

JANUARY 2019 JOURNALS

1.31.19- WE WILL RELAX TODAY

Prepare to leave tomorrow for overnight in Sequin, TX
Mike in Palazzo leave our site.

1.30.19- WE VISIT THE BUSH LIBRARY

Got an early start to visit the Bush Library. Temp is only 37 with a possible high of 41, BRRRRR! It takes a vista of this type to recall all the national incidents that were so important in those earlier days, that are inconsequential today. Hopefully what we are experiencing in this day will also be a distant memory some day.

1.28.19- WE VISIT JOHNSON SPACE CENTER

We awoke around 7am anxious for this day for visiting the Johnson Space Center. Carla is feeling a little better but still sneezing from time to time. After a light breakfast and proper clothing to counter the 37 degree weather we were on our way. Traveling through Houston was a white-knuckle experience.

1.24.19- THURSDAY-CARLA IS STILL WEATHERING A HEAD COLD

We awoke this morning with outdoor temperature of 27 degrees. Despite that temp we slept very nicely last night. We haven't had to use the propane for heat, at least not yet. We had hopes of visiting the Bush Library and Johnson Space Center. The gal at the Texas Visitors Center informed us that the Library would be closed because of the Government Shutdown! There loss! We're here for until the first of February, so we still have plenty of time to see the space center.

01.22.19-DEERWOOD EAST PROPERTY, GONE!

As a result of another one of my impetuous moments, many years ago, we acquired a property in Deerwood East, Waller County, Texas. Someone else now has the property. One less item in our Trust. This will definitely let us sleep a bit better in our future. It was definitely this agenda item that warranted our stay in Willis, Texas. Now we can enjoy the balance of our twelve-night stay in Lake Conroe RVP. We hope to visit the Bush Library in College Station and, if open, the Johnson Space Center.

01.21.19-VERY CHILLY, BUT NOT COLD

This will be a day to try to get chores done. Tanks emptied and wash to be done. I'm going to work on blogs the next three days. Rain coming the next two days. So, I have three days to catch up on my partial, unfinished blogs.

01.20.19-SUNDAY- LEFT SULFUR, LA FOR WILLIS, TX

Very seldom do we endure a trip that continues to offer up challenges to, what should easily be, a boring two-hundred-mile commute. Even the campground would not cut us a break. We left at 9:30 and arrived just before 1pm, in general just about what it should have taken. See the short blog on this date.

01.19.19- SAT. HAMMOND, LA TO LAKE CHARLES, LA

Rain and blustery winds- Left the Hammond Cracker Barely at 9:30 after a good breakfast and feeding the Cracker Barrel yard cat. We arrived at the Walmart in Lake Charles only to discover that they do permit overnight camping any longer; no exceptions! Plan B was to go to the local Cracker Barrel about ten miles west of Lake Charles, which we did, and got ourselves comfy for a very cold night.

01.18.19- FRIDAY- WALMART IN HAMMOND, LA

Finally-We've never been in Louisiana before.

01.16.19- ROBERTSDALE RVP FOR 2 NIGHTS

Robertsdale RVP was not much to talk about, except that the staff was very friendly and helpful. Our site had everything. Spent the 16th viewing the Immaculate Conception Cathedral and the 17th viewing the Battleship Alabama.

01.15.19-HURRICANE MICHAEL DEVASTATION

Just outside of Tallahassee FL we decided to opt out of Marianna for Crestview. This added about eighty miles to Today's trip but we were still able to get off the road by 2pm; works for me!

01.14.19-LAKE CITY FL.

Got a 9:15 start this morning and drove 150 miles to Cracker Barrel in Lake City. It's filling up with motor coaches. See Lake City Blog for more.

01.12.19-SAYING SO LONG TO OLD FRIENDS

It's not as emotional as when I was twelve and just spent a week at Camp Squanto with many of my scouting friends, but similar. Reminds me of that 8 by 8 foot army tent that prior to my arriving was inhabited with mosquitoes the size of silver dollars; but that was a week ago! More on this topic on the blog for this day.

01.10.19 ANN CUNNINGHAM'S NEW HOME

We last spoke of Ann way back in October of 2018. She has never been a full-timer as we are, but she would travel for six months in general. Her daughter and other family members have expressed concerns of her RVing life. This is not, in general a dangerous way of life, but I can understand their concerns. Read more in the blog of this day.

01.03-FIXING OUR COACH BOOBOO

Our home had a booboo. At times when the slide came in or out, we would hear a very loud bang; made us think we might have problem. More on this in our blog of the day.

01.02.19-PASTA, WINE AND GREAT COMPANY

Today would be Wednesday and washday. On our way to the Laundromat we thought we'd try to find Randy and Pat Hill. We had a good idea of where they would be staying, we just had to find them. He's just finished his third novel, The Vigilante by W. R. Hill.

01.01.2019 NEW YEARS DAY

Carla and I wish friends, family and everyone we know and all those, around 2800 readers, who visit and read this blog every month, a Very Happy and Healthy New Year. In 2015 readership, quite honestly, averaged in the low teens. Now back to the day at hand. Yesterday we traveled from the Riverside RV Park in Arcadia, FL. Currently we're back in Clermont, FL at the Orlando Thousand Trails RVP. We'll be here for fourteen nights. On another note my Dennis has been looking for new home. If all goes well in the next week of so he might actually close on a condo in Boynton Beach, FL. More to follow on this topic.

JANUARY 2019 BLOGS

01.01.2019 NEW YEARS DAY



Carla and I wish friends, family and everyone we know and all those, around 2800 readers, who visit and read this blog every month, a Very Happy and Healthy New Year. In 2015 readership, quite honestly, averaged in the low teens. Now back to the day at hand. Yesterday we traveled from the Riverside RV Park in Arcadia, FL. Currently we're back in Clermont, FL at the Orlando Thousand Trails RVP. We'll be here for fourteen nights. It will be from this campground we will jump start our travels for 2019. Our travel schedule for the next four weeks. To see all our planned travels, go to the top of this

blog and click on the "TRVEL PLANS" title.

On another note my brother Dennis has been looking for new home. If all goes well in the next week of so he might actually close on a condo in Boynton Beach, FL. More to follow on this topic. On a dumb note yesterday, on our trip back here, we saw a Carvana Vending Machine. We had plenty of quarters with us, but I doubt we had enough to purchase any of the cars *Indiana's first Carvana opened here Thursday, [with the motto](#): "Because car buying shouldn't suck." Carvana's process — buying, selling and financing cars — happens mostly online. Buyers shop more than 10,000 cars and can schedule to pick it up at the vending machine or have the car delivered to their house, possibly as soon as the next day. The seven-story Carvana car vending machine opens Thursday at 8130 Summit Hill Drive on the north side. (Photo: Amy Bartner / IndyStar).*

If they choose the vending machine, they'll meet a Carvana employee, who'll hand them an over-sized novelty coin to place into a slot. The action symbolically "vends" a car, which the customer can immediately drive away. The intention is to cut down on the time it takes to haggle with a salesperson and then go through a dealer's financing department. Each car is certified through Carvana's own inspection process, with no reported accidents or frame damage.

Buyers can try out the car for seven days to make sure they want it. Carvana, which opened six years ago, offers a money-back guarantee, with some [limitations](#). (From USA Today)A little after noon today brought knock on our door. It w's the Russell Family, Scott, Vanessa and Kora, their daughter. Sorry for the blurry picture, my camera is acting up again. They'll be here for a short stay, I'm sure we'll be getting together again. They will also be heading up to the Oregon area as well. We ended the evening with dinner at Road House, awesome meals. We each had the Dallas Filet with different sides. Will definitely have this meal again.

01.02.19-Dinner and great friends visit.

Today would be Wednesday and washday. On our way to the Laundromat we thought we'd try to find Randy and Pat Hill. We had a good idea of where they would be staying, we just had to find them. We haven't seen them in over two years so we were anxious to catch up. They now have a 2017 Holiday Rambler. It took us a couple of tries then there it was, but they were gone.

By the time we'd taken the clothes out of the dryer and folded them they had returned to their coach. We had very nice visit with both of them; so much to talk about. Just after we had finished dinner, we had a knock on our door; Pat and Randy! It was a little cramped since we had not extended the Driver's side slide in anticipation of a repair to the slide, but even with the limited space we enjoyed a great evening of talk and rehashing our travel experiences. There's just no substitute for good friends. You, most likely, remember my talking about them in a previous old blog. Randy Hill is a published author. He was nice enough to drop off his latest novel; The Vigilante by W. R. Hill. I'll talk about it just as soon as I read it myself. Our home had a booboo. On most times when the slide came in or out, we would hear a very loud bang; made us think we might have problem. We had our carpet man from "Re-carpet Your RV" business. He came back and made a small repair for which he was nice enough not to charge us for. This fix did not take care of our problem, however it did make the slide work nicer.



He recommended "Bob's Welding." I know, why would Bob's Welding have to do with an RV slide? Thing is this is a three-generation family of RV repair specialists. The founding patriot of the business was just that, a welder. RV's needed some welding services from time to time in his day. His son spent fourteen years working for an RV dealership, Alliance I think, that was his education. This business does not market itself at \$150 an hour. The fix on our RV came as a result of our replacing the carpet and adding vinyl

planking in place of carpet in many places. The fix, for us, mandated that they had to retool a twenty foot floor-plate. They counter-sunk the screws that were tearing up our underpad and creating our problem. When the under pad failed the slide would be snapping the screws that secured the plate to the coach floor, thereby creating that loud bang. After three and one-half hours in which we had as many as four workers on this job, the slide was fixed. I hate to think how much Alliance or LaMesa would have charged us for this job! The price averaged less than \$100 an hour, a bargain for us.

01.06.19-Visit to Dennis' Boynton Beach Condo

Today we visited Dennis' Boynton Beach Condo. So, we got on the road at 7:30 and did not get home that evening till about 5pm, with 30 minutes for a McDonald's lunch and then spending about 45 minutes with Dennis at the condo. View from the back of his condo.



Above is his kitchen. Marble counter tops, about 2.5 inches thick; awesome! Even the back splash is covered top to bottom with marble.



The condo is not as big as what he has right now but this is plenty big enough for him. It has two bedrooms.



Pictures up and down are the views from his balcony looking North and South at the Waterway. I'm sure you'll agree Dennis is really going to enjoy his new lifestyle. I might be wrong but I'm certain his caregiver, Camille, will enjoy the location as well.

01.10.19 ANN CUNNINGHAM NEW HOME

We last spoke of Ann way back in October of 2018. She has never been a full-timer as we are, but she would travel for six months in general. Her daughter and other family members have expressed concerns of her RVing life. This is not, in general a dangerous way of life, but I can understand their concern.



Her answer to their concerns will be her ending her travel plans and settling down at the Three Flags RV Campground in one of their camp model homes. She will now be enjoying a considerably larger living area while, at the same time, still enjoying many of the RV lifestyle of RVers and friends.



Her best friend, MO, should enjoy the new lifestyle as well. We enjoyed a very delightful afternoon with her, not to mention an excellent dinner she hosted us to, and the new direction her life will be moving in. We make Three Flags RVR a regular stop in our travels so we will be keeping tabs on her on a regular basis. We wish Ann every happiness in the decision she's making.

01.12.19-SAYING SO-LONG FOR NOW TO OLD FRIENDS

It's not as emotional as when I was twelve and just spent a week at Camp Squanto with many of my scouting friends, but similar. Reminds me of that 8 by 8-foot army tent that, prior to my arriving, was inhabited with mosquitoes the size of silver dollars! But it is, once again, the last couple of days of a very relaxing stay here in Orlando.



Today we began our so-longs by revisiting the Russell's. One of the nicest families we know. Vanessa, Scott and Kora. That's a close-up picture of Kora to the left. She's a little grabber-box but her communication skills are awesome; definitely a product of home schooling. They were also planning to leave Orlando just after us but their plans got messed up a bit and they'll be remaining here for a little longer. Then we drifted over to revisit Randy and Pat Hill, a blossoming author with another soon to be best seller, *The Vigilante*, waiting for you to purchase it. What we did not know is that Randy and Pat had left the park but were not that far away, thank you Walmart. We met up with them at our local Olive Garden and had a very enjoyable evening. As Carla mentioned earlier this evening, "it's refreshing to be apart from friends for months at a time, and then once your back together again, it just like old times again. It was only a few days ago that we were fortunate enough to join up with Ann as well. For the future, at least six months of the year, we now know that she'll be enjoying the Three Flags RVR in her new camp-style home.

1.02.19- Visiting Dennis in Boynton Beach, Florida

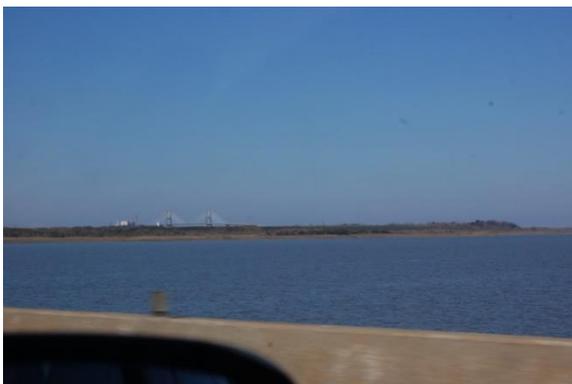


Lastly would be my brother Dennis. He hopes to close on his new home in just a few days. Turns out the Christmas-Boat-Parade will be parading directly in front of his new condo. Guess who plans to be in Boynton Beach next Christmas? I've prayed every day that his everyday experiences might someday take a new course, and for the first time in months, I'm optimistic that HE may have answered these prayers finally. All in all, it's been a fun stay; even had a chance to wax the HHR, first time in two years.

01.14.19-LAKE CITY FL.

Got a 9:15 start this morning and drove 150 miles to Cracker Barrel in Lake City. It's filling up with motor coaches. We'll take ourselves out to dinner this evening; called a guilt response for a free stay. Nothing is really free these days. Finding a spot that could fit us was time consuming but with patience and careful maneuvering we got a good spot. Right now, I think there are more coaches in the parking than cars, the place must be empty. Trouble is that 4 pm is too early for dinner. Ah, Ah! We did decide to eat early, only to be turned back do to a power outage in the area. Everyone previously turned away were returning, the parking lot was full. As always, we had a very nice meal.

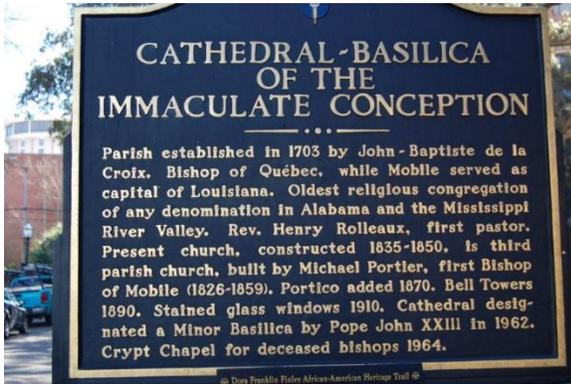
01.16.19 Wed.-IMMECULATE CONCEPTION CATHEDRAL IN MOBILE, AL.



Above is a bridge typical of what Boston has over the Charles, I believe. Below is a picture of the Mobile, AL skyline. This is "Cathedral Square" directly across the street from the Cathedral. Below is the front of the Cathedral.

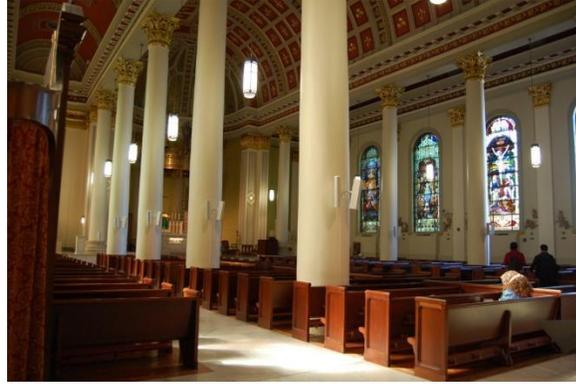


This parish was established in 1702 and the first church was built in a location not far from this spot.



The picture above and many below are views inside the Cathedral.





The Ornate Umbrella called the *Ombrellino*, is one of the two special symbols is tradition in a Cathedral to be used when the Holy Father visits the Cathedral. The other is the bell.



And you're saying what bell! –

On the left side of the picture in the middle is the bell. The picture to the right is a blow-up of that item. This bell is another traditional Roman symbol called a *Tintinnabulum*.

The *Ombrellino* and *Tintinnabulum* are used to both announce to the parishioners that the Holy Father is approaching the Cathedral and the *Ombrellino* is used to protect the Holy Father from inclement weather.



A close-up picture of the sanctuary. There are the two 67 minor Basilica in the US and 4 in Rome. Each Basilica has the two important Roman Symbols, the Ombrellino and Tintinnabulum. *The Cathedral Basilica has been graced with fine organs almost since its dedication in 1850. George Jardine, a well-known New York organ builder, completed the first instrument in 1858; it served admirably for nearly a century, until it was severely damaged by a fire in 1954. (Notes taken from the history of the Cathedral)*



We are now in the lower portion of the church called the Crypt. This was added to the facility a few years ago. It is not fully available to the public, thanks to a metal gate. It is here that the remains of the Bishops that serve the diocese are Encrypted.



This is the Coat of Arms for the Cathedral.

This very impressive piece of furniture is solely to be used by either an Archbishop and or Bishop only. This chair has a special name. It's called the "*Cathedra*." This leads to the reason why the church is called a Cathedral.



Just a close-up picture of a couple of the Stations of the Cross. Below is for my brother. He mentions often that the confessional is, many times, difficult to find.



01.16.19- BATTLESHIP ALABAMA



The Alabama from its humble beginnings on February 1, 1940 as the keel was laid at the Norfolk Navy Yard in Portsmouth, Virginia, Battleship USS ALABAMA (BB-60) has had a remarkable career.



She began her World War II adventures in the North Atlantic in 1943, then later that year, went to the South Pacific seas. She ended up in Mobile, Alabama as a National Historic Landmark and memorial to millions.

Captains quarters below:



Home to a crew of 2,500 courageous Americans, this 45,000-ton gentle giant's WWII adventure culminated with BB-60 leading the American Fleet into Tokyo Bay on September 5, 1945. Nine Battle Stars for meritorious service were awarded the "Mighty A" during her brief three-year tenure as the "Heroine of the Pacific".

Most American warships end their useful life after wartime, but ALABAMA was destined to live another day. In May 1962, the Federal Government announced that BB-60 and others would be scrapped, but a forward-looking group of Mobilians and other Alabamians saw a bright future in the aging warship.





They envisioned the ALABAMA as the anchor attraction of a Veterans Memorial Park to be located in Mobile. That impossible dream came true on January 9, 1965 when USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park opened to the public. More than fifteen million visitors later and a statewide economic impact approaching one billion dollars, the Park is easily the most recognizable symbol of the State of Alabama. Dedicated to all Alabama Citizens who have worn the uniform of all branches of the United States Armed Forces, the Park's numerous artifacts, exhibits, and displays all point to the fact that the Park is America's most unique military attraction. Come see for yourself. (Utilized text courtesy of the USAAlabama.com website)



The small crane you see in the left picture is to on and off load a sea plane..

01.19.19-Travel to Lake Charles, now Sulfur, LA.



Traveling above the protected bayous and swamp lands. This above the water road way went on for dozens of

miles. We got to leave Lafayette and headed for Lake Charles, LA, at a local Walmart. Shortly before going to church we dropped into Walmart to ask permission to stay overnight. It as, we thought, merely a formality, since we were told it would be Okay, to our dismay, we were told NO! Boondocking at a Walmart is a privilege, need to go to plan B. We would head out to Sulfur, LA to a Cracker Barrel. It was a delightful stay and put us ten miles closer to our destination for tomorrow.

01.20.19-Sunday- TRAVEL TO WILLIS, TX

Very seldom do we endure a trip that continues to offer up challenges to, what should easily be, a boring two-hundred-mile commute. Even the campground would not cut us a break. We left at 9:30 and arrived just before 1pm, in general just about what it should have taken. Temperatures last night dipped to 32 degrees with a feels like of 24 degrees. What was nice is that we can now let our new inverter supply the power to run the electric heat for the evening. The challenges we incurred were mostly self-inflicted. I have a tendency to just get up and do what I think is the next thing to do, you can't do that with this lifestyle. I've worked hard trying to remember this axiom and in general I do abide by these rules, but I do slip up occasionally. No repercussions resulted thankfully; just have to think for a second before taking action.



From the pictures above and below, we did make it to Texas. Finding the campground directions, we're proving to be elusive. GPS, map book and map info were not complementing each other. This was adding to the several other problems we had to deal with today. Breakdown-lane in the picture can also be used for evacuations.



Let's take a walk through the campground. Below is our site. It's on two small hills. One goes left to right, and the other goes from the front to rear of the coach.



Above are rental cabins, they're all over the grounds.



Play area and more cabins.



Basketball court and a far look of the lake area.



Office and sales offices. At the far end is a group gathering area. No picture yet since the camp was having a child appropriate movie at the time I was there.



1.28.19-Johnson Space Center-We awoke around 7am anxious for this day for visiting the Johnson Space Center. Carla is feeling a little better but still sneezing from time to time. After a light breakfast and proper clothing to counter the 37-degree weather we were on our way. Traveling through Houston was a whit-knuckle experience.



This group of fly-overs wasn't even the biggest, felt bad we missed that shot. It had a series of 5 levels high. Below is the Houston skyline. Tragic in this shot above was light, I never want to travel I-45 through the city again.

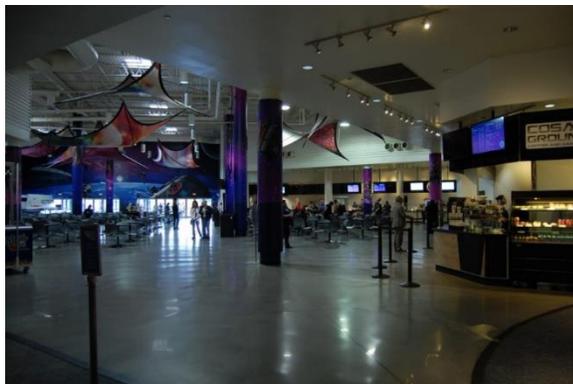


Yea, we made it. The drive here was definitely an "E" ticket experience. Carla, Abby and I were fortunate enough to experience a 747 carrying a Shuttle back to Kennedy many years ago. It was such a rare event that, many times, the 747 pilot would do his own creative flight plan before landing. Many times, flying north and south along the coastline to be a little boastful.

This would be our first of several venues today, buying tickets and viewing the Space Center Museum. Below are a few shots of the inside of this venue.



I kind of liked this picture below, a roadmap to the galaxy. Then another shot of the complex.



Below this guy is explaining the technique of going to the bathroom, you know #2, in space. It involves the use of suction. I won't go into details on this but will let you use your imagination. Below this same guy tried to get this volunteer to drink Space Station generated water. Must I go into detail as to where the Space Station gets this primary source of water. The volunteer did not oblige the host in trying this highly purified water. Did you really think he would?



Above is an animation showing a candle (on the left) as it would glow on earth and the same candle, on the right and how it would glow on the space Station, in outer space. The question here is why! A tour of the complex by tram will be next.



