

Oct. 2001 Eastern WA roadtrip

Fri. Oct. 12 Seattle (Kirkland) to Mazama

A rainy, blustery day in Kirkland, leaves flying about. I-5 to Everett, then Hwy 9 to Arlington, 530 to Darrington & Rockport, and 20 to Marblemount. It rained & blew all the way. Still pretty, but a bit oppressive.

In Marblemount, we stopped at the Ranger Station to visit my old friend Tod Johnson, who I thought had been expecting us, but he wasn't there! It was pouring rain, puddles everywhere, my feet got wet, I was chilled. Then we went to the restaurant at Clark's Riverside Cabins and they had a nice warm fire! It was a quaint little place, with very good burgers, young old waitresses who called us "honey," and dozens of bunnies hopping around outside - cute!

Then we crossed the pass. It rained most of the way, with small sunbreaks & even several rainbows, over Ross Lake. There were several inches of snow at the top. I had made reservations at the Timberline Meadows Lodge in Mazama, but our ~~non~~ room turned out to be tiny and dark, with no reading chairs or view, as I had thought, based

on their website. I talked to the manager, who gave us a nice suite at a discount (\$115 instead of \$145). It's very nice, with a fireplace, kitchen, comfy couches, and beautiful views of pine, aspen, meadow, & mountains, out a wall of lovely wood windows. We arrived at 3, so have had time this afternoon to read, nap, a stroll. The weather here is overcast, with a light drizzle, but there are patches of blue, no wind, and it's not too cold.

Had a delicious dinner at Tres Amigas in Winthrop, owned by a 28 year old Mexican chef. The posole & roll was wonderful.

Sat. Oct. 13

Awoke early to a gorgeous morning: pink Cascades with snow, golden meadows, aspen rustling, sun streaming across the hill tops. Went for a lovely stroll across the meadow.

Drove to Omak, Tonasket. Stopped at the food co-op to buy something tasty, but they no longer sell baked goods.

Then to Republic, picnic in park. 10 miles east is the Indian jewelry stand we went to 3 years ago. Lots of nice stuff, but expensive.

Then doubled back to Republic and took hi-way 21 south to Keller. Some of the most beautiful fall scenery I've ever seen, along the Sanpoil River. Saw a grouse, & wild turkeys! & a beaver dam. Saw the Keller Ferry stop - where if you don't stop, you end up in the Columbia! Chatted with a nice young couple, ~~she~~ told them about seeing Turkeys, they whipped out a photo they just happened to have handy, of his dad with a huge turkey he'd caught.

Drove Backtracked a few miles and took the first cutoff to Grand Coulee Dam. Then continued on to Chelan. All rooms were full! Stopped at a motel to check for rooms (none), but the

Very nice proprietress called around to other places. All we could find was a motor home for \$50, up in Manson, so we drove up to look at it. It was barely bewable, and we considered just driving home. Then we decided to try across the parking lot at the Wapato Village Inn. They had a townhome at Wapato Point available for \$115. A couple had walked in right behind us, also looking for a room, and I asked if they wanted to share the townhouse, which had 4 bedrooms & 4 baths, so we did. (With 5 people it was \$150 a night (her mom was with them)). Other than some TV noise from their area, it worked out well. They spent most of the evening at the casino. We walked to the local taco truck, then watched the movie "Music of the Heart," which was good.

Sun.Oct 14 In the morning I went for a long walk around Wapato Pt, which brought back many memories of other times I've been there. It was a beautiful fall day, sunny & warm, & quiet. I walked for a while on the beach, listening to the soft, musical whoosh of wavelets on the rocks.

We drove to Whitchee, hoping to find cheap apples, but the packing plants are closed on Sundays. Went to a small farmers market, talked to local growers, and learned how little money they get for their fruit, and felt guilty offering them pennies a pound. Ended up paying 39¢/lb. at the fruit stand on I-90.

Stopped at Lake Easton St. Pk. for a picnic lunch. We had been planning to stay an extra day, but felt like getting home. Grant is 5 weeks into his interferon treatment, and not feeling too good. It was good for him to get a change of scenery.