

## Summary 2020

January, Nashville, TN, and memorial service Robert Crumby; CSU and city shut-down from Coronavirus; April-May, record cold in U.S. Northeast; Comet Neowise; wildfires, Cameron Peak Fire, Pine Gulch Fire;

## Trail Log 2020

January 9-12, 2020. Nashville trip, to attend the memorial service for Robert Crumby, seminary roommate and lifetime colleague.

January 9, flew to Nashville and got rental car, and found my way to his home, 3101 Knobview Drive, not far away, but navigating the back ways (and avoiding Interstate 40) is tricky. Spent that night there, visiting with Judy, his wife.

Crumby died Christmas eve. His body was donated to the Vanderbilt School of Medicine. He was longtime both Donelson pastor and hospital chaplain. Wrote a book as a hospital chaplain. He was the last person alive who took part in our wedding.

January 10, Family and friends arrive, especially Crumby's daughter, Melissa Johnson, and husband, Greg. Sons Luke and Caleb, both living in Colorado, Luke in Colorado Springs, practices law, and Caleb, guides mountain climbing in Estes Park. Crumby's son, Dennis, lives nearby and his daughter Kathleen McCarthy, teaches first grade.

I spent Friday and Saturday nights at Doubletree Suites hotel nearby, as did a number of others in the family, particularly members of Judy's family, from Cincinnati and Chicago.

January 11. Service at Donelson Presbyterian Church, 1.30 p.m., and I gave closing prayer and committal. Friends greeting the family 10.30 a.m. - 1.00 pm. Refreshments after the memorial service.

Crumby lettered in four sports (captain and quarterback football team, baseball, basketball, and tennis) at then Southwestern at Memphis, since re-named Rhodes University.

January 12, flew home uneventfully, but it took all day, Lots of sitting in the airports.

February, March, April. Everything is shut down due to the Corona virus. CSU shut down for spring break and told the students not to come back until fall. The governor has told everybody to stay home. Half or more of the businesses in the city are shut down. Similarly all over the nation, and world. Church services online only. Everybody has to keep "social distance" of 6 feet from others, lines are marked off in grocery stores to keep customers at social distance approaching the checkout. Check

April 9, 2020. I have been going in to my Johnson Hall Office, though the building is locked. I have a key. I took a walk around the oval for exercise today.

Periwinkle in good bloom.

Holly-grape. *Mahonia* some in good bloom.

Maples suggesting some leaves and flowers.

The only thing I saw in good bloom that got there by itself was Henbit. A couple patches of it. *Lamium amplexicaule*. Mint. weed from Europe and Asia, and now all across the U.S.

Despite some recent light snows, campus is pretty dry.

April 11, 2020. Easter is tomorrow and the church can't gather.

I went out to Lory State Park alone (Fred didn't want to pair up, fear of corona virus.

Nice day good sunshine with predictions of snow tomorrow.

Went up the usual Well Gulch Trail and found about two dozen in the usual place, mostly singles, in good bloom, many with blooms open a few with blooms closed. Nice colors. Walking with poles and with a lot of care, lest I fall. People I passed were good to get the proper "social distance" of 6 feet away.

Lots of spring beauty, *Claytonia lanceolata* one Clematis in bloom.  
salt-and-pepper, *Limnodium orientale*



Photo by Ron Bend  
Apr 10, 2020  
Lory State Park

April 16. Heavy snow, 15-16 inches, closes the Oval, due to snow bringing down large limbs, with danger of more limbs falling on cars and pedestrians.

May 8-9. 2020. Eastern U. S. Extreme Mother's Day weekend: All-time May record cold, Northeast and midwest snow. Parts of upstate New York, and Vermont had over 6 inches of snow. Some locations in Washington County, New York and Bennington County, Vermont, measured up to 9 inches of snow Saturday morning. The cold smashed records in the East. All-time May record lows were set Saturday in Binghamton, New York (24 degrees); Fort Wayne, Indiana (23 degrees); Indianapolis (27 degrees); and New York's LaGuardia Airport. Nashville, Tennessee plunged to their coldest low so late in spring on Saturday morning. Washington's Reagan National Airport dipped to its coldest May low since 1966.

April-May-June-July-August. Covid-19 Coronavirus has everything more or less shut down. Jane and I stayed mostly home, CSU locked up and closed, though I had a key to Johnson Hall and could regularly sneak in and work at my computer there.

July. Comet Neowise. Too faint to see, but CSU photographers, John Eisele, Bill Cotton and Ron Bend went up Poudre Canyon on July 19, to La Poudre Pass. They set up their equipment before sunset, and by 10:30 or so, looking north, Bend noticed a smudge that he suspected might be Comet Neowise, just below the Big Dipper. Eisele said it was so faint that it was difficult to see if they looked directly at it, but focusing on a nearby tree brought it into their peripheral vision. Cotton tried for a tight shot through his 400mm lens. "Since we couldn't really see it, I just pointed it in the general direction for a quick test, and nailed it." "Sure enough, that smudge was the comet, centered in the frame, nicely exposed, and in focus! They had several cameras set up for time-lapse photography of different parts of the sky and did some still photos as well. They were working at ISOs of around 8,000-10,000, with lenses wide open (typically f/2.8) and shutter speeds of between 10 and 20 seconds. The comet's orbit is a long parabola; it will return in 6,766 years.

Shonny said that at their Red Feather Crystal Lakes property, they could see a smudge through binoculars.

Comet Neowise - July 2020



August 17. Trail Ridge Road, with Jane, during the pandemic.

Lots of hassle getting a pass as there were limited entrance passes into Rocky Mountain National Park. You could gamble getting there at 8.00 a.m. when they opened up maybe a hundred passes. Or you could book several days ahead at less desirable times of day. I booked a pass that permitted us to enter at 2.00 p.m., and stay the remainder of the day.

So we drove to Estes Park, getting there about 11.00 a.m., and ate our lunch in the Estes Park Visitor Center parking lot, tailgating a picnic lunch, then drove to the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, where I napped and we used rest room. Drove into the park, smoky hazy from forest fires, but halfway decent visibility until we topped out on Trail Ridge Road, then driving west it got quite smoky and we lost any distance visibility. From the last overlook, Gore Range Overlook, before you drop down to the Alpine Visitor Center you couldn't see down to Milner Pass, much less across the pass to the Never Summer Mountains at all. But not windy and not cold.

So we turned around and headed back. Spectacular close up - saw a majestic full curl bighorn ram dramatically framed in rocks close to the road.

Drove up the Bear Lake Road, with ominous warnings that the parking lot was full, so there too we turned around at Glacier Gorge Parking Lot, and came back down and had a picnic supper at the Hollowell Park picnic area a quarter mile off the road. Nice new picnic tables and very pleasant. Two deer between the Moraine Park Road and the start of the Bear Lake Road.

Drove home. Home by sunset, about 7.15 p.m.



Chambers Lake = Cameron Peak Fire - August 18, 2020 - from Poudre Pass Road

Sept. 24, Monday. Drive to see aspen. Left about 9.00 a.m., lots of confusing active road reconstruction south of Loveland in the Berthoud area and got lost trying to get to the Lyons road, route 66. Eventually found it, with the help of the construction crew.

Drove up the South Vrain road in good weather, blue sky, no wind. Hit Highway 72 and turned south on the Peak to Peak road. We had heard aspen would be mostly brown, because of hot weather and little rain. Many were, but there was also lots of excellent bright golden color. Rather heavy road traffic.

Drove up the Brainard Lake road. Got confused at the Gateway Trailhead, which now