Yes, we can thank Disney for creating "waiting stalls" even at JSC, but the line was short. These are long horn Texas steers grazing on the JSC property. I did not hear the entire story but I think they had to be permitted as part of the buy-out or lease deal on the property.



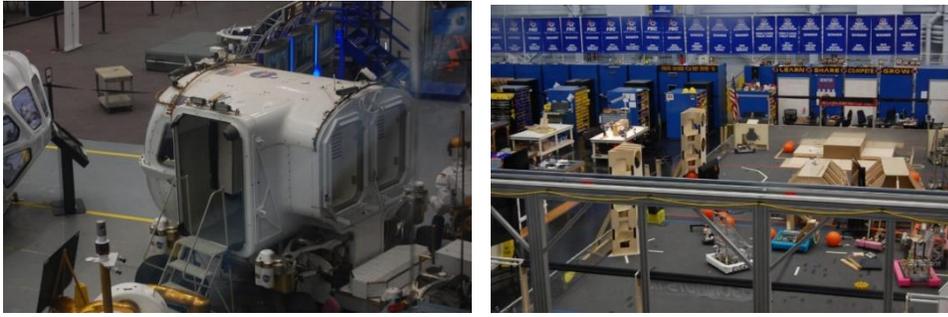
Some of the research buildings on the property, forgot their particulars.



We're in the last building shown above where they build stuff and the train on it. The big white drums are actually, I think, living modules for the astronauts.



Pictures above and below are about the "Orion" capsule. This is the new phase of our space program. Almost feels like we're going backwards, especially after experiencing the Shuttles. Very much like the Mercury capsules more window, but yet no bathrooms or exercise room. Once again, these are "living quarters modules" that will someday go back to the moon or Mars.



Above at the top of the picture are the many awards students have won as they worked on actual space projects at this NASA center. Some of their achievements can be seen on the floor, mostly in the realm of robotics. Below, I know, nobody here looks very busy, I agree.



We're off again to see what's in the next building, the Saturn Rocket building. Below see the bikes. These are the original bikes dating from the beginnings of the Space Center. Schwinn comes in once a year and refurbishes them for the years to come.

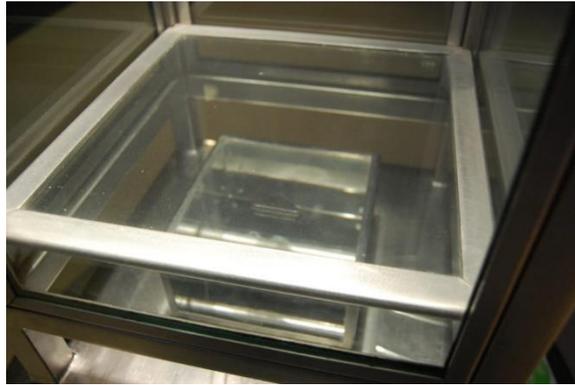
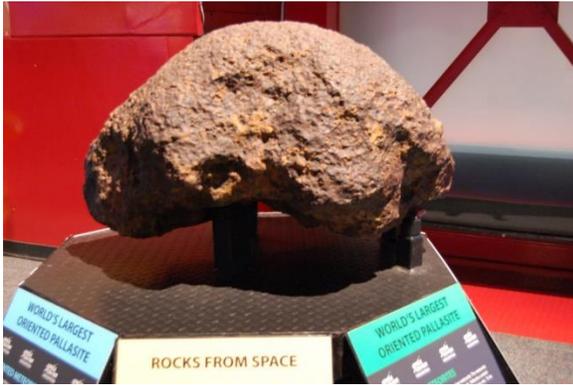


On this plot of soil trees have been planted with placards in commemoration of those that have contributed greatly to the program. Below, I just liked the picture. Some information on the Saturn Rocket. Your computer can enlarge the information. The Saturn Rocket, the heaviest, biggest and most powerful rocket built. There's so much information on this rocket I'll let you Google it.

One particular item, it's 360 feet in length. Just a few pictures on this beast.



This is the actual rocket, not a mock-up. There are only three left; Cape Kennedy, Atlanta and here in Houston.



Above: there was no sign that aid Do Not Touch The Space Rock, so I touched it. Below the sin read touch the rock from the moon, why not, so we did. It was in a heavily fortified case of glass and steel with an opening barely big enough for a hand to fit inside. No chance of taking this artifact. A very small sample of moon rock.

Some pictures from the space Shuttle:



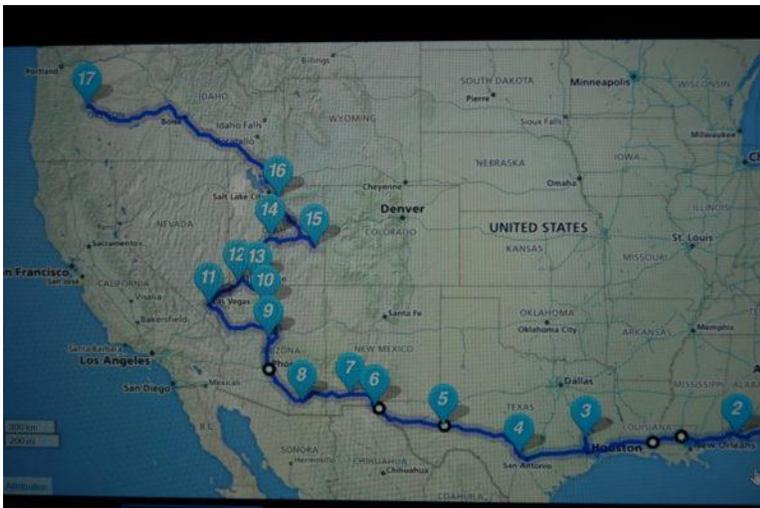


Now off to the 747-transport plane:



NASA owned and operated two of these 747's. The plane above made nine of these piggy-back trips.

FEBRUARY 2019 JOURNALS



This month's Travel Plans:

- 3. Jan. 20th Willis, TX at Lake Conroe (TT) RVP x 12 nights. (190m)
Seguin, TX -Overnight (156m)
- 4. Feb. 2nd Lakehills, TX at Medina Lake RVR (TT) x 13 nights (71m)
- 5. Feb. 15th Fort Stockton, TX overnight
- 6. Feb. 16th El Paso, TX - overnight
- 7. Feb. 17th Deming, NM overnight
- 8. Feb. 18th Benson, AZ at Valley Vista RVR(T3) x13 nights
Phoenix, AZ overnight

02.01.2019- TRAVEL TO SEQUIN, TX

We got off to a 9am start this morning on a trip that was to be 155 miles but ended up at 200. Good news was that we did get off the road before 2pm. Found a great spot to park at Walmart, got a haircut and did some shopping at Walmart. We begin the month in Willis, TX and as you can see from the map above, we'll end the month in Benson, AZ. This time tomorrow we should be in Lakehills, TX staying at Medina Lake RV Resort.

02.02.2019-SAT.-GROUNDHOG DAY-MADINA LAKE RVR

Awoke to a very thick fog, white knuckle travelling through San Antonio and finally arriving at Medina Lake RVR in Lakehills, TX. We have an excellent site with 30 amp electric, sewer, a corner lot with a view of the lake.

02.03.2019-SUNDAY- NOTHING SCHEDULED BUT THINGS TO DO

The Texas sand here sticks to everything. Both the coach and the HHR are encased in sand and dust. We both decided that the car required saving. So we attacked the retched vehicle. It took an hour but we did rediscover the red luster that had temporary gone away. The coach was next. What I haven't done in over two years was the roof to the coach. So, for a couple of hours I attacked the dirty dusty roof and rediscovered the original white luster. It still needs a little detail work but it does look great.

02.04.2019-Monday-HOSE DOWN THE COACH and PAUL KOURTZ

He roof looks great, but today it's time to, at least, hose off the dirt on the coach. Texas dirt and dust has a sticky nature to itself. Yesterday was so nice. 71 degrees and minimal sun which made my working on the roof at least bearable. The coach h's been hosed down and rain is expected within the hour. Hopefully I'll be able to scrub it down better after the rain stops.

02.06.2019-wed.-THREE VENUES TO VISIT TODAY

To tell you the truth I was not very anxious to find myself having to travel through San Antonio, TX again but the traffic was not that bad at all. Our first stop would be the Alamo. We took quite a few pictures of the outside but were not permitted to take pictures inside the Alamo itself, but that was OK since most of it was going through repairs. It is a very solemn place to visit. Did it have the feeling of a graveyard? Yes! Our next stop was to walk to the San Fernando Cathedral about six blocks away. It took us about fifteen minutes to get there but thirty minutes to get back, long story. On our way home, back to Medina Lake RVP, we would go a little out of our way to view the Medina Dam.

02.12.2019-Tuesday COACH MAINTENANCE

Today was projected to be an excellent work day, coming in around the mid-sixties, and it did. Around eleven am I got my act together and took myself to the roof of the coach. Last week I had a great day and washed it as clean as possible but had many fungus/mold spots all over the beautiful white roof. After three hours of carefully and gently scrubbing the spots with Great Value Mold and Mildew remover the job was done. It did a nice job; the top of the coach is spotless. Hopefully in a week or two I hope to have time to wax it down as well.

02.13.2019- Wed.-FEEDING CONTINUES

Carla continues to feed family of over two dozen deer. Right now, she's explaining to our new neighbor that it will be her responsibility to continue the feeding after we leave on Friday. Remember tomorrow is Valentine's Day. Yesterday we also expanded our travel schedule to several more stops. After St. George we're planning to visit Kanab, Salina, Moab, Heber, UT and ending in Bend, OR. This brings us up to end of May. We hope to kill some quality rest time in Oregon.

2.14.2019- VALENTINE'S DAY

Last night, just before bed, Carla and I were talking and she mentioned that the couple whose dog got loose and ran away from them had returned home its own. I'm still not really an animal lover but we do get attached to our pets. Last week, when the incident happened, the parents of the runaway dog approached us to keep our eyes peeled just in case we might spot the animal, that was about a week ago. If people like us and them were living a normal lifestyle, we could just say, not to worry he'll come back some day, but we're transients. Almost all of us must pick up and leave, then all you can hope for is a phone call sometime in the future. Those who know me know I have an enormous belief in St. Jude, on numerous occasions, when I felt all hope was gone, imploring his help ALWAYS brought a positive result. Feeling bad for these folks with the lost dog I began the 9-day novena to St. Jude in hopes he might resolve this situation, that was two nights ago and the dog had been missing for 5-6 days. He day Carla mentioned that the dog had returned was day two of the novena.

02.16.2019 TRAVEL TO FORT STOCKTON

Turbines in east of Stockton, Mesas and buttes to see and met a man at a rest stop. wheels before Stockton

02.17.2009 TRAVEL TO EL PASO, TX

Rest area West of Ft. Stockton and view St. Patrick Cathedral, el Paso

02.18.2019 TRAVEL TO DEMING, NM**02.19.2019 TRAVEL TO BENSON, AZ**

FEBRUARY 2019 BLOGS

02.02.19-SAT.-GROUNDHOG DAY-MEDINA LAKE RVR

Awoke to a very thick fog.



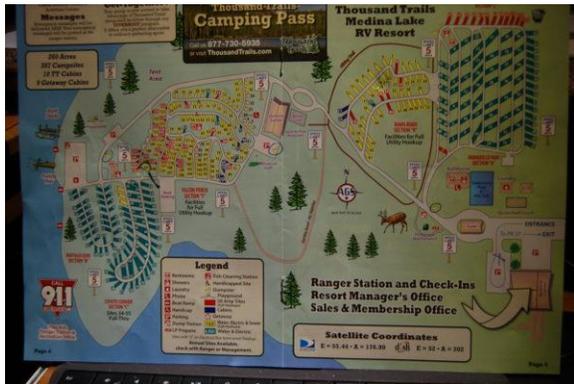
Our visibility was less than 1/10th mile so we began this trip slowly. GPS informed us that work was being done on I-10 and traffic was at a standstill, so it gave us an alternate route to follow.



Eventually we arrived in San Antonio with just a little fog to contend with but with so much traffic I was glad to have Carla riding shotgun for us. Just like being in a gauntlet. Bye bye big city, hello country.

2.03.19-Medina Lake RVResort

Medina Lake RVResort is a Thousand Trails property. As I've days mentioned before it's part of the Equity Lifestyle Properties family. We're staying only thirteen nights, but if we had opted to, we could have stayed for twenty-one nights at no charge. The no charge is the eye catcher. You can't live at home, a stick and mortar place, at no charge. below is a schematic of the campground. In the nine o'clock position is a black marker on site 141 section F, that's us.



White tail deer, Scouts wants to go out and join them. Deer, deer everywhere.



San Antonio Texas is only about a thirty-minute ride from this campground but the terrain is so vastly different from that big city. We've got the windows and door open letting the outdoor 74-degree temperature make our day. We'll be attending St. Stanislaus Catholic church in Bandera, TX about a 30-minute drive from here.



We've never sat on so much Real Estate. Yup, the HHR took a beating on the way down. We have an excellent site with 30 amp electric, sewer, a corner lot with a view of the lake.



This is a first for us. We have dozens and dozens of deer meandering all over the campgrounds. The campground actually encourages the residents to feed the deer. More to come!!

02.02.19 Sat- St. Stanislaus Church

in Bandera, TX. This is about a thirty-minute ride from the campground were staying at. A little history of the Church. This text is taken from the St. Stanislaus Web Site in the History section. Everything italicized is part of that text.

A HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH 1855-2009

St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Parish had its beginning in 1855 when immigrant families from Poland landed at Indianola, Texas and proceeded to Bandera to settle. This was only six weeks after the settling of the first Polish Parish in the United States at Panna Maria, Texas. In 1859 they began in a 20' x 30' log structure, which served as their first church. The entire block on which the church is located was purchased for only \$1.00 from the James de Montel Company.



This is also, we were told by a lovely parishioner Molly, that it's the second oldest Catholic Church in the Country, not just Texas. The oldest Church in the USA is in a small town just south of San Antonio, TX, which we will never see because I have no intention of driving through San Antonio again. Being fortunate enough to have attended would have been a perfect evening for us, then came Molly. She gave us the nickel version on the history of the church and then asked if we were coming next week. We said yes next Saturday night. But you must come on Sunday and enjoy our annual dinner, she added.



It would be an extensive selection of Polish meals and recipes. I insisted that we would be there. This has turned out to be a very special venue for us, and I'm sure we'll remember all these events for years to come. June, July and August are the three hottest months, humidity also. Jan, Feb and March rarely go below freezing and seldom ever snows.

This just might be a nice hide-away for us next year after the Christmas season is over with family and friends.



This is of the Church. Father Frank Kurza, Pastor

In her Centennial Year, 1976, the church was adorned with gothic lights, and she was given a complete interior makeover. Six additional stained-glass windows were installed in 1990, and in 1996 the statues and Stations of the Cross were repainted, and the altars all re-marbleized. In 2000, the small room off of the sanctuary was transformed into a chapel for the purpose of Perpetual Adoration.

Two additional stained-glass windows were installed in the Adoration Chapel and two more in the Sacristy. In 2002, work began on the outside of the church. The limestone rock was cleaned and the old mortar between the limestone was chipped out and replaced. This work was completed at the beginning of 2003.

The church in which we worship today was built in 1876. It was constructed of native limestone. Originally, the sacristy and rectory were located above the rear of the building, the church bell being hung in a small cupola placed on the roof of same area. In 1906 the steeple was completed. The baptistry and confessionals were added in later years, as was a larger bell, and in the 1940's parish families donated stained glass windows. An all steel steeple with a stainless-steel cross was erected in 1988.

(the web site contains a little more information about the convent and school should you want to read about it in more detail. [goto St. Stanislaus History](#))

02.06.19- the Alamo



Above right are the garrisons, but at the time of the battle this area was used to store ammunition. To the left is the Alamo gift Shop. Below is a monument dedicated to the heroes of the Alamo, over two-hundred in number. Below to the right is a picture of the Oak Tree planted at the Alamo in commemoration of the fallen.



Above is a blow-up of the list of names on the monument. Bowie and Crockett were the two I knew about the most. Below Carla is talking to a Texas Ranger asking him for directions to the San Fernando Cathedral.

2.06.19-San Fernando Cathedral

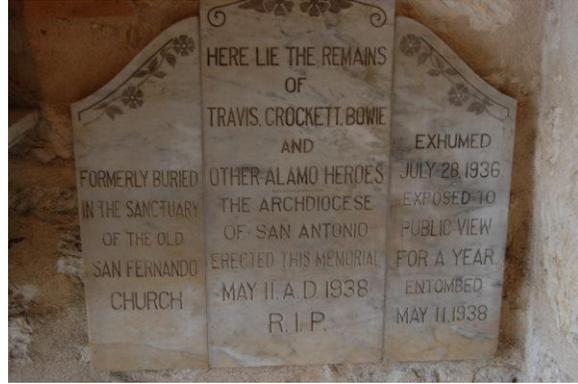
This is the San Fernando Cathedral located in San Antonio, Texas. Right after we had visited the Alamo Carla spoke to a Texas Ranger and he explained that this cathedral was only six blocks away or about a fifteen-minute walk.



The bold and italicized text is courtesy of Wikipedia

The original church of San Fernando was built between 1738 and 1750. The walls of that church today form the sanctuary of the cathedral, which gives rise to its claim as the oldest cathedral in the State of Texas. The church was named for [Ferdinand III of Castile](#), who ruled in the 13th century.

The [baptismal font](#), believed to be a gift from [Charles III](#), who became King of Spain from 1759, is the oldest piece of [liturgical](#) furnishing in the cathedral. The cathedral was built by settlers from the [Canary Islands](#), for this reason the interior is an image of the [Virgin of Candelaria](#), the patroness of the Canary Islands.^[2]



THIS CRIPT CARRIES THE REMAINS OF MANY OF THE FIGHTERS AND HEROES OF THE ALAMO.

In 1831, Jim Bowie married Ursula de Veramendi in San Fernando.

In 1836, the cathedral, still a parish church, played a role in the [Battle of the Alamo](#) when Mexican General [Antonio López de Santa Anna](#) hoisted a flag of "[no quarter](#)" from the church's tower, marking the beginning of the siege.^[3]



THE STATIONS ARE VERY INTENSE AND BEAUTIFUL.



In 1868, under the director of architect [Francois P. Giraud](#), the cathedral was considerably enlarged in the [Gothic](#) style, the addition forming the existing [nave](#). The carved stone [Stations of the Cross](#) were added in 1874. The striking [stained glass](#) windows were added in 1920.^[3] On September 13, 1987, [Pope John Paul II](#) visited the cathedral during the only papal visit to Texas. A marker commemorates the event.

2.06.19-The Medina Dam...

Not to much to say about this venue. We came, we saw and we left.



*The history of the Medina Dam below is from the :© 2019 Medina Lake Preservation Society.
[got Medina Dam History](#)*

The historic Medina Dam was completed in 1912 and Medina Lake was filled by 1913. The dam is a historical landmark, registered by the Texas Historical Commission and the American Society of Civil Engineers. The lake is approximately 18 miles long and three miles wide at its widest. The surrounding hills are composed of mostly fractured karst limestone covered in ash juniper, oak, persimmon, black walnut and (occasionally) Madonna

trees. Towering cypress grows near the Medina River and its tributaries. Medina Lake, combined with the Diversion Lake below the main dam, create the single largest recharge source for the entire Edwards Aquifer.

The Medina Lake Dam was designated a state historical landmark in 1976 by the [Texas Historical Commission](#) and was entered into The National Register of Historic Places at that time. The dam was also recognized as a civil engineering landmark in 1991 by the American Civil Engineering Society and a plaque with that designation sits on the dam, alongside the Historical Commission plaque. Today, the area that is known as Mormon's Bluff was the site of one of the first Mormon colonies in Texas. A third plaque sits on the dam recognizing this settlement.

Three books have been written specifically about the history of Medina Lake, the first by the Reverend Cyril Matthew Kuehne, originally published by St. Mary's University in San Antonio, entitled "Ripples from Medina Lake". This book is currently being reprinted by the Castro Colonies Historical Society in Castroville. It is available at the [Castroville Chamber of Commerce](#).

2.9.19-St. Victor Catholic Church/ Chapel

The bold italic text in this blog is from the Web Site of St. Victor Catholic Church/ Chapel...WHO WAS ST. VICTOR?

St. Victor was a native of Africa and succeeded St. Eleutherius as Pope, about the year 189. He opposed the heresies of that time and ex-communicated those who taught that Jesus Christ was only a man and not God. He was involved in the controversy regarding the date of Easter and confirmed the decree of Pope Pius 1, which ordered the Feast of Easter to be celebrated on a Sunday. He ruled the Church for ten years. His energy and zeal exposed him to persecutions for which alone he deserves the honors of a martyr, which are accorded him liturgically. This pope is named in the canon of the Ambrosian Mass and is said by St. Jerome to have been the first in Rome to celebrate the Mysteries in Latin. He was formerly held in special veneration in Scotland for having sent missionaries there. While we know little about him, we may reflect that it was through such people as St. Victor, that Christianity took root and has survived to be cherished by us some eighteen centuries later.



The new Chapel, that part with the cross on the roof, was just completed and dedicated in January, 2019.

THE HISTORY OF OUR PARISH...St. Victor Parish was founded in 1961 by the Rev. Prendeville. Its territory was originally part of St. Patrick Church, St. John Vianney Church (both in San Jose) and St. John the Baptist Church in Milpitas. The first Mass was celebrated on October 29, 1961, the Feast of Christ the King, in an old farm house that Mateo and Ann Sunseri made available to the community. This temporary church served as a place of worship for seventeen months. Men of the parish took care of remodeling the farm house and provided 160 seats for the community.

The first Christmas midnight Mass was celebrated with an ancient spinet organ donated for that occasion. The farmhouse lights worked on individual chains. It was understood that parishioners in the front rows would stand and move to the side so that communicants would be able to kneel at the railing. On summer days, early Mass was best and in rainy weather, boots were convenient. It was a simple and homey church in every sense of the word.

The first rectory was purchased in August 1961. It was used as such until 1964 when the church bought two other properties to house the priests. The original rectory then became the convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Corondolet. In 1972, a house was purchased at 3108 Sierra Rd for use as a rectory; it is now the current Parish Office Building.

To serve the needs of the rapidly growing community, it was decided to build a Church Hall. On May 28, 1978, ground was broken. The shell was built by a construction company and the men of the parish did the finishing work. The hall was completed on April 11, 1979; Bishop Francis Quinn blessed it on April 22, 1979.

Just when everything was going well for the faith community, a calamity struck on April 10, 1980. A three-alarm fire swept through St. Victor Church and burned it to the ground, including the newly-installed \$22,000 organ. Investigators reported that an arsonist started the fire using candles taken from the sacristy. But out of the ashes emerged the indomitable spirit of the St. Victor Community. The night after the fire, the Parish Council, led by the then-acting chairman, Tom Zeitvogel, had an emergency meeting. It was decided then to rebuild the church with a Spanish Mission theme. Jean Dargis headed the pledge drive to secure funds for the building of the new church and the ground-breaking ceremony took place on June 14, 1981. The first mass was celebrated on May 15, 1982 and on September 9, 1982, Bishop Pierre DuMaine dedicated the church, followed by a parish barbecue and Fiesta.

In June of 1996, a decision was made to construct another wing to take care of the needs of the growing population. Located on the southeast corner of the present school building, the new wing houses meeting rooms and additional space for St. Victor School.

2.14.19-St. Jude, dog lost, dog found.

2.14.2019- VALENTINE'S DAY-Last night, just before bed, Carla and I were talking and she mentioned that the couple who's dog got lose and ran away from them had returned home on its own. I'm still not really an animal lover but we do get attached to our pets.

Last week, when the incident happened, the parents of the runaway dog approached us to keep our eyes peeled just in case we might spot the animal, that was about a week ago. For people like us and them if we we're living a normal lifestyle, we could just say, not to worry he'll come back some day, but we're transients. Almost all of us must pick up and leave, then all you can hope for is a phone call sometime in the future. Those who know me know I have infinite faith in St. Jude, as he's been there for me on numerous occasions, when I felt all hope was gone, imploring his help ALWAYS brought a positive result. Feeling bad for these folks with the lost dog I began the 9-day novena to St. Jude in hopes he might resolve this situation, that was two nights ago and the dog had been missing for 5-6 days. The day Carla mentioned that the dog had returned home was day two of the novena. I have beseeched St. Jude's assistance so many times over the course of my life I've lost count. Would the dog have come home on its own, maybe-may be not. The anguish these folks were feeling was terrible. The positive result was all that matters. For those not familiar with the novena I will print it out FYI.

O Holy St Jude!

Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles,

near kinsman of Jesus Christ,

faithful intercessor for all who invoke you,

special patron in time of need; to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart, and humbly beg you, to whom God has given such great power,

to come to my assistance; help me now in my urgent need and grant my earnest petition. (present your petition) I will never forget thy graces and favors you obtain for me and I will do my utmost to spread devotion to you.

Amen.

St. Jude, pray for us and all who honor thee and invoke thy aid.

(Say 3 Our Father's, 3 Hail Mary's, and 3 Glory Be's after this.)

This novena has never failed me, except once, but that's another long story, my petition was answered, not so much as what I was requesting, but for what was what I really needed. The novena, from what I've been told, will always be answered if your petition is for what is right and good for you. Don't even think of asking to be a lottery winner, that request won't even get a hearing. And do not expect answers right away, Jude is not FedEx. On at least two occasions my petitions were answered months after the novena was finished. I will now get off and away from my pulpit, but it is my blog, so items of interest to me will most likely always find a spot for me to rant on about as I have today.

02.15.2019 Lakeville to Fort Stockton, TX

We got a very early start on this trip, about 320 miles.



Yes, this is a Camel farm or habitat area. I'm not sure what you would raise camels for.



So many beautiful vistas we got to enjoy on this long sojourn. In the rest area in Fort Stockton trip where Carla started a conversation with an older gentleman traveling with wife#2, and three Huskies and a black pup, traveling in a van. This gentleman gave Carla some very good tips for our trip forward. A Mesa (below) is a raised parcel of land that has a very flat top. A butte (above) is a pyramid shaped hilly area that comes to a point.



We also experienced a massive amount of wind turbines; I mean hundreds of them. We ended the day watching the video Hunter Killer, a flick we recommend.

02.16.2009 -Fort Stockton to El Paso, TX-Sat

On the western side of Fort Stockton on our way to El Paso we came across another Rest Stop area that really deserved talking about, more info in the blog.



Today we continue with day two of our trip to Benson, AZ. The roads to El Paso may not be I-95 type but more than adequate for the traffic on these roads. The 16-wheeler trucks still give me concern when they're passing us. Once again Texas will impress us with another distinguishing rest area.



Above is another example of how El Paso keeps its highways very clean cut, especially in the road signs and the arched pole holding them. We are continually warned about what and how to handle a sand storm. Between route info on the pavement ad signs, it's hard to make any mistakes.





The road infrastructure in this city is awesome.



Every fence of every overpass is different and distinctive; works of art. This day being Saturday Mass was on the schedule.



We were fortunate to experience the St. Patrick Cathedral. After Mass we treated ourselves to a steak and ham meal at Crocker Barrel.

2.16.2019-El Paso, Texas

We leave Fort Stockton and travel to El Paso, TX.

The majority of the italicized texts below has been taken from Wikipedia.

El Paso (/ɛl ˈpæsoʊ/; from [Spanish](#), "the pass") is a city in and the [seat](#) of [El Paso County](#), situated in the far western corner of the [U.S. state](#) of [Texas](#). As of July 1, 2017, the population estimate for the city from the [U.S. Census](#) was 683,577. Its U.S. metropolitan area covers all of El Paso and [Hudspeth](#) counties in Texas, and has a population of 844,818. The [El Paso metropolitan area](#) forms part of the larger [El Paso–Las Cruces CSA](#), with a population of 1,053,267.

El Paso stands on the [Rio Grande](#) across the [Mexico–United States border](#) from [Ciudad Juárez](#), the most populous city in the [Mexican state](#) of [Chihuahua](#). The two cities, along with [Las Cruces](#) in the neighboring U.S. state of [New Mexico](#), form a combined international [metropolitan area](#) sometimes referred to as the Paso del Norte or [El Paso–Juárez–Las Cruces](#). The region of over 2.7 million people constitutes the largest bilingual and binational work force in the [Western Hemisphere](#).



The infrastructure in this city is so beautiful. Bridges and fly-overs are all painted. The colors and architecture reflect the Adobe lifestyle. This is not a town, it's a major city. Traffic is heavy but all signs are clear and easily understood.

The El Paso region has had human settlement for thousands of years, as evidenced by [Folsom points](#) from [hunter-gatherers](#) found at [Hueco Tanks](#). The evidence suggests 10,000 to 12,000 years of human habitation. The earliest known cultures in the region were maize farmers. When the [Spanish](#) arrived, the [Manso](#), [Suma](#), and [Jumano](#) tribes populated the area. These were subsequently incorporated into the [Mestizo](#) culture, along with immigrants from central Mexico, captives from [Comanchería](#), and [genízaros](#) of various ethnic groups. The [Mescalero Apache](#) were also present.



Please read the special blog on St. Patrick Cathedral.

St. Patrick Cathedral is the seat of the [Roman Catholic Diocese of El Paso, Texas](#).^[1] The [cathedral](#) is located at 1118 N. Mesa Street, north of the downtown area. It is the [mother church](#) for 668,000 Catholics in the diocese (as of the 2006 survey).^[2] The cathedral parish operates one of El Paso's Catholic high schools, [Cathedral High School](#), and St. Patrick Elementary School adjacent to the church.

02.17.2019- El Paso to Deming, NM

Traveling to Deming we came across another great rest area, the Pecos County Safety Rest Area. This venue was so nice going to try to make a simple blog on this location; they even have a actual footprint of a T- Rex sometime in the past. With Cracker Barrel only a short we could not pass up a good breakfast. Just like last night the weather was cold, about 32 with a strong wind. We rounded off the day with the movie Speed Kills with our Saturday night pizza twenty-four late but very good.



This rest stop area gave the history of this part of the country.



Wind turbines seems to be a second industry here. These turbine blades seem much smaller than the ones we experienced in Vermont. Below is the sign we've been looking for.



The cattle industry is huge here. For the next 15 miles venues like this, on both sides of the road, never stop appearing. I'm talking about thousands of head of cattle. Below another overpass decked out in beautiful environmentally friendly and minimal maintenance stone landscaping. Florida should take their lead.



Another highway art piece. The Roadrunner appears to be the New Mexican Mascot, not sure though.



Ahhhh! Only a few mere miles to go.

02.18.2019- Deming to Benson, AZ



Yesterday when we arrived in Benson our driver's side slide got stuck in the half-in/half-out position. Wayne came in and added hydraulic fluid and all is well. We've made an appointment with Lazydays on April 4th to have them look and see if the hydraulic line needs repair or replacing. Another fine rest stop. Each rest area is beautiful, clean with covered outdoor eating areas. Not to mention a work of art o their own.

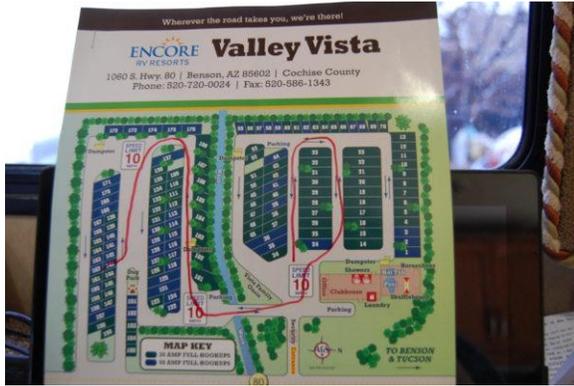


Below a centennial marker from only a few years ago for Arizona. As with New Mexico, Arizona also takes pride in their highways. The fence work depicting cattle crossing is unique. The natural landscape of the area is equally eye pleasing. Below has nothing to do with Arizona, it's a Casita trailer. Only a few days ago we met and spoke to an older lady who RVs eight months of the year in her Casita. For so small it has it all, besides being very light weight for towing.



We finally make it to Valley Vista, in Arizona, or are we in Wisconsin? Second day here we woke up to two inches of snow and very cold temperatures.

2.18.2019-Valley Vista RVP- Benson, AZ



We're now in Valley Vista Campground in Benson, AZ. Benson is about forty miles south of Tucson, AZ. Valley Vista, thankfully, is another Thousand Trails, Equity Lifestyle Property. In short, we get to stay here for two week at no charge. There was a two dollar per day surcharge for a 50Amp site, which is well worth the costs.



As you have read on our first day our driver's side slide was stuck half in-half out. It was fixed the next day, just needed some hydraulic fluid. Our second day was not what we were expecting-SNOW!



This campground is also an Encore Property. These properties are a step above the average Thousand Trails property.

2.18.2019-St. Patrick Cathedral, El Paso



The text on this venue in bold and italicized has been taken from the St. Patrick Cathedral web Site.

Located downtown, the Cathedral is a work of art and it is one of El Paso's historical landmarks. The construction began when the first stone was laid and blessed by Father Edward Barry S.J. and Father Francis Roy, S.J. on July 31, 1914, the feast day of Saint Ignatius Loyola and was dedicated Thanksgiving Day November 29, 1917. The St. Louis architectural firm of Barnett, Haynes, and Barnett designed the church. The contractors were Kroeger, Mayfield and Shaw of El Paso. The style is a blend of Byzantine and Romanesque architecture. Together, the clergy and townspeople built the Cathedral as a beautiful expression of Faith that provided an uplifting environment for Catholic worship and an inspiring place for private prayer.

The goal was to raise \$150,000 to begin the church building. Fr. Barry had raised \$12,000, but needed an equal amount to begin construction. He distributed hundreds of cards with a picture of the proposed new church with an announcement that anyone who donates the sum of \$10,000 will have the privilege of selecting the saint in whose honor the new church will be named.

In December of 1913, Mrs. Delia Lane presented Fr. Barry with a check for \$10,000! Her innate modesty would not allow her to select a name. She gave the privilege to the "Daughters of Erin" (of which she was a member) who named it, by unanimous consent, after Saint Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland. The Cathedral's original pipe organ was made by George Gilgen & Sons of St. Louis at a cost of \$7,000. It had 2500 pipes and was electrical in its mechanism, and had a marvelous tone. The large Crucifix mounted in the choir loft was a gift given in commemoration of Bishop Anthony J. Schuler, S.J. on the occasion of his fiftieth jubilee upon entering the Society of Jesus. It was originally placed in the sanctuary on Good Friday 1936 where it remained until it was moved to its present location during the renovation. On April 3, 1914, the Vatican under Pope Pius X elevated and established El Paso as a Diocese. In June, 1915, after the death of Pope Pius X, Pope Benedict XV appointed Rev. Anthony J. Schuler, S.J., as the first Bishop of the Diocese of El Paso. Bishop Schuler announced that upon his arrival in El Paso he planned to take the new St. Patrick Church as his Cathedral.



A short time later her brother, Michael Connerton, donated \$10,000 for the main altar, which is a smaller replica of the altar in the cathedral in St. Louis, Missouri. The two side altars cost \$5,000 each. The construction of the Baldachino (main altar) is a canopy-like structure that projects out from a wall and is supported by columns and is used specifically over an altar or seat of honor. The supporting columns on either side of the main altar are 15'12 inches thick and 8 feet 8 inches tall. Six different marbles were used: Numidian red, Brown Sienna, Champville yellow, Blanco P. (white), black, gold, and Sylvan green. The mosaic is Venetian red and gold. The height of the main altar is twenty-seven feet. The altar railing is Numidian red, Sylvan green and Champville yellow. On the left side of the main altar is a small chapel. Initially it was used for early services, private masses and official meetings. During past years the chapel was named St. Rita's Chapel and later, Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel. Vatican II stated that the Tabernacle should specifically be in a space designed for individual devotion. The chapel was then selected as the "Chapel of Repose" where a new tabernacle was placed. Stained-glass windows were donated by individual parishioners and installed in 2002. Griffin Studios of Ruidoso are designers of the windows depicting the seven Sacraments.

The beautiful painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe located in a niche on the west side of the church is over 300 years old. It is from Zacatecas, Mexico, given by an anonymous donor to the Cathedral in 2002. In 1929 the original glass windows were replaced with the existing stained-glass windows. The twenty West to East stained glass windows show the scenes of Jesus Christ from His birth to resurrection. The windows were custom made by the Emil Frei Art Glass Co. of St. Louis, Missouri and Munich, Germany. The company was founded in 1898 by Bavarian-born Emil Frei, Sr. The Company is still designing beautiful works of art for churches from New York to San Francisco. Their work is equal in every respect to any of the best windows imported from Europe. The glass used was mouth-blown antique glass from Germany. Various parishioners donated the windows with an inscription to a member of their family or friend. The Cathedral has undergone minor renovation to maintain the structural integrity of the building over the years. On May 17, 1988, during a thunderstorm, a lightning bolt struck the steeple and set it on fire causing considerable damage. The damaged steeple was removed and a new one erected. The organ was completely destroyed due to extensive water damage as well as part of the interior of the church. This forced the decision to move ahead on the plans to renovate the Cathedral, bringing it in accordance with the requirements of the Second Vatican Council. The total cost of the renovation was \$660,000. This included enlarging the sanctuary by removing a portion of the communion rail. The Bishop's and priest's chairs were placed facing the congregation. A new permanent altar and ambo were installed incorporating a section of the removed altar rail. An entrance to accommodate the handicapped, a new sound system, and a small gathering plaza at the top of the stairs leading into the Cathedral were the main focal points of the renovation. Whether you have come to pray or simply to view the beauty, we hope you are nourished in spirit and will return again to the Cathedral of Saint Patrick.

2.20.19-Mission San Xavier del Bac

The text below in bold and italic was taken from Wikipedia.



Mission San Xavier del Bac (*Spanish*: *Misión de San Xavier del Bac*) is a historic [Spanish Catholic mission](#) located about 10 miles (16 km) south of downtown [Tucson, Arizona](#), on the [Tohono O'odham Nation San Xavier Indian Reservation](#).



Fr. Francis Xavier rest at the founder of the Mission and co-founder of the Society of Jesus

The mission was founded in 1692 by Padre [Eusebio Kino](#)^[1] in the center of a centuries-old Indian settlement of the Sobaipuri O'odham who were a branch of the Akimel or River O'odham, located along the banks of the [Santa Cruz River](#). The mission was named for [Francis Xavier](#), a Christian missionary and co-founder of the [Society of Jesus](#) (Jesuit Order) in Europe.



At the end of this tour you'll find vendors, local parishioners, cooking and selling fried bread to us, the tourists. The bread was delicious.



After sampling the bread Sue and Tom drove us to a Mexican restaurant in Tucson where we enjoyed an excellent Mexican meal. We went to the Mi Nidito Restaurant, Bill Clinton, as well as, many other celebrities and athletes as well. The food is great but the parking leaves much to be desired. *The original church was built to the north of the present Franciscan church. This northern church or churches served the mission until being **razed** during an **Apache** raid in 1770. Today's Mission was built between 1783-1797; it is the oldest European structure in Arizona; the labor was provided by the O'odham.^[4] An outstanding example of Spanish Colonial architecture in the United States, it hosts some 200,000 visitors each year.*



Below sue Ward listens to our tour guide. Tom Ward and Carla lead the way our tour guide is going.

*The site is also known in the **O'odham language** as "goes in" or comes in: meaning "where the water goes in", as the water in the Santa Cruz came up to the surface a couple of miles south of Martinez Hill and then submerged again near Los Reales Wash. The **Santa Cruz River** that used to run year round in this section, once critical to the community's survival, now runs only part of the year.*

*The Mission is a **pilgrimage** site, with thousands visiting each year on foot^[4] and on horseback, some among ceremonial **cavalcades**, or cabalgatas in Spanish.*



In 1929 the original glass windows were replaced with the existing stained-glass windows. The twenty West to East stained glass windows show the scenes of Jesus Christ from His birth to resurrection. The windows were custom made by the Emil Frei Art Glass Co. of St. Louis, Missouri and Munich, Germany. The company was founded in 1898 by Bavarian-born Emil Frei, Sr. The Company is still designing beautiful works of art for churches from New York to San Francisco. Their work is equal in every respect to any of the best windows imported from Europe. The glass used was mouth-blown antique glass from Germany. Various parishioners donated the windows with an

inscription to a member of their family or friend. The Cathedral has undergone minor renovation to maintain the structural integrity of the building over the years. On May 17, 1988, during a thunderstorm, a lightning bolt struck the steeple and set it on fire causing considerable damage. The damaged steeple was removed and a new one erected. The organ was completely destroyed due to extensive water damage as well as part of the interior of the church. This forced the decision to move ahead on the plans to renovate the Cathedral, bringing it in accordance with the requirements of the Second Vatican Council. The total cost of the renovation was \$660,000. This included enlarging the sanctuary by removing a portion of the communion rail. The Bishop's and priest's chairs were placed facing the congregation. A new permanent altar and ambo were installed incorporating a section of the removed altar rail.

An entrance to accommodate the handicapped, a new sound system, and a small gathering plaza at the top of the stairs leading into the Cathedral were the main focal points of the renovation. Whether you have come to pray or simply to view the beauty, we hope you are nourished in spirit and will return again to the Cathedral of Saint Patrick.

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This mural is high above the left side of the church. You will only see it in this church. It is a mural of Mary, Mother of Jesus, diapering the infant Jesus. This may not be that clear but at the same time it's over one-hundred years old. Not one thing I've ever done will be around 100 years from now.

2.20.2019-Pima County Boneyard

(The bold/italicized text below has been taken from Wikipedia)

A large number of the museum's aircraft are displayed outside with the remainder located in one of the museum's four display hangars.^[1] In addition to the display hangars, the museum has a restoration hangar.^[2]



Opened to the public in May 1976 with 48 [aircraft](#) then on display, the Museum's main hangar houses an [SR-71A Blackbird](#), an [A-10 Warthog](#), a [United States Air Force Through the Years](#) exhibit, and a mock-up of a control tower.

I believe this is a C-130. Tom Ward used to pilot a plane like this when he was deployed.

The museum is adjacent to [Davis-Monthan Air Force Base](#). The 309th [Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group](#) (AMARG), affiliated with the base, also known as the "Graveyard of Planes" or "The Boneyard", is the largest [aircraft storage and preservation facility](#) in the world. Bus tours of the boneyard leave from the museum several times a day from Monday to Friday, except Federal holidays.

The nearby [Titan Missile Museum](#) is located about 20 miles south of Tucson in Green Valley off of Interstate 19 and features a [Titan II intercontinental ballistic missile](#) still in its [silo](#). Tours of the above-ground and underground installations around the missile are conducted daily. More extensive "top-to-bottom" tours take up to five hours and are conducted several times each month. Reservations are required for a top-to-bottom tour.



Both museums are overseen by the Arizona Aerospace Foundation and are governed by the board of trustees. They are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that rely on visitors paying admissions, for trams and AMARG tours, as well as what they spend in the museum stores. They also rely on memberships and contracted events to pay to restore and acquire exhibits. The museum opened to the public on May 8, 1976. In early 1982 the first hangar on the site was completed. A second was built in 1987, a third in 1992, and a fourth in 1994. In 2012, the museum collaborated with artists, in *The Boneyard Project*, to place some abandoned aircraft on display as canvases for art.

During 2015, [Boeing](#) donated to the museum the second [787](#) aircraft to be built. It is exhibited in the colors of the 787 customer. In November 2016, [Orbis International](#) donated their first [McDonnell-Douglas DC-10](#) Flying Eye Hospital to the museum, after receiving a second DC-10 from FedEx. The DC-10, which was the oldest flying example of its type at the time of its donation, is being restored for display at [Davis-Monthan Air Force Base](#).^[8]

2.25.19-Boothill



Our trip to Boothill in Tombstone, AZ was very pleasant. Our Experience at Boothill proved to be more than we expected. Boothill, in Tombstone, is another Arizona town that tells of its history in murals.

Italicized text-From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Originally called Boothill Cemetery, the graveyard was founded in 1878.^[4] After a new city cemetery was built elsewhere, the old cemetery stopped accepting new burials in about 1883 (save for very few exceptions) and fell into disrepair until the 1940s, when the city began to restore and preserve it.

A gift shop and the place your purchase your entry ticket.

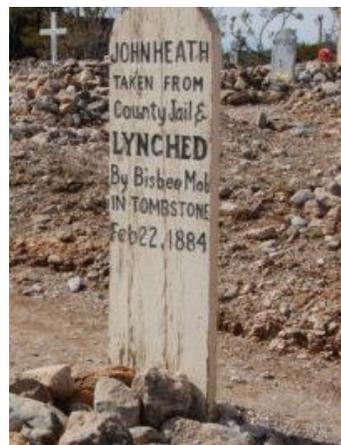
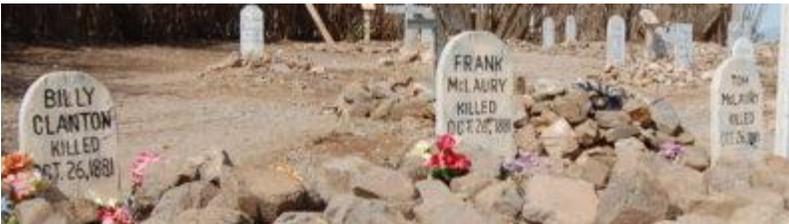


In order to attract tourists, some of the Boot Hill grave sites are falsely marked, and fictitious claims of burials have been made by the cemetery's various operators over the years.

- *Lester Moore, with the famous epitaph "Here lies Lester Moore, Four slugs from a .44, No Les No more." Lester Moore was purportedly a [Wells, Fargo & Co.](#) station agent in the border town of [Naco](#) who died in a shootout with Hank Dunstan over a mangled package.^[4] There was never anyone named Lester Moore who was killed in Arizona Territory,^[citation needed] and there is no evidence to indicate where Dunstan (who also died in the purported shootout) was buried.*



- *George Johnson, with epitaph "Here lies George Johnson, hanged by mistake 1882. He was right we were wrong. But we strung him up and now he's gone." John Heath, accused of organizing the robbery that led to the 1883 [Bisbee massacre](#), has a grave marker near the grave of the five perpetrators of the massacre. John Heath was arrested and convicted, and was later removed by a mob from the Tombstone jail and lynched on February 22, 1884.^[7] However, he was not buried in Boothill Cemetery; his body was returned to his estranged wife in [Terrell, Texas](#), and was buried there in Oakland Cemetery.*
- *Thomas Harper is another badman supposedly buried in Boothill Cemetery. He was a friend of [Curly Bill Brocius](#) and was hanged for murder by Sheriff [Bob Paul](#) in [Tucson](#) on July 8, 1881.^[8] Harper was buried in Tucson, not in Tombstone.*
- *Federico Duran, spelled as "Fiderico Doran" on the grave marker, who was claimed to have been killed by Sheriff [John Slaughter](#) after the Agua Zarca train robbery in 1888. In fact, Duran and train robber [Jack Taylor](#) were executed by firing squad in [Guaymas, Mexico](#) in December 1889.^[9] Slaughter had nothing to do with their deaths and Duran was not buried in Tombstone.*
Below the graves of the bad guys at the OK Coral.



2.25.2019 -Visiting Tombstone, AZ



Life size murals dot the landscape depicting life in Arizona. Tombstone, as well as our campground, is surrounded by mountains on 2-3 sides... Awesome!

(Text <Italics> on the Scheffelin Hall taken from Wikipedia)



The Cochise County Courthouse, opened in 1882 and was built in 1882. Cost of construction about \$43 thousand, and still stands today. These four dudes are the actors that will portray the Shootout at the OK Corral in a few minutes. They are representing Doc Holliday, Morgan, Virgil and Wyatt Earp. As you all know all four will survive the shootout, not so good for the bad guys. They would be Tom and Frank McLaury and Billy and Ike Canton, you can find them at Boothill. As you might already know, the police chief of Tombstone, at the time, was Virgil Earp, not Wyatt. Wyatt and brother Morgan were sworn in at the last minute by brother Virgil, to fend off the Clanton's and McLaury's.



Shiefellin Hall

When the hall opened on the corner of Fremont and Fourth Streets in June 8, 1881,^[2] it seated 450 on the floor and 125 more in the gallery. The stage [drop curtain](#) was painted with a scene from Colorado and was considered a work of art. The building was the center for city entertainment and social events in Tombstone with formal balls and theatrical performances. When it opened, it was "the largest, most elaborate theater between El Paso, Texas and San Francisco, California." The first play, Tom Taylor's five-act drama, [The Ticket-of-Leave Man](#), was staged on September 15, 1881.^[2] The Hall was scorched by a large fire that burned many blocks in 1882.

Schieffelin, his brother [Ed](#), and their mining engineer partner Richard Gird formed a partnership, [shaking hands](#) on a three-way deal that was never put down on paper. The company they formed, the Tombstone Gold and Silver Mining Company, held title to the claims and worked the mines.^[3] They brought in two big strikes, the Lucky Cuss and the [Tough Nut](#). The company produced millions of dollars of wealth for the three owners.

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Some original artifacts from the 1880s, not sure about the skeleton!





The Tombstone Epitaph was the newspaper de hour in the 1880's. The Epitaph reported the Gunfight which made news around the country and further. Some of the Historical Buildings of the town. I think I read that Morgan Earp was shot dead, in the back, playing pool in the saloon above, I'm pretty sure.

2.28.2019 Our Lady of Lourdes



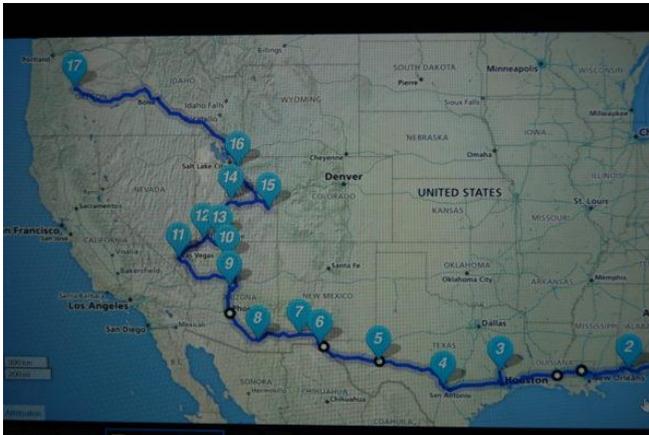
"Our Lady of Lourdes was founded by Father Felix Emile Joseph Dilly in late 1894. Church construction began immediately on the site of the today's church. The church building was built by the parishioners of the day out of adobe bricks and wood. The church could seat about 80 worshippers on 12 pews when completed. The parish community thrived as Benson continued to grow over the next 50 years as the ranching industry grew up, the railroad was constructed and the explosives industry was formed to support the growth in mining around southern Arizona. There were 20 pastors of the church in this span of years. During this time period, Our Lady of Lourdes was a mission of Tombstone, St. Patrick's in Bisbee and Sacred Heart in Nogales. Then Tombstone became a mission of Benson from 1931 to 1960. Then in 1966, Our Lady of Lourdes became a separate parish of its own.



The groundbreaking for the new church was on June first 1948. The footers for the foundation were 5x5 feet to add strength for the poor soil conditions. Fifteen men and boys worked all night to lay the foundation. The church was constructed of clay blocks. The architecture of modified Spanish style with exposed beams represented the stable of Bethlehem. The builders in charge were Shorty Martinez, Vern Bell and the architect Terry Atkinson. Dedication ceremonies were set for May 22, 1949. After construction of the new church, the old church deteriorated quickly, even though it was being used a parish hall. Fr. Norm Whalen made plans to build new

classrooms and a new parish hall. In April of 1967 the bell tolled for the old church when it was demolished. It stood for 72 years in service to the Lord and the people of Benson. After the old church was torn down, nothing was left in the spot but vacant ground where a lawn was planted. In early 1973 Msgr. Rosettie and Abe Samuels came up with a plan for a grotto to be located in the empty area left by the old church. Construction began in February. All the work was done by hand with the rock being hauled from a quarry in Dagoon and from the Whetstone mountains. The shrine was completed March 13, 1976 and it was dedicated the following day. When the church was decorated for Easter in 1980 a defective electrical extension cord caught fire which spread through the west side of the church causing extensive damage to the building structure, although almost all the items in the sanctuary, including the tabernacle and statues were saved.

MARCH 2019 JOURNALS



Travel Plans up to end of June:

March 22nd Las Vegas at Las Vegas TT Campground for 14 nights
 April 5th St. George, Utah (119m) x13 nights (119m)
 April 19th Kanab, UT at Crazy Horse RVP (80m)x7 nights (80m)
 April 26th Salina, UT at RPI RVP(163m) x7 nights (163m)
 May 2nd Moab, UT at KOA Campground (159m)x4 nights (159m)
 May 6th Heber, UT Mountain Valley RVR (2 overnights) x7n 234m
 May 16th Bend, OR TT (Overnights and stays TBD) (x7n)(654m)
 June 5th Whaler's Rest in Newport, OR.
 June 26th leave Whaler's Rest

3.01.2019

this MONTH SHOULD BE RELAXING

Not counting the five-hour trip to Cottonwood, the rest of the month should be very relaxing, since we're only having three location changes. Not sure about field trips scheduled for March, more on that later.

3.02.2019

TAKING QUEEN MINE TOUR

Very soon Tom and sue Ward will be coming to pick us up to experience the Queen Mine Tour in Bisbee, AZ. Bisbee, Tombstone and Benson are towns that have been around since and before the 1880's. Later I'll be dumping tanks and storing outside sewer equipment in preparation of our moving to site 171 tomorrow. This is in preparation for our trip to Lazy Dayz, in Tucson, AZ for a quick repair at Lazy Dayz an RV Dealership. We are very thankful that they could squeeze us in for this repair. Our sides are big, lost twenty feet. There are bigger slides but we can't afford that type of coach. Now we just have to keep ourselves from being tempted with coaches they have for sale.

3.03.2019

MOVING TO SITE 171-IN BENSON

We're very comfortable at this campground and it's only 42 miles told Tucson, AZ where we must go to have a minor repair to the coach on the 4th. Site 171 is a great location. One of the highest pints in the campground and comes with real estate. After the repair we'll leave and travel to Cottonwood, AZ. A couple of weeks ago our driver's side slide got stuck, half in and half out. A simple fix back then, by adding hydraulic fluid. Hopefully Lazy Days will look at the hydraulic line and determine whether it needs replacing.

3.04.2019

TRAVEL TO TUSCON THEN COTTONWOOD, AZ

Hopefully Lazy Days will look at the hydraulic line and determine whether it needs replacing. Once the fix is done we'll be facing a five hour drive to Verde Valley RVP in Cottonwood, AZ. Only in a perfect world. The repair can be done but it would take ten o twelve days to ship the parts needed from HWH in Moscow, IA. We didn't have two weeks to sit around but we were given the name of a Winnebago service center in Vegas, NV. As we get closer to our stay in Las Vegas we'll call ahead and hopefully order the part so it'll be there when we arrive. the fix will take two days. After Lazy Dayz it would be a five hour drive to Cottonwood. We arrived in Cottonwood at around 8 pm.

3.05.2019

LAZYDAYS AND VERDE VALLEY RV RESORT COTTONWOOD.

We got a very early start, about 8am to go one-hour to Lazydays in Tucson, AZ. About 3pm we were on our way again getting no satisfaction from Lazydays except a prognosis on the repairs needed. Cottonwood was over 200 miles from here which is 4 hours travel time in a coach. We ended up at H71. Good phone and satellite but no-Wi-Fi. On our first day we were off by 11 we were on the road again to visit with Cindy and husband Paul. She held several positions at our Greenacres child Care Center.

3.06.2019

Just met Chris & Jen-ASH WED.-VERDE VALLEY RVR

Chris and Jen such a young couple, possibly in the 30's and enjoying this full-time lifestyle at such a young age. She's and attorney and Chris is promoting a phone recharger he developed.

3.06.2019 REFLECTIONS ON VERDE VALLEY RV RESORT

Carla and I began this sojourn six years ago. Our primary purpose was, as we've told all, to see America. Our secondary purpose was to find a location that offered 3 and one-half seasons. This has been a very elusive location. Cottonwood, AZ has met or surpassed almost all our objectives. They do get heat, but little humidity. It does snow but only occasionally and it goes away quickly.

It does have cooler temperatures but not cold. It does rain, but only occasionally. Verde Valley RVR is not the nicest, nor is it one of the biggest. It is growing and growing nicely. It offers everything we'd wanted except for Wi-Fi in the location we currently have. The church, Immaculate Conception RCC was a very strong selling point. Between the pastor and a couple of the parishioners they sure made us feel at home. Our friends Tom and Sue are over 200 miles away but Cindy and Family are about one-hour from here. On the long side would be our dear friends in Iowa, Don and Joyce. Cedar Rapids is 1200 miles from here, closer than from Florida. Boynton Beach, where Dennis lives, is also 1200 miles away. JUST FOOD FOR THOUGHT.....FOR US!

3.07.2019

THURSDAY-IMMACULATE CONEPTION ROMAN CC

In 2002 Cottonwood, AZ was mushrooming into the most prominent town in this part of Arizona. N that year a temporary church was built in Cottonwood that could accommodate up to 400 parishioners. It did not take very long before each Mass service was at 90% capacity. In 2006 a committee was set up for the construction of a new church. Ground breaking for the new building took place on 12/8/2009.

3.08.2019

FRIDAY-COLD AND WINDY

Not much to add, we just basically sat by the fireplace and tried to keep warm. We did take a little ride around the campground taking a few pictures on the construction going on around here. We spent a little time at the community center reading and working on the blog. Discovered, when I went out to tend to the tanks that I'd misplaced two important pieces of piping. Was able to replace one at the camp store. A little later we made our way to Immaculate Conception Church for Stations. On our trip home we were, once again, treated to a spectacular sunset.

3.09.2019

SATURDAY-IN SEARCH OF THE VERDE RIVER

Temperature for today would span low 30's to mid-50s'. This is not going to change for at least the next four days. Carla wants to go out today and look for the Verde River. It should be less than a quarter mile walk except the ground cover will be small cliffs and river rocks. We will end this day, as always, with Mass and Pizza.

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3.10.2019

SUNDAY-TRIPPING TO JEROME, AZ

Once we had breakfast out of the way we found ourselves with nothing to do the rest of the day. Jerome, AZ, and 1880's mining town, about ten miles from here was on our list to visit, and visit we did. We got back home about 3pm. Today was a red-letter day for Carla. Carla is hooked on "WordScapes." It's a game of anagrams. I do have to admit it, it is fun to solve the individual puzzles.

It's not unusual for her to take 1st of 2nd place during the week but this day she took first place and won over twenty dollars in credit coins to assist her skills for the week to come. Enjoyed an awesome pork dinner in the evening.

3.11.2019

MON.-VERY NICE MORNING TURNING TO RAIN LATER.

Just a quiet day at home.

3.13.2019

Wed.-rainy night with cool temp during day.

Just another quiet day at home.

3.14.2019

THURS-WE VISIT MONTEZUMA CATLE AND MONTEZUMA WELL

The nice part of these two venues is their location, within a 30-minute ride from this campground. Both venues were very interesting but not as interesting as I had hoped for.

3.16.2019

SATURDAY-TODAY WAS A TEN.

We've been here and have enjoyed our stay but we have not had one great day till today. Tomorrow, Sunday, promises to be equally as nice. Today was 68 with no humidity, so I got the car washed and scrubbed all that Texas dirt off its skin. Tomorrow I hope to give the coach a quick wash as well. We leave on Monday, so Sun day is a pack-away for tanks and hoses. I am so tired f not having Wi-Fi at my beck and call. Last week we added to our trip calendar. I haven't had time to redo the map but it will go like this. We'll go from Vegas to St. George, Utah, Kanda, UT, Salina, UT, Moab, UT, Heber, then Bend, OR. In Oregon we hope to stay a small; vacation there, about 3 weeks. Lastly will be Eugene, OR at Whalers' Edge RVR. Whalers' will take us to the end of June. Our next big jump will be Iowa, to visit family in Cedar rapids, IO, our has yet to be determined.

3.17.2019 - SUNDAY-ST PATTYS' DAY-

Yes we always celebrate St. Pats day.

Great meal

3.18.20`19-MON.-WE MOVE TO THE GC TODAY, EAST RIM.

Departed Cottonwood by 9:30am for the Grand Canyon, simple 150-0mile trek. The trip went, as hoped, uneventfully. Grand Canyon was expecting us and gave us a decent site with all that we could wish for, even adequate Wi-Fi. Within a could of hours we were en route to revisit the " Blue Route." This would be the east side of the GC.

3.19.2019

-Tuesday-WE VISIT THE RED ROUTE... WEST RIM.

Red Route encompasses the West portion of the GC. Toward the end of this route we got a glimpse of the North Rim. More on this venture in the Blog, soon, I hope. Later Carla managed to apply just a little to much Polish Pressure on our fireplace and the blower decided to quit. I plan to definitely behave in the future after seeing this.

3.21.2019

THUR.-DINNER AT YAVAPAI TAVERN

Snow for the first day of Spring. Once we geared up for the cold and snow, we ventured to the GC Visitor's Center and enjoy the views from Canyon Rim Lookout. We will close out the day with dinner at the Yavapai Tavern.

3.22.2019-FRIDAY-TRIPPING TO LAS VEGAS, NV

First item, Happy Birthday Mom. It's also Cindy Lango n Flagstaff, AZ. She was our Director at our Greenacres Child Care Center. She, just recently, arrived home from a Bahamas Cruise last week. I awoke this morning around 5:30, much earlier than normal, but we're looking at a 260-mile trip to Vegas. It was uneventful but interesting. Take time to read the blog on the trip to Vegas. Our destination would be the Thousand Trails RVResort in Las Vegas.

3.23.2019-Sat.**CLEAN VEHICLES, CHURCH, PIZZA AND BEER.**

Since this is basically my personal blog I take this liberty to remember my Mom's birthday would have been yesterday and remember my dad today, the date of his passing; we miss them both very much still. Did I sleep well last night, awesome! I was exhausted. Later today or Sunday both the car and coach will get a wash. Had a chance to take a couple of pictures of the campgrounds here in Las Vegas., see the blog soon.

3.24.2019**MONDAY-ANOTHER DAY OF CHORES.**

We arrived on Friday, had the vehicles cleaned on Saturday, and went to a charming church, "the Holy Family" CC. Sunday did wash and Monday we went grocery shopping at one of the biggest Walmart I've ever seen. Not only big but clean and organized, as well. Tomorrow we were supposed to bring the coach in for some fixes, but the parts are not in yet, so now we go in on Wed AM. Tomorrow, Tuesday, will now be haircuts and Sam's shopping.

3.27.2019**COACH GOES TO FINDLAY RV FOR FIXES**

Bright and early this morning we were on the road going to Findlay RV about 1.5miles from here. No time for breakfast so we thought we'd eat out. We were give several suggestions for breakfast and then, just as an afterthought, Sam's Town Casino was also recommended. We went for it. Read more in the blog.

3.28.2019-THE ATOMIC TESTING MUSEUM

This was very interesting but for some reason I was expecting a little more. We still spent over two hours enjoying all that was presented to us at this venue. Everything here was in our life span. Took a few pictures but it wasn't that kind of a venue.

3.29.2019-WAX THE COACH

It was a terrific day. Temps in the low 70s and a beautiful breeze. Perfect type of day for waxing.

3.30.2018-MORE WAXING- ALMOST DONE

A very strong breeze today almost as nice as yesterday. Coach is 3/4 done, should be able to finish it off tomorrow. Later, as always, church, pizza and beer.

3.31.2019-SUNDAY-TRYING TO GET COUGHT UP

Another great day in this beautiful part of the nation. The last three day I've been working feverishly to finish waxing the coach. The job will take about eight hours. All is done except the actual front of the coach, will do that tomorrow. I'm still five blogs behind but will work diligently to get them published. Hard to believe it's the end of the month. In four days, we'll be leaving this really nice campground and heading North to St. George, UT. I wouldn't mind staying here but I've been told the summer is dry but very hot. Have also been working hard. More tomorrow, happy April Fool's Day...

MARCH 2019 BLOGS

This month's Travel Plans:

- 14. March 4th Cottonwood, AZ at Verde Valley RVP (TT) x 14 nights
- 15. March 18th Grand Canyon Village at GC Campground X 4 nights
- 16. March 22nd Las Vegas at Las Vegas TT Campground X 14 nights

3.03.2019-Queen Mine Tour

The Queen Mine is located in Bisbee, AZ. The day, as nice as it would have been on its own, was made even nicer by having Tom and Sue join us on this venture.



History of the Mine

Bisbee's Queen Mine was one of the richest copper mines in history. The mine opened in 1877 and eventually closed when Phelps Dodge discontinued mining operations in Bisbee in the mid-1970's. The Queen Mine opened once again as a tour for visitors in 1976, nearly 100 years after the mine originally opened.

Tourism-Today approximately 50,000 people a year visit the Queen Mine Tour to commemorate Bisbee's prosperous mining heritage and experience what it was like working underground where temperatures are 47 degrees year-round.



Visit the Mine

To take the tour, enter the changing house, pick up your mine token, and get outfitted with your slicker, helmet and miner's headlamp. Board the mine train and descend into the mine. Tours are conducted by miners who worked in the mines and tell their own stories from personal experiences.

I did take some pictures in the mine itself, but the lighting wasn't sufficient enough to give a decent picture. Our tour guide was an actual miner back when the mine was open, which gave way for many short stories about life working in a mine.



Carla was really ready to go digging.

This was a mockup of how a mine would be worked. Many of the workers, even our guide, was responsible for growing the mine and building the support structures to ensure safety.

3.04.2019-TRAVELING TO COTTONWOOD, AZ





Our trip to Cottonwood, AZ was as usual, uneventful. The road, US 40 and US 17 were excellent. The item that impressed us the most was the extreme detail Arizona goes through to make they're overpasses so esthetically pleasing. Some, I would dare say, were close to works of art. Our goal is to reach Verde Valley RVP. We don't anticipate any challenges on that.



Once again, love these sunsets.

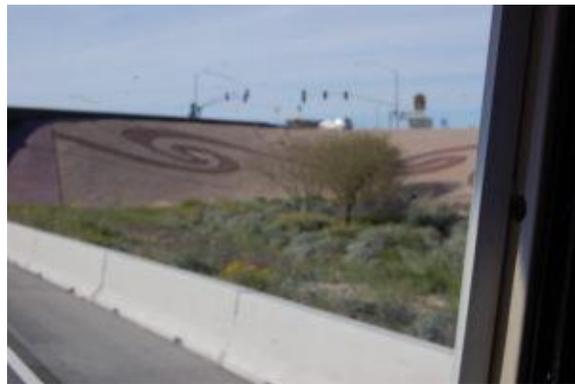
Taken from the Journal of the day: Carla and I began this sojourn six years ago. Our primary purpose was, as we've told all, to see America. Our secondary purpose was to find a location that offered 3 and one-half seasons. This has been a very elusive location. Cottonwood, AZ has met or surpassed almost all our objectives. They do get heat, but little humidity. It does snow but only occasionally and it goes away quickly. It does have cooler temperatures but not cold. It does rain, but only occasionally. Verde Valley RVR is not the nicest, nor is it one of the biggest. It is growing and growing nicely. It offers everything we'd wanted except for Wi-Fi in the location we currently have. The church, Immaculate Conception RCC was a very strong selling point. Between the pastor and a couple of the parishioners they sure made us feel at home. Our friends Tom and Sue are over 200 miles away but Cindy and Family are about one-hour from here. On the long side would be our dear friends in Iowa, Don and Joyce. Cedar Rapids is 1200 miles from here, closer than from Florida. Boynton Beach, where Dennis lives, is also 1200 miles away. JUST FOOD FOR THOUGHT.....FOR US!



We will also experience Immaculate Conception C Church, which we will grow to like very much.

3.05.2019-ENJOYED AN AFTERNOON WITH ALMOST FAMILY.

We arrived at Verde Valley late and in the dark. Jina, at the Ranger Station issued us our paperwork and described the whereabouts of our site. Campgrounds road-ways are not lit. We asked her if we could spend the night in one of parking lots. In the past at another park we were told no. Jina had no problem with it realizing we were exhausted. She directed us to the administration building which was challenging in itself, but we found it and slept well. By 11 we were on the road again to visit with Cindy and husband Paul. She held several positions at our Greenacres child Care Center. Shortly in the visit with decided to grab a bite to eat at Oregon's in Falstaff. The food was very good and the company even better. To add to an already perfect afternoon was Katie, her daughter. She was also a guest at our center probably around five years of age or so. She just as pretty at twenty-five as she was cute at five. Needless to say we all spoiled her a bit, especially me, but you could not help it. She was cute, very polite and always anxious to assist anyone at anytime.



We got a very early start, about 8am to go one-hour to Lazydays in Tucson, AZ. About 3pm we were on our way again getting no satisfaction from Lazydays except a prognosis on the repairs needed. Cottonwood was over 200 miles from here which is 4 hours travel time in a coach. What we did not expect was taking almost one hour to travel through Phoenix. It's always been my intention to never travel at night.



Sunset came at 6:30, still very good driving except for the awesome sunset skies. At 7pm the sun had gone, and the only hint of its existence was the dark blue glow on the evening sky, but that blue glow separated the road and mountain ranges from the sky. By 7:30pm we were totally in the dark except for the light from the headlights and we reduced our forward speed to a very safe 40 miles per hour. It was white knuckle driving then things went south.



The 4-lane divided highway, after the seventh roundabout turned into a 2-lane country dirt road. We were on the Thousand Trails Road but with no idea where the campground was. It was so dark I had trouble seeing what was or was not on the left side of this road. Carla quickly got on the cell phone and out of no-where an distant pickup truck was approaching the coach in the opposite direction to us; I flagged him down.



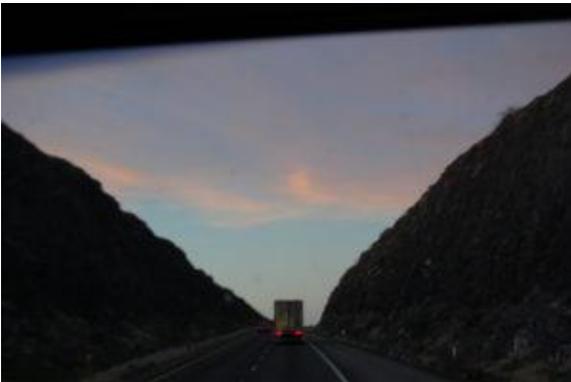
Is TT on this road I asked? At the same time Carla was getting instructions from the camp ranger on duty at the campground. As the trucker was telling me, "it's the only thing on this street, at the end of the road", Carla was getting collaborating information as well. We continued to creep along even slower until we spotted the TT flags...Home!



The ranger station was just where it was supposed to be with tons of parking to the right of the station. She welcomed us to Verde Valley and gave us all the paperwork we needed to begin our stay. She gave us two suggestions on good sites. We were exhausted and asked her if there was a BIG parking lot we could easily find in the pitch-black of the park, and she said yes. "take your first right and follow the road to the ADM building; Sure!



The first right took us onto a construction site for I don't know how many feet, but she was right, and there it was, barely visible in the heavy darkness. After we parked safely, we departed the coach and WOW! You should have seen all the stars...Awesome! Needless to say, we slept well that night. it only took us a few minutes to find a site that met our needs.





Construction equipment I everywhere.



Imagine trying to navigate this in pitch-black darkness!



This campground should be awesome when finished. They've told us by the end of April much of it will be completed. Wi-Fi is skimpy. They're installing a Wi-Fi for all for a price, we'll probably have to pay should be pick up one of these sites as a permanent site.



3.07.2019-Immaculate Conception Roman CC

In 2002 Cottonwood, AZ was mushrooming into the most prominent town in this part of Arizona. In that year a temporary church was built in Cottonwood that could accommodate up to 400 parishioners. It did not take very long before each Mass service was at 90% capacity. In 2006 a committee was set up for the construction of a new church. Ground breaking for the new building took place on 12/8/2009.



The front of the church has three sets of doors. Only the Bishop may enter through the "Center" set of doors but anyone and everyone may use the center doors to exit the church.

The Bell Tower has three bells. They are dedicated to Archangels Gabriel, Rafael and Michael.



The Confessional in this picture comes from the National Church of North Benton, Minnesota.

The large “Configuration Window” measures 15 x 25 feet in size. It has 36 smaller windows in it. It is considered “irreplaceable.” It was created for the Transfiguration Church in Philadelphia, PA. The “Rose Window” was created in 1856 for the Immaculate Church in Buffalo, NY. The church was built in 1856 and closed in 2005. The stain glass windows on the left side of the church are based on the Corporal Works of Mercy. The seven stain glass windows on the right side of the church reflect the Spiritual Works of Mercy. The stations of the Cross around the church were made for the Immaculate Conception Church in Prescott Valley. Each is five feet tall. Father David Kelash is the Pastor and is adamant on keeping this parish moving forward. Soon the town expects the building of over 5000 new homes. The Immaculate Conception Church offers both English and Spanish Masses with a splash of Latin just to remind all the Church’s roots. Confession is offered on Thursday, Friday and Saturdays.



Mario and a husband and wife in the gift shop were very generous with their time and background information on this church. Both this parish and Cottonwood are growing. On our way home we spent a few dollars at Walmart.



This picture shows only two of the three doors into the church. The center door, (center picture) may be used by all when exiting the church, but only the bishop may enter the church through these doors. The Baptismal Font came from Holy family Church in Jerome. It was made in 1887. It is located just as you enter the church is symbolic that Baptism is needed before we can join the Catholic Family of the Church.

The text to follow courtesy of the Catholic News Agency

Our Lady of Czestochowa as Queen of Poland-History on the painting...



The image dates back to the time of the Twelve Apostles, and was painted by the hand of St. Luke the Evangelist, who is believed to have used a tabletop from a table built by Jesus during his time as a carpenter. According to the legend, it was while Luke was painting Mary that she recounted to him the events in the life of Jesus that would eventually be used in his Gospel.

The same legend states that when St. Helen came to Jerusalem in 326 AD to look for the true Cross, she also happened to find this image of Our Lady. She then gave it as a gift to her son Constantine, who built a shrine to venerate it. The painting was placed inside a small church, and the prince later had a Pauline monastery and church built at the location to ensure the painting's safety. However, in 1430 the Hussites overran the monastery, attempting to take the image. In the process one of the looters took the painting and put it into a wagon and tried to drive away. But when the horses refused to move, he struck the painting twice with his sword. As he raised his hand to strike it again, he suddenly fell over writhing in pain and died. Despite previous attempts to repair the scars from the arrow and the blows from the sword, restorers had trouble in covering them up since the painting was done with tempera infused with diluted wax. The marks remain visible to this day.

More recent stories surrounding the image involve the Russian invasion of Poland in 1920, holding that when the Russian army was gathering on the banks of the Vistula River and threatening Warsaw, they saw an image of Our Lady in the clouds over the city, prompting them to withdraw. The image of Our Lady of Czestochowa gets its nickname "Black Madonna" from the soot residue which discolors the painting as a result of centuries of votive lights and candles burned in front of it. Since the fall of communism in Poland, pilgrimages to the image have significantly increased. As many as 2.5 million pilgrims expected to gather in Krakow for this year's WYD event. While not all of them will join Pope Francis in Czestochowa, his visit will surely attract more pilgrims to the spot. A replica of this painting is found in the Immaculate Conception Church, Cottonwood, AZ

3.09.2019

SATURDAY-IN SEARCH OF THE VERDE RIVER

Temperature for today would span low 30's to mid-50's. This is not going to change for at least the next four days. Carla wants to go out today and look for the Verde River. It should be less than a quarter mile walk except the ground cover will be small cliffs and river rocks. Just a few more pictures so you can appreciate our journey. We will end the day as always with Mass and pizza.



All this trail does is go downhill. Next time I'll remember to bring my walking stick. This does not look like it,



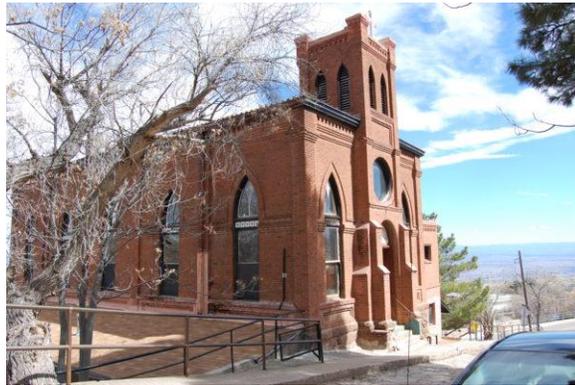
since my camera cannot do 3-D, but this is a very steep downhill trail. For a guy who trips walking on the grass, I'm holding my breath right now. Well this is what we risked life and limb to see, not really worth it. Like they said in the movie "Guilt Trip" We've seen it, let's go. Yes it does have a mucky brown look to it.

Not our coach but we're in there somewhere.

3.10.2019-New Life for Holy Family Catholic Church, Jerome AZ...

Posted on [November 26, 2014](#) by Diane Rapport-November 26, 2014

Scott Kola, wasn't always Catholic. He was a renegade from growing up in a family of conservative Orthodox Jews with a Rabbi father and converted to Catholicism eleven years ago. Today, he lives in the Holy Family Catholic Church's convent, where he can monitor day-to-day restoration. The Holy Family Catholic Church in Jerome AZ, built in 1896, then rebuilt a few years later after it burned down, is the town's oldest church. Image courtesy Wikimedia. A year and a half ago, Scott outlined the structural problems of the church and his dreams for renovation to Father David Kalesh, pastor of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Cottonwood. The three-story brick and stone back wall facing Main Street is bowed, its foundation crumbling, mortar for its brick and stone façade in need of repointing. Not surprising for a building that was built in 1896, burned in the fire of 1898, and was rebuilt as a brick and stone structure in 1899-1900. It was known as the 'miner's church.





Father David and Scott Kolu became strong allies. Together they are bringing Jerome's Holy Family Catholic Church back to life. Father David conducts Mass on the third Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m. When long-time and much loved Jerome resident Don Walsh died in late September, a funeral service was held to a packed church of family and friends. "The church has immense historic value," Father David told me. "Most important are the memories the church holds for former parishioners and their families who visit Jerome. I would like to help the church become the polished jewel that it once was."

The Pipe Organ



The organ, designed especially for smaller churches, was built by the

prestigious Kilgen and Sons Pipe Organ Company in St. Louis in the early nineteen hundred. Only two others of the same compact design still remain in the United States. (Perhaps the most well-known Kilgen church pipe organ is housed in St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan.)

"We are ecstatic that Mr. Charles Kegg, President and Artistic Director of Kegg Pipe Organ Builders (www.keggorgan.com) is willing to take on the restoration project," Scott said. I sent an email to Mr. Kegg and asked him why. "I would like to restore it to its original condition so that it can remain an example of this almost extinct style of American pipe organ," he said. "The pipe organ in Jerome is rather unusual. . . It was being sent to a place where electricity probably didn't exist at all at the time, so this organ was built using methods from the mid-19th century and with the intention that it must play under difficult circumstances with little or no maintenance. This was not uncommon at all for remote locations. . . Jerome must have been an outpost much more remote than other locations that would want a pipe organ. Another thing that makes it unusual is that it has survived, virtually intact." The article was first published in the Verde Independent newspaper in Cottonwood, AZ on November 18. The photo gallery of Vyto Starkinskas' photos are spectacular.

(Diane Sward Rapaport is the author of *Home Sweet Jerome: Death and Rebirth of Arizona's Richest Copper Mining City*. The blogs are different from the stories that are included in the book.)

© 2019 - [Home Sweet Jerome](#)



Our trip to Jerome was just as inspiring as all our trips in this beautiful state. Every road we travel look like they are no more than five-years old; awesome! At this location we can see Jerome in the distance. These rusting machines of the past are symbolic of the mining tools that grew Jerome in the past.

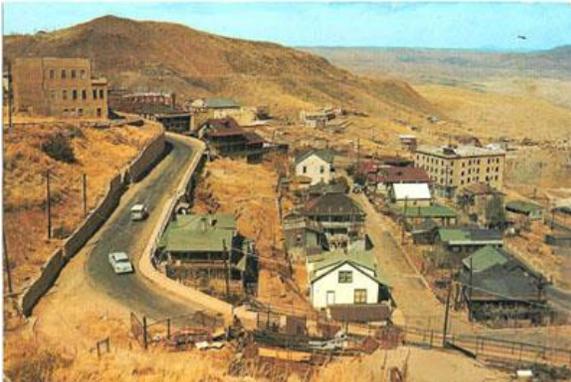
The Italicized text to follow courtesy of the Jerome Historical Society

History of Jerome, Arizona



4686-Jerome was built on Cleopatra Hill above a vast deposit of copper. Prehistoric Native Americans were the first miners, seeking colored stones. The Spanish followed, seeking gold but finding copper. Anglos staked the first claims in the area in 1876, and United Verde mining operations began in 1883, followed by the Little Daisy claim. Jerome grew rapidly from tent city to prosperous company town as it followed the swing of the mine's fortunes.

The mines, the workers, and those who sought its wealth, formed Jerome's colorful history. Americans, Mexicans, Croatians, Irish, Spaniards, Italians, and Chinese made the mining camp a cosmopolitan mix that added to its rich life and excitement.

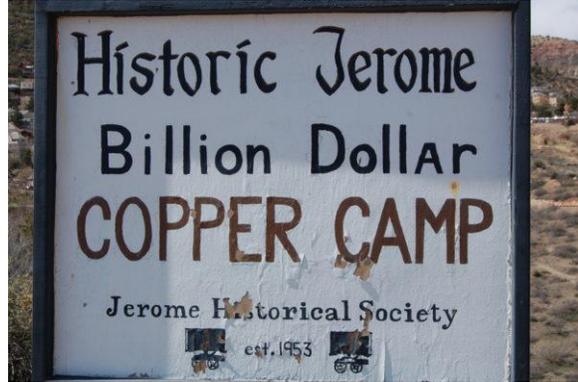
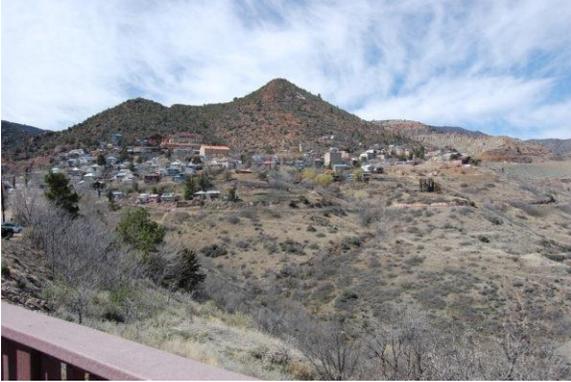


Jerome was the talk of the Territory, a boom town of its time, the darling of promoters and investors. The mines were nourished and exploited by financiers who brought billions of dollars in copper, gold, and silver from its depths. Changing times in the Territory saw pack burros, mule drawn freight wagons, and horses replaced by steam engines, autos, and trucks. Fires ravaged the clapboard town and landslides destroyed whole sections. Jerome was always rebuilt. At the mercy of the ups and downs of copper prices, labor unrest, depressions and wars, Jerome's mines finally closed in 1953.



Jerome Today-After the mines closed in 1953 and "King Copper" left town, the population went from a peak of 15,000 in the 1920s to a low of 50 people. The Jerome Historical Society guarded the buildings against vandalism and the elements, the Douglas Mansion became a State Park in 1965, and Jerome became a National Historic Landmark in 1976. During the 60's and 70's, during the time of the counter culture, Jerome offered a haven for artists.

Soon newcomers and Jerome old timers were working together to bring Jerome back to life. Today, Jerome is very much alive with writers, artists, artisans, musicians, historians, and families. They form a peaceful, colorful, thriving community built on a rich foundation of history and lore.



This is the miner created cross of nails and hammers. Above is another example of Arizona's creative road décor.

3.14.2019-Thursday-

We visit Montezuma Castle and Montezuma Well

The italicized text is courtesy of the National Park Service (NPS)



The nice part of these two venues is their location, within a 30-minute ride from this campground. Both venues were very interesting but not as interesting as I had hoped for. We must check in and present our Park Pass with accompanying ID, nice part, no money is exchanged. On December 8, 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt celebrated the passage of the Antiquities Act by declaring four sites of historic and cultural significance as our nation's first National Monuments. Among these was Montezuma Castle, which the President identified as a place "of the greatest ethnological value and scientific interest."

This is like taking a stroll in the park. The cement path is about six-feet wide.



Although very few original artifacts remained in the structure due to intensive looting of the site, Roosevelt's decision assured the continued protection of one of the best-preserved prehistoric cliff dwellings in North America. A Sycamore Tree. The ancestors use them extensively in the construction of their cliff homes and ladders.

Montezuma Castle National Monument quickly became a destination for America's first car-bound tourists. In 1933, "Castle A", a 45-50 room, pueblo ruin was excavated, uncovering a wealth of artifacts and greatly enhanced our understanding of the Sinagua people who inhabited this riparian "oasis" along Beaver Creek for over 400 years.

This is the same river, the Verde River,
that runs in back of our campground.
This section of the river is called Beaver Creek.



Early visitors to the monument were allowed access to the structure by climbing a series of ladders up the side of the limestone cliffs. However, due to extensive damage to this valuable cultural landmark, public access of the ruins was discontinued in 1951. This is what we came here to see. the wall is a four-level living quarters that housed dozens of people. In the next picture you'll see a schematic. In the pictures that will follow arena additional living spaces used by these peoples.

Now, approximately 350,000 people a year gaze through the windows of the past during a visit to Montezuma Castle. Even 600 years after their departure, the legacy of the Sinagua people continues to inspire the imaginations of this and future generations.



If you could remove the front wall this is what you would see. Your neighbors would live in these cut-outs. The stone here is mostly limestone which is very soft but the dark/black rock you also see is Manganese a very hard rock.

3.14.2019 1pm Thursday-Montezuma Well

The text italicized has been taken from Wikipedia

Archaeological evidence suggests that humans have lived in the Verde Valley for at least 10,000 years. The earliest signs of permanent settlement in the area appear quite a bit later, however, around 600 [CE](#). The ruins of several prehistoric dwellings are scattered in and around the rim of the Well. Their erstwhile inhabitants belonged to several [indigenous American](#) cultures that are believed to have occupied the Verde Valley between 700 and 1425 CE, the foremost of which being a cultural group archaeologists have termed the [Southern Sinagua](#).^[3] The earliest of the ruins located on the property (with the exception of the irrigation canal), a "pithouse" in the traditional [Hohokam](#) style, dates to about 1050 CE. More than 50 countable "rooms" are found inside the park boundaries; it is likely that some were used for purposes other than living space, including food storage and religious ceremonies. No fees involved just a few rules to obey. The Sinagua people, and possibly earlier cultures, intensively farmed the land surrounding the Well using its constant outflow as a reliable source of irrigation. Beginning about 700 CE, the Well's natural drainage into the immediately adjacent Wet Beaver Creek was diverted into a man-made canal running parallel to the creek, segments of which still conduct the outflow today.

What's involved here is to ascend about 300 feet to see the Well.

The well is in an area where a source of water is scarce. *The prehistoric canal, estimated at nearly seven miles in length, likely drained into a network of smaller lateral canals downstream, supplying perhaps as much as 60 acres of farmland with water.*^[3] *The route of the modern canal is partly original, especially close to the outlet, but large portions have been re-routed over time as irrigation needs have changed. People were living here from the 1100's. This Well was considered by them to be sacred. This climb is much steeper than the picture indicates.*



Much of the abandoned original route is still visible within the park, however, as the warm water emerging from the Well contains a high concentration of [lime](#), which over many centuries was deposited along the canal walls as the water cooled downstream; the accumulated lime has since hardened into a cement-like coating, preserving the canal's shape. Since hardened into a cement-like coating, preserving the canal's shape.

This picture is really all about the cacti plants. *The existence of the Well was almost unknown to [European Americans](#) before the publishing of Handbook to Arizona by Richard J. Hinton in 1878. In 1968, Montezuma Well was the subject of the first ever underwater archaeological survey to take place in a federally managed park, led by archaeologist [George R Fischer](#).*

This is what the climb was all about. We were told that the water has always been arsenic laced. *The [Yavapai people](#) consider the Well a deeply sacred site, as they believe it is the place through which they emerged into the world.* The trip was nice and the knowledge acquired was extremely interesting. Not sure if I would make the trip again.

3.16.2019-SATURDAY-TODAY WAS A TEN!

Since not everyone reads the Journal entries, so I'm repeating this journal entry. We've been here and have enjoyed our stay but we have not had one great day till today. Tomorrow, Sunday, promises to be equally as nice. Today was 68 with no humidity, so I got the car washed and scrubbed all that Texas dirt off its skin. Tomorrow I hope to give the coach a quick wash as well. We leave on Monday, so Sunday is a pack-away for tanks and hoses. I am so tired of not having Wi-Fi at my beck and call. Last week, I forgot to mention, we added to our trip calendar. I haven't had time to redo the map but it will go like this. We'll go from Vegas to St. George, Utah, Kanda, UT, Salina, UT, Moab, UT, Heber, then Bend, OR. In Oregon we hope to stay a small vacation there, about 3 weeks. Lastly will be Eugene, OR at Whalers' Edge RVR. Whalers' will take us to the end of June. Our next big jump will be Iowa, to visit family in Cedar rapids, IO, our route has yet to be determined.

3.18.2019 Day 1 -The Blue Route Grand Canyon Bright Angel... revisiting the East Rim of the Grand Canyon



Our site is located in the Bright Angel area. This is where we visited almost eight years ago with Abby. Yup, that's us. Sitting on a wall with an 1800-foot drop behind us. But it made for a good picture. I won't go into detail but I'll let you imagine what we might be expecting at this elevation!



In the picture above are the San Francisco Peaks. At this point there still about twenty miles from us. Yea, the answer to the question posed above: snow, sleet and cold temps.



This is our campground and a herd of deer just came over to visit. DO NOT FEED THE WILDLIFE, is what all the signs are telling us. At Cottonwood, just the opposite was true. They even provided the food. We'll be visiting the Kolb studio shortly. It's a story of two early 1900's photographers that made a reputation for themselves as daredevil photographers.



This is what we came here to see. Below of course is us again. And, of course, the happy couple. Once again, it's what we came here to see! No I don't know this young girl, but she's sitting on the edge of an 1800 foot cliff to the bottom for the canyon, I just don't understand her thinking. Looking back on to the Bright Angel Inn and restaurant.



The Kolb museum and gift store.



More awesome views. Below is a view of a natural bridge on the mountain path to the canyon bottom. Carla, Abby and I walked this path about nine years ago. We passed on it this time. Above is a canoe of that period of time in a glass case and the blocks you see is a primitive life jacket made from chunks of cork.

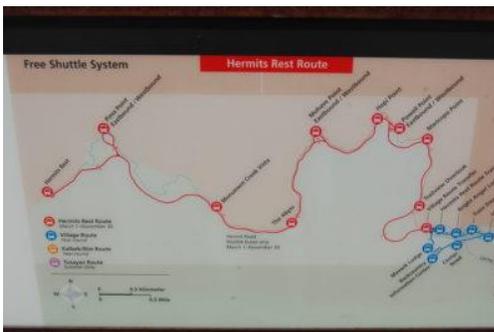


Walking to the transfer Station. This is where you get off our bus and board a GC city bus to your location. The transfer station. It took us over 30 minutes before we caught a ride.



Got a chance to meet Sue and Mark on our ride back to the campground.

3.19.2019 Day 2 -Red Tour-Grand Canyon-West Rim



The chart above show us the designated viewing locations that the bus will stop at. One bus will drop off and 15 minutes later another bus will do a pick up and go to the next stop. View from our first stop below.



As you know there are two tours currently a tour being offered; The East Rim and the West Rim. There's also to the North Rim, but the North rim is closed until May. The bus stops at certain designated areas, viewing spots, and another bus comes by every fifteen minutes for visitors to board and go to the next viewing spot. Below you see the view from this location. In the center of the picture is the Colorado River (brown water).





Now we go wait for the next bus. There is an option, you could walk to each of these stops but were to old for such a diversion. The person in the picture below is much younger and has more years than we do, she's walking.



Another awesome view from our bus on our way to the next stop. Below, time to leave this venue and wait for another bus.



I think the dude above is looking over the edge saying it's not that scary. He's also in the right hand in the outside of the safety rails. A person falls at 200 feet per second which might give him nine seconds to contemplate how stupid it was to lose his footing and start falling.



About the above pictures. Geologists have determined that about three-thousand years ago the picture on the left looked very much like the picture on the right. That damming up of the Colorado river was caused by a slow oozing of lava from the bottom of the canyon. This too can be Googled.



Just a two-minute break to rest our feet. This sojourn may not look that taxing, but were both getting a little tired. The more we see the more it all looks the same.



Here's where we cheated, and you did not even notice. We're tired! Because of our sudden lack of energy made the decision to skip the last two venues. Instead we opted to proceed to the end of the Red Tour which is Hermit's Rest. There's a nice story behind the name but too much for this blog... Google it!



It took a forty-five-minute drive to get us from Hermit's Rest to the transfer station and it will take another twenty minutes to reach our destination; our campground! Enough for today, I need a nap. Below, hole we wait for our city bus another deer or two show up and show off. Below, finally, our campground. It's about a ten-minute walk from where the city bus drops us off and we made it. Nice to be home again. I think we're going to do nothing tomorrow...

3.20.2019 Day 3 Grand Canyon
Rain expected.

3.21.2019 Day 4 GC- Depart for Vegas for 4 nights.
Dump tanks and prepare to leave for Vegas.

3.22.2019-FRIDAY-TRIPPING TO LAS VEGAS, NV



First item, Happy Birthday Mom. It's also Cindy Lango in Flagstaff, AZ. I awoke this morning around 5:30, much earlier than normal, but we're looking at a 260-mile trip to Vegas.

Yes, a snow plow!



It is impossible for anyone to feel the cold in a picture, but this is what 35 degrees looks like in the GC. We went to bed last night hoping for no new snow, well, it wasn't that much. The coach roof was covered, The toppers (pieces of canvas that cover the slides when they are extended) had about 4 inches of snow on them, the windshield of the car was covered in ice and the car had over six inches of snow. We will definitely be picking up a snow brush.



No story behind this picture except that Carla liked the Eagle. Now we're regressing. temp now is 25 degrees. The road is wet with water, ice and slush. We're moving along at a very moderate 50mph.



Above are two separate accidents about ten miles apart. This is the reason we're moving along well below the speed limit.



One hour or about fifty miles into our trip this is what we have. temp is in the high 30's and I'm loving it. The scenery we've seen along this trip has been just short of awesome. The roads are excellent and the bridge art deco is beyond description.



A quick glimpse of Lake Mead of the Boulder Dam. We were not in a position to photograph the dam itself, but we all know what it looks like. Highway bridge décor, beautiful. Instead of plantings before and after the overpasses they make extensive use of stone of all kinds and colors. The trip was uneventful but interesting. Take time to read the blog on the trip to Vegas. Our destination would be the Thousand Trails RVResort in Las Vegas.

3.22.2019-LAS VEGAS RV RESORT

Strangely this RV Park is a plain Thousand Trails Park. It has the looks and feel of an Encore Property, lucky for us.



We're on site #59. As I have mentioned in the past, Equity Lifestyle Properties has a big family of RVParks by other names, like Thousand Trails, Encore, Trails Collection and Resorts Parks International. Equity does not own all of them but all these parks are affiliated with Equity and we get to enjoy any one we want at just a small fraction of the nightly fees they normally charge.



It doesn't look like it in the picture but the coach needs a bath. Well the coach is now clean, car also. The campground is basically blacktop, stone and, of course, a wall.





What an awesome drive-in to the office to the right. Plenty of room for everyone.



It wouldn't be a campground without horseshoes and a pool. Got to have a wall. Trump would approve of this wall. Concrete, stone and barb wire.



Must lookup this Web Site. Had a chance to meet this guy. A full-timer and he's only about 30. He says he's a writer and has published seven books. Below, we're still waiting for the man to come give the coach a bath.



A beautiful statuary at the front of the church of the Holy Family.



Above, the pastor of the church. As you enter the church.





Above, the foyer of the church.

3.27.2019- COACH GOES TO FINDLAY RV FOR FIXES

Bright and early this morning we were on the road going to Findlay RV about 1.5miles from here. No time for breakfast so we thought we'd eat out. We were give several suggestions for breakfast and then , just as an afterthought, Sam's Town Casino was also recommended. Like all casinos in Vegas, this is an all-inclusive venue. Bowling, gambling, movies, breakfast, lunch, dinner are provided and lodging.

Stay here and you can spend all your days and nights in your slippers. We enjoyed an awesome breakfast buffet, so much to pick from. The price was right also. Not including the tip, we ate scrumptiously for just a few dollars more than at McDonald's. After breakfast we walked through the casino. At first, I thought this might be a Sam's Club operation but our waitress informed us otherwise. This was a Sam Boyd Family business. Not to mention they have over a dozen other locations throughout the US. After breakfast it was a short drive back to Findlay RV. Good and bad news awaited us. The hydraulic lines that were ordered prior to order arrival were incorrect. Good news; they could fabricate what we needed in house. Next the stairs were acting up, they needed a new motor. The propane tank needed a new pressure regulator, no can do. We have to have Suburban do that job. Lastly two of the storage bin doors needed new latches, done! Today's bill would be just under four figures and we pay again about the same amount for the motor for the stairs. No biggy. It's still much cheaper than owning a brick and mortar home. We rested the rest of the day. Pictures to follow.

3.28.19- THE ATOMIC TESTING MUSEUM



This would be a reproduction of what a bunker would have looked like back in the early Nevada atomic bomb experiments. The bomb experiments would eventually be carried out below ground. I've read that a large amount of the fallout from the above ground explosions actually went North to Utah, our next big venue.



All the display rooms in this museum are fairly small. Not sure if that was on purpose or not. Almost gives a person the feeling of being underground. Displays and miniaturization abound everywhere. There's a great deal of information to digest here. All this reminds me, very much, of the infomercials Dennis and I would have to sit through when we went off to the movies on those Saturday mornings. Below: This piece of equipment went underground to measure the force of the explosions. Much to much detail for this blog.



We actually spent a couple of hours at this museum. On our way home we noticed the Eye, located on the strip. I think we and the museum were east of the strip. Hotels and Casinos, guess were getting closer to the Las Vegas strip.

Text to follow from Wikipedia:

The museum opened in March 2005 as the "Atomic Testing Museum", operated by the Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation as a [501\(c\)\(3\)](#) non-profit organization. It is located in [Las Vegas, Nevada](#), at 755 E. Flamingo Rd., just north of [McCarran International Airport](#) and just east of the [Las Vegas Strip](#). Funding included support from the purchase of commemorative Nevada Test Site license plates issued by the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles.

On December 31, 2011, President [Barack Obama](#) signed a military spending bill which included designating the museum as a national museum affiliated with the [Smithsonian Institution](#). The National Atomic Testing Museum is one of 37 national museums in the U.S.



[B53 nuclear bomb](#) on display

The museum covers the period from the first test at NTS on January 27, 1951, to the present. Among its exhibits covering American nuclear history is a "Ground Zero Theater" which simulates the experience of observing an atmospheric nuclear test.

Other exhibits include [Geiger counters](#), radio badges and radiation testing devices, [Native American](#) artifacts from around the test area, pop culture memorabilia related to the atomic age, equipment used in testing the devices. Other displays focus on important figures at the facility, videos and interactive exhibits about radiation.^[3]

In 2012 the museum added an exhibit about [Area 51](#), and expanded the exhibit two years later.^[4]

APRIL 2019 JOURNALS

This month's Travel Plans:

March 22nd Las Vegas at Las Vegas TT Campground for 14 nights

April 5th St. George, Utah (119m) x13 nights (119m)

April 19th Kanab, UT at Crazy Horse RVP (80m)x7 nights (80m)

April 26th Salina, UT at RPI RVP(163m) x7 nights (163m)

May 2nd Moab, UT at KOA Campground (159m)x4 nights (159m)

May 6th Heber, UT Mountain Valley RVR (2 overnights) x7n 234m

May 16th Bend, OR TT (Overnights and stays TBD) (654m)(x7n)

June 5th Whaler's Rest in Newport, OR.

June 26th leave Whaler's Rest

4.01.19-APRIL FOOLS DAY

I was very pleased to finish the waxing of the coach. In total it's a ten hour job including short breaks. The nose of the coach took about two hours alone, do to the many nooks and grannies it has. The leaking situation is not totally fixed yet.

4.02.19-WE VISIT THE FASHION MALL

Awoke this morning, had breakfast and paid a paid a bill up my brother Dennis. About an hour later it was time for me to ry to. Catch up on a blog or two, but my Surface computer would not wake up. Asleep maybe. Comatose possibly. My biggest fear was Death!! We tried to call Best Buy for help, to no avail. Forgot we were in s big city. Is there a Microsoft Store? Yes, there is a store, in the Fashion Mall. This place was huge. Possibly a little smaller than the city of Titusville, FL. of shops and kiosks. We needed to find a schematic on where everything is located. And there is was, an information kiosk. This venue was about eight feet tall and two feet wide and totally interactive. We'd never experienced anything so easy to operate. [goto-Fashion Show Mall](#) OH! did find the Microsoft store and the young staff girl was able to resuscitate the surface back to life again.

4.03.19-COACH GOES BACK TO FINDLAY ON WEDNESDAY.

We have an 8:30 am apt. this morning at Findlay. Oops, our appointment was for tomorrow, so back to the campground we went. After getting tone coach back home we brought the car to Walmart to have the front tires re-balanced. After that we picked up a red box DVD called Green Book; an excellent movie, well worth \$1.75.

4.04.19-BREAKFAST AT SAM'S TOWN AND FINDLAY

We're sitting at Findlay right now. Nothing planned after Findlay. Hard to believe we're on the road again Friday AM. We did have breakfast again at Sam's Town. Carla had a healthy omelet, pineapple and strawberries. I, on the other hand, had the heart-attack special. Eggs, bacon, sausage and ham, it was good enough to die for. Nothing planned for the rest of the day. Tomorrow's trip to St. George is about 120 miles. I expect we'll be there in about three hours.

4.05.19-TRIPPING TO ST. GEORGE, UT

The trip was a good trip. I screwed up by mistaking a residential neighborhood for the KOA camp, but got out without a scratch. We're expecting excellent weather for the next few days. We'll start exploring on Monday.

4.06.19-SATURDAY

Everything gets replaced eventually. My D40 Nikon has taken over 50,000 pictures over the last ten years. Lately the auto-focus is not in focus and trying to do manual focus, as you have seen the last few weeks, just does not do the trick. I think we'll be off to Best-Buy to see what's available. Really thought the D40 would see me through to the end of my days, but it is what it is.

As you've experienced with kids that might be sick the night before, so you take the day off to bring the child to see a DL3500 that looked very impressive but I do feel very attached to the old D40. A little later it will be Mass, Pizza, beer and movie, like almost every Sat. night.

4.07.19-SUN-ENJOYED DINNER AT ROADHOUSE

In general It was a quiet day. Worked on blogs, uploading pictures, which is a test of patience with the slow Internet available here and a slightly longer conversation with my brother Dennis today. A little later than mid-afternoon we took ourselves to Texas Roadhouse in St. George. Carla had Sirloin and I had meals Rib Eye both enjoyed. Tomorrow, Monday, we hope to explore Zion National Park, or at least a small portion of it.

4.08.19-Monday-experience Zion National Park Grotto, Weeping rock and temple of Sinawava

4.11.19-Thursday-Experience Kolob Canyon 5-mile road trip and the Timber creek Overlook trail

4.12.19-FRIDAY-REST-Try to make Calamari! Not only did we make it we decided to finish off the bag of calamari entirely...Delicious!

4.13.19-Sat.as a husband and spoke to my son Michael

I know, you're saying, so what! Mike and I have always had a rough relationship. By no means am I blaming him. He and his sister, Cheryl, got stuck with a guy who was far from mature enough to assume the responsibilities as a husband and, especially, a father. But, unfortunately, that's all water under the dam. The past cannot be fixed. It doesn't remove, however, the regrets I have to deal with each and every night and morning. I wish, after every conversation, I could be of more help to him now that he's grown and hopefully, I've matured more than I was thirty years ago. Both he and my daughter have a very good relationship with their stepfather, so I have to be thankful for that. He's got a beautiful home in Quincy MA by the ocean. I've ever seen it in person, but he's trying to extend his property by rebuilding a retention wall by the water. Sounds like he's taking on a very big job. He, unlike me, has matured into an awesome personality. More on this topic as it develops.

4.14.2019-Palm Sunday

Saturday was one of those days that the priest has a captive audience for more than 55 minutes. Actually our mass lasted just over 90 minutes. On top of a very long gospel, which everyone expected, we got an equally as long homily. Everyone lived, not complaining! On the lighter side, Carla began speaking, in church-a no-no, their names I don't remember, like sow many other pieces of information. They had just moved to St. George from another town, something else we've forgotten. Guess they had a little mission church in their other home, This church is considerably bigger. I joined a bunch of parishioners and marched outside to be handed blessed palms. On the way out I met I younger parishioner who used to live in St. George. She explained to me that she still gets confused when she comes St. George CC. It seems that couple of decades ago the Altar used to be at the back of the church, not where it is now. Just finished the "Kolob Canyon" blog. Actually, today, all my blogs are up to date, I think.

4.17.2019-WEDNESDAY

Just like living a regular life, some days go by and we do nothing. I have been concentrating most of my time to condensing my old blogs, making them shorter and eliminating a substantial number of images. So, in a nutshell, nothing memorable has happen the last three days.

4.18.2019-TRAVEL TO KANAB, UT STAYING AT CRAZY HORSE RVR

Today we got an early rising and had a good breakfast in preparation for our trip to Kanab, UT. The coach hummed, the roads were excellent and the directions and traffic was all you could ask for. Crazy Horse is the RVR we're staying at. It's a private campground so we pay for to stay for a change, but it looks like it will be worth it. Internet and Wi-Fi are both very good and Carla has 2-3 venues selected for this stay.

4.19.2019-GOOD FRIDAY-EXPERIENCE KANAB CANYONS

Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence. The last few days we've done so much "hanging around" spending another day doing nothing wasn't that appealing. It is a special day and TV is usually at a minimum or nothing until at least 3pm. We decided to experience His majesty wonders by viewing the Kanab Canyons, the blog will be up soon.

4.20.2019-EASTER EVE.

What a beautiful day. No Mass today since Easter is tomorrow. It doesn't mean we have to bypass the pizza, beer and movie. Carla picked up the movie Vie from Red Box. To our surprise we also met a very nice family just across the street from us- in the blog.

4.23.2019-TUES. MICHELLE'S BIRTHDAY

I know, you're going to say you don't really even know this little girl that much or even that long, but she was so enjoyable we could have given even more gifts without a second thought. Mom, Nellie, was nice enough to scoot into there RV and gave Carla and I a huge piece of birthday cake, yummy! Other than that, we spent the day like yesterday and tomorrow killing time waiting till departure day on Thursday.

4.24.19-COACH SLIDE GETS ANOTHER INEXPENSIVE FIX

We were told from Little's Diesel they would show up around 3 pm to determine what trouble the slide was having again. Once again it had to do with the hydraulic fluid levels. This time I realized I had to be more involved, so I got under the coach with McCray, Little's service man, to learn how to resolve this problem in the future.

4.25.19-TRIPPING TO SALINA, UTAH

By 7:30 this morning we were up and about. We're looking at a 163-mile jaunt to Salina, Utah. By 9 am all the utilities were appropriately packed away and even the mirrors and windshield got a once over to insure a most enjoyable ride. On our ride up here we saw some of the most beautiful scenery you could ask for, not to mention mountains and mountain ranges that rose over eleven-thousand feet..

4.27.19-SATURDAY- REGLAR STURDAY

Carla busies herself with her word-game and I do a little clean-up on some older blogs. This weekend we will go to Mass on Sunday, Mercy Sunday. Pizza, beer and a movie is still scheduled for the end of the day. Spoke to Dennis today, this morning, and he recommended a movie he watched, ABOUT TIME, and honestly great family film.

4.28.19-MERCY SUNDAY-ST. ELAZABETH'S CC

Just finished the blog on St. Elizabeth's CC and Bryce Canyon. I thought for sure I had completed that blog, but it is now. Go take a peek.

4.30.19-TUESDAY-COACH APPTS.

Our travel schedule has been set as goes to June 26th. The coach, as always, needs a patch or two. So, on the 29th of May we have an appt. at Big Country RV in Redmond, OR. This should be a quick and inexpensive fix to our coach outlet for our transfer cable. When that is fixed we hope to visit CoEnergy Propane to have the auto-stop-fill mechanism. This too should not take that long.

APRIL 2019 BLOGS

4.02.2019-

Yes, there is a Microsoft store in the Fashion Mall. This place was huge. Possibly a little smaller than the city of Titusville, FL. Hundreds of shops and kiosks. We needed to find a schematic on where everything is located. And there it was, an information kiosk. This venue was about eight feet tall and two feet wide and totally interactive. We'd never experienced anything so easy to operate. [goto-Fashion Show Mall](#) OH! We did find the Microsoft store and the young staff girl was able to resuscitate the surface back to life again.



The longer we stay here the more this town is growing on us. Another venue popped up on our way a Cathedral. This was so awesome, except in a vain attempt to find our way to its location we failed. We will have to put this venue off to the next time we visit Vegas.

4.06.2019-Sam's Town Casino



After having an absolutely delicious breakfast we just had to take a walk. Getting not this place was the hard part. There are places we can't get to and they require a special "key."



It's like a members only perk. We did have one person that offered to let us in on her card, but we opted to play by the rules.



There is literally no need to leave this building. This garden alone is a great place to sit and meditate on the moneys You may have lost in the casino. Insider the garden area are an assortment of small businesses and franchises; ice cream, subway and a slew of others. I forgot to mention there's a bowling alley and a multi-screen theater as well. OH! there's, of course, a casino. And more casino! We enjoyed are stay and came back a few days later to enjoy another breakfast. You're right, we did lose some money here, about \$42.00. I think we got away cheap.

4.05.2019-arrive at KOA St. George.

Located SW portion of Utah.



The beginning of another sunset.



In season this campground is full to capacity.



The roadways in the campground are all paved. The campsites themselves are of crushed stone. Carla makes friends with a single camper from Alberta, CA



The view from our coach. Below one of many bathhouses.



Entrance to the campground, plenty of space. Above nightfall.



4.06.2019- St. George Catholic Church



The text below courtesy of The Catholic Diocese of Utah

Over 200 years ago, the first Catholic priests traveled from New Mexico through Utah looking for an overland route to the Pacific Ocean. Today, Catholics in Utah number well over 300,000 (10% of the state population), and are served by over 41 priests in 81 parishes, missions, stations and 17 Catholic schools. An area of nearly 85,000 square miles comprises the Diocese of Salt Lake City.

It was in 1776 that Franciscan friars Francisco Dominguez and Silvestre de Escalante crossed this territory with the help of local Native American guides. Six months later, diminishing supplies and threatening weather forced their expedition to return to New Mexico. It would be nearly 100 years before Catholic priests would formally establish their first foundation in Utah Territory.



Sisters, to serve the growing Catholic population.

In 1871 Fr. Patrick Walsh built the first Catholic Church in Utah, dedicating it to St. Mary Magdalene. Father (later Bishop) Lawrence Scanlan arrived in 1873 to become pastor. Soon he would be given responsibility for the pastoral care of the Catholic military men, immigrant miners and railroad workers who numbered in the hundreds. Small churches, schools, an orphanage and a hospital were built, staffed by clergy and Holy Cross

From that time to the present, this diocese has been blessed with assistance from Catholic Mission Societies such as the Catholic Church Extension Society, U.S. Bishop's Committee on Home Missions, the Black and Indian collections and the Catholic Communication Campaign.

As the nineteenth century came to a close, it was clear that the Catholic community in Salt Lake City was rapidly outgrowing the small church of St. Mary Magdalene. The time had come for the Catholics to erect a landmark of faith in downtown Salt Lake City.

In 1890 Fr. Scanlan purchased a lot where the present Cathedral stands for \$35,000. The Vicariate of Utah became the Diocese of Salt Lake a year later, and a rectory was built on the site by Bishop Lawrence Scanlan, the first Catholic bishop of Utah. Ground was broken for the new church in 1899. Construction for the building would last nearly a decade, costing a small fortune for the estimated 3,000 Catholics in Utah at the turn of the century. In 1917, the interior was artistically enhanced and the church was renamed the Cathedral of the Madeleine.

Seventy years later, in the 1990's, the inside of the Cathedral was renovated and restored over a three-year period, costing 9.7 million dollars. It stands today as a beautiful monument to the early Catholic Church in Utah, and is listed on the Utah State Register of Historic Sites as well as the National Register of Historic Places.

As the Catholic population in the nineteenth century grew, the number of religious women and men increased dramatically. The Holy Cross Sisters opened schools as well as Holy Cross Hospital where they ministered for over 100 years. Benedictine Sisters arrived in Ogden from Minnesota to establish a hospital and priory. The Christus-St. Joseph Villa was opened for the care of the elderly by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word from Texas. Trappist monks arrived in 1947 to build their monastery in Huntsville. Discalced Carmelite nuns from California founded Carmel in 1952, now located in Holladay. There were Franciscans, Jesuits, Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, Vincentians, Dominicans and the Blessed Sacrament Community. In addition to the Holy Cross Sisters, there were Daughters of Charity, the Mercy Sisters, the Mexican Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and communities that catechized in the Missions: Sisters of the Holy Family, Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters and Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement. So too hundreds of lay women and men dedicated their lives in service to the missionary Diocese in Utah. Today in the Diocese of Salt Lake City there are 13 religious orders. There are 145 priests, deacons, brothers and women religious serving across the state, as well as thousands of lay ministers. Varied ministries reach out to people of different ethnic backgrounds, especially Hispanic people, who make up a large percentage of the growing Catholic population. Catholic Community Services (founded in 1945) helps refugees, the homeless, the poor and other marginalized members of society. The Intermountain Catholic weekly newspaper (founded in 1899) provides a network of communication to a vibrant community of faith.

Following in the footsteps of two brave Franciscan explorers, the Diocese of Salt Lake City has grown from its humble roots as a missionary diocese of miners, immigrants and railroad workers, to an important presence on the Utah landscape. The Catholic Community of Utah continues to grow and flourish into the new millennium.

4.06. 2019.. St. George, UT

A Brief History of the Establishment of St. George, Utah
courtesy of utahsdixie.com



The Virgin River Anasazi were St. George's earliest residents, inhabiting the area from approximately 200 B.C. to 1200 A.D. They left behind rock art and ruins of their dwellings. The reason for their departure is unknown to this day. The Paiute tribe arrived between 1100 and 1200 A.D., utilizing the area as a hunting ground for deer, rabbits and other animals. The Paiutes also grew crops along the riverbeds, including corn, wheat and melons. In 1776, the Dominguez-Escalante Party became the first recorded European-Americans to visit the area. Fur trappers and government survey parties followed. In 1854, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (also known as the LDS Church, or Mormon Church) established an Indian mission in Santa Clara, two miles northwest of present-day St. George. The church set up experimental farms in the St. George Valley in 1857-1858. In October 1861, church leaders called 309 families to establish the Cotton Mission. After the outbreak of the Civil War that same year, LDS Church President Brigham Young felt it necessary to grow cotton, if possible. Many of these families assigned to settle the area hailed from the South and possessed the necessary skills to grow cotton and establish a community. Paying homage to the nickname of their former home, these settlers called the region "[Utah's Dixie.](#)"



St. George, Utah was named in honor of Mormon apostle George A. Smith, also known as the "Potato Saint" because he urged early settlers to eat raw, unpeeled potatoes to cure scurvy. Smith did not participate in the town's settlement, but personally selected many of the pioneers that originally settled the area. The first years in St. George proved difficult for early residents due to challenges such as flooding, lack of culinary water and scorching summer heat. A cotton factory erected soon after the settlers' arrival produced off and on for approximately 50 years, but overall, cotton proved an unsuccessful venture. The area also produced silk as early as 1874, but its production did not contribute significantly to the area's economic prosperity. Other early pioneer endeavors included the production of molasses, dried fruit and even wine.

St. George became the county seat of [Washington County](#) in 1863. That same year, construction began on the St. George LDS Tabernacle, which was finished in 1875. In 1871, work began on the St. George LDS Temple, which became a cooperative effort uniting many Southern Utah communities. Mormon Apostle Daniel H. Wells dedicated the temple on April 6, 1877. It was the first temple constructed west of the Mississippi River. Undergoing significant renovations in the late 1930s and mid-1970s, the structure is the longest continuously operated Mormon Temple in the world.



In 1911, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of St. George's settling, the Dixie Academy building was constructed. The LDS Church operated the academy until 1933, when it became a two-year college within Utah's higher education system. The new Dixie College campus opened in the southeastern corner of the city in the 1960s. Today, Dixie State College boasts an enrollment of approximately 5,200 and features several four-year programs, including Business Administration and Computer and Information Technology.

Today St. George is the largest city in [Washington County](#) and the eighth-largest city in Utah. Its metropolitan area is home to nearly 120,000 residents. It has consistently ranked as one of the fastest growing areas in the nation for the last two decades, even surpassing Las Vegas in per capita growth. St. George has become a popular retirement destination as well a respite for those seeking a second home in a more moderate climate. New residents are attracted to St. George's scenic beauty and its close proximity to unparalleled recreation, including [Zion National Park](#), Lake Powell and Grand Canyon National Park.

St. George is a city, not as big as El Paso but still big. It has everything. We'll be going out to eat later today at Texas Roadhouse. Hopefully I'll have a picture or two of the city later. We've already visited Best Buy and Roadhouse later. The pictures above are of the Visitor's Center of St. George. It's also, as I've mentioned before, a museum on the animals of the World, including, of course, Utah.

4.05.2019-Traveling to St. George, UT



The two yellow specs are actually on the windshield, I won't go into details.



Once again I apologize on some of the pictures being a little fuzzy.



The roads were great and eventually we saw signs for the Utah Visitor's center. The visitors center is actually part of the Dixie Center, a museum of the animals of the WORLD.



There's always a gift store. Yes, we did buy there also.

4.08.2019- Monday- Zion National Park

Trip to Zion



This is Quail Lake. As you can see from the wall that confines it, it's man-made. For an area that does not boast of many lakes, natural or man-made, this one is huge. Just a few scenic views of the area and the road to Zion. Our first stop will be Zion Lodge.



We are approaching Zion National Park.



Zion Lodge and check in center. It takes us about thirty minutes to get here from St. George. We'll check in with this ranger, who vacations in Orlando, FL, using Carla's park pass, and make our way to the Visitor's center. National Park Service is working diligently to create a venue very similar to what we saw in the Grand Canyon. It's work in progress but so much has already been accomplished, especially the roads, walking areas and parking venues.



Work construction going on in preparation for the Summer crowds. The roadways are very well marked as well as walkways and trail ways. We're in a double-car shuttle here taking us to our first stop.



Just a very small number of views we experienced on our trip to our first stop.



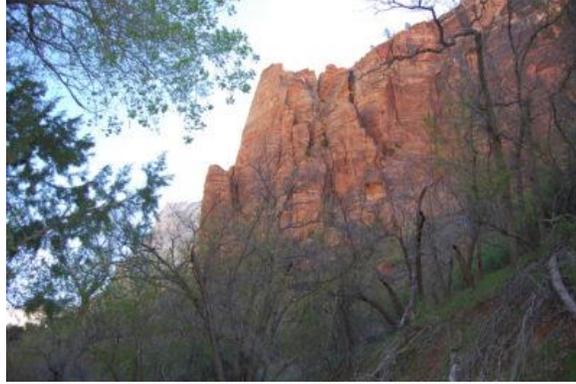
The grotto will be our first walking tour. Yes, we did a lot walking today.



The Grotto. It's just a place, no lake and no waterfalls. But it's not next door. No Uber either, foot power only.



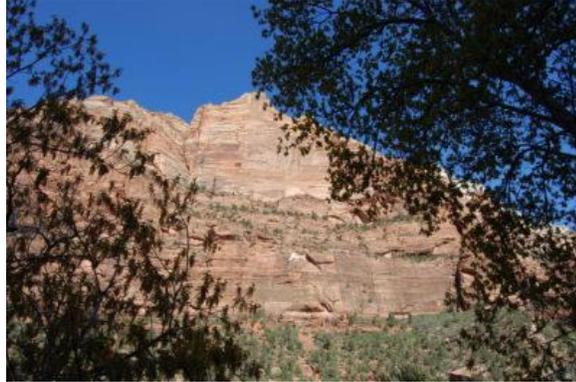
So many vistas. I had over three-hundred pictures but could only use fifty of so.



Every one of these venues are accessible but it's always an uphill climb to get there. The path began as being very generous, that will change in a few minutes.



Above is what the path will turn into. A gravel walkway with stone, roots and narrows to contend with.



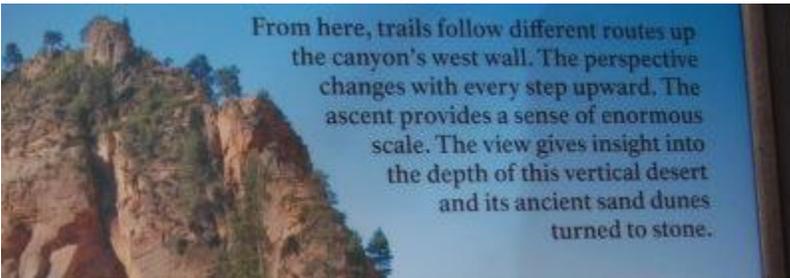
I mean to find out the significance of this tree. The bark on this tree has been twisted either by wind or water.



Move unbelievable vistas. This is all part of the Grotto.



A Ranger homestead. There are several in the area. Below is shuttle bus, just missed it. They come around every 15-20 minutes.



From here we'll look for trail signs for our next venue; Weeping Rock. In the meantime enjoy some of the many mountain views around here until we can figure out where we go next, it's around here somewhere.





Okay, we found the trail. As always it goes uphill first.

Weeping Rock Trailhead

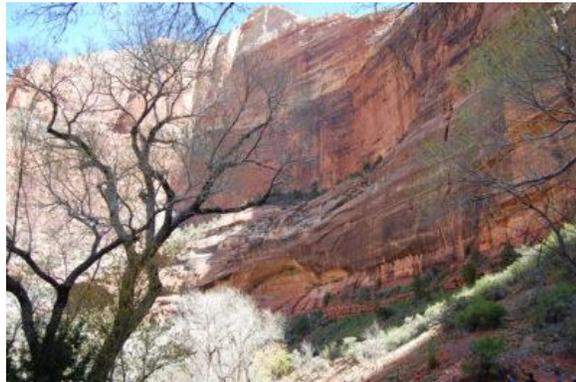
Weeping Rock

A dripping spring feeds the hanging garden of ferns and mosses at Weeping Rock. Seeps and springs are part of a pattern in Zion Canyon; hanging gardens flourish along the Emerald Pools Trail and Riverside Walk.

Because the cliffs' Navajo sandstone is porous, it acts as a vertical reservoir. Snowmelt percolates down through the sandstone.

When it reaches an impermeable layer of siltstone, the moisture travels along cracks until it emerges from canyon walls, punctuating the cliffs with damp micro-habitats. Life concentrates in those green niches.

Hanging gardens nurture moisture-loving plants such as orchids, warblers, and golden-crowned kinglets, and attract hummingbirds, dragonflies, and canyon tree frogs.





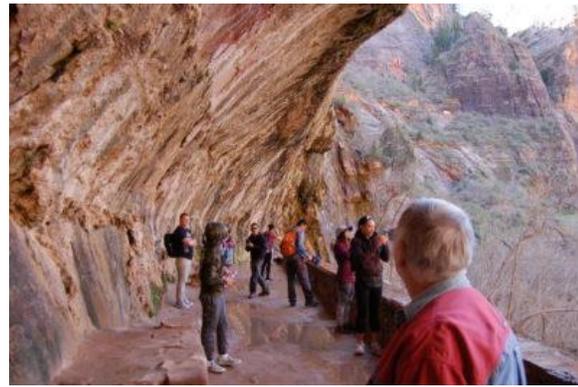
In the distance you can see our destination, Weeping Rock. It's about and quarter-mile away and, as always, it will be an uphill climb.



The National Park Service does such a great job of making these venues accessible. Not much anyone can do about the uphill climbs. The paths are passable but not always paved. Everyone must pay attention to where they place their feet and a walking stick is always helpful. Above you can see primitive steps and below a state-of-the-art people bridge, to move the millions of visitors along.



The trail, in sections, is very passable and as you can see below, we do get to our destination.



Looking away from the falls you can appreciate the effort the NPS has gone through to allow large groups of people enjoy these beautiful destinations. Below, however, it's time for us to turn our attention to going back and catching another shuttle to take us to our car.



The best part of leaving a particular venue, in most cases, is that it is usually a downhill walk. Be mindful, however, walking a steep grade downhill produces its own set of precautions.



Finally we get to that beautiful bridge again and those primitive steps.

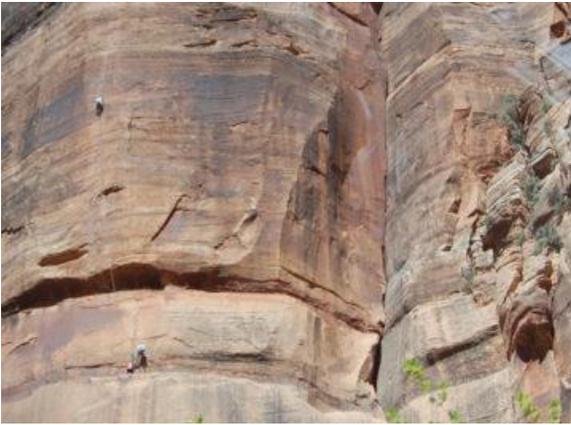


We take one last look at Weeping Rock and say good-bye. It's time to try to find the trail to the Temple of Sinawava.





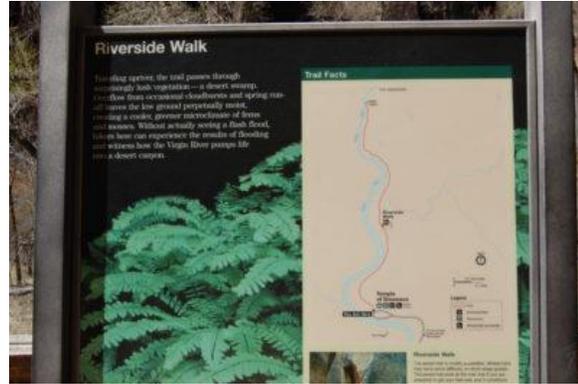
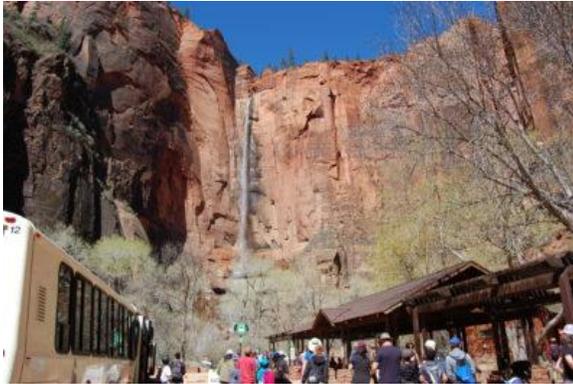
Temple of Sinawava / River Walk



The above two climbers are climbing the rock mountain shown below. If you look closely you might see two very small speck at the dead center of the picture; that's them.



Every hike begins with our trying to find the trail to hike. It's not generally that difficult but just wanted the text to fit the picture. Below is Sinawava. It looks close but it's about a very slow quarter-mile hike.



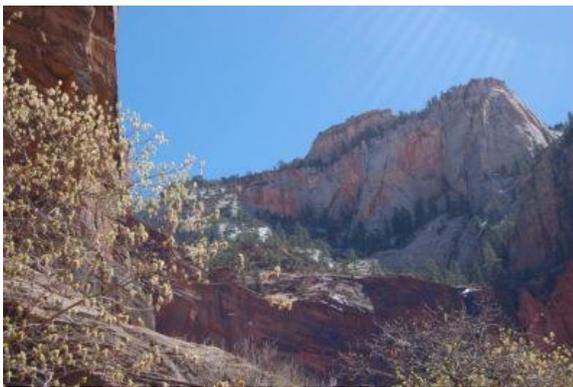
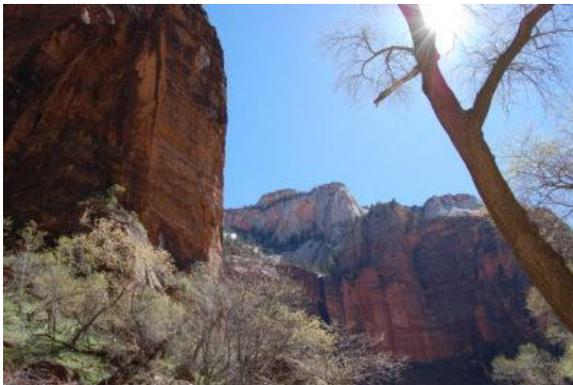
Yup, we found our path. Carla takes the first steps. Below is Sinawava also.



This begins with the Riverdale. We'll be walking along the Virgin River.

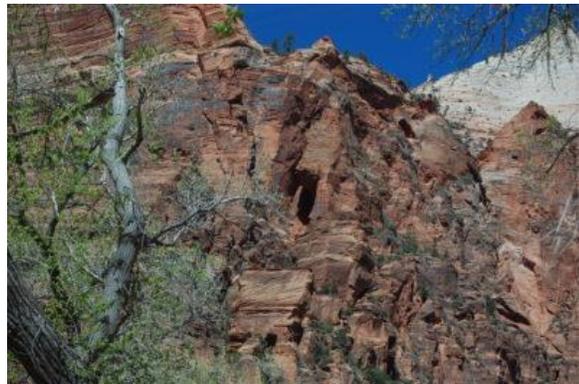


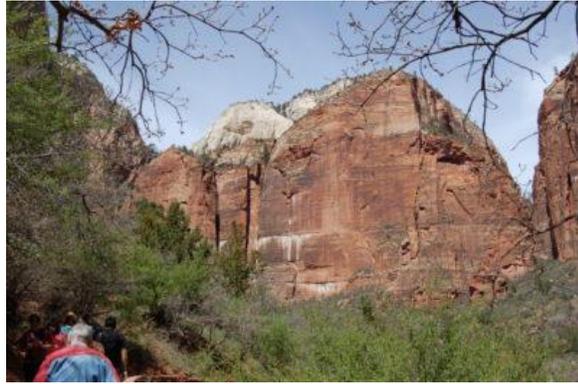
We cross the Virgin River and yes, Carla is looking a little tired. A great deal of walking today, and we're feeling it. In the next few pictures are scenes of the mountains we be seeing on our walk.

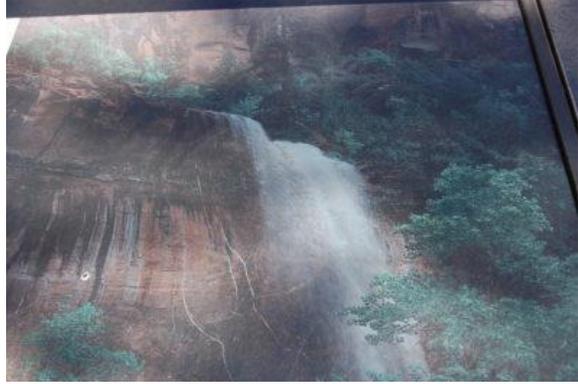




The Lower Emerald Pool





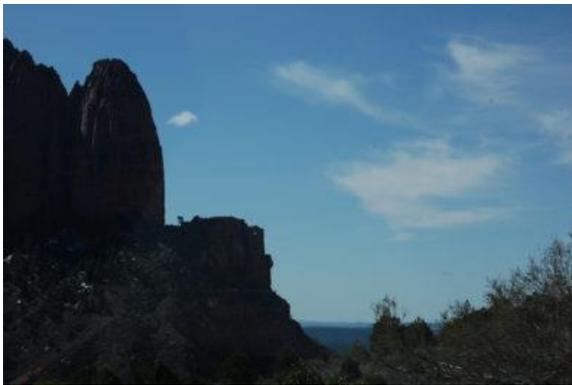


4.11.2019- Kolob

Late Summer Storm in Kolob Canyons- This text is courtesy of the National Park Service



Awesome scenery right?

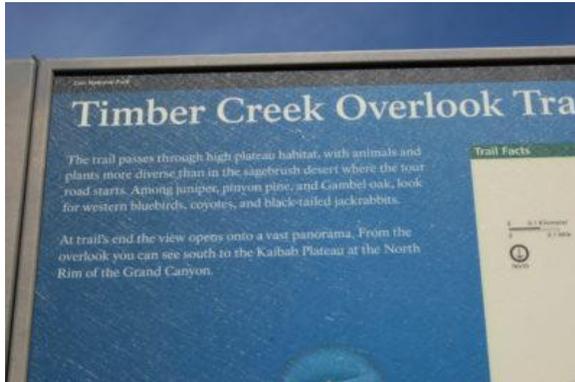


Welcome to Kolob Canyons

The Kolob Canyons section of Zion National Park is located at Exit 40 on Interstate 15, 40 miles north of Zion Canyon and 17 miles south of Cedar City.

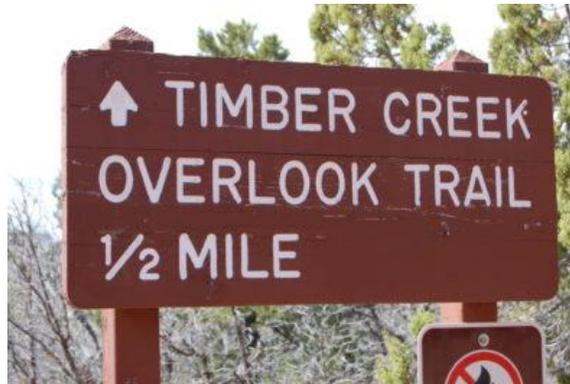


A five-mile scenic drive along the Kolob Canyons Road allows visitors to view the crimson canyons and gain access to various trails and scenic viewpoints.



Even this kind of path isn't that bad, if only it were not always going uphill.

Here in the northwest corner of the park, narrow parallel box canyons are cut into the western edge of the Colorado Plateau, forming majestic peaks and 2,000-foot cliff walls.



The sign says one-half mile but it honestly felt like two miles. Below, Yea, we have walking sticks also, in the car.



Whether you come to view the panoramic landscape from our scenic drive, hike into one of our majestic canyons, or begin a multi-day adventure into the Zion Wilderness, Kolob Canyons has something special for everyone to experience. I'm coming!!! The NPS evidently found its nice walkways being drowned out by heavy downpours. To try to eliminate the problem they set up the path in square block allowing a space in between each square block for water to pass through... ingenious!



*Kolob Canyons Visitor Center
All guests are required to stop at the Kolob Canyons Visitor Center to show an Interagency Park Pass or pay the Zion National Park entrance fee.*



If Carla looks a little tired right now, you're right, I think we both are.

Wilderness permits can be obtained here for backpacking campsites and canyoneering routes in the park.



There is also a bookstore operated by the Zion Natl Park Forever Project.

Did you notice we're still going uphill!



The views are so awesome it takes you attention off the job at hand, walking without tripping. This is the reason we opted not to walk the Bright-Angel path to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. I can think of one or two other reasons as well.



These are the paths I don't get excited about. A couple of years ago I would not have thought twice about this type of challenge, but not anymore. Now I live with a fear of tripping over something or even my own two feet.



Did I mention we're both getting a little tired of going uphill!!



Yup, still going uphill. On the bright side, we've been told we're almost there.



Carla finally reaches the top, I follow right after her. There is another peak and observation point but we're just going to take their word on the views from there.



As you can see, we've begun our final leg of this venture, the walk back. It's been an awesome experience, but we're both anxiously looking for our car.



The trip down is steep and carries it's own trepidations, once again, tripping and falling.



Remember these guys? I won't say any more. In a few minutes the car comes into view. Ah! The ride home, heavenly!





You'll have to blow it up on your computer to read the captions in the picture, but in short, it says that everything up on these hills might and someday will fall down to the ground. The left side of the picture is about a 900-ton rock that came down and fell on a truck. Nether the truck nor the driver did well that day.



Up and down this five-mile stretch of road you'll find road crews creating observation points and laying down new pavement for generations to come to enjoy this venue.





Home is only a thirty-minute ride but we enjoyed every mile of it.

April 28, 2019- St. George Catholic Church



This is me climbing into the pulpit once again. My blog/My option. Read only if you're looking for a better chance for salvation. This text is taken from the St. George Catholic Church letter in St. George, UT. In a very short and concise manor Fr. Picos has done a great job in telling the story of Divine Mercy Sunday. Jesus spoke to St. Maria Faustina and said, my daughter, speak to the world of my inexhaustible mercy. I desire that this feast be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, especially for poor sinners. The very debts of my mercy will be opened that day. I will pour out a sea of graces upon those souls that will approach me on this day. A great gift from Jesus to you. According to this great promise, Jesus is offering all souls a chance for a new "Baptism" each year, giving everyone an opportunity to "wipe the soul clean." If a soul taking advantage of this great gift in all sincerity and with proper contrition was to die after receiving Holy Communion, on the Feast of Mercy and before committing another sin, they would go immediately to heaven, without any time in Purgatory - regardless of past life.

The remarkable grace of the Feast of Mercy is also very much akin to the grace of Baptism. The Sacramental grace of Baptism received by an adult is not only the removal of original sin but is also the forgiveness of all personal sins and any punishment due to them, so the soul cleansed on the Feast of Mercy is like the soul of one newly baptized in the promises mentioned, however, Christ joined the forgiveness of all sins and punishment to the Holy Communion received on the Feast of Mercy. In other words, so far as that matter is concerned, He raised it (the Holy Communion on the Feast of Mercy) to the rank of a "second Baptism."

To fittingly observe the Feast of Mercy it should be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. This Novena begins on Good Friday, for 2019 it's on April 19th.

The Feast should be preceded by a novena of Chaplets to the Divine Mercy beginning on Good Friday. (Leaflets are available in churches). For the computer astute individuals you may goto:

[Click here to go to the Divine Mercy Novena online](#)

Most churches have a special Divine Mercy Mass scheduled for the Sunday after Easter, check or call the local parish church for more information.

Confession and Communion on that day (Mercy Sunday). Confession should be as close as possible to the Feast.

An Act of Mercy should take place, such as

Merciful Word- such as Forgiving and comforting.

Merciful Prayer- Prayers of Mercy for someone.

Merciful Deed- Any of the Corporal works of mercy (see below).

