

Eastern Washington Road Trip

October 1998

Monday Oct 12 Seattle to Bellingham

A rainy day, with some promise of clearing. We left Karen's house in Kirkland mid-morning, and took the mt. Loop Highway from Granite Falls to Darrington (about 50 miles). About halfway between the two towns we realized we had forgotten to get gas, and didn't have enough to make it to either town. We stopped at Silverton Camp and met Sue, the caretaker, and Judy, the cook, who were as nice as can be. Judy offered to drive us all the way to Granite Falls and back, for which we were very grateful.

We stopped for espresso in Arlington; it was too hot and too full, and spilled all over Grant & the car. Between those 2 incidents, it took a little longer to get to Bellingham than we thought!

The pb incident: hard eggs at bottom of jar, wimpy plastic knife... We ~~were~~ Spent the night at Christian's on Lummi Island, in a beautiful bedroom overlooking the bay. Grant had worst blood sugar swings ever, which was hard on both of us.

Tuesday Oct. 13 Bellingham to Okanogan

Took the mt. Baker Hiway to Denving to look at a truck for sale. Headed south to Sedro Woolley and across the North Cascades Hiway. Ran into Ron & Claire King near Rainy Pass! Stopped in

Winthrop, which was practically closed for the season. We continued on to Okanogan, driving up onto the high country at dusk, through pine forests, under a dusky sunset. Had dinner at the Western Restaurant, then started looking for a motel. After looking at half a dozen run down, smelly, flea bitten dives, we were getting pretty discouraged. We finally asked at a gas station, and they pointed us to the Cedars Inn, the local holiday Inn equivalent. Nothing special, but clean & comfortable. Grant figured out a new meaning for the term bookends.

The Mosquito Lake shuffle (pretending we were Nicky in a go-kart)

Stopped at Dave & Nancy's cabin in Mazama, walked to the Mazama store down a half mile pine forest road, ate a raspberry chocolate scone.

Talked for a long time about buying a house together, which was fruitful but hard work. Left Karen feeling a little fragile & stressed out.

The night desk person at Cedars Inn was a somewhat dow matron who reminded me of Mrs. Danvers in Rebecca. The morning desk

clerk, asked if wed in response to a funny
comment of Grant's, said "You must have had
Fern last night." To which Grant replied:
"No, I think it was cactus." She laughed.

Wednesday Oct. 14 Okanagan & Spokane

We awoke in much improved moods. Sailed
off toward Tonasket, playing tunes, in high
spirits.

Tonasket has a very integrated hippie community.
K was last here 20 years ago for the barter
festival. Got provisions at The Coop, ate
in a lovely garden, under a covered ^{gazebo} ~~cabana~~
made of smooth pine logs with a roof tilted
at a jaunty angle. Saw some kids in
leather coats like hoodlums from a big city.
Walked around town, stopping at the 2nd
hand store. Surprisingly pricey. Bought burritos
at a truck stand for later.

Republic — got gas at the station; full
service, even washed our window. Visited the
second hand shop. Grant found a toy -
air comp. regulator. Lunched on burritos at
the park; watched small children playing in

the golden leaves. ~~Visitor Center~~ Discovered how great times taste w/ hot sauce. Burritos ~~also~~ also came with whole pickled jalapenos. Met a very chatty Visitor's Center worker, eager to tell us about Republic's history.

Republic to Kettle Falls to Colville to Tiger -

Some of the prettiest country we've ever driven through. Fall colors at their peak: larch, aspen, oak, maple, sumac in all ~~at the~~ shades of red, yellow, orange, & gold. 5600' Sherman Pass - cold!

Made espresso in Kettle Falls park on camp stove. Sun sort of warm! It sprinkles on & off, but mostly it is dry, crisp fall weather.

From Tiger, followed Pend Oreille River south on Hwy 20 to ~~to~~ Hwy 2 and Spokane. It feels weird to be in a city again. Found a nice room at Cavanaugh's for \$59. Bread, cheese, plums for dinner (plums from Farmer's Market in Colville - the woman had twin boys about 8 years old, in matching brown ~~sweat~~ ^{sweat} jackets - we also bought a small apple pie from her).

Stopped at cool Indian jewelry store just east of Republic. Guy very knowledgeable.

Palisades?

Thurs. Oct. 15 Spokane to Walla Walla to Moses Lake

Feels cold enough to snow. A brief sleet shower south of Spokane. 195 south to Rosalia.

