

Colorado

Rolling through plains to the mountains

By Karen Krien

Saint Francis Herald

Headed for Denver after leaving Kansas? What most people don't know is U.S. 36 from the Colorado line is the shortest route to Denver, only 164 miles, while driving on I-70 is 173 miles.

There is less traffic on U.S. 36 than on I-70, and it will take you to Rocky Mountain National Park.

Colorado U.S. 36 gives the traveler a good view of wide-open spaces, golden wheat fields and a variety of wildlife including antelope, deer, turkeys and coyotes, just to name a few. There are also herds of buffalo near Byers.

Traveling west, U.S. 36 merges with I-70 at Byers and it is just a short distance to Aurora and then Denver, the state Capitol.

Denver offers good eating places, and has a variety of motels and hotels located near most entertainment.

One of Colorado's most famous houses was once the home of Molly Brown, a well-known figure in Colorado politics and a survivor of the Titanic disaster. This house, along with the Byers-Evans house, is open for tours.

Tours can be taken through the Capitol, U.S. Mint, Colorado Railroad Museum, Denver Firefighters Museum and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (which has an IMAX theater). Adults as well as kids will enjoy Ocean Journey where individuals can experience walking over, under and around two river ecosystems containing fish, reptiles and even tigers. Also, don't forget the Botanical Gardens.

Leaving Denver on U.S. 36 with the Rocky Mountains to the west, motorists travel along the front range through Boulder and Longmont on their way to Estes Park. Depending on the season, there may be fresh fruit and cider stands on the roadside. As the highway heads into the mountains, the sweet smell of the pines and the cool mountain air lures people out of their vehicles to view the sights at different stopping points along the road.

Estes Park

Finally, travelers pop over the hill to see the Stanley Hotel, majestically overlook-



Colorado welcomes visitors to her plains and mountains with an appealing wooden sign on U.S. 36 just west of St. Francis.

ing Estes Park. Travelers will find motels, hotels, and bed and breakfast establishments as well as cabins, cottages, lodges and inns, suites, rental condos and homes. Or, if you take your recreational vehicle, there are numerous campgrounds and parks to choose from. There are more than 150 lodging establishments altogether.

For entertainment and exercise, there

are activity centers, places where bicycles and scooters can be rented, fishing, golfing, hiking, horseback riding, movie theaters as well as live theaters, rafting, kayaking, sightseeing tours and even wine tasting.

Every type of restaurant can be found there, from fast food to elegant dining.

The Estes Park Museum has timeless displays, temporary exhibits and a vast col-

lection of memorabilia. There is something for everyone, from a 1909 Stanley Steamer to a furnished historic cabin, from a beaver felt hat to a vintage National Park Service uniform.

People can touch the past through hands-on exhibits or visit a re-created general store.

The museum is located at the corner of U.S. 36 and Fourth Street. There is no admission fee. From May through October, the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. From November through April 30, it is open Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Shopping

If shopping is your thing, you will find the streets of Estes Park lined with shops filled with art, gifts, curio items and clothing. The visitors center, right off U.S. 36, has helpful staff and many pamphlets and books to guide visitors to all the sites.

Fall River

For a half-day treat, travelers are urged to take U.S. 34 through the National Park's entrance to Fall River Road, built in 1920. When you reach Endovalley, the road becomes gravel, one-way and uphill for nearly 10 miles. Waterfalls, glacier deposits, icy pools and breathtaking views are all part of this trip.

This route will take the traveler past Trail Ridge Road's high point.

Trail Ridge Road

Trail Ridge Road is the highest continuous paved road in the United States. It travels through the heart of Rocky Mountain National Park from Estes Park to Grand Lake. It is open from Memorial Day until heavy snowfall makes the route impractical to keep clear, usually some time between late September and Thanksgiving.

Travelers can view alpine tundra, which makes up a full third of the park. At this altitude, the traveler will find a fragile environment of aged, dwarfed plants and animals that have adapted to the high elevation. No other arctic-like world exists that is as accessible.

Heritage Corner Cafe
Listed on the
National Historic
Register

CHARLES LINDBERGH
AN AMERICAN AVIATOR

Home to Charles Lindbergh's
favorite Soda Fountain!

Heritage Corner Cafe
785-734-2275 ~ 104 W. Bressler ~ Bird City, KS

TRI-STATE ANTIQUE ENGINE & THRESHER SHOW

July 31, August 1
& August 2, 2008
East Highway 36
Bird City, Ks

www.threshershow.org
www.birdcity.com



Licensed in
KANSAS, COLORADO &
NEBRASKA for your Real
Estate Needs!

Whether Real Estate or Auctions
We're Here for You!

Visit our website for a complete listing of
Agricultural, Residential and Commercial listings.
www.westernauktionandrealstate.com

785-332-8990

Betty L. Petersen, Broker & Appraiser
Skip Petersen, Salesperson & Auctioneer
Robin A. Petersen, Assoc. Broker,
Appraiser & Auctioneer

Brett Petersen, Kansas Sales Agent & Auctioneer
Jeff Raile, Personal Property Auctioneer

— Member U.S. 36 Association —

Western
Auction & Real Estate, LLC

From Concept to Completion!
P.O. Box 928 - W. HWY 36
St. Francis, KS 67756

2ND BEGINNINGS THRIFT STORE

Bird City's stop
for quality used
clothing, furniture,
household and
much more.

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturdays: 9 a.m. - noon



309 S. Bird Ave. • Bird City • 785-734-2443 or 734-2728