

# Southwest Road Trip

Phoenix Oct 2002

Arrived Phoenix Fri Oct 25 11:45 PM

Arrived Kelly's 1:30 AM

Woke, showered, dressed, ate & were off to Susan's wedding at the Royal Palms in Scottsdale. It was a cloudy, cool day after a long drought & warm blue days. It actually rained on Susan's wedding, to all of our amazement.

luckily it was a light rain & not the southwest soaker it might have been.

Susan looked so beautiful! I got choked up watching my 40 year old sister walk down the aisle, then talk about raising a family in her vows!

I sang a song at the reception. It almost didn't happen: the guitarist had been told the song was cancelled so hadn't learned it or brought the music. We were able to download it on the hotel office computer, learn it quickly, and pull it off - Susan was so happy!

Sunday we went for a nice long walk at Kelly's, grocery shopped for our road trip, and made three batches of ~~the~~ oatmeal cookies. Then we drove to Mark & Denise's so Grant could see their house. Then we went to Pinnacle Peak Patio, up north of town, for dinner w/ everyone who was still in town from the wedding (19 of us). It was great! Good burgers & steak ~~is~~ at indoor picnic tables. We practically had the place to ourselves. A 3 piece band called The Stragglers played great country western, & we had a blast doing the electric slide to their rockin' version of Pink Cadillac! My mom & Pat wowed us all with their fancy footwork. Grant taught the kids how to dance standing on his feet. Monday we arose bright & early & hit the road by 8.

Drove to Jerome - a picturesque mining town turned hippie arts community, clinging to the side of a steep cliff. Reminded me of villages in Greece.

Had coffee at an internet cafe and bought some luscious (& very expensive) granola they make there.

Then to nearby Cornville, where Colleen Clifford Lavalle lives with her Peruvian husband Edgar. They have a cute little house on 2 acres they've landscaped & decorated. We had a great visit and left there (dragged ourselves away) at 1:15 or so.

We took Page Springs Rd. back to the main Hiway to Flagstaff - really picturesque! Arrived in Sedona, bought bread at a natural foods store, and had a nice picnic up above town. Got to Flagstaff at 3, it was 54°.

We would have arrived at the Grand Canyon by dark, but got stuck in a long & very frustrating road work line. Finally arrived at dark.

Tues. Oct. 29 Grand Canyon to Bryce Utah

Spent the night in Yampai lodge. \$83 for a room w/ 2 double beds (a bit small for us...). Big window with lovely view of pine forest. It's quite cold up here, esp. with the wind. We're very glad we brought parkas - wished I had a hat! Saw several elk, incl. a bull w/ big rack. Walked to Bright Angel lodge for dinner, about 1.5 mi. along a paved trail in the dark pine forest. Warmed ourselves by a big fire in the lodge ~~but~~ lobby, had a ~~possible~~ meal in the pleasant restaurant, then shivered for 5 or 10 minutes waiting for the shuttle bus to take us back to our warm room & a hot shower! Slept somewhat fitfully, ~~and~~ got up at 6 to walk the mill and a half to the rim to see the sunrise. It was cold! Too cloudy

to see the sunrise, but still it was  
patty, & there was a certain  
camaraderie standing around shivering  
w/ a group of people from all over  
the world. Walked back to our room,  
packed, had breakfast (free w/ room),  
and hit the road at 8.

Hiway 64 east to Page through  
pine & oak forests along C.C. ~~rim~~ rim.  
Mostly empty road. Then into  
high scrub with lots of copper green  
mounds. Then onto Hiway 89 north  
through somewhat monotonous scrub  
high. about <sup>also</sup> <sup>little</sup> <sup>Co</sup> <sup>gorse</sup> Page AZ - coffee at a  
stand owned by an ex-Seattleite.  
Glen Canyon dam seems small  
considering that it dams the Co River  
into UT on 89 west to Kanab.  
Scenery is getting beautiful, with  
striped red, pink, & white cliffs  
all around us.

