

# Longton Ride

By Bob Christian

We decided to meet at 8:00 on the morning of June 9<sup>th</sup> for the Longton Ride at the McDonalds at 47<sup>th</sup> South and Broadway and depart at 9:00am. I arrived at 8:00am and Jeff Herrscher and Jim Maxwell were already there. I joined them at a table and we were visiting when we noticed a very large Honda Valkerie and an equally large rider pulling in next to our bikes. He came in and sat down with us. It seems he had left from San Antonio, Texas and made it to Tulsa the night before. He had rode in from Tulsa Saturday morning and arrived in Wichita before 8:30am. He said that he was traveling on to Sturgis, South Dakota, Saturday and then onto Montana and finally to California before returning to Texas. He had already ridden as many miles before 8:30 in the morning as we would ride all day.

Steve Tasche from Newton arrived next with a 741 Indian bobber. Jerry and Austin Ottaway and Dick Chance showed up next. Bud Cox and his son Stan and grandson Chad arrived after them. Stan Cox was driving a great looking classic Corvette. He followed us all day bringing up the rear.

About five till nine we had decided to leave, but as soon as we started to leave we were surprised with a sudden downpour. Although the rain lasted only about 10 minutes and then passed on, it left the roads very wet for about the first 10 miles.

The road conditions were further complicated by a dump truck that passed us and dropped a wet film on us that resembled wet concrete. The wet stuff coated our bikes, clothes, face shields and goggles with a film that was hard to see through. The weather then dried up and the rest of the day we enjoyed perfect riding weather.

We traveled East on 47<sup>th</sup> St South to Santa-Fe Lake Road and then turned South and rode to the Douglass Road. We then turned back to the East traveling into Douglass for our first gas stop at the convenience store.

We then traveled east from Douglass to Latham, picking up Kelly and Ellen along the way. The road to Latham is a really good motorcycle road, traveling through ranch country and curvy roads. Once in Latham, we turned south and rode to Cambridge.

At Cambridge, we connected with Hwy 160, traveling east to Moline and our next gas stop. Hwy 160 is a scenic highway, especially the area around Granala. The girl working at the convenience store in Moline was a little frustrated with all the bikes filling up and paying separately but we got her through it.

We then rode on twelve miles to Longton. John Hasty rode in from Galisburg to join us for lunch in Longton. Brad Kill, the owner of the bar in Longton, normally doesn't open for business until 4:00pm, but was kind enough to open early so we could have lunch at his place.

The bar is located in a 100 year old building that was originally the bank. The stone step leading into the building has been worn about two inches from customers stepping on it for over 100 years. Brad served BBQ pork sandwiches and burgers and did a great job of serving our group and another group of bikers that arrived about the same time we were through.

On the way home, we stopped at the antique iron bridge and waterfalls in Elk Falls. Riding on Hwy 160 East is always a treat and this day was equally good. Good weather, good roads and good friends make for a great Club ride!