- 1. To feed the hungry;*
- 2. to give drink to the thirsty;*
- 3. to clothe the naked;*
- 4. to harbor the homeless;*
- 5. to visit the sick;*
- 6. to visit the imprisoned;*
- 7. to bury the dead.*

4.19.2019-Tripping to Kanab, UT

We got up fairly early on this morning, don't know why. The coach was already prepped and ready to go, so we took our time and enjoyed a simple breakfast and then by 9:30 we hit the road to Kanab. The picture below exemplifies the beauty of the road we were traveling, let alone the traffic density.



The views as you can see from the pictures above and below were just short of breathtaking.



Our sojourn east and a little north was completed in a little over ninety minutes.



Above is the view we have from our coach. Yes, for a change we got a corner lot. It's not really a big deal but it is nice to have the extra real estate. The site was an easy putt-thru but we did have a problem with our surge-protector on this site. The campground has relatively new owners and they're redoing quite a bit of it. Our surge-protector was telling us the source was not grounded, the manager showed us that it was. Then he realized that the junction box itself was not grounded. About a half hour later we were enjoying MSNBC for the first time in two weeks.

4.18.2019-Crazy Horse RVR in Kanab, UT

Crazy Horse is a private campground. The owners have three dozen other resorts besides this one. Not being a Thousand Trails property means we have to pay, but it is worth every penny. We've been told they're asking \$550 a month for annuals.



This RVR has been newly acquired and renovations are going on seven days a week. For a change we have an excellent site.



Notice our neighbors, they're very quiet. Very few drawbacks most notably would be very poor Wi-Fi. Wi-Fi is a problem in many campgrounds in this neck of the woods. The solution turns out to be expensive to purchase time on the campground Wi-Fi.



This is the check-in station. As you can see the parking outside is extremely spacious. Below is the signature signage of the resort. Very hard to drive by this monument.



Excellent signage and awesome views can be found in every corner of this park.



There's always a pool. This one has been totally refurbished. Carla has rediscovered lilacs. Something that grow everywhere in New England, but nowhere down south.



Above and below are pictures from inside the Check-In center



Brand new pool table. This is the media center. Books abound here. At the other end of this building are hundreds of DVDs.



Roy Rogers and Dale Evans were customers of the previous owners, in days gone by.

4.19.19-GOOD FRIDAY-EXPERIENCE KANAB CANYONS

Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence. The last few days we've done so much "hanging around" spending another day doing nothing wasn't that appealing. It is a special day and TV is usually at a minimum or nothing until at least 3pm. We decided to experience His majesty wonders by viewing the canyons in Kanab, UT.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

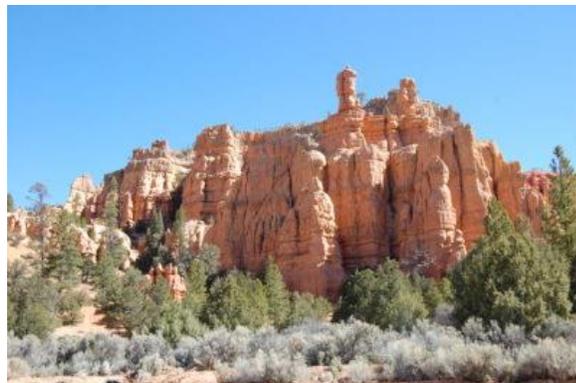
Kanab (/kəˈnæb/kə-NAB) is a city in and the [county seat](#) of [Kane County, Utah](#), United States.^[4] It is located on [Kanab Creek](#) just north of the [Arizona](#) state line.



The road-side views on our way to Red Canyon were awesome.

This area was first settled in 1864 and the town was founded in 1870 when ten Latter-Day Saint families moved into the area.^[5] The population was 4,312 at the [2010 census](#).

Red Canyon Area:



We even had the opportunity to drive through two sand-rock tunnels to find ourselves here. The name "Red Canyon" comes from the heavy concentration of iron minerals in the sand-rock itself.

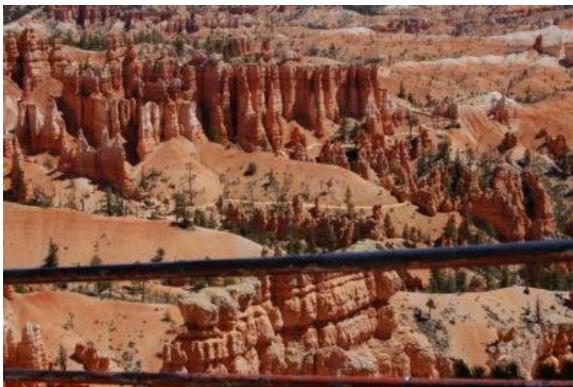
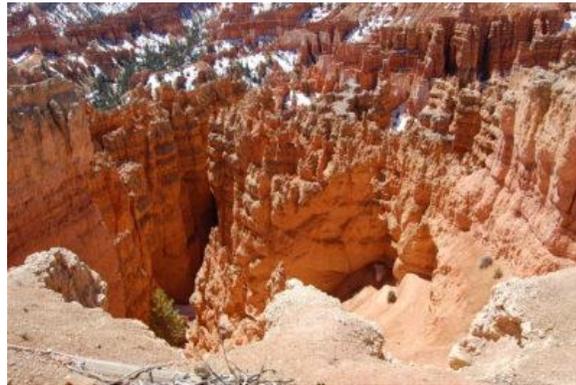
Kanab is situated in the "Grand Circle" area, centrally located among [Vermilion Cliffs National Monument](#), [Bryce Canyon National Park](#), the [Grand Canyon](#) (North Rim), [Zion National Park](#), and [Lake Powell](#).

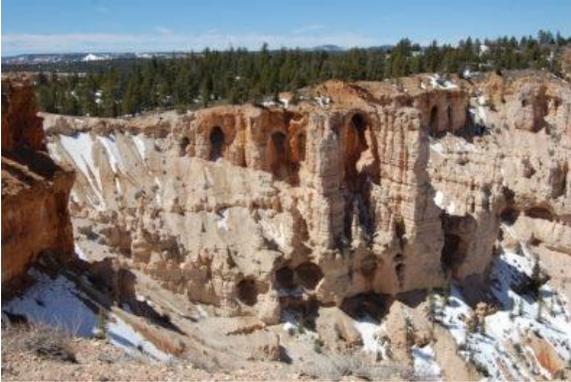
Bryce Canyon Area:

The Bryce Canyon tour encompassed several stops in different locations. Each location offered a unique canyon character from the previous location, please read the blogs on these.

Other nearby attractions include [Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument](#), [Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park](#), the privately owned [Moqui Cave](#), and the largest animal sanctuary in the United States, [Best Friends Animal Society](#).

Some additional pictures of Bryce Canyon:





Locals refer to Kanab as "Little Hollywood" due to its history as a filming location for many movies and television series, prominently [western](#), such as [Stagecoach](#) (1939), [The Lone Ranger](#), [Death Valley Days](#), [Gunsmoke](#), [Daniel Boone](#), [El Dorado](#) (1966), [Planet of the Apes](#) (1968), [Mackenna's Gold](#), [Sergeants 3](#), [WindRunner: A Spirited Journey](#), [Western Union](#) (1941), [The Desperadoes](#) (1943), [In Old Oklahoma](#) (1943), [Buffalo Bill](#) (1944), [Westward the Women](#) (1952), [Tomahawk Trail](#) (1957), [Fort Bowie](#) (1958), [Sergeants Three](#) (1962), [Duel at Diablo](#) (1966), [Ride in the Whirlwind](#) (1965), [The Shooting](#) (1966), and [The Outlaw Josey Wales](#) (1976).^{[6][7]}

Courtesy of Wikipedia-Bryce Canyon National Park lies on the eastern edge of the Paunsaugunt Plateau in south central Utah. Bryce Canyon National Monument (administered by the U.S. Forest Service) was originally established on June 8, 1923 to preserve the "unusual scenic beauty, scientific interest, and importance." On June 7, 1924, the monument's name was changed to Utah National Park and it was transferred to the National Park Service. On February 25, 1928 Utah National Park was changed to Bryce Canyon National Park. Subsequent legislation enlarged the park to its current size of 35,835 acres. Bryce is famous for its unique geology, consisting of a series of horseshoe-shaped amphitheaters carved from the eastern edge of the Paunsaugunt Plateau in southern Utah. The erosional force of frost-wedging and the dissolving power of rainwater have shaped the colorful calcium-rich mudstone of the Claron Formation into bizarre shapes including slot canyons, windows, fins, and spires called "hoodoos." Tinted with colors too numerous and subtle to name, these whimsically arranged rocks create a wondrous landscape of mazes, offering some of the most exciting and memorable walks and hikes imaginable. Ponderosa pines, high elevation meadows, and fir-spruce forests border the rim of the plateau and abound with wildlife. This area boasts some of the world's best air quality, offering panoramic views of three states and approaching 200 miles of visibility. This, coupled with the lack of nearby large light sources, creates unparalleled opportunities for stargazing.

4.19.2019-Red Canyon, Dixie Forrest, Utah



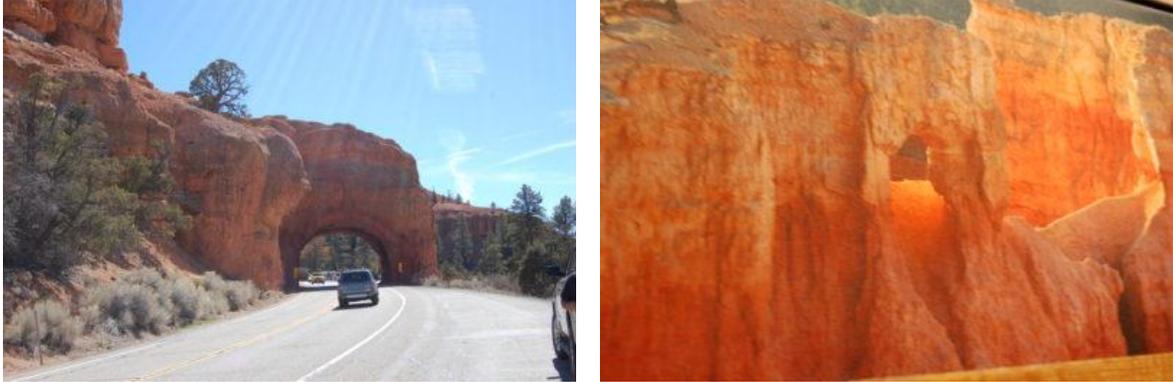
We've been on the road about thirty minutes and are now approaching Red Canyon, which is part of the Dixie National Forrest and Zion National Park.



This area has had inhabitants for thousands of years. As in all areas like this water is at a premium if found at all. For them each day was a challenge for survival.



In the above picture the tall sentinel formations are called Hoodoos. Eventually Mother Nature will wear away the sand-stone rock substance at the bottom and in-between the two hoodoos. This is not a Natural Bridge, definitely man-made. Same for the tunnel you will see in a couple of images.



Man-made, but it sure looks cool! Hard to believe the rock formation below.

4.20.2019-Easter Eve

What a beautiful day. No Mass today since Easter is tomorrow. It doesn't mean we have to bypass the pizza, beer and movie though. Carla picked up the movie Vice from Red Box. To our surprise we also met a very nice family just across the street from us.



Earlier this afternoon Carla and I were on the phone talking to Don and Joyce, family in Iowa, when Carla noticed this little toddler across the way helping her father wash his truck. We don't often mix in much with the locals in a campground, since we know we're only temporary, but this little girl was so intriguing. Once we got off the phone, I could not keep myself from taking a walk and complementing them on being such an awesome little family. They're so young, probably in the late twenties or early thirties. Mom was out playing ball with her little girl. Later mom and Michelle came over and she and Scoots became good friends, Scoots has few good friends so we have to encourage this whenever possible. Some even still have first and second mortgages. This family is lucky, the father has a reliable profession that will always have a strong demand for it. It's always reassuring to know you can fall back on I haven't had a chance to meet the dad yet. They're planning to be here for a few more days. At their age this life style is not that easy. We are fortunate with some savings and, of course, social security to help. I'm still a firm believer that owning a home is actually not the beginnings of the American dream. It's not easy to shoulder the responsibilities and expenses of home ownership not to mention all the other expenses a young family has to bear. It would be nice if the youth today would accept a new attitude that smaller is better. It's so sad that so many in my generation have so little saved up for something stable if life should hand you a bad hand in the future. I have some beautiful pictures from this afternoon and hope they'll permit me to use them this week. As you can see, they did. Oh, how I envy many of our friends who have grandchildren!

4.21.2019- St. Christopher's CC a Mission Church in Kanab, Utah.

Originally called Offero, Saint Christopher, began as a pagan. He was born during the third century at Canaan, a region encompassing modern-day Israel. Did you know that he was a well-built, strong man and so tall that he was sometimes referred to as a giant? One day he met a holy hermit who guided travelers to the safe points where they could cross a dangerous river. Then took the place of the hermit but instead of just guiding travelers, he would often carry them across the river. He paid close attention to helping any small children.



Saint Christopher converted to Christianity through the teachings of the holy hermit. He was baptized as "Christoffero" which eventually led to the name Christopher. In AD250 the Roman Emperor Decius issued an edict for the suppression of Christianity. Christopher was one of many arrested and executed during these persecutions. He is represented in Christian Art, usually shown with his emblems, the Christ Child, a tree in bloom and a torrent. Saint Christopher is loved and honored in the churches both of the East and the West. In addition to being the patron and protector of all travelers, he is also invoked against storms and sudden death. July 25th is his feast day. To honor Saint Christopher, there is a very welcoming church in Kane County Utah. Saint Christopher's Catholic Church is located in Kanab, known locally as "Little Hollywood" due to its history as a filming location for mostly western movies and television series, just north of the Arizona state line. Kanab was first settled in 1864 and the town was founded in 1870. Situated in the "Grand Circle" area, Kanab is centrally located among Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, Bryce Canyon National Park, the Grand Canyon (North Rim), Zion National Park, and Lake Powell. So, if you find yourself traveling through any of these areas, consider attending the 9am Sunday Mass at Saint Christopher's Catholic Church · 39 W 200 S · Kanab, UT 84741 · Phone: (435) 644-3414 · Website: <http://www.christthekingutah.org/>. Sunday is a great opportunity to visit Kanab and Saint Christopher's Catholic Church, but there is also daily service Monday through Saturday at certain times of the year.



The church is easily located, just off the main road and highway close. The tall dark red brick steeple can be seen as your turn onto the street with the tall white cross on top. From the outside, the church is dark red brick and the exquisite stained-glass windows can be viewed for the new church. (I was not able to see the interior.)

Since the church is under construction, they are currently celebrating mass in the attached hall, which they have transformed beautifully.

They are very hospitable and welcome you from the time you enter the door. There is a guest book to sign and give you a bulletin, a welcome smile and handshake. This is one of the churches, that during tourist season, greets people from all over the world, so I suppose they have plenty of experience.

A handsome statue of Joseph is atop a marble and white wooden pillar and just behind the pulpit. The altar table is intricately detailed with an inlaid wooden cross and flowers and has two candles on top a white linen cloth. Behind the altar table is a simple, yet elegant crucifix hanging on the back wall. There are chairs for the ministers of the mass on each side of the crucifix along with a Credence Table. The left of the altar is adorned with a lovely statue of Mary atop a pillar. Another pulpit is just to the right of Mary along with a wooden stand that holds the days' music numbers. Just to the left of the stand and along the left wall, is a framed window that has sliding doors and opens to the kitchen. The kitchen door is next to the window along with storage doors and the entrance.



(Back in the 1950's a trailer with two rows of seating was all this community had. At present the Church is maintained and supported by only twenty-five families. The percentage of Catholics in Utah is only 6%.)

Father Rick Sherman was the presider for today's mass and gives a great homily. The priests that service Saint Christopher's Catholic Church are from Christ the King Catholic Church in Cedar City. They are dedicated and put many miles on their vehicles. Lord, bless the traveling priests and their faithful parishioners. Please give them this day the gift You gave Your chosen ones on the way to Emmaus: Your presence in their hearts, Your holiness in their souls, Your joy in their spirits. And let them see You face to face in the breaking of the

Eucharistic bread. Amen.

(There is a very nice article written for the Intermountain Catholic, back in 2007 that has 3 photos of the church before renovations and was during the celebration of 50 years.

4.25.19-TRIPPING TO SALINA, UTAH

By 7:30 this morning we were up and about. We're looking at a 163 mile jaunt to Salina, Utah. By 9 am all the utilities were appropriately packed away and even the mirrors and windshield got a once over to insure a most enjoyable ride.



On our ride up here we saw some of the most beautiful scenery you could ask for, not to mention mountains and mountain ranges that rose over eleven-thousand feet.



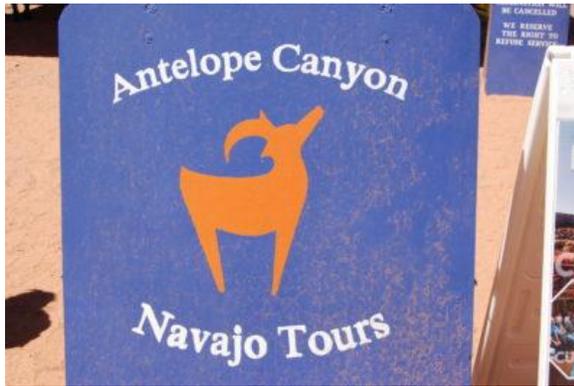
Something unique was, what I think an ATV/Walking and biking trail. This trail ran parallel to the highway we were on (89). That's it on the right side of the picture. It even has a center line running down the middle of it. Must get plenty of use, so many, here at this RVPark have one. Eventually it did end or it deviated from the road enough that we could not see it any longer. Something else which was very prominent on the way here were these farms having these very long buildings, not much higher than 8-10 feet tall with absolutely no windows just a couple of huge fans at either end. We're assuming they harbored either chickens or pigs, wish I know. If anyone knows the use for the buildings in the picture above please comment on it.



6954-We finally did arrive at the Butch Cassidy RVPark in Salina, UT. This is an RPI, which means we will pay but only \$10.00 per night. You cannot live at home at that price. We're here for seven nights. Yes, Butch is pat of the Sundance Kid twosome. Yea, it was small, but most likely, paid for. It probably sat on forty-acres and with a little bit of luck the roof did not leak. But NO! Butch wanted more. You know the story; he and Sundance began robbing banks in the late 1800s. Not being that successful they

migrated to Bolivia, where their luck did not improve. After a short stay there they were hunted down and met their end. He could have stayed in Utah, run the farm, raised chickens, pigs, children and grandchildren, who knows! Never bite off more than you can chew...

4.25.2019 ANTELOPE CANYON TOUR



Courtesy of WikiLeaks- Upper Antelope Canyon is called Tsé bigháníliní, 'the place where water runs through rocks' by the Navajo. It is the most frequently visited by tourists for two reasons. First, its entrance and entire length are at ground level, requiring no climbing. Second, beams or shafts of direct sunlight radiating down from openings at the top of the canyon are much more common in Upper than in Lower.



Beams occur most often in the summer months, as they require the sun to be high in the sky. Winter colors are more muted. Summer months provide two types of lighting. Light beams start to peek into the canyon March 20 and disappear October 7 each year.



Antelope Canyon is visited exclusively through guided tours, in part because rains during monsoon season can quickly flood the canyon.

Rain does not have to fall on or near the Antelope Canyon slots for flash floods to whip through, as rain falling dozens of miles away upstream of the canyons can funnel into them with little prior notice. On August 12, 1997, eleven tourists, including seven from France, one from the United Kingdom, one from Sweden and two from the United States, were killed in Lower Antelope Canyon by a flash flood. Very little rain fell at the site that day, but an earlier thunderstorm had dumped a large amount of water into the canyon basin, 7 miles (11 km) upstream.



The lone survivor of the flood was tour guide Francisco "Pancho" Quintana, who had prior swift-water training. At the time, the ladder system consisted of amateur-built wood ladders that were swept away by the flash flood. Today, ladder systems have been bolted in place, and deployable cargo nets are installed at the top of the canyon. At the fee booth, a NOAA Weather Radio from the National Weather Service and an alarm horn are stationed.



Despite improved warning and safety systems, the risks of injuries from flash floods still exist. On July 30, 2010, several tourists were stranded on a ledge when two flash floods occurred at Upper Antelope Canyon. Some of them were rescued and some had to wait for the flood waters to recede. There were reports that a woman and her nine-year-old son were injured as they were washed away downstream, but no fatalities were reported.



4.24.19-COACH GETS ANOTHER INEXPENSIVE FIX

We were told from Little's Diesel, Kanab, UT, they would show up around 3 pm to determine what trouble the slide was having again.



Once again it had to do with the hydraulic fluid levels. This time I realized I had to be more involved, so I got under the coach with McCray, Little's service man, to learn how to resolve this problem in the future. The reservoir for the hydraulics lies directly behind the circuitry and control box for the levelling system. Not really very accessible, actually quite inaccessible, but is doable. We're making an appointment in Bend, OR to have this problem diagnosed by a big Winnebago Dealership. We also must have them replace the connector of the electrical transfer cable as well.

4.26.19-Butch Cassidy RVPark

The Butch Cassidy RVPark is located in Salina, UT. It's also part of the Equity Properties family as an RPI Member (Resorts Park International). It's not a freebie but it's only a \$10/night which is a cheap stay. It's basically only worth that much as well. Not much here, just a open dirt campground. We do have 50 Amp service which is nice. Verizon and Wi-Fi are here but marginally. Basically, this RV Park doesn't look like much, offers even less. They have a nice pool table, so we just left to pay a game or two, It's a pay to play table. How cheap can you get? Wi-Fi sucks, satellite is about the same but there's plenty of blowing sand, and weeds to go around.



You're right, chickens and a peacock. More to come, hopefully.



Yes, there's even. Duck or two. The duck below is sitting on thirty eggs, wow!



This small petting zoo also has a resident goat.



One looks like parrot the other an owl. But am not sure. Below are just some of the animal pens housing all these animals.

4.28.19-ST. ELIZABETH'S MERCY SUNDAY-This would be another new church for us to find. This church actually had two addresses and we went to the wrong one first.



Our GPS did get us to the second address with no difficulty. Utah has a Catholic population of only six-percent. The smaller towns seem to have even fewer Catholics. This is just a Mission Church, and holds about three-hundred parishioners.



This church is in Richfield, UT. Not exactly next door about twenty-miles from here, Salina, UT. The views in Utah never ends. Usually sights like the one above can be seen in at least three positions of the compass. This Mercy Sunday, Carla and I found ourselves in the minority. We were surrounded by a much younger generation and mostly Hispanic. Many bringing their families of three or four kids with them. The young are so hard to find at most Masses, unless we're going at the wrong times. I would not know what I would have done if it were not for the Mass and prayer especially in my forties. The priest saying the Mass was very partial to both groups. The first reading was in English, I felt good about that. The second reading was in Spanish, so those of us not bilingual followed along in our pew missals or personal missalette. The Gospel was also in Spanish, I felt a little cheated there, but followed along in my English missal then came the homily. Thought for sure English would win out but not so, a Spanish homily only to be repeated in English for the minority individuals in attendance...Awesome!

The priest went even further by making this a tri-lingual presentation by bringing in Latin for the Kyrie. In general, this was a Mass that will be hard to forget.