

MAY 2019-JOURNAL



This month's Travel Plans:

May 2nd Green River, UT at KOA Campground x4 nights (159m)
 May 6th Heber, UT Mountain Valley RVR (2 lay-overs) x7n (234m)
 May 16th Bend, OR TT (Overnights and stays TBD) (654m)(x7n)
 June 5th Whaler's Rest in Newport, OR.
 June 26th Pacific City, OR @ Cloverdale RVP (T3 x14n)
 July 16th Portland, OR @ Columbia River RVP (PPx2n)
 July 18th Welch's, OR @ Mt Hood (T3 x12n)
 Time to travel East=Cedar Rapids, IA-1900 mi & FL 1500 mi

5.03.19- Dennis' Birthday-Arches

Yes, Dennis' birthday. No! We did not forget. He did receive our presents in time and enjoyed both cake and pie during his special day. For us we got an early start and travelled an hour to experience Arches Canyon. We did and were so very impressed we the experience. Read the blog.

5.04.19- Experience Petroglyphs?

pet·ro·glyph, NOUN are rock carvings, especially prehistoric ones. For more information on this read the May 4th Blog on it.

5.05.19-Sunday-Mission Church

In the post for this day you've seen the tiny Mission Church we attended this day at 5PM. The priest actually had to travel from Price, UT, 45 minutes away, to perform the service.

5.06.19- Monday-Tripping to Heber, UT

Staying at the Mountain valley RVR and a Resort if definitely is.

5.09.19-Experiencing Salt Lake City**The Mormon Temple and Genealogy building.**

We're not Mormon Adventist so we would not be able to experience the Temple, unless we converted. We were so impressed all the youngsters and young adults who volunteer their time for eighteen months, as required by their faith, to assist the tourist and visitors. We ended up spending over two hours in the Genealogy Building. Neither of our families were in their database, but they are now.

The Cathedral of the Madeleine.

Prominently standing out at the Cathedral had to be the great Rose Window above the Organ balcony. We stayed in SLC for almost six hours and felt like we had walked over six miles, mostly uphill, hard to believe.

5.11.19- Sat. Another quiet day

Even our Mass routine has been altered. This week, just like last week, we'll be attending Mass on Sunday, tomorrow. Mass time is a generous 11am. As for today we'll do the pizza routine and tomorrow we will prepare for our departure this coming Monday. Our next jump will cover 654 miles and we'll do it with two layovers along the way, the first at a Walmart and the last at a Cracker Barrel. Our final resting spot will be in Bend, Oregon number 17 on the map at the top of this page. During our stay in Bend we'll be having the coach slides looked at on the 29th. We leave Bend on June 5th.

5.12.19-Mass at St. Lawrence CC

Today we attend the 11am Mass at St. Lawrence CC. This would be another Mission Church.

5.13.19-Travel to Burley, ID

This would be the first of three trips involving three layovers at different locations. This first leg is about 232 miles. We spent this evening at a Walmart in Burley.

5.14.19-Travel to Vale, OR

Tripping to Vale, OR (priv. Campground)-Arrived in Vale after a very uneventful, almost boring ride here. The trip was so uneventful I don't think Carla took any serious pictures along the way. We were originally going to trip to Nampa, ID but the trip tomorrow would be 300 plus miles so we opted to extend this trip a little longer.

5.15.19-Arrive in Bend, OR

Tripping to Bend, OR-We were up a little earlier than usual to attack this 260 mile trip to Bend, Oregon. Usually we're on the road by 9:30, but today, we were on the go at 8:15. We left Vale, ID and had a very non-descript trip to Bend. The views from the road on our trip were just short of awesome, far more interesting than the yesterday.

5.17.19- Friday-Oregon Living

Carla and I are enjoying our stay in Bend, OR. The RVResort is Sunriver RVPark. Our campsite is nestled tightly in a wooded venue but we have a break in the trees that allows us a satellite line of contact which is deeply appreciated. Have gotten used to having Morning Joe with our breakfast. This morning I was so pleased; a call from my daughter, Cheryl. Had an exceptional talk today. Maybe because I've finally grown up or something, just wish I could go back and rethink some of the decisions I'd made in my early twenties. She and Paul (her husband) are doing well.

5.18.19-Sat-St. Francis of Assisi Church.

What a beautiful church. This is actually their third church. The second one is still up and active. Please see the blog.

5.21.19-Tuesday-new diet.

Today I've changed out my eating habits. I will eliminate all the foods I enjoy eating, pepperoni, sausage, bacon and everything else that enhances my meals in hopes this change will remedy many of the problems I've been dealing with the last twelve months.

5.22.19-Wed.- Just killing time.

The last few days we've spent just trying to keep warm. The slides are still retracted, so our living space has been minimized. Hopeful this will be remedied on the 29th when we bring the coach to Big Country RV to have them look at it. Tomorrow, Thursday, we hope to trip to Crater Lake about a seventy-mile road trip but should be well worth the effort. Reporting on my change in diet so far has been very positive and hopefully will continue to benefit me. On Scheduling; We were able to schedule Mt. Hood but had to give the campground 2 days if we were to be given twelve days at their park. Now we had two days to fill in. The Cracker Barrel there was to small for us and the Walmart did not permit overnight stays so it was off to a campground for two nights. The remedy would be found in Portland, OR at the Columbia River RVP. This is a privately owned (PP) campground and does not take us out of our way very much. At this point were committed until August 2nd. I'm not sure if I'm that happy with Pacific Time. We've eaten dinner, dishes washed, watched a movie and played three hands of Kings-Corner and it's only 7:30 in the evening. Everyone we know is either in bed or close to it. Guess I'll just wait out the clock.

5.23.19-Thursday-Crater Lake today

The high for today is supposed to be 66 degrees, perfect travelling day. Crater Lake is seventy-miles from here but we're told it's worth the trip. As it turned out the trip was actually 120 miles. We began the Crater Lake trek at 9am this morning and did not get home till after 5pm.

5.24.19-Friday-Rest up and wash the coach

Yesterday was thoroughly exhausting but so enjoyable and today we relax and rest up. Temp is around sixty degrees which makes it a perfect day to spend a couple of hours washing the coach. It wasn't a perfect and tomorrow I'll go out a touch up the spots I missed today and it should look perfect-from a distance.

5.25.18-Sat-Holy Trinity Church

This was a very pretty little church. Much smaller than St Francis of Assisi but much bigger than many of the smaller "Mission Churches" we've attended. We we're lucky enough to attend a service which included a Baptism. Keep forgetting how small infants are. After mass it was, as usual, pizza, beer and a movie. I have a short blog on this church, of course. We'll spend tomorrow, the 26th just getting the blogs caught up and killing more time.

5.26.19-Sunday-Relaxing

We continue to bide our time here at Sunriver, which is not a hardship. It would have been a tad bit more comfortable if the slides were extended, but that day will come. Hard to believe we'll be leaving in just ten days. An intermediate layover will be on the 29th of May when we have the coach looked at in Redmond, OR. Once fixed or at least looked at we'll come back and officially leave on the 5th of June for Whaler's rest, a campground we visited last just prior to my brother's stroke. In the interim we continue to battle cool temps in the mid 40's to mid-50's and rain. Our family in Florida might be a little envious of the cooler temps.

5.28.19-Tuesday-Lava Land and Lava River Cave

Finally no rain, a beautiful day around 65 degrees. We leave the coach about 9:30 and were on our way to Lava Land. It was both educational and informative. Take time to read the blog on Lava Land. We enjoyed a great visit to Lava Land and got a cardio workout by walking possibly about 3 miles. The Lava River Cave is only a few miles from here. We really enjoy caves and caverns and this one should be one-of-a-kind and it was. I'll have a blog on this as well.

5.29.19-Wednesday-Big Country RV and Smith Rock

By 7 am we were on our way to Redmond, OR to have Big Country RV try to fix our slide problem. We arrived at 8am sharp and dropped off the coach to be fixed. In the interim we took ourselves out to breakfast to the Original Pancake House in Redmond. We both ordered Bacon and Eggs. We were served two scrambled eggs with four slices of "thick bacon." The meals were great. Now it's off to Smith Rock. The trip was truly inspiring. Please take time to read the blog once I write it. We got back to Big Country RV around 1pm and got the news. Slides can be fixed but parts must be ordered. It will take seven days for the parts to come in and they cannot get to the coach until the 13th of June. We're supposed to leave here on the 5th of June. Through Thousand Trails we can extend our stay here at Sunriver for 2 weeks, but we only need one week and we took the one week. We will now leave Sunriver on the 13th and have the coach fixed on the 13th as well. Instead of spending three weeks at Whales' Rest in Newport, OR we'll spend fourteen nights there instead. Thousand Trails membership is so awesome!

5.30.19-Shopping, Camera and Mueller Report

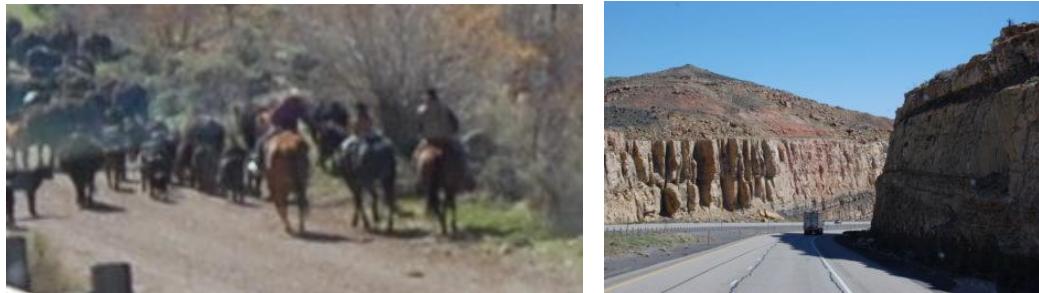
We had nothing on schedule as must-do items so we did the miscellaneous shopping. The big item I've been struggling with the last three months is my camera the Nikon D40. Back many, many years ago I purchased, what I believe might have been, the last one on the shelf from Amazon, and for my faith in it she's given me so much history to look back on. As you've seen in many of my pictures a very slight amount of fuzziness. The camera will just decide not to take pictures using the auto-focus. Simple enough to turn on the manual-focus, and you see how that went. So it was off to Best Buy to purchase a new D3500 Nikon and hope we can get sixty-thousand pictures from this camera as we did the old. Next just a couple of small purchases then off to Barnes and Noble to purchase the Mueller Report. This is our government and we paid thirty-five-million dollars for this investigation. Although tonight I've heard that the government has probably garnished almost twice that much from two or three of the Trump Associates as they pled guilty and went off to jail so the Mueller Investigation actually made money for the government. It's up to every American to pick up a copy of this report and read it for themselves.