Mary says this is the best time of year to visit Zion, due to the crisp fall weather & fall colors. It was gorgeous - every bit as breathtaking as I remembered. I drove so Grant could see the scenery better, since he's never been here. A 10 mile road winds down into the canyon, through a 1.1 mi tunnel at one point. Then we drove the "scenic drive" up toward the narrows, stopping to hike the river trail at the end, and to the first emerald pool (which wasn't emerald). We arrived at the park at 1 and left at 4, which was just the right amount of time. We had blue skies & warm sunshine, and it was idyllic!

From Zion to Bryce is 1 1/2 hrs or so. We arrived just at dusk, and got to see the red, snow-dusted cliffs at sunset - beautiful! We're staying at Ruby's Inn (Best Western) and it's fine. Nothing fancy, but clean, comfy, and coffee. There's a nice pond behind our room.

Dinner was a very mediocre affair  
at the Pines down the road.

Wed. Oct. 30 —

Slept well in much comfier beds.

32° this morn - ice on car.

Byce was beautiful with blue sky,  
sunshine, a dusting of snow!

Very

Hiway 12 Bryce, to Capitol Reef

Escalante Staircase - incredible

Drove across knife ridge road with  
steep drop either side - top of world!

Cowboy herding cattle

Up into clouds of snow - Boulder Mt.

White aspens - a white on white world

Alpine Fir w/ snow - xmas trees

Far below & beyond: red & pink  
cliffs w/ sunlight & a blue lake

Then back into blue sky & sun

Temps are colder than usual

A fair amt. of snow

High Pt. 9600' we're mostly above 8000'!

Lots of steep hairy roads w/ no guardrails!

Down into a beautiful valley - lots of fall color - prosperous ranches  
Fall color mostly golds & yellows, some rust, no red.  
Herd of ~20 pronghorn antelope by side of Hiway 24 north of Goblin Valley - beautiful animals! Having trouble getting through cattle fence.

Arrive Moab 6 PM, just at dark.

Yummy, authentic Szechuan dinner.

Nice stroll through town. Lots of shops.  
Balmy compared to the last 2 days!

Thurs. Oct. 31 Moab, Arches to Goulding  
Warm sunny day - idyllic!

Leiswely morning. Decided to head out today instead of spending another night in Moab. Spent a lovely couple of hours in Arches. Scenery here <sup>more</sup> peaceful & contemplative than Zion or Bryce, with organic sandstone shapes, broad vistas.

Photographer's paradise. Combinations of color, texture, <sup>angle</sup> shadow infinite.

Clouds rolled in as we were leaving.

Picnic salad in gal. zip - works great.

Back to Moab for coffee & a short stroll.  
on the road by 2 or so.

Skies darkened a bit & temps dropped.

Snow on nearby mts. Then the sky turned blue again.

Arrived at Gouldings lodge just before dark. At the entrance to Mon. Valley, nestled on a hill below red cliffs.

Rooms are really nice: king size bed, big sliding glass doors, a veranda, and a beautiful view of a cluster of monuments. Had pork green chili stew & frybread for dinner - pretty good. Gouldings started as a trading post in 1924. It now appears to be run by the Navajo.

It's a really nice place. You can rent a number of the movies that were

filmed here, so Grant picked John Wayne's Rio Grande. A corny western, but not bad. He enjoyed it.

Lots of Navajo children came trick-or-treating <sup>to restaurant</sup> here. Had to be driven here. One carload had one headlight, no taillights, no muffler, no rear window, and a nasty belt squeal - full of happy kids.

More early rising upstairs neighbors, and a very squeaky floor. Although it's a hassle to carry bags upstairs, I think second floor rooms are better - quieter!  
Beautiful sunrise from our room.

[ Grant notes:

Carry "issues"

Sat: Alley's burrito

Visited relatives at dinner

Lemon craving

Decided not to drive into Monument Valley park - didn't really have time.

Lots of cows wandering freely by road.

~~Hiway 59~~ Time zone confusion

Friday Nov. 1 Goulding to Canab to Gallup

Hiway 59 tribal road from Kayenta to Chinle Gray road on map, but very good road Navajo reservation. Not a very good day. At the Hubbell trading post in <sup>Canab</sup> ~~Goulding~~ I went on a tour & Grant didn't & we miscