

A BRANSON TOUR POEM – BY RUTH

We left at sunrise in a rosy hue. Before too long the sky turns blue.
The Rocky Mountain peaks appear, snow capped against the sky.
And a few wispy clouds slowly drifted by.
The bus is quiet as we roll along until the High River guests get on.
The group just seemed to come alive. We're aboard, enjoy the drive.

We pass farmers fields covered in snow. Conversations start to flow.
The small towns are passing by, the roads are smooth, clear & dry.
The frost is pretty on the trees, bare now from the loss of leaves.
Herds of cows & buffalo stand in the fields of fallen snow.
The mountains we no longer see. We're left to view the many coulees.
Alberta now is left behind as we cross Saskatchewan line.
The sky has turned from blue to grey. Not much to see now along the way.
We will soon settle down for the night. Everyone is doing alright.

An early start to the day, miles to go, we're on our way.
It's still dark as we roll along, close my eyes & enjoy some song.
We continue & the bus is hot.
We can't wait to cool off in Minot.
The sun is peaking through the clouds as we get on our way.
Watertown, South Dakota: the destination for us today.
A stop in Old Town, Grand Forks , for lunch at the Blue Moose.
A trip across the river, in Widman's Candy store we're set loose.

Off the bus & settled down, some are off shopping on the town.
Others played cards & enjoyed a swim. Then to bed we settled in.
Up early for breakfast before we hit the road. Waiting now for the bus to load.
The sun is brightly shining today. Off we go, without delay.

The scenery is changing as we roll along. Hills & valleys, the snow is all but gone.
Conversation ebbs & flow, stories galore are being told.
Next stop: The Golden Corral. We are all fed up very well.
Back on the bus the wheels just hum. Kansas City here we come!

Arrived at Harrah's to a beautiful suite, didn't bother with a bite to eat.
To the casino to try my luck, turned their \$10 into \$50 bucks.
Took my winnings. Leslie shared some drinks. Went to my room to catch 40 winks.

Up again & on the go. Off to Branson to see a show.
Show after show after show after show!
Entertainment that's for sure. All around there's Christmas decor.
Oh the amazing sights we've seen, although Christmas here is very green.
Silver Dollar City is on the list. Quite the sight: not to be missed!
Throngs of people all around. Comfy rockers to sit down.
We'll watch the lighting of the tree then back on the bus we will be.

So much enjoyment for everyone. We are here to have some fun.
To that end we participated in some of the shows that were created.
Ruth & Sandy, Ralph & Gwen were game, to take part & we have no shame.
Our last night here we gathered 'round the tree.
Wine, snacks & stories are shared with glee.

Our first stop today is sure to please, in Osceola to buy some cheese.
Back on the bus & the whole crew, is ready now for BBQ.
Jack Stack BBQ the best in USA, lives up to it's name I have to say.
The spinach salad is the best I've ever tasted, the BBQ loaded baked potato could not be
wasted! Fully loaded with BBQ pork, right away I stuck in my fork!

Arriving in Omaha in Old Town. What a lovely place to stroll around.
The Old Market area, so pretty at night with all of the lights shining oh so bright.
A visit to Boys Town. Pam gave us a great tour.
The sculptures, the info, inspiring that's for sure.
We watched the Boys Town movie on our way to Watertown.
The sun is setting now, as for the night, we settle down.

It's a cloudy, dull morning. A winter sky as we board the bus
YQ has decorated, wishing Merry Christmas to all of us.
Minot, our destination for this Thanksgiving Day
There will be Black Friday shopping tomorrow, I dare say.

The sun has risen & the sky is blue, the road is dry & clear.
It's smooth sailing for YQ, he'll safely get us there.
The sun is shining through the window, the heat is on cremate!
Can we turn it down a little. I'm not ready for my funeral date!

Stories of Dave, by Stuart McLean do surely entertain us.
As we cruise along his stories are so hilarious!
Snow covered fields again appear. The road continues to be bare.
A stop for lunch along the way. We have gizzards again today!
But alas, it's Thanksgiving: I think I'll pass.

Our group enjoyed a catered dinner. We sure won't be going home any thinner!
We must have energy to prepare, for Black Friday shopping if you dare.

The shopping now has all been done, even customs for everyone.
Just how much can this bus hold? Obviously lots, I've been told.
This will be our last hurrah as we spend the night in Moose Jaw.
The spa, the casino, a place to grab a bite, together here for our last night.

I extend a big "thank you" to Cathy, Sandy & YQ.
What a great trip this has been, all the different things we've seen.
Friendships made, some old, some new. I'm happy to have joined all of you.
Wishing safe travels & Merry Christmas to everyone.
May all our future trips be just as much fun.

Ruth