"The Motorhome lifestyle is where you spend a small fortune, to live like a homeless person.

MAY 2019 BLOGS

5.02.19-Tripping to Green River, UT

It isn't very clear in the picture above, since I'm utilizing the poor-man's telephoto lens by cropping the original picture. This is a "serious" cattle round-up of several hundred head of cattle. The purpose for the picture was the munchkin on the center horse. Boy or girl, not sure I was driving, but he/she could not have been older the ten...pretty awesome way to spend a day and possibly bonding with a parent. We were still passing cattle two miles from here. Sure, beats watching grass grow.



This was on a plaque by, I think, the National Park Service (NPS), posted at the scenic area stop.

"Humans have lived among these rocks and cliffs for longer than you can imagine. Archeological investigations conducted as part of the Interstate construction across the Swell during the 1970s and 1980s located over a hundred prehistoric sites. The sites show that hundreds of generations of Native American peoples inhabited this rugged land for thousands of years and in all seasons. Archeologists explored sites from the early Archaic Period of hunting and gathering about 9,500 years ago, up to historic ranching sites of the early 20th Century. People survived by hunting and gathering until about the time of Christ., when small-scale agriculture, dependent on corn, beans, and squash, was adopted.



We're at a Rest Area for a few minutes and I had the chilling moment that the coach quietly began rolling down this steep road. Just popping in the tire blocks to assure my "moment" never happens.

Archeological remains of these farmers, whom we call Fremonts, include small settlements of pit dwellings, granaries, outdoor shaded work areas, hearths, storage pits, and trash mounds. the earliest evidence of farming on the Swell dates to about A.D. 500 at the Confluence Site.



Scenes from the Rest Stop. Below was a father/daughter team viewing also. He was visiting from Tokyo...Awesome! Just checked, coach has not moved!

This site provided important insight into the transition from hunting and gathering to agriculture in the region, and predicated previously known agricultural sites by 200 years. Bows and arrows and ceramics were the technological innovations of this time.



Remember the name of these guys in the center of the picture? Yes! Hoodoos.

Researchers found Fremonts sites in the Ghost Rock area, a few miles east of here, which is an upland environment and not well suited for growing corn. Study of the sites told archeologists much about the Fremont way of life, which included hunting and gathering year-round and farming at lower elevations along riverbanks.



Scenic views like this one above and below appear every couple of miles. Below, I'm sure you're saying, snow again! NO! That's salt. I hope to have a separate blog on "salt" soon.



It was a little over two-hours to get here but the scenery was well worth it. We're staying at the Shady Acres RVP in Green River. Green River, as far as I'm concerned, is an oxymoron. The river is a muddy brown color.

5.03.2019- Dennis' Birthday-Arches

Yes, Dennis' birthday. No! We did not forget. He did receive our presents in time and enjoyed both cake and pie during his special day. For us we got an early start and travelled an hour to experience Arches Canyon. We did and were so very impressed we the experience.



By 9:30, after congratulating Dennis, it was off to Arches. The full purpose of the picture below is for the reader to appreciate the awesome height of these mountainous size in relation to the car in the picture as well.



In the picture above is a view of the half-mile roadway to get to the entrance to the park. This is the Park Avenue Trail. As we have seen this year and years past the National Park Service does an super jog of making so many of these monuments so accessible.



I have over three-hundred pictures of mountainous structures we'd seen on this visit.



Below is our first "arch" structure. (Center of picture).



Balanced Rock coming up.

The forces of erosion are sculpting more than just arches. Balanced Rock clearly shows the various layers responsible for this amazing defiance of gravity.

The caprock of the hard Slick Rock Member of the Entrada Sandstone is perched upon a pedestal of mudstone. This softer Dewey Bridge Member of the Carmel Formation weathers more quickly than the resistant rock above. Eventually, the faster-eroding Dewey Bridge will cause the collapse of Balanced Rock.



.Below another arch, in the center of picture. This blog is basically a pictorial on Arches, so they will get redundant eventually.



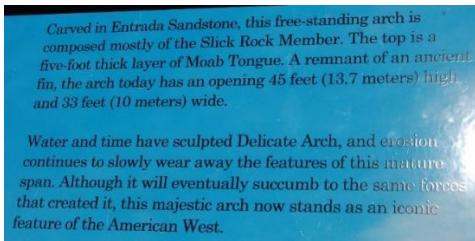
Both up and down are more arches. Can you find the arch in the picture below?



Arches, Arches everywhere. It was a good walk but the sight was well worth it, not to mention the beautiful parkway, thanks to the NPS. Three-hundred-million years ago this area, as well as most of the country, was covered with over ten-thousand feet of water, snow, ice and when it all began to melt, a million years later the friction of the water flowing past the sandstone structures took on very beautiful designs. Over the course of the three-hundred-million years the deep waters and ice came back many, many times...



Below Delicate Arch coming up...Delicate Arch was just to long a hike so we chose to present a picture in place of the real thing.



Once again, I must rely on the poor-man's telephoto lens, the cropping option. Below, we've reached the end of the Arch parade, at least for us. One more awesome site coming up....



..Fiery Furnace coming up! This is going to be a pretty good size walk, only hope the vision is worth it. You noticed the walk begins by negotiating a series of stone steps leading to an original walkway, not the kind the NPS provides.

Contrary to its name, the Fiery Furnace is not a hot place. Named for the warm glow seen on the rocks in late afternoon, the Fiery Furnace is actually a maze of cool, shady canyons between towering sandstone walls. The chaos of fins, spires and canyons has been called "void, silent and almost uncanny in its solitude."

The many vertical rock walls – or fins – you see here and in the Devils Garden are the result of movement, eons ago, far beneath the earth's surface. Over time erosion has been shaping the Fiery Furnace. Rain, snow and ice have deepened and widened the cracks, creating these towering fins.

The tall narrow rock structures are called "fins."



Devils Garden coming up next:



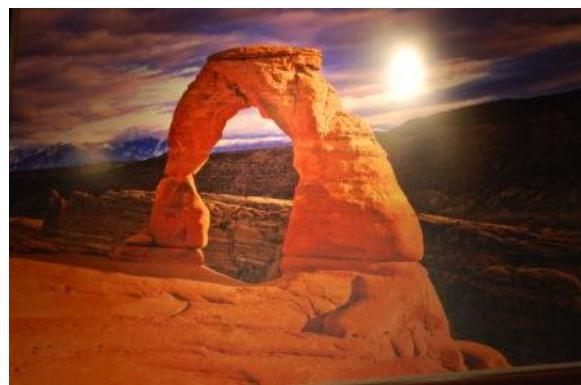
Above is a small section of the Devils Garden. Devil's Garden are rocks and cliffs that are saturated with iron.



We're about half way back to our final stop and we have a look at the arrival road.



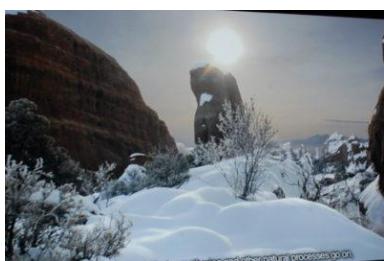
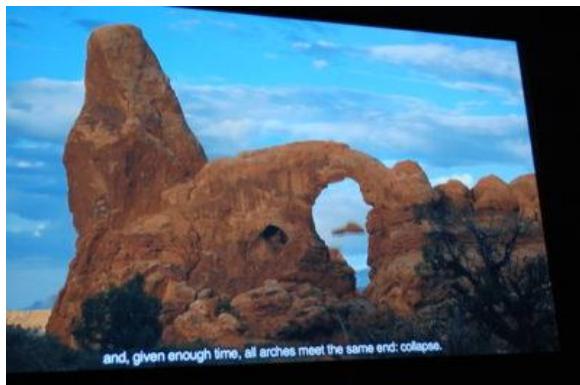
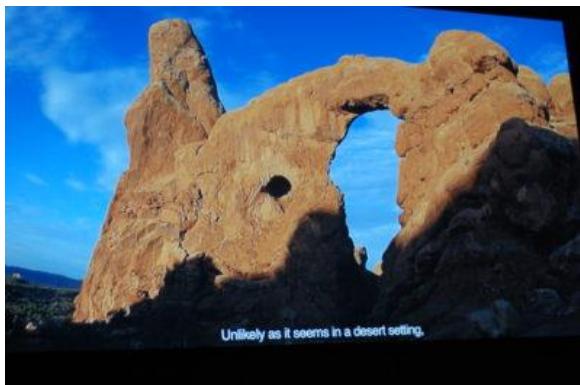
As always, there's always a gift store. Yes, we made a purchase. Below a Ranger explains to Carla the cause of the heavy coloring in the rock formations..



The next few pictures are from a movie at the Visitor's Center. The arch below was just too long a walk to see in person.



Above is another look of Hoodoos in the Winter time.



Above and below are from the movie and are Winter scenes. Our visit to the Arches National Park was awesome. Accessibility was another big plus as well, as one who trips over himself walking in a parking lot.

JUNE 2019 JOURNALS

TRAVEL SCHEDULE for 2019 so far for 5 months.

