw changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace after a long wait. Beautiful day again. Fed pigeons on Trafalgar Square, had a 30-minute cruise on Thames, to Tower Bridge, and saw Tower Bridge and crown jewels. Home again 10 pm, tired.

27 May. Got stuff ready for experiment #6 and checked some references at Radcliffe. Talked to Wytse Van Dijk in Theoretical Physics. In the evening treated bean plants (10:00-11:30 pm).

28 May. Worked on experiment #6 all morning and got Jackie to finish it in the afternoon. In the afternoon went to WRO to see Keith Holly. Got some names and addresses from him and talked about general operations and herbicide problems. Saw some herbicide plots (Alastair Blair) on couch, with Ethrel (no field effect from September spray at 4 lb/A). Dixie drove off with Jean Cox, taking the van out for the first time.

29 May. Left home 7:30 am, Oxford 8:15 am, arrived Ongar 11:30 am for visit with Keith Carpenter, Hugh Terry, Helen (?) Cottrell, and ??? at May and Baker. Talked about a number of things and saw their screening operation (1200-1500 compounds from Dagenham chemists, and as many from their French parent company, go through each

year). Car took me to Epping (about 7 miles), and I left there on 'underground' about 5:10 pm.

30 May. In the afternoon had a quick look at rowing finals on Thames (end of 'Eights Week'). Interesting, and a lot people there, but activity rather slow. Poor for photos.

31 May. In the afternoon attended Hampton Poyle Church of England. Small crowd (about 8 plus six in choir, and our 4). Afterwards talked to Mrs. Parkes and saw part of inside of her house. A lot of ancient history.