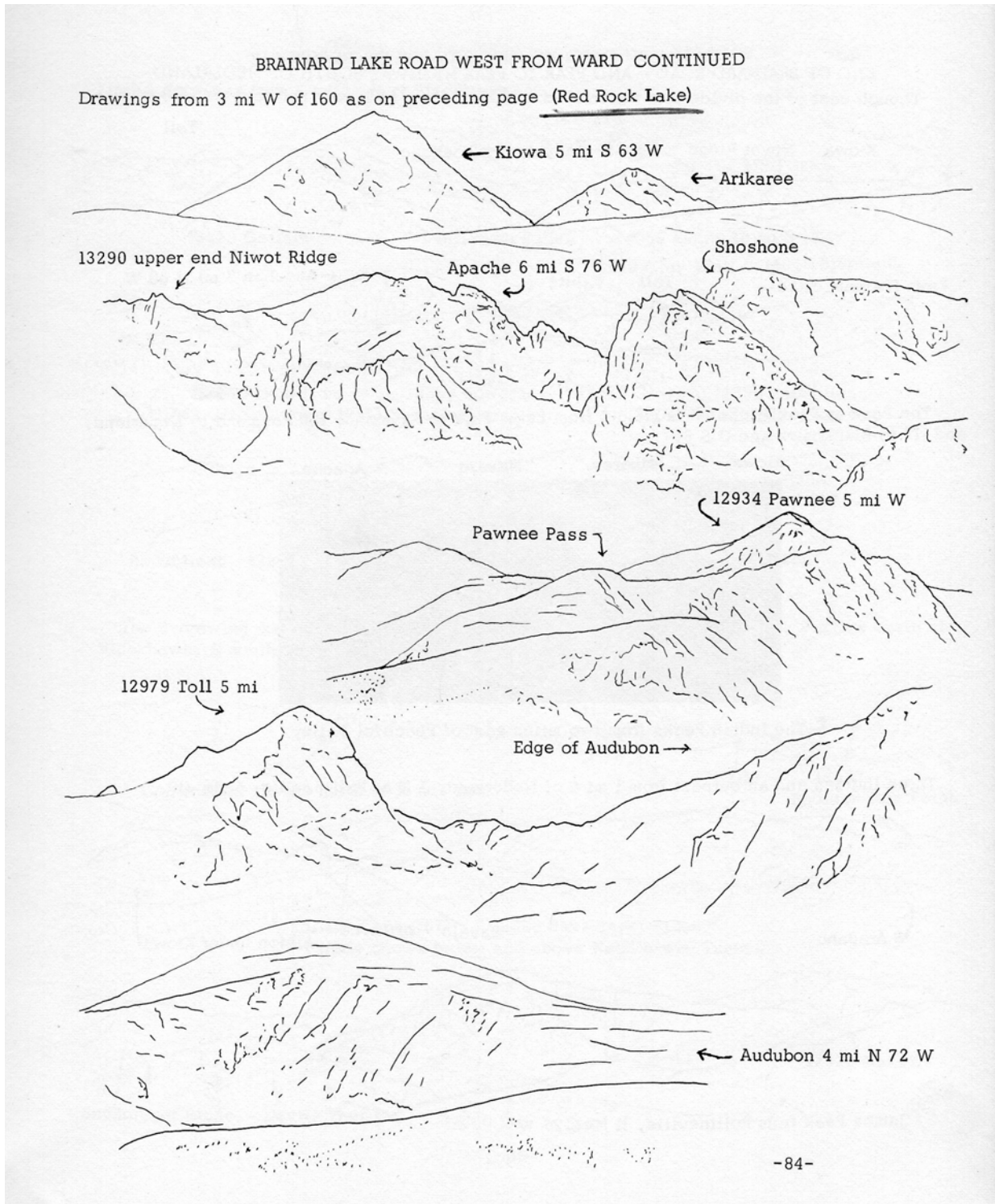
has a big parking area and toilets suggestive of the one at Brainard Lake. But you are only halfway there. Continue up, immediately reaching the toll gate, where you have to show your National Parks Pass, and drive another two miles to the Brainard Lake area.

Brainard Lake Picnic area had a hundred cars parked in it. We made our way to the upper end where we could walk 50 yards to a campsite in the Pawnee Campground, now closed. Very nice picnic table in the campground site (complete with bear box!). Not windy, as had been predicted.

Here with Phil Cafaro, Sept. 20, 2014 with great aspen color and hiked to Mitchell Lake with him. Peaks seen from Lawn Lake then: Pawnee, Shoshoni with steep face, Apache, Navaho. One nice mule deer doe coming down.

Returned through Estes Park, (Highway 7) and some nice aspen off and on all the way to Estes. Snacked in Estes from our leftover lunch, and drove home. Got home about 7.00 p.m.







October, week of October 11, 2020. Wildfires continue to burn. John has been on the Centennial fire two weeks in charge of fifty firefighters. Says it is hard to get food for them, delivered over half fire-closed roads.



Cameron Peak Fire



## Pine Gulch Fire

December 9-11, 2020. The Aurora Borealis is having a big surge, large enough to be seen further south than usual, and can be seen from northern Colorado. There is an unusually big solar flare.

December 16, 2020. Shonny gets a vaccine injection for the Corona 9 virus today at Poudre Valley Hospital. Working in the emergency room, she is in the first group of people in the state to get the vaccine. Two shots, one today, the second one in early January.

December 21, 2020, the winter solstice. The 'Christmas Star' is the closest visible conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in 800 years, in the southwest sky.

December 24, 2020. Astronaut Frank Borman took *Earthrise* on Christmas Eve 1968, one of the most impressive photographs ever taken.