Jan. 14th Lake City, FL - Overnight (147m)
 Jan. 15th Crestview, FL Overnight (169m)
 Jan. 16th Robertsdale, AL - Wilderness RVP (RPI) x 2n (165m)
 Jan. 18th Lafayette, LA Overnight (122m)
 Jan. 19th Lake Charles, LA Overnight (172m)
 Jan. 20th Willis, TX at Lake Conroe (TT) RVP x 12 nights (188m)
 Feb. 1st Seguin, TX -Overnight (156m)
 Feb. 2nd Lakehills, TX at Medina Lake RVR (TT) x13n (182m)
 Feb. 15th Fort Stockton, TX overnight (300m) W/M
 Feb. 16th El Paso, TX - overnight(224m) C/B.
 Feb. 17th Deming, NM overnight (122m) W/M
 Feb. 18th Benson, AZ at Valley Vista RVR(T3) x13 nights(73m)
 March 3rd Phoenix, AZ overnight (.)
 March 4th Cottonwood, AZ at Verde Valley RVP (TT) x14n
 March 18th Grand Canyon Village at GC Campground for 4 nights
 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 (2 Overnights (654m)(x7n)
 June 13th Whaler's Rest in Newport, OR.
 June 26th Pacific City, OR @ Cloverdale RVP (T3 x14n)
 July 16th Portland, OR @ Columbia River RVP (PPx2n)
 July 18th Welch's, OR @ Mt Hood (T3 x12n)
 Aug. 7th Butte, MT
 Aug 10th Billings, MT
 Aug.12th Wyoming somewhere find RVP
 Aug 14th Rapid City, SD
 Aug 29th Forest City, IA

6.01.19-Saturday-relaxing, Mass, Pizza, beer and hopefully a good movie.

So far as of June 1, 2019 we've enjoyed 26 unique locations from Florida to Oregon. In addition to that we've experienced 64 venues not including the states and cities they are in. Our traveling has been awesome. We've enjoyed three full seasons and are now experiencing the fourth and possibly the hottest.

6.02.19-Sunday- Day of rest

We don't have the opportunity these days to have a fire in the fire ring do to the campgrounds being so dry. Today would be different. It began with just enjoying this great day then I decided to join others in the area and light up the fire ring. We've been carrying around logs from a long time ago and they're getting to be in the way so burning them up seems like the right thing to do. We ended the day with a Scrabble game and tonight it will be shrimp.

6.04.19-Tuesday-Beautiful day

This is a special day, at least just for me. It was a year ago that I finished my chemo and radiation. I cannot say that this trip through time was exactly pleasant, but with Carla's patience, help from those dang fluid pills and carefully constructed schedules we did get through it. I'm not home free yet, each day, one-way or the other, offers challenges, but it's getting better. Not taking these little fluid pills so I have about 200 left over, maybe someone in Iowa will take them off my hands. We still must visit the local Observatory possibly tomorrow.

6.05.19-Oregon Observatory

This day began cool and got slightly cooler. A few days ago, we dropped by the observatory and were greatly impressed. We will go back to the Observatory this evening, and it will be cold. The temp will not go above 55 degrees.

6.06.19-Birthday celebration

Thank goodness it only comes around once a year. I heard from so many of the Ozdarski family and got a text or two from my kids. The height of the day would be the excellent dinner Carla created. To say the least, it was an Iowa feast.

6.07.19-Walk around the campground

We were getting itchy feet and needed to get out and get a little more use from the new camera, so we took a couple of pictures. The Rodeo and the Paulina Lakes are still on the to-do list.

6.09.19-Sisters Rodeo

What a beautiful day. Temps around 80 degrees. I only hope I can sort out the important and entertaining pictures on the Rodeo experience. Strangely it was exactly three-years ago to the weekend that we attended our first rodeo, the Cody Rodeo in Wyoming.

6.10.19-Mount Newberry Experience

Mount Newberry is about thirty-miles down the road. I thought it would be a one-topic venue but discovered that we enjoyed the Paulina Lakes, the East Lake, Paulina Falls and finally Obsidian Peak.

6.11.19-Washed the vehicles.

I should not even bother. It's been almost a week without rain and all the roadways are as dry as can be. First, I washed the car and by the time I finished washing the coach the car had a least one layer of dusty sand over it already; just can't win. Watched a terrible movie tonight about a couple that decided to go camping in the deep woods for a long weekend. It was based on a true story which made it so difficult. Two went into the woods but only one came out.

6.12.19-Last full day at Sunriver RVP

This is the first time in several years that we've stayed 28 days at one campground. To say the least it was very relaxing. Sewer and 50 amp would have made it perfect but in this lifestyle, you take what comes your way, and make it work for you. I met the folks next door to us, forgot their names, however. Not full-timers yet but very close to making the jump I feel. I'm the first to admit that this is a lifestyle in which some days are tougher than others but the rewards are well worth the inconveniences.

6.13.19-Thursday-Day from H--L.

Like every morning we got up with a very positive attitude. Today will be part one of a 2-part trip to Newport. We have reservations in Albany but getting to Albany, OR is a whole other story. Please go to the 6.13 blog for the details.

6.14.19-Tripping to Newport from Albany

Last night was so relaxing. We had the full coach. Our slides are operating just as they should be. Carla actually mentioned, a couple of times, "this place feels like a dance floor." For almost eight-weeks we've been living in the coach with the slides retracted. The space was very limited but did not affect us even a iota. Today it still feels like we have much to much room. Our trip to Albany took us about two-hours and was delightful. The campground last night was strictly 5-star. Blue Ox in Albany will be a campground we will remember for when that time come for us to hang up our keys.

06.15.19-Saturday

Mass at Sacred Heart Church at 5pm followed, of course, with pizza, beer and the movie Skyscraper. The movie was as good as the pizza and beer.

06.16.19-Sunday- Father's Day

Never happened before but this year Cheryl called on my birthday and Mike texted me. And today Cheryl texted and got a call from Mike. A little later in the day we were traveling to the town of Newport and decided to visit South Beach recreational area. This area has some beautiful beach front locations. Finished the day with an awesome dinner of Tilapia, fresh corn, potato and the movie 13-Hours based on the Benghazi attack in 2012.

06.17.19-Mon.-Wash Day

Did wash and tried calling Dennis to no avail, his message still remains full. I am behind on three blogs and hope to get caught up this week, but it's easier said than done.

06.21.19-Friday

Not much has happened the last four days. As you can see from our travel plan above we'll be heading toward Idaho, Montana and N. Dakota, meandering towards Iowa. Later today we're gong to visit the waterfront portion of Newport. This is the historic district. This is a beautiful venue, and I'll give it a full blog in a couple of days. Right now I'm caught up on all my blogs. Today we did visit the waterfront portion of Newport. What a beautiful area. So much like Mystic, it almost makes me homesick for Connecticut. See the blog on Newport-Waterfront.

06.22.18-Saturday-Blogs caught up again-Comments are flagged.

I've been doing this journal since 2014 and you would think I would have it down pat by now, but I continue to learn. We were told by our Iowa family that they could not leave a comment. Could not figure out why no one left comments. Did a blog on "Comments."

06.23.19-Sunday-South Beach Fish Market

Sundays are very much like Saturdays. The script has been reenacted on so many Sundays in our past, very much like many other families. little shopping at Walmart then munch our way through the day with a nice but simple dinner to end the evening. Today was very much like all the Sundays of our past with a little twist at the end of the day. Read the South Beach Fish Market blog.

06.26.19-Monday-Tires

Well, hopefully we've lifted ourselves out of the flat-tire syndrome. We took ourselves to Ocean Tire, as recommended by our AAA guy, as asked for four Michelin tires for the HHR. None in stock but it does have a happy ending-see the blog. Carla and I did a very nice couple this morning; Tom and Adele. Never got their last name but they were from southern California. They're not full-timers but do get away as often as possible. They travel with a Reflection Fifth-Wheel RV. They were a couple you could only wish to be your neighbor, if you were lucky enough. I do hope we bump into them again, but the chances are it is quite unlikely. It was a pleasure knowing them even for the short times we knew them.

6.28.2019-Friday-Cell Service

Today we had to touch base with several people to secure future travels and, more importantly, to call one of Dennis' insurance companies and received nothing but good news. If I took myself to the West side of the Clubhouse, overlooking the ocean, I did connect with some Version Cell service. This was so convenient. In the past we were taking ourselves to the edge of town, about a 20-minute ride, to obtain cell service.

6.29.2019- Saturday-Pizza and stuff. Today we'll be doing things a little differently. Pizza will be at noon. We'll be meeting up with Sharon and Dick Totino after Mass at the Clubhouse. The monthly or the campground says that "cowboy Buck" will be entertaining us; a hardly wait. I've been surprised at tomes in the past. Sometimes the local talent is pretty good.

6.30.2019-Sunday-getting lots of rest

Well, we got here on the 26th, how time flies, feels like thirty days. We continue to enjoy the amenities of the campground; limited cell service, no Wi-Fi, precarious satellite reception, 30-amp power which is not that inconvenient except when cooking and more importantly no sewer service, at least not at the site. Other than all that, life is great. Just sounding off. All these inconveniences we've weathered at other parks, except not all at once. We'll talk again, in July.

JUNE 2019 BLOGS

06.07.19-Walk around the campground.

We were getting itchy feet and needed to get out and get a little more use from the new camera, so we took a couple of pictures. The Rodeo and the Paulina Lakes are still on the to-do list.



The roadways here are, unfortunately, laden with crushed stone that looks like it gets replenished often unlike the roadways in front of the individual sites. The sites are left with dusty gravel.



Plenty to see and do in this area.

6.10.19-Mount Newberry Experience

Mount Newberry is about thirty-miles down the road. I thought it would be a one-topic venue but discovered that we enjoyed the Paulina Lakes, the East Lake, Paulina Falls and finally Obsidian Peak.

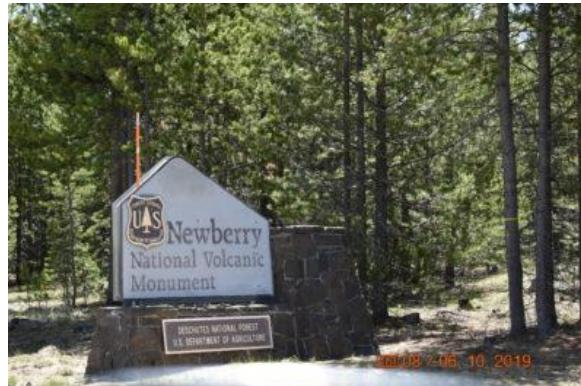
Paulina Lake



Once again, we see the specter of this mountain range. This time were at a roadside viewing point. For the first time we also have the names of these mountains. The Sister Mountains, back in the 1800's were once known as Faith, Hope and Charity. Bachelor, extreme left, appears to tower over the others, but in actuality it's only just over nine-thousand feet. Two of the Sister mountains are over eleven thousand feet. The area on the topographical rendering is about the size of Rhode Island. This entire area was covered with lava rock from twelve to five-hundred feet deep.



