

Daily Nebraskan

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holes making the atmosphere eerie. We drove through some sprinkles, some showers and some downpours. The intensity and presence changed with every mile.

After we passed the Cozad exit, the sky cleared up almost instantaneously. The clouds were gone, only the cornflower blue sky and the blinding sun remained. And it went on for miles. It waslike driving through a genre painting of the country - the sky, the gently rolling plains, the blowing grass and the daisies.
All along 1-80, Highway 26 and 92 were yellow daisies. It was like driving along the Yellow Daisy/ Pony Express/Oregon Trail route. A single daisy, a clump around a sign post or meadows of them. Incredible. Maybe the people from the Great Peace March planted them.

1:00 p.m. CST
The Hitcher
After a disappointing lunch at the North Platte King's, we headed for the interstate. Then we saw him. He was leaning against the McCook and Ogallala mileage sign.
"Should we pick him up?"
"Ummm, yeah. Let's."

Thursday, September 1, 1988


## Delores Harder in her rest-stop tour guide office

I pulled over to the side of the argued Thoreau with Butch. He I pulled over to the side of the argued
ampleadingtol-80. Butch opened gave us wisdom. He concentrated the hatchback so the hitchhiker on the good and backlashed the could put his pack in.
"My name's Ben, ya wanna donut?" he asked me politely as he crawled into the passenger seat.
"No thank you," I replied.
He looked like he was just reaching middle age. His black hair was peppered gray. The wrinkles in his face expressed a certain knowledge and understanding of the people he had met in his days. His clothes were nice, a royal blue shirt, worn blue jeans and New Balance high tops. He wore a sun visor that cast a blue shadow upon his face.

Conversation was rampant. He
bad.

Driving along Highway 26, I saw a sole gravestone placed feet from the road. I pointed it out and he tolo me not to think of the bad associ ated with the gravestone but rathe the good, for instance, the Virgir Mary appearing to Her followers in Texas or a hummingbird buzzing right up to your face.

He told us about the nationa conscience as he looked upon th Nebraska landscape. The nationa conscience is what every Americar

See NEBRASKA on 1

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