

TO BE IN THE TRAFFIC OR NOT TO BE:

Rural Missouri and sprawling Houston

Emerging thoughts in Sam Kannappan's mind on March 13, 2004

I am from Houston, Texas. This week we were driving in the rural roads of Missouri and Illinois. One crosses mighty Mississippi River bridge looking at the beautiful lighted towers supporting cables at Alton. During driving, you come across one city had no traffic lights. Another City had a Down Town of old brick buildings with one light. What a difference compared to Houston. Due to the closing of the spur to Down Town, cars backs up on Southwest freeway. Traffic is going to get worse due to the Katy Freeway construction with two lanes only. In rural Illinois, you travel through highways next the family owned small stores. The owner at the counter gives directions with a map. He takes time to explain that the winding highway in side the small town cautioning that the highway number changes after the unprotected rail way line crossing.

At lunch time, one customer stares at Martha Swart on the TV screen and says "Does the punishment fit the crime?" People take sides clearly in the presidential campaign between the importance of jobs and security. Some play Missouri State lottery's Keno game which continues all the time on a monitor. One jumps up with joy to claim the ten dollars won in the last round. Every one in the room notices his winning. When I arrived back in sprawling Houston, the recent images of the rural life in Missouri and Illinois fades away as a distant memory.

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