In the center of the picture above is the result of it blowing its top. Center of picture is Mount Newberry. When the incident happened, it spread lava all over up to thirty miles away. Where Carla's finger is, at the top of the picture is Sunriver, the town we are camping in. Once again, Center picture are those two blue areas. Right now, we're visiting the pool of water on the left, Paulina Lake. Below are pictures of this area. Above is a blow-up of the top of Mount Newberry. It took thousands of years but after the initial blow-up the insides of the volcano actually fell into itself. This formed a "Caldera." This is very similar to what happened to the Volcano involved with Crater Lake. In the case of Newberry, we got two lakes, one a little higher than the other.



The mountains above have no relation to what were to see today. Mount Newberry is our challenge for today. It was back about 30,000 years ago that Newberry began to grow. And grow it did, reaching over 12,000 feet at one time. Then around 10,000 years ago, as one youngster put it, it blew its top.



Above is Obsidian Peak. You cannot drive to the top but there is a trail you can hike to it. Below is the Paulina Lake Lodge, closed at this time.



Below another picture of the Lodge and above you find a Telephone Booth. When did you ever see one of these?



Now we're off to experience East Lake, the blue body of water in the picture at the top of the blog.

East Lake:

Obsidian Rock:



. This is a special type of lava flow. Below the path isn't great but I have a feeling it won't last.



This is a section of the flow. The depth here is about 200 feet. (Below) This is what I was afraid of. Not only is it very rough and laden with outcroppings of rocks, it's going up, I mean very high up.



Need I say we're still going up and I see no smooth super highway ahead. Below is a BIG example of Obsidian Rock. This type of rock, if you look closely is almost "glass-like." In fact, it is glass. Commercial glass is 99.7% pure silica (sand). The rock in the picture below is 77% silica but still qualifies it as being glass.

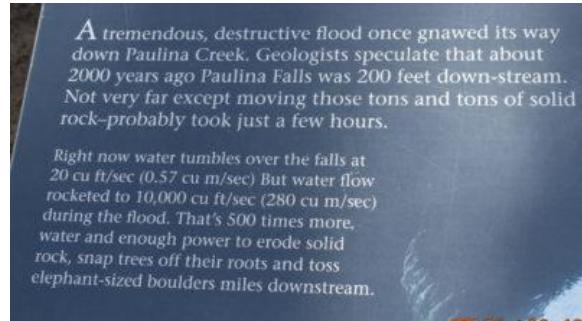


I'm tired and ready to leave but we have one more stop. Above we saw a picture of Obsidian Rock. Below is a picture of the mountain we were walking around and it is a solid piece of Obsidian Rock about thirty-thousand years old.

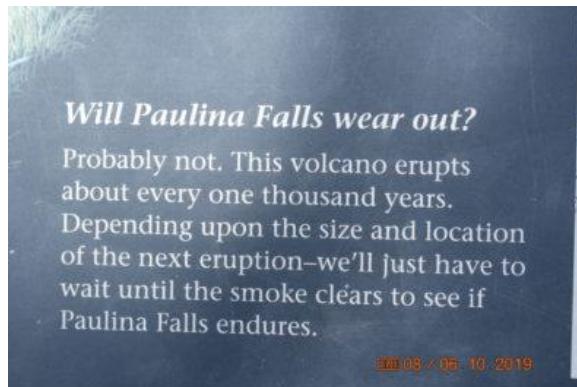
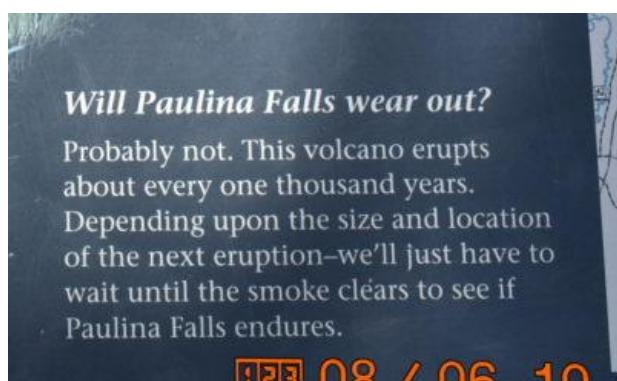
Paulina Falls.



We decided to put off viewing the lower point of the Paulina Falls until just before we leave. Here goes the National Park Service enticing us with this wide flat walk-way, I wonder what really lies ahead.



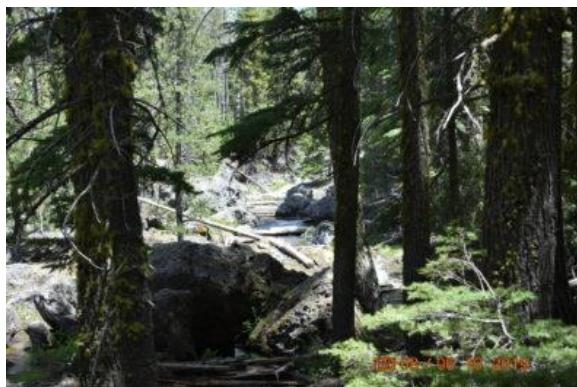
The walkway did not disappoint, it actually got better and above is what we saw all the way up to the falls. Yes, I said UP! Below are the falls and it being well worth the uphill climb.

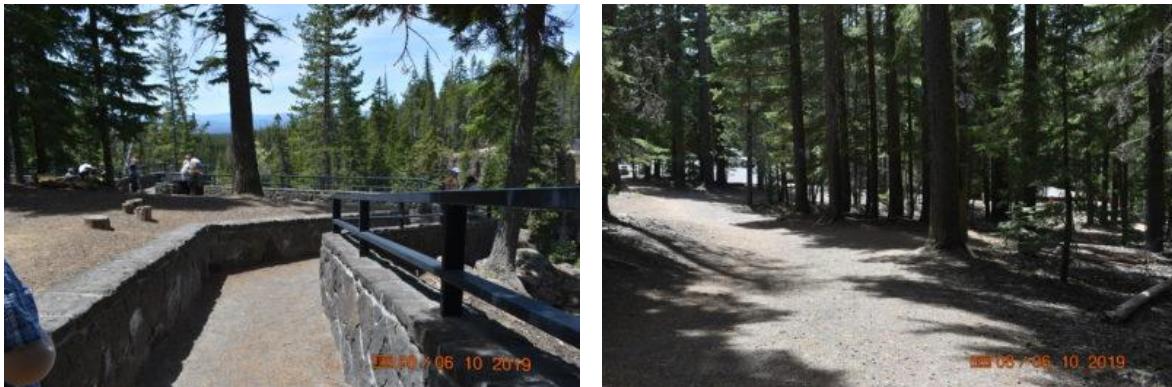


Remember what a Caldera is? This is when a volcano goes dormant and in ten or twenty thousand years the sides of the top of the volcano slowly begin to fall into itself forming a "bowl" or in the official language a "Caldera." Remember this is the volcano that spilled lava over an area of Oregon the size of Rhode Island.



Some of the beautiful natural views in this National Park.





Now we're working are way down from the falls to view them from below, like they'll look that much more different.



Above we're looking DOWN the rough rocky barely visible trail and stopped to decide will it really be worth traversing this path. Below we decide not to pursue the journey and take everybody's word on the fact that it's a beautiful site. We're older, NOT OLD, and we know it. No need to take chances, we do enough of that on a regular basis. Ah! the parking lot. I could go for a beer. A very nice day for sure.

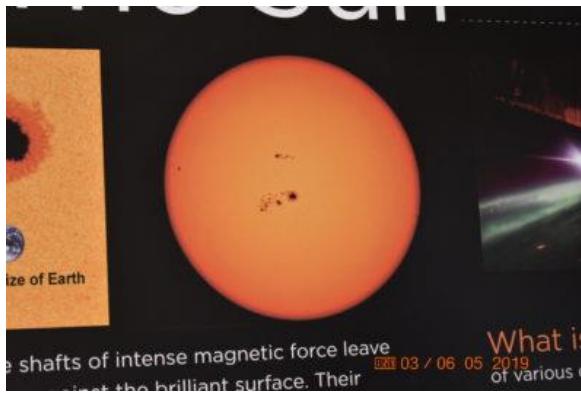
6.06.2017- Oregon Observatory

The following text is from the Oregon Observatory Website.



This small building was not what I was expecting. I thought we'd have to drive up to the top of a mountain then look into a many ton telescope, but no, not here. It's personal. Workers and volunteers abound everywhere. Below, a view of the sun in mid-day, is exactly what you see in the "white telescope" you see a couple of pictures down.

The Oregon Observatory. Billions and billions of sights to see. When our roofs disappear, we have the largest collection of telescopes for public viewing in the United States. Feast your eyes on faraway galaxies.



Brian, seen below talking to Carla, and an older gentleman Bill were so helpful in tutoring us on the use of their telescopes.

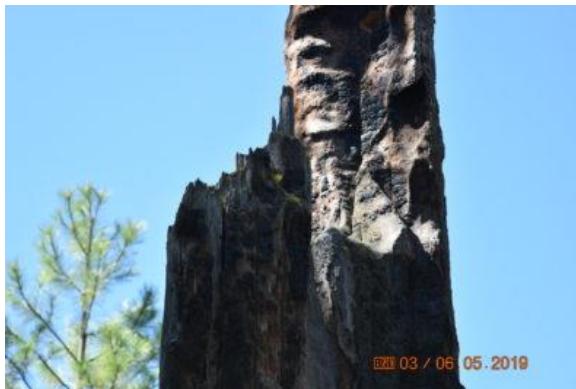
Witness a meteor shower. Get a glimpse of globular clusters, nebulae and deep space binary stars, as well as our closest star, the Sun. There's no better place than the Oregon Observatory at Sunriver.

The white telescope below is not outrageously expensive; around a couple of thousand dollars and the computer that locates the individual stars will cost you about six-hundred dollars.



All these telescopes plus another dozen in the back of the building are in use on Wednesday and Saturday evening for as many as two-hundred to as many as four-hundred guests to use. We visited during the day and returned in the evening to experience the telescopes. The roof on the building actually slides to the back exposing all these scopes to the open skies. If it wasn't for the extreme cooler temperatures, around 55, it would have been a perfect day.

Sunriver's elevation, pitch-dark surroundings, and crystal clear air make it perfect for stargazing. At the Oregon Observatory, you won't be lining up just for one quick peek. We have many of our telescopes set up for your enjoyment, from Tele Vue refractors to our 30-inch Newtonian. So, if you really want to see the sights of Bend and Central Oregon, then we want to see you at the Oregon Observatory. Astronomy and rocketry conveniently located in Oregon's most popular destination resort, adjacent to the Sunriver Nature Center.



Above is the dead trunk of a "dead tree," but it's only dead if it does not contribute to the environment. The, so-called dead tree trunk is called a "snag." Wood-peckers and a variety of other birds will adopt this tree for their sustenance. They will knock themselves out pecking away on the wood and even find foods in the form of bugs and insects to eat. In other words, it's either this tree trunk or the wood siding of your home.

*All of this made possible by our supporters and friends. All telescopes, equipment and buildings made possible by generous donations. (The *italics* texts is courtesy of the Oregon Observatory Web Site.)*



The amphitheater above is used to instruct audiences of all ages on the many constellations of our universe.

6.05.19-Oregon Observatory

This day began cool and got slightly cooler. A few days ago, we dropped by the observatory and were greatly impressed. We will go back to the Observatory this evening, and it will be cold. The temp will not go above 55 degrees.

6.06.19-Birthday celebration

Thank goodness it only comes around once a year. I heard from so many of the Ozdarski family and got a text or two from my kids. The height of the day would be the excellent dinner Carla created. To say the least, it was an Iowa feast.



Earlier in the day we were greeted by these two inhabitants of the surrounding woods. Very few can boast of enjoying scenes like this. Stuff, as I've mentioned in the past, is not part of our lives. But there's no reason why we can't enjoy an afternoon together, read a funny card or two and definitely enjoy an unusual meal. Even if I had to cook it myself these two Rib-Eye Steaks were going to make both of us very happy.



I call this an Iowa meal. We have very close friends in Iowa, they're really like family, and this is the way they eat more often than I could ever imagine. Steak, fries and great corn, from I don't know where, rounded off this beautiful day.

6.13.19-Coach has a booboo

and needs to be serviced. Several weeks we were here and our problem was diagnosed. The needed solenoids and Winnebago Relay board were ordered and delivered as promised. Today was the first day Big Country RV had an opening and Kim slid us into the 8am time slot. We were told to expect they repair to take five-hours but Randy, our technician for the repair, had the job completed by around noon. On top of that he had heard us tell Kim that we were told to check the hydraulic fluid at least one a month. He took it on his own to do a very specific check to see, if indeed, we had leaks and he determined we did not. What's more important here is the time he spent with me on one occasion and both of us after the repair was completed to explain to us the mechanisms and how they worked and why our slides were not working properly. He went into detail to explain to us that the Hydraulic Fluid is under an extreme amount of pressure and if there were any leaks, they would be very noticeable; he could not find any leaks to speak of.

We were all set to take the keys and leave the premises when I asked him if he had a chance to take care of the window stripping? He immediately went back to check the work order. This was a last-minute item that I've been unable to fix and not really that important but he insisted that it would only take a few minutes and he would take care of it while we played and checked the operation of the newly fixed slides. The slides operated so nicely and quietly and we went outside to tell Randy how pleased we were on the job he completed. At the same time he had taken care of the rubber window stripping.

What we did not realize was that not only was the right-side stripping lose but the left side was also beginning to break away from the groove it rested in, he fixed that as well. We truly appreciated his taking that initiative.

It was a very pleasant experience. We've had work done by so many so called "top of the field" RV service departments and have been disappointed many of them. Big Country RV did not disappoint and made me wish I were living in the area so they could watch over our coach all the time, but were not that lucky.

It is nice to know where coach owners can bring their coaches, our home in our case, and know someone reliable would be there when we call in, like Kim, and know that that person also has the wisdom to designate the right person to first diagnose the problem properly and then to assign the right person, Randy this time, to be knowledgeable enough to fix the problem the first time.

Our thanks to the management and especially the staff of Big Country RV in Redmond, OR.

Paul and Carla Grenier

pjgrenier44@gmail.com



Unlike most RV Parks we stay at this one is one of the select few with paved roadways. In fact each site has a concrete pad. Does not get much better than this. For us this will be only a sleep-over on our way to Newport, OR.



Possibly not this park, since I'm sure we could not afford to allocate one of these pads as our "home site", but the area is very addictive.



This is a true pull-through. We never bothered to detach the tow-car.



We actually arrived here yesterday, the 14th. It was a very short uneventful ride of less than one-hundred miles. Nothing any bigger than a two-lane undivided highway and, at times, a country road. This is a pretty good size campground, not so much as number of sites but how big it is. The big attraction here is across the street; the Pacific Ocean. You can see it in the picture below. Below is also the town of Newport. It's a typical small coastal town, like Mystic or New London, CT.



Another look at the ocean. We're just now crossing over the bridge that will bring us into Newport. As a person who still has a love for boating this marina is awesome. Below, once again, crossing the bridge.



This is another Thousand Trails RV Campground and it's a first come- first serve basis as far as choosing a site. They've gotten very organized. Our primary objective is Wi-Fi and Satellite for Dish, we got both. They actually gave us a print-out of each site designating which had line of sight satellite with either carry-out or roof-mount availability; awesome! Why can't they all offer that convenience. The last time we were here Wi-Fi was a zero except for directly inside the camp buildings. Verizon, on the other hand, does not exist here, at least not at this time. No phone service at all. If you catch a break it's very broken up and not worth the effort. Today the 15th and yes, Father's Day, and I won't go any further on that. We were getting antsy and needed some exercise so I suggested taking a walk to the ocean. It's not far, about a half mile, half of it on a small windy trail to the ocean, but we did it.



Today is very cool and breezy around 53 deg., unlike Boca at 85, and Greenfield, MA t 64. The wind is very strong but it does feel good. Once again, unlike New London, CT you just don't get that strong mist of "salt-air," I miss that sensation. We hung out at the ocean for about twenty minutes and decided we'd had enough so it's time to go back to the camp.



Below is the camp game-rooms. Today, being Father's Day, all the dads were being treated to a free hot dog. It's free so we stayed and each had a dog. Just prior to the dog we chose a DVD for this evening viewing, since we have no Verizon connection, and chose Skyscraper. Haven't seen it before, most likely a B movie. About half way home I noticed I had my camera and soda but no DVD. Went back and looked around. I distinctly remember putting it on the table when we ate, but got the table mixed up with the table we went to, to get our dogs. Got to give RVers a little credit. Thirty minutes after leaving it on the wrong table, it was still there, and Carla retrieved it, Thank- You Lord!

6.13.19-Thursday-Traveling to Albany, OR

We were comfortably cruising through the countryside admiring the beauty and size of the evergreens banking each side of this road.



Then out of no-where came the Detroit River, if I recall correctly. We are traveling through the town of Detroit, OR. Now it's a serious babbling brook.



And before we realized it, the babbling brook turned into the Detroit Reservoir. It's kept in check with a dam in the foreground.



A few miles down the road we continue to enjoy the Detroit River. In the picture below the river, once again, is kept under control by another man-made dam.

6.16.19-South Beach

South Beach is just down the road a few miles heading towards Newport. This is one of those pictorial blogs. It's a beach. We came, we saw and it was very windy and chilly.



So windy and chilly so we left.

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06.09.2019-Sisters Rodeo

The *italicized text* is from the Sisters Website

What a beautiful day. Temps around 80 degrees. I only hope I can sort out the important and entertaining pictures on the Rodeo experience. Strangely it was exactly three-years ago to the weekend that we attended our first rodeo, the Cody Rodeo in Wyoming.



Announcers: Curt Robinson & Wayne Brooks

Bullfighters: Danny Newman, Ryan Manning & Logan Blasdell

Rodeo Clown: J.J. Harrison

Specialty Act: One-Armed Bandit

As it should be, a Rodeo is about fun, excitement and, of course, the kids.



Many attending were father/daughter and father/son days together.

The Darlings of the Rodeo opened the event.



In the era when life still moved slowly enough for daydreams, and neighbors visited each other on front porches, cowboys competed in the first Sisters Rodeo.

These cowboys, both amateurs and professionals, wore cloth squares hand painted with numbers pinned to their backs and waited for their events. Because the small-town rodeo offered purses of \$500, equal to Pendleton and Cheyenne, the cowboys tagged Sisters Rodeo "The Biggest Little Show in the World." The year was 1940. Local couples had pooled \$10,000 to produce the rodeo east of town on land next to the site that became Sisters Airport. Two years later, they purchased land on the west end of town and held rodeos there for the next thirty-four years.

Except for the announcer and the stock suppliers, the rodeo was an all-volunteer production, a tradition that has not changed. The afternoon began with the "cowboy having to saddle a Wild Horse." None of the cowboys made it. Final score Horse 1 cowboys 0.

The Hitchcock Mill, north of Sisters, donated timber that was milled by rodeo volunteers and used to build the arena and a few stands. Ellis Edgington's Buckaroo Breakfast was initiated, with pan-fried bread and wild buffalo meat. Twelve years later, wild buffalo herds were so diminished that this part of the tradition ended in 1953.

The rodeo attracted the best in the business from the beginning. Mel Lambert, one of the first inductees in the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, announced at Sisters for nine years. World Champion cowboys competed every year, and the rodeo's reputation grew. The stock came from local ranches, the McCoin Ranch in Terrebonne and Henry Durfee's cattle ranch in Redmond.



And once again, it's about the kids. Here they participate in a dance routine with the Rodeo Clowns.

Rodeo Queens in the first years were chosen from a selected group of princesses who competed for the prize by selling raffle tickets for a steer. The young woman who sold the most tickets was declared the queen. Mary Saxon of Terrebonne held that first title. Over many years and a few hazardous escapes of steers, this selection evolved to a competition of horsemanship, speaking ability and presentation. From 1956 through 1960, Sisters Rodeo was an amateur event sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars. Their profit built a small theater in the night-life-starved town, but dwindling interest in amateur rodeo led the VFW to step aside after five years. It appeared that Sisters Rodeo had sent its last cowboy out of the bucking chute.



A legendary pick-up rider and competitor, Pat Fisk, produced the rodeo at a loss the next year because he “hated to see the rodeo die.”

Salvation came in the form of Mert Hunking, a cowboy “born with rodeo in his blood.” Hunking and a one-year partner ramrodded the rodeo in 1962. Then the Hunkings produced the show on their own: Mert as arena director and organizer, and his wife, Martha, in charge of tickets, concessions and the Buckaroo Breakfast.