Thru wheat country. Rolling hills of golden stubble, and the rich green & brown of new wheat sprouting, like velvet. Rosalia a cozy enclave that felt like the midwest to me, though Grant says it isn't quite the same.

Apple pie & yogurt for breakfast on the outskirts of town, with a view of an old railroad bridge, green & gold grasses, trees ablaze in fall color.

Took the business route thru Colfax, hit a big construction snarl, and rather than fight our way back thru, we headed south toward Pullman and cut back over to hiway 26 on a tiny country road, part paved & part dirt. The topsy turvy hills felt like a Sauss-Escher collaboration.

Camp stove coffee (Grant calls it "white gas" coffee!) at Central Ferry State Park on the Snake River. Geese & driftwood. The Palouse felt like the top of the world. Swirling fields as far as the eye can see. Then a gently swaying drop down to the river. Vast, beautiful, gentle country.

Arrive Walla Walla at 3pm after several construction delays. Blue skies & warm sun! Find 3 co's at a pawnshop, a few treasures at St. Vincent's, incl. a 20 cup percolator for iced coffees.

Road from Walla Walla to Pasco to Moses Lake scrubby & boring compared to previous scenery; but lots of sun & a beautiful sky. Minor incident about driving styles... Wonderful dinner at a little Mexican place. Drove around Moses Lake in the dark and concluded that it is a horridly, charmless, and quite unappealing place.

Found a great room at the Best Western. She quoted us \$65 for a regular room, and \$75 for a Lakeside, and after Gant batted his eyelashes at her we ended up with a lakeside room for \$54! (Boeing leisure rate.) Room 104, ground floor, farthest from I-90 noise!

Friday October 15 Moses Lake to Chelan

Got up early and walked along the lake behind the hotel. A beautiful crisp morning, with a light frost. We have a wonderful room, with a beautiful view over the lake, fish jumping, mist floating. Leftover mexican food for breakfast, yum.

15 miles west to George Washington Machinery. All kinds of cool stuff. Huge machines. Gant buys some cast iron cane wheels!

Drove south to see a bit of potholes & sand dunes. White crane. Lots of sugar beets. Picked one up & tasted it - tasty & very sweet.

Jake's Meats, just south of Quincy. Excellent jerky & pepperoni. Picked up some jars of Mexican sauces we haven't seen in Seattle.

Things to bring next time:

Kleenex

Dental floss in glove box

Coffee cups, filters

Real Silverware

Magnet

Cup Holders

Picnic Basket

CD Box

Extension cord

Lightbulb 15w

Grant Green - 70's funk

CD's Huey Lewis "Sports"

Pure Prairie League - Two Lane Highway

Old & In the Way

Donald Fagen - The Nightfly

Heart - Dreamboat Annie

Steely Dan - Gold

Aretha's Gold

Beatles - Abbey Road

Toad the Wet Sprocket - Dulcinea

Picnic lunch w/ gulls at Lincoln Rock St. Park. No sign of Lincoln Rock. Drove to Chelan on the east side of the river. Chelan is nice & quiet now. Still a gorgeous blue sunny day. Found a wonderful room at Carvel's on the lake. Just like last night - first quote was \$87 for a lake view room. We asked to see a \$67 non-view room and ended up with a view room for \$64... #202 go figure. We've been lucky, that's for sure.

Went for a nice long walk through town and along the lake. Dinner at a simple family diner, where Gart spun some great jukebox tunes (yesterday's).

Hot tubbed - had the world all to ourselves. Lights across the calm lake like colored light sabers. A beautiful night.

Saturday Oct. 17 Chelan to Seattle

Breakfasted in our room - best restaurant in town. Drove to Wapato Point to scope it out for next summer with the kids. An overcast day with expanding pockets of brightness & blue, sunny & warm by noon.

Burritos at the Tapatio truck, where I picked up a few more bits of Spanish. Bought apples - 1 1/2 boxes - ~~Jean~~ Jonagolds, Fujis, Braeburns. Scored some great stuff at the

Chelan St. Vincent's.

Burritos at a campground on Blewitt Pass - excellent! Each of these Burrito trucks has their own special touches. This one came on a plate with sliced avocado, sour cream, a mix of tomato, lettuce, & fresh cilantro, a slice of lime.

Swung through Roslyn so Grant could see it. Now it's raining, prompting us to wonder what the weather's been doing in Seattle all week.

Stopped at the Pass to see Grant's family's ski cabin. Poring rain after that, slowing a stopping by the time we arrived at Karen's in Kirkland, arriving about 4:30.