

Eastern Oregon Road Trip "Seoul Proprietor"

Monday Oct. 11, 1999

Seattle to Troutdale

We had a tough morning! We'd hoped to get out of town by mid-morning, but one thing after another precluded it. First there were four children to pack off to two different schools, making sure they had all their gear to take to their other parents' houses for 9 days. Then we had to pick up a meter box for Grant, and take Karen's car to the shop, and test Grant's battery (his car hasn't been starting, so there was stress about whether it was road-worthy). But the real icing on the cake was having to drive to Ballard to sign documents for the sale of the Federal Ave. house. The escrow papers weren't ready, so the real estate agent said he'd bring papers to Grant's dad's new apt. in Ballard.

We raced over there, he was late and he was disorganized. Seemed to take forever, and by the time we finally got home, raced to get packed, and close up the house, it was 1:30, and I was feeling worn out, tired, and very crabby. But we both took deep breaths and agreed to try to start our trip on a positive note.

Karen's mom & dad gave us a gift certificate for McMenamin's Edgefield B'n B, which included a one hour massage for Karen, plus dinner

& breakfast. The food was good, but the room was big & bare & a bit monastic. Nice gardens. Not really our kind of place, but OK for one night. Karen took a nice morning bath in a big, clawfoot tub. Shared baths, no phones or TVs in rooms. (Troutdale is in east Portland.)

Fuel certification/test truck.

License plate idea:

palindrome using only symmetrical letters,
so it looks the same in a mirror
(e.g. mom).

Tues. Oct. 11

Troutdale to Hiway 26 to Madras to Klamath Falls

Kah-neetah Hot Springs (~~a native american museum~~)

(a lodge we were told about but didn't visit)

Warm Springs Museum - nothing special

Sweet Potato Salad - for dinner, on bed of
greens, with toasted hazelnuts & feta - very nice

Madras 79°!

Drove hiway 26 past mt. Hood. Gorgeous
sunny day. Fall colors spectacular!
Across Warm Springs Reservation. Hi plateau
with gorgeous views of Jefferson, Sisters, Hood.
Groceries in Madras, lunch at city park. Later
spotted a taco truck-down!

Taking Culver hiway to Lake Billy Chinook
through Metolius.

Madras boasts a pop. of 5000, but has 3 big
grocery stores - people must drive in from the
outskirts to shop.

Metolius - pop. 700. Spectacular scenery - mountains
in all directions - miles of flat between them & us.
First real blue hiway.

Lake Billy Chinook - deep canyon & lake - take
Metolius road & follow signs to Cove Palisades St. Pk.
Harvesting sugar beets (picked one up for the kids).
Burning a field. Hot, crickets.

bring: xtra cup holders tree book
binoculars

Stopped at Lava Butte. Very cool - lava beds, kids would love it. Trail to top of butte looks worth doing. Views of peaks - stunning.

Crater Lake - entered park at 6 PM. Road is empty. Porcupine cruising down the side of the road. Beautiful sunset. Stopped at lodge to check it out. Expensive, but well appointed. A bit fancy for us. Scary road ...

Arrived Klamath Falls at dark. Best Western full, took one of 2 rooms avail. at Holiday Inn. Way overpriced & el cheapo. But comfy king size bed & decent free breakfast.

Trip Ledger

Karen

100 McMenamin's
 17 gas
 15 atlas
 24 dinner Burns
 15 dinner Pendleton

(171)

Karen owes \$125.00

Grant

28 17 gas
 28 11 lunch
 26 8 cash to Karen
 26 18 gas
 102 85 hotel Klan. Falls
 102 17 dinner K.L.F.
 28 16 gas
 28 12 lunch
 18 55 hotel Burns
 18 23 gas
 89 23 gas
 66 hotel Pendleton
 23 apples
 69 41 postkrs
 69 5 lunch
17

152

130

167

69

308

(420)

\$249 trip

38 elec

24 ACE b'day

Wed. Oct. 13 Klanath Falls to Burns

Hiway 140 to Lakewood. Beautiful country!
Wide sweeping valleys, lush & green.
Trout streams. Shasta (?) in the distance
to the south. Chilly, clear morning, and now
it's turning into a hot sunny day.

Two coyotes cruisin' the sagebrush.

Beatty - tiny town with a surprisingly well-stocked general store, Fatima's (?) shop, a trading post (run by Bobbie, a leathered alcoholic who raises miniature horses & tells tall tales), and a second hand shop boasting the requisite piles of rusted stuff out back. Guy posters plastered the walls & ceilings of the women's restroom at the general store.

Hiway 140 to Lakewood. Fall colors at their peak, mostly brilliant golds & yellows. Cattle ranches, vast expanses of green valley, dotted with ranches from rundown to prosperous. Lots of horses too. Lakewood a thriving mid-sized town, friendly & pleasant.

Beautiful view of Hart Mountain. Goes on a lake (Greaser?). Now we're in the desert. Drove along a lovely canyon stream.

Dipped down into Nevada. Miles & miles & miles & miles of dry, desolate, empty desert - makes one feel very small & humble.

Stopped to pick a bundle of fragrant sagebrush for the car. Nevada Hiway much more prosperous & well-signed & maintained than Oregon. Still 80 miles of sagebrush & scrub to Frenchglen. Seems a very long way! Golden Eagle by roadside. Dead coyote.

Crossed numerous passes - elevations over 4000 ft!

Frenchglen - peaceful, picturesque. Hotel serves home-style meals. Karen found some wonderful silver jewelry at the store! Hotel rooms were \$55 but pretty rustic. Karen wanted to stay, but Grant didn't, so on we went to Burns, driving through the Malheur refuge an hour before sunset. Golden sun & shadows. Lots of mule deer feeding. Grasses here.

Causeway between Malheur & Harney Lakes. Water very high, sparkling blue stretching way off to either side. Great Blue Herons, White pelican. Stunning sunset. Hills turned in these violet color.

Spent the night in Burns, a pleasant large town. Best Westens are so much nicer than Holiday Inns! Great dinner at El Torro.

Nice walk in the dark. Lots of stars. Two mule deer staring at us next to the road.

Thurs. Oct. 14 Burns to Pendleton

Bought a new battery. Headed north on 395 to John Day, through beautiful pine & aspen forests.

Incredibly cool wagon shop/museum in Canyon City. Ox Bow Trade Company.

John Day is a lovely town. East on 26 to Baker. Beautiful, rolling pine hills. Pink rocks!

Next time, go to John Day fossil beds between Prineville & John Day. Larch forests, wow.

Next time, drive the middle fork of the John Day through Susanville, between 26 & 395.

Cooler up here; 58° in Baker City. Victorian houses.

Baker City a genuine small town. Grant found an international for parts in a truck junkyard (Karen slept in the car!). Lunch at the park - a very strong chilly wind blowing. Visited the Oregon Trail Museum gift shop - very friendly worker there gave us brochures & info.

203 to Union (Jack Boenow Logging - has intnl w/ good windows). Walked past a farm, got

a few plums. Impressive high desert expanses.
Watched a golden eagle soaring.
Arrive Pendleton dark. Cruise downtown - looks
dark & dead.

Real tough night. Both of us tired, crabby,
frustrated? Karen homesick.

Friday Oct. 15 Pendleton to Seattle
Woke to see a dozen hot air balloons in
the sky outside our window. Cold morning.
Lots of painful residue from last night to
process.

Found a burrito truck in Yakima, and
Jonagold's for 10¢ a lb! Also got some
Brabant's. Bought some beautiful
apple & pear posters too.

Bound for Seattle - road from hither to
"yawn" (not the most scenic part of our trip).