In 1963, the rodeo reorganized with Hunking, Clifford Ray, Fred Ferrian and Homer Shaw as the officers of the new association. The stock was supplied by Son Bain of Redmond and Christianson Brothers Rodeo Stock Company. With this quality of rodeo stock, the best of national rodeo cowboys made Sisters part of their circuit to compete with local amateur cowboys.



In Pink, one of the contestants. His uncle, lower pic. in sunglasses, attends for his father.

Hunking, Richard Rollins and Jerry Kosh formed Sombrero Stock Company in 1971, which supplied consistently fine rodeo stock until 1988, setting a pattern of excellence which fans came to expect. Still, the rodeo had problems, especially with new government regulations. Outhouses were in need of replacement. The fire marshal wanted overhead sprinklers installed. The weather was always unpredictable, often reducing spectator numbers. The inventive rodeo board responded to the challenges as well as they could: they brought hundreds of feet of hoses from their homes for fire safety, revamped the outhouses and even had to pump the grounds through the night to continue rodeo the next day after a flood in one of those year.

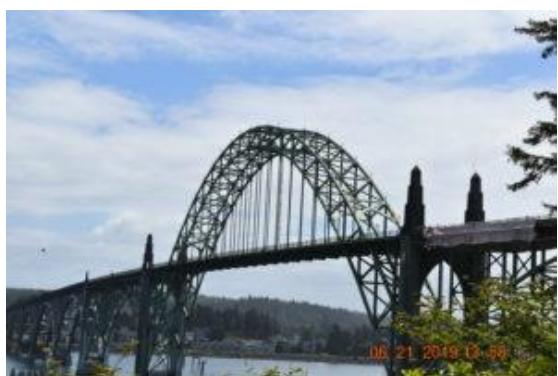


The dude in the Red shirt in both pictures is unique; he's called a One-Armed Bandit. He was once in the Rodeo but now trains horses, even with one arm.

By the mid-1970's, the obstacles seemed too great and the income too low. The rodeo grounds were sold, yet; local citizens did not want to see their rodeo disappear. They held a meeting for "anybody who has a horse or interest in the rodeo," resulting in another reorganization with Homer Shaw as president. In 1977, the rodeo was held on Hunking land east of town (behind the elementary school) with borrowed bleachers and temporary fences. For the next two years, it was on the Topping Ranch on Harrington Loop (west of the current site). The structures (fences and bleachers) continued to be borrowed or rented and were hauled by members from as far away as the Willamette Valley, only to be returned after that year's rodeo.

The events included, bull and bronco riding, calf roping, bulldogging, wild cow milking and wild horse races.

6.21.2019- Newport, OR



Newport is the largest city on the Central Oregon Coast with its remarkable history and rich cultural heritage.



Newport was originally inhabited by the Yaquina Indians who had lived in the region for at least three thousand years before the arrival of the first Euro-American settlers. During the establishment of the Siletz Reservation in 1855, Yaquina Indians were relocated.



Many of these pictures have been posted to give our Abby some additional food for thought.



This Historic Downtown is so comfortable. For me it takes first place for us to settle down to when the time comes for us getting off the road and hanging up the keys.

The 19th-century is a period when people who migrated from the different parts of the world discovered that Newport was a great destination for their businesses and prosperity.



The picture upper right is about a slightly curved piece of glass with a slit in the upper portion to insert a picture for viewing. Does anyone print out pictures anymore? Maybe that's why these have been discounted 50% from \$60 to around \$30 each.



This is a resident kitten that's a rescue cat. It took a lot for me to not bring it home with us. Although I don't think the person holding the kitten would let it go.

In 1852, the schooner Juliet was stranded by storms on the Central Oregon Coast. Its captain and crew explored the bay and river and discovered oyster beds in Yaquina Bay. This great discovery and demand for oysters brought entrepreneurs and new settlers to the region. In 1863, two oyster companies were opened.



Above left are a string of glass blowing kilns. They hold classes for those who might want to learn the trade.

In 1866, a former soldier, Sam Case built the first hotel in Newport at the northwest of the Yaquina Bay to help accommodate the greater number of tourists. The building was named Ocean House after one of the best hotels in Newport in Rhode Island.

(The bold and italics' text has been taken from: PDX History-The Oregon Encyclopedia)



Had a chance to speak to the fisherman on this boat. Turns out the only reason he's fishing is to keep his cat fed every day. He was fishing with no bait, and surprisingly, before we left him, he had caught a baby salmon.



Sam Case continued with his mission of building houses and cottages. Later, on July 1868, he established the first post office where he became the first Newport postmaster. In 1868, the town was named Newport after a town in Rhode Island.





The picture below right of the bridge leading into the historic district was, once again, for Abby to appreciate. Her art is centered around geometric shapes and patterns & I thought she'd get something from it.



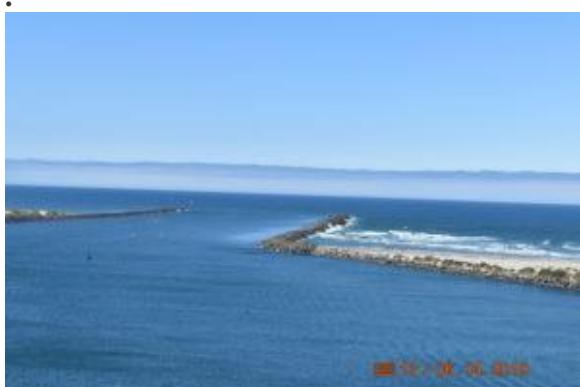
The picture lower right is weaving scarfs. She was nice enough to spend time with me explaining that she took a ten-week course in college to learn how to do this trade with many types of materials. Carla then came along and she had questions for her as well. So talented. These scarfs sell for sixty dollars each. Below left is a picture for the MacDougall's our extended family. It's a trade he's been very involved with for several years now.



More pictures and items for Abby's sake. I would bet she and Michael would fit in just fine in Newport.



The pictures below are those taken on our way into Newport. Out of order, I know, still trying to get a handle on the coding.



Upper right; Carla is starting to get pretty coky on her picture taking abilities.



06.23.19-Sunday-South Beach Fish Market

Sundays are very much like Saturdays. The script has been reenacted on so many Sundays in our past, very much like many other families. A little shopping at Walmart then munch our way through the day with a nice but simple dinner to end the evening. Today was very much like all the Sundays of our past with a little twist at the end of the day. As I've mentioned a few times the last couple of weeks, we're not exactly in the heart of Newport. In Newport is where you can easily find Wi-Fi and, most of all, cell phone availability. No, we're about eight miles south of Newport over where many of the well know beaches can be found, like South Beach and Nye Beach. Today, however, we're facing a count-down to Wednesday morning when we will depart this area and go to Pacific City. We've mentioned in the past we adhere, as much as possible, to a very simple and inexpensive lifestyle, but occasionally you have to do something different.

On each trip into town we travel past the South Beach Fish Market, I actually thought the name of the place was the Crab House do the outdoor billboards on the building. So today we decided to experience this roadside fish eatery. There are people waiting to enter all day long, so after a couple of games of Kings Corner we left the coach around 4pm to go eat. We no sooner got to the Ocean Highway didn't the car begin to handle funny, something was wrong. I got out and sure enough we had another flat. This was the second flat in two weeks. My brother Dennis, as he does each year, renews his and our membership to AAA. We hadn't had the last flat fixed so now we had to rely on the donut tire. AAA estimated a one-hour wait and as promised he arrived in one hour. He had us up and going in twenty minutes. The next stop would be the Fish Market. This is one of those eateries visible to everyone but whose reputation is best known to only the locals. It's not very impressive, but what a menu. All the fish is fresh. Halibut, Shrimp, Chinook King Salmon, Prawns, Scallops, Tuna and Wild Fish, served in so many combinations you must allow an extra twenty minutes time to study the menu. Carla enjoyed Halibut and Scallops, which I help her eat and I partook of Calamari and Onion Rings. Our meals were awesome. Forty minutes later we were slowly driving our crippled car back to the campground. Needless to say, tires will be our primary objective tomorrow morning especially since we're leaving on Wednesday.

06.26.19-Monday-Tires-at Ocean Tires-

Well, hopefully we've lifted ourselves out of the flat-tire syndrome. We took ourselves to Ocean Tire, as recommended by our AAA guy, we asked for four Michelin tires for the HHR. We were told he could order them and have them come in the day we leave the area. He reminded us that they are very expensive. He had a recommendation and we listened.

We ended up with four tires with sixty-thousand miles possible life-span. The price was much better than Michelin. The best part of the situation was yet to happen. The HHR has been pulling to the left for some time, so I assumed alignment, right! That's what I thought. When we asked for an alignment, he told us it would be a waste of money because the tire-rim on the right-side rear tire had sustained very slight dent and was not perfectly round and for that reason it would not allow a good alignment process. We asked him to use this rim for our spare and put the four new tires on the other rims. I was concerned that the damage to the rim would cause early wear to the tire on that rim, and he agreed. What I did not expect was that we had absolutely no pulling to the left as before and the car was driving in a perfectly straight line on its own. The damaged rim now sitting in the trunk must have been causing the car to feel as though it was out of alignment. It was then back to the coach and enjoy the rest of our day.

Only one more full day before we leave Newport but I am seriously in love with the area, we'll be back again.

JULY 2019 JOURNALS

7.01.2019-Monday-Met the Totinos'

We continue to enjoy the company of Dick and Sharon Totino whenever we drop into the Welcome Center. They've been here six-months, working as Membership specialists for Thousand Trails, and are hankering to get back on the road. They leave on the 15th and we leave the 16th. They, like us, will be heading East, like can you really can't go any further West when you're in Pacific City, OR, going to Colorado then heading South to Texas for the Winter months. It's our genuine hope we'll cross paths in the future. Really nice folks.

7.02.2019-Tues.-Walk to the beach.

The beach here, across the street, is called McPhillip's Beach. The walk to the beach is a long one from our site. Going to the beach is basically a downhill walk, I only dread the walk back. We do make it both ways. Hopefully I'll have a short blog on this someday when we get to civilization.

7.03.2019-Wednesday-Good-bye to the Tobias family.

Well, we're not actually sitting still and gathering dust, but not doing much more. A couple of nights ago we were both meeting with campers in the park. Carla was talking to a gal, Erin, while I was speaking to an older couple staying right in our area. Eventually the older couple left, and I rejoined Carla. She, Erin, and her husband Nate were in between homes and she was about to accept a job in Sacramento, CA. They have a son Colton about 11 years old. They are the Tobias family. We met up with them this morning luckily, since they were packing up to leave the park today. Their next stop will be at Thousand Trails in Canada. The park continues to be a challenge. If there was a way to fudge it, I'd be thinking of leaving this park also. On a personal note I also honor, this day, the anniversary of my Mom's passing.

7.04.2019-Thursday-we celebrate the 4th

We celebrated the special day with a delicious steak dinner cook on a new fire-ring provided to us, upon our request. Hopefully, someday, I'll have a short blog on this day.

7.07.2019-Sunday-Campground Dog Parade

This is just how restless I'm feeling. As usual it's Mass, pizza and beer, but earlier today we attended the campground dog parade. We only saw the dog gathering and that's about it. We took ourselves to the Visitor's Center and picked up a few DVDs and spent some time with Dick and Sharon. We also decided to walk to the Campground Lodge. It's a big and very nice-looking edifice. Hopefully I'll have a picture or two of it in the Pacific City RVP blog. This would be a half-mile walk, all uphill, not to mention several dozen steps to reach the upper level to gain cell-phone access.

7.08.2019-Tillamook and shopping

You're right! Unless you're a local you're saying, what's a Tillimook? Tillamook is a good size TOWN about twenty-five miles from here. It is famous for its cheese and dairy facility. There's much to say about this facility so I will designate it to a blog in the next couple of weeks. We got back home around 4 pm, put away the groceries and just veg'd out.

7.11.2019-Thursday

Nothing but rain the last two days.

7.16.2019-Travel to Portland, OR

Wow! to quote that famous movie line; "We're Back!." It's been three arduous weeks hibernating in Pacific City. We endured no Verizon phone service, no Wi-Fi, no sewer and no in-house bathroom conveniences for our last three days. But more on this and where we are in the 7.16 blog/Travel to Portland, OR.

7.20.2019-St. Michaels Catholic Church

This was such a pleasant experience. Fr. Greg gave such a great sermon you could ask for.

7.21.2019-Sunday-River Walk and Fire

Nothing much planned for today. Shortly after breakfast we began a walk to discover the Salmon River, adjacent to the park. Then try to find our way back from the river relax at the coach, have dinner on our picnic table and cook a steak on the fire. We Topped the evening off watching a documentary on understanding the Mueller Report.

7.23.2019-Tuesday-Mt. Hood

We awoke to a grey and very overcast morning. Having nothing else to do we decided to make the best of the day and check out Mount Hood; Excellent idea.

7.24.2019-Wednesday-Mueller

As many Americans we got up a 5:15 AM to experience the Mueller explanations on the Mueller Report. Mr. Mueller, like many of us over seventy, aren't as sharp as we were just ten years ago. It might not have been as exhilarating we were hoping for but, more importantly, was his message. Trump and many of his family have a hard time with the truth. The Nixon days are back again.

7.25.2019-Thursday-Abbey

About an hour's drive from here is Mount Angel Abbey Seminary for the Benedictine monks. We enjoyed viewing the grounds and their chapel. To top off the day we visited their "Tap Room." The snack we ordered was delicious and their home-made beer was delightful.

7.26.2019-Friday-Walk-tiny homes

We took a nice walk today with our campground map and saw some of the permanent residences on this property. Two were for sale and they spanned \$75K to \$115,000 dollars.

7.27.2019-Sat-nothing

We enjoyed are last visit to St. Michaels CC. Fr. Gregg was very gracious with his good-byes. I can see us coming back to this area again.

7.29.2019-Monday-HHR fix

I drove over a speed bump little faster than I should have, and the HHR is acting sluggish. Should not be a big fix. Our temps continue to impress us. Lowes during the evening hover in the high 40's and low 50's. Daytime is awesome averaging 72 to 79 degrees with no humidity; got to love this! This month has gone by slowly. Difficult to believe it's coming to an end. These days few campgrounds permit washing cars and/or coaches. Hood Village permits both of these so now we have a fairly clean car and very clean coach.

7.30.2019-Tuesday-The Multnomah Falls

JULY 2019 BLOGS

7.03.2019- Fourth of July Eve.

I know the importance of this great day, it's the 4th of July eve. It's also the fourth anniversary of my mom's passing. After four years it should only be a foot note in this journal, but I haven't gotten there yet. As everyone knows only one person can be the driver of a car and there's only one captain of a ship, in my mother's case the responsibilities of her care and well-being fell on the shoulders of my brother Dennis. I know that Carla and I could have stopped gallivanting around the country and tried to help him and her but that would have been too many cooks in the kitchen. Dennis was the person, due to his proximity to where they both lived, to devote himself to her care, along with her caregivers. For that I will always be most appreciative for. On a relevant note I may be the only one, but I still wish to have had another hour with her, and for that matter, my father as well. Another hour to share tea and toast in the morning or just a chat on the porch. An hour to thank them and, most importantly, apologize for my shortcomings and ask for forgiveness. But as life would have it, we always feel there'll be time the next time I visit.

Why this train of thought; just a word to any of my readers to take time, once or twice a year, and touch base with someone close to you. Don't let time rob you of the luxury of mending a fence or two. It doesn't have to be a parent, per se. We all have someone we've let slip through the cracks, someone we used to be close to and even someone you might have had a difference of opinion with. Don't procrastinate, pick up the phone, or better still, pick up a pen and touch base the old-fashioned way; snail mail, and for heaven's sake, don't e-mail or text. If this personal dissertation reaches only one person to re-connect with someone in their past, then this posting has served its purpose. Mom and Dad, I Love you!

7.12.2019-Cape Kiwanda or Haystack Rock



This is the beach in Pacific City. It's known as Cape Kiwanda.



What the beach is really known for is the rock that sits within site of the beach area. This looks like just another rock sitting in the water but this rock is over one mile off the coast. On top of that it's well over three-hundred feet in height. This is a view of this beach town from the road approaching the beach. So much like Cape Cod.



Above, thanks to cropping, is a sand surfer. this is a very big mound of sand and must be steep enough to use it as a surfing venue. Below is a boat. More specifically it's a "Dory." The Dory is configured to make it a boat which can handle the strong surf this beach has year-round.



7.12.2019-Pacific City, OR-

The biggest store in town was Chester's, about the size of a Walgreen Drug Store. I'm not knocking it. With what they're charging the Chester's are doing quite well. Corn at Walmart 5-for \$2.00. Chester's was having a special, 80-cents an ear down this week from \$1.25 an ear last week. Doesn't that inspire you to buy a 5-acre mini-farm and supply Chester's every week! Below are pictures of the Pacific City Beach Area.



The Brown Scapular: (The following text taken from the Carmelite Web Site and the Sunday Bulletin of St. Joseph's Church on Cloverdale, OR.)

One day, a long time ago, walking the streets of Rome, three outstanding men of God bumped into one another. Friar Dominic of Guzman was recruiting members for the Order of Preachers, later known as the "Dominicans," Which he had founded. Brother Francis of Assisi, the Poverello, had just brought together some men to serve what he called Lady Poverty. The third, Friar Angel, had come from Mount Carmel in Palestine, and was called to Rome because he was a great preacher. Illuminated by the Holy Spirit, the three recognized one another, and during the conversation made many prophesies. Saint Angel, for example, predicted God would give Saint Francis the stigmata, And Saint Dominic prophesied, "One day, Brother Angel, the Blessed Mother will give your Carmelite Order a devotion that will be known as the Brown Scapular, and to my Order of Preachers a devotion that will be called the Rosary. And one day she will save the world through the Rosary and the Scapular." On the spot where that meeting took place, a chapel was built which exist in Rome to this day. In addition to the special grace of eternal salvation, connected with the Scapular, Our Lady gave another, which became known as the Sabbatine Privilege. The following century, on March 3, 1322 she appeared to Pope John XXII, communicating to those who wear her scapular, "As a tender mother, I will descend into Purgatory on the Saturday after their death and will deliver them and bring them to the holy mountain, into the happy sojourn of life everlasting." What are, then the specific promises of Our Lady?

- 1. Whoever dies clothed with the Scapular, will not suffer the fire of Hell. What did Our Lady mean with these words? First, on making this promise, Mary does not mean that a person who dies in mortal sin will be saved. Death in mortal sin and condemnation are the same thing.**

2. Mary's promise undoubtedly translates into these words, "Whoever dies clothed in this scapular will not die in mortal sin. To make that clear, the Church often adds the word "piously" to the pledge, "he who dies piously will not suffer the fire of Hell."

- Our Lady will free from Purgatory the person wearing her scapular on the first Saturday after his or her death. Although this privilege often interpreted literally, that is, the person will be freed from Purgatory on the first Saturday after his or her death, "everything that the Church has officially stated on several occasions to explain these words, is that those who fulfill the conditions of the Sabbatine Privilege, through the intercession of Our Lady, will be freed from Purgatory shortly after death, and especially on Saturday. The Blessed Virgin assigned certain conditions which must be fulfilled:
 - Wear the Brown Scapular continuously.
 - Observe chastity according to one's state in life (married/single).
 - Recite daily the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin (STILL WORKING ON THIS)

OR Observe the feasts of the Church together with abstaining from meat on Wednesdays and Saturdays

OR With permission of a priest, substitute some other good work.

OR With permission of a priest, say five decades of Our Lady's Most Holy Rosary''

7.14.2019- Anniversary Dinner 29 Years



Yes, I remembered! Unlike those that are encased in a stick and stone building, we cannot indulge in frivolous, but relevant, gifts. We settle for a better than average dinner and the, all important, anniversary cards. We decided to try the Riverhouse Diner in Pacific City. You must remember Pacific City is a village, actually a fishing village. We both indulged in a Calamari meal in a excellent sauce. Carla had a pinacate desert and I played it safe with a Cheesecake dish. The restaurant was small, but once again Pacific City is small.



I counted tables and chairs and could only come up with seating for twenty-four, but that's alright, I like small. In this picture is about half the dining room. From the exterior it isn't that impressive but the food was very good. The calamari were a little on the salty side but good nonetheless.



