

ROAD TRIP

Branson author Larry Campbell chronicles his journey along and across the Missouri River.

BY DANITA ALLEN WOOD

LARRY CAMPBELL is an explorer. In 2016, the 70-year-old mathematician made the same epic journey along the Missouri River as Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery—except he traveled solo, in reverse from Idaho to Missouri—and not exactly roughing it. He traveled by car and stayed mostly in hotels and bed-and-breakfasts, but there was one night he stayed in a ten-by-ten-foot “castle” with no electricity at Pony, Montana.

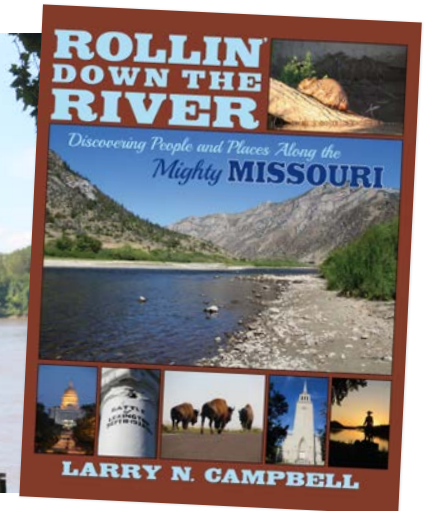
“What a great view of the Milky Way,” he says. “It almost made up for the 100-yard trek to the outhouse.”

A retired math professor from Missouri State University at Springfield, Larry lives in Branson. His inspiration for the trip came from reading *Roadtrip with a Raindrop: 90 Days Along the Mississippi River*, by Gayle Harper. He was entranced by the idea of her journey, got to meet her, and resolved to do the same kind of journey along the Missouri River.

He started his adventure at the headwaters of the Missouri—the *real* headwaters at Hell Roaring Creek near Red Rock Pass, Idaho, not the *official* source, which is in Three Forks, Montana, just below the confluence of the Jefferson, Madison, and Gallatin Rivers. Lewis and Clark named these tributaries, and that has marked the official source ever since.

Campbell's journey ended seven weeks later at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers just north of St. Louis.

Upon his return, like Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, Larry compiled a journal of his stories and found a publisher. The book is divided into sections and contains maps of the entire river and places he stayed. The real stars of the book, though, are Larry's photographs of the river and his stories of the people he met.



Rollin' Down the River: Discovering People and Places Along the Mighty Missouri

Larry N. Campbell, hardcover, xxx pages, nonfiction, Acclaim Press, \$XX

There are almost two hundred photographs in the book. “It was fascinating to watch how the river grew from that small creek near the Idaho and Montana border,” he says.

In short stories, the reader will meet some of the same people Larry met, from ferryboat operators to the only resident of Virgelle, Montana, who runs a store in one of only two buildings left in town and holds well-known antiques auctions there two times a year.

Larry didn't intend for his trip to be Lewis and Clark in reverse, but he says “You can't go ten feet along the river without running into them, and it was fascinating to be standing in places where they stood.”

The book's charm lies in the adventures he had along the way and the sights. One photo shows a bridge at Atchison, Kansas, lit so that at night, the reflection on the river looks like an American flag. The photographs and stories make an entertaining read for anyone.

DOWN THE RIVER BY THE NUMBERS

During his drive, the author and mathematician:

- Crossed **2 of 3 remaining free ferries** on the Missouri River
- Saw **4 state capitals** along the river: Helena, Montana; Bismarck, North Dakota; Pierre, South Dakota; Jefferson City, Missouri
- Visited **10 states:** Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois.
- Went through **27 towns** and stayed in 23
- Traveled **51 days**
- Encountered **80 bridges** over the river
- Took **4,500+ pictures**
- Journeyed **6,271 miles** door-to-door

This book comes out late June, and the author is offering readers of *Missouri Life* a 10% discount and an autographed copy on pre-publication orders. Visit AfterMathEnterprises.com.

MORE GOOD READS

BY LORI A. ADDINGTON

Show Me the Sinister Snowman

Carolyn Mulford, 290 pages, fiction, Cave Hollow Press, \$14.95

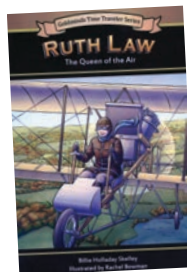
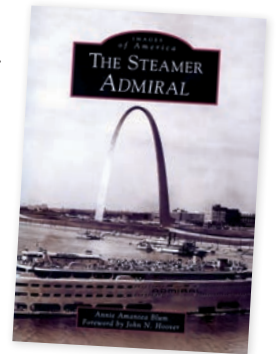
Missouri native Carolyn Mulford has readers intrigued with her latest murder mystery. The fifth book in the Show Me detective series takes place in snowy, northern Missouri. The thirty-four-chapter book follows the investigation of a congressman's mysterious death. Former CIA agent Phoenix Smith is on the case with help from Achilles; her faithful canine companion. Show Me the Sinister Snowman takes readers on an adventure to discover the real truth behind the congressman's death and the unusual circumstances around it.



Images of America: The Steamer Admiral

Annie Amantea Blum, 128 pages, nonfiction, Arcadia Publishing, \$21.99

The Admiral cruised the Mississippi River out of St. Louis for thirty-eight summers. The Steamer Admiral is filled with historical photographs of each stage in building the Admiral as well as what each deck looked like. Each photograph shows details of the steamship and explains its history. Throughout this book's 128 pages, readers will learn about various ships and steamers that once cruised the mighty Mississippi.



Ruth Law: The Queen of the Air

Billie Holladay Skelley, 50 pages, nonfiction, Goldminds Publishing, \$12.99

The second book in Billie Skelley's series is geared toward young readers. Ruth Law: The Queen of the Air tells the inspiring true story of Ruth Law, who was an aviator in the early twentieth century. Ruth Law set several aviation records and became an inspiration to young girls across the country.

Readers will discover how Ruth broke a few aviation records in one day. At the end of the book, a vocabulary list assists young readers in under-

Discovering Public Parks in St. Louis, Missouri

Nancy Ellen Carver, 146 pages, nonfiction, self-published \$10

This resource guide is great for outdoor enthusiasts, especially those who enjoy parks. The first part contains tables and charts that focus on the amenities of countless national, state, city, county, and neighborhood parks across the St. Louis area. The other three sections provide a detailed history of the park system, items of interest, and park statistics.



Midwestern Native Shrubs and Trees

Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz, 430 pages, nonfiction, Ohio University Press

Native plants can be hardier and easier to maintain, making this illustrated guide a valuable resource for Missouri gardeners. In their companion volume to The Midwestern Native Garden, the authors provide a season-by-season selection of woody alternatives to nonnative trees and shrubs used for shade and ornamental purposes. Gardeners can find native shrubs and trees to fit all garden styles and provide a wide variety of blooming and fall colors.



Missouri Total Eclipse Guide

Aaron Linsdau, 70 pages, nonfiction, Sastrugi Press, \$9.95

Unless you've been living under a rock, you are likely aware of the total eclipse happening all across Missouri on August 21 from Cape Girardeau in the southeast to St. Joseph in the northwest. So while Missouri Life has been running a series on this momentous occasion, you may want to get a copy of the Missouri Total Eclipse Guide as a complete guide and souvenir. This guide will give you everything you need to know about viewing and photographing the eclipse in the Show-Me State, according to the publisher. Order a copy