This is the river it borders. Throughout the meal we saw this young family kayaking up and down in front of the restaurant, very relaxing.

7.16.2019-Travel to Portland, OR

Wow! to quote that famous movie line; "We're Back!" It's been three arduous weeks hibernating in Pacific City.





We endured no Verizon phone service, no Wi-Fi, no sewer and no in-house bathroom conveniences for our last three days. The bathroom thing arose from the limitations on our black-water holding tank. When full, or almost full, you must forgo using it. It's usually good for 5-6 days and it did last 5 days then we were delegated to the campground facilities. It wasn't a big hardship since the facilities were about a one-minute walk from the coach, but it did rain a lot and then there's always those 3am emergencies, but we survived.

Our newest rant is an old one; our driver's-side slide-out. It's acting up a bit. It does work properly. It's just that the bottom of the slide, on one occasion, dislodged mostly because of the terrible campground roads at Pacific City, so I didn't want to chance an incident on our travel to Portland. Just a quick picture on this beautiful city of tall glistening building and multi-level over-passes.

At the local Ace Hardware in Lincoln, OR, I think, I had two 2x4's cut to the exact depth of the slide, which was twenty-nine inches. The measurement was perfect and when we retracted the slide, we wedged one board on each end of the slide between the slide bottom framework and the interior wall of the coach just to insure it did not wiggle lose as we traveled today, and the slide behaved nicely.



I almost forgot to mention Scooty's new-found friend. We've seen this fella several times, it suffers from a very damaged ear on the top of its head. Scoots never gave it a name, but since we had a bunch of left-over cat food that Scooty refused to eat, we fed it to, let's call him "Peter." Peter ate a full-bowel within ten minutes. So, we put out a much fuller bowl and when we woke the next morning, our travel-day, it was just about cleaned up. Before we left we put out another bowl and can only hope the future inhabitants of this site will take pity on him as well. How did the saying go; "feed the hungry and less fortunate." The author probably didn't have Peter in mind, but it worked for us.

7.19.2019-Mt. Hood Village RVP

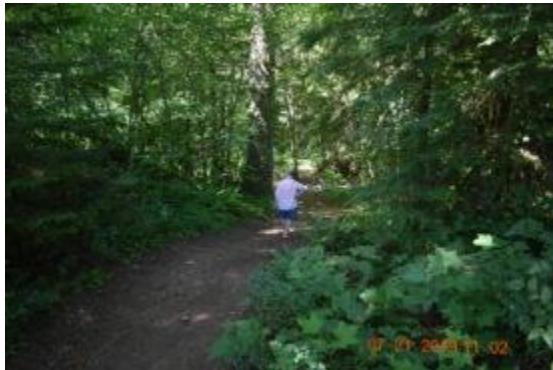


In the above picture is typical of the last few miles of our drive here from Portland, OR. Once we left Portland it was one small town and another, mostly on 4-lane divided highways. Navigating small towns in a big bus does not make for a relaxing day but we made it without a scratch. I definitely have nothing to complain about concerning this campground. The trip was only around fifty miles but we ended up taking almost two-hours to get here. They call it a village, rightfully so. This is also a Thousand Trails Encore Property; which means it's a free stay. Our site is embedded in trees so tall they're almost immeasurable. Just to recap Thousand Trails (TT). By joining TT you are a member in Equity LifeStyle Properties, offering all forms of camping, vacation get-always and rentals overseas. This campground is the best we've seen from TT. There are nicer properties but we enjoy the more rustic, back to nature venues.



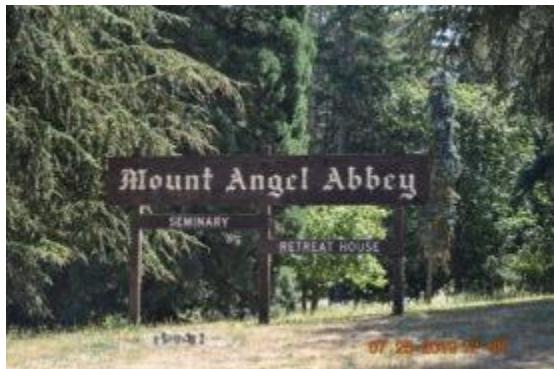
This is our site and yes, the coach is back there in the shadows. We also have a corner lot which means we possess real-estate. Even on the driver's side of the coach we have and almost unobstructed view. This campground, unlike the Pacific City Encore, looks like heaven. In this Village we have Wi-Fi, Verizon cell service, sewer, no satellite but we do have cable TV; Awesome! Everything you hoped Pacific would offer but did not get.

Nothing much planned for today. Shortly after breakfast we began a walk to discover the Salmon River, adjacent to the park. Then try to find our way back from the river relax at the coach.



And now we have dinner on our picnic table and cook a steak on the fire. We Topped the evening off watching a documentary on understanding the Mueller Report.

7.25.2019- Mount Angel Abbey



Thursday-We're off today to experience Mount Angel Abbey. The property it sits on is mostly a butte. As we have discussed in the past; a butte is a hill, both small and tall, made up of dirt, stone and in this area, a combination of volcanic ash and/or magma from thousands of years ago. We begin our tour at the first building on the property, the Press. It is here that the monks legally print documents or reprint books or booklets of interest to the seminary.

Below Carla is asking the best way to view all the buildings. to the right is a shot of inside the Press Building.



In the pictures above are two dormitory buildings. There is an option to attend, for a while, either on or off campus. If the grounds look awesome, almost as perfect as you would see at Disney, it's probably through the assistance of the seminary students, the beer they brew and sell, the Coffee House of course and the tuition they charge to attend the seminary. Annual tuition, including room and board, runs a little over \$36,000 per year. So, a four-year stay could be as high as \$150,000. That's much cheaper than going to Pharmacy School. At Mass. College of Pharmacy tuition, without room and board, is running over \$50,000/year.



Below are two more dorm buildings.



Above left, I believe, is the Chapel, on the left and school building on the right. Our next stop for those building we can enter is the College Museum. If this is all we saw it would have been well worth the one-hour ride here. Below right is a replica of the "Crown of Thorns" that Jesus had to endure. I said replica. The Crucifixion was over 2000 years ago but the bramble bushes having these thorns thrive in the area of Mount Golgotha in Jerusalem, where Our Lord was crucified.



Above left, once again, the museum. to the right is the Seminary Chapel. The architecture of the chapel is Romanesque. Below right is the chapel Organ. It's a Martin Ott Pipe Organ in the choir loft featuring 2478 pipes. Below left is the entrance to the chapel.





In the foreground just to the left of the alter is another smaller organ. Also noteworthy is the seating configuration in the church. Very similar to what you might find in many of the English Churches and especially Cathedrals. I believe these are Choir Pews. Above right is the seminary library; awesome in size and décor. Above is about all we were permitted to experience.



The walk-way to the Coffee-house, brewery and hundreds of acres of farmlands used to grow hops and almost all the other herbs needed for their beer.



It would take several pictures to show off the many acres and variety of products grown on this property. Above right is the Coffee-House. They offer many unique beers, produced on the property and a short, simple menu to nibble on while enjoying your brew. Below is the inside of the Coffee-House and an Historic picture of the devastating fire that destroyed every building on the campus. It took over eighteen-months before classes would be held on the school grounds. I think this took place in 1926 or there about.



Below left is a peek of the distillery. The staff here were so awesome. Very informative and once lived in the vicinity from where we came from.





The ride home, in Oregon, is always a pleasant experience.

The Mount Hood Ski Resort is called Timberline. Its elevation is at 8000 feet ASL whereas the mountain itself is at 11,235 feet ASL. It is categorized as a stratovolcano; in other words, it's not a solid rock or a big pile of dirt. It's formed through layers of ash and lava.



This picture of Carla and old Smokey was taken at the Zig Zag Ranger station, right Zig Zag, I don't know why. As we were traveling to Mount Hood, there it was, in the middle of the road.



Mount Hood is a potentially "Active" volcano. It has erupted only three times in the last 1800 years and the chances of a substantial eruption in the next thirty years is negligible, but not ruled out. For all purposes it is considered to be potentially dormant. The last eruption took place about 200 years ago. Above is a picture of just a small portion of the parking for this lodge.

To the right is a picture of the many ski slopes the mountain offers. Timberline is the only lodge that offers "year-round" skiing in America. The highest and longest ski trail would start at the 8000-foot elevation.



Indoor pictures of the lodge. Not shown in the pictures are hundreds of really healthy skiers both young and older carrying skies, sleds and snow boards. It's enough for me to feel even older than I am.



Timberline is populated with apartment and condos all over the grounds. It's a playground for the rich. As we were checking out our purchases a group of youngsters were paying cash for their items and they had more hundreds and fifties in their wallets than I could count.



From this elevation you can see forever almost. We missed the first set of waterfalls but caught the second group. Below are just a couple of shots of how beautiful this area is.



Not sure when we'll be back, but for sure we will return for a longer stay next time.

7.30 2019-We visit Multnomah Falls



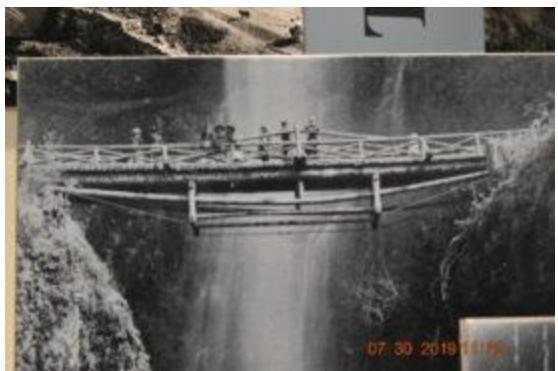
Multnomah is pronounced-Malt-no-ma. Regardless of how you pronounce it over two-million people visit this venue annually. Above, to the right, is the Columbia River. Below is the visitor center, restaurant and gift shop and more importantly restrooms



Also is a far-away shot of the falls.



Above is a beautiful shot of the grounds leading up to the falls. Below on the left is the new bridge that spans the falls. The left is the original bridge made of logs; not sure when it was replaced.



It is very difficult to see, you might have to enlarge the photo, but half way up the hill you can see individuals climbing to the top of the falls. This waterfall is the second tallest in North America at 620 feet. Number one is in the Mount Rainier area and is a two-day hike to visit this fall, so very few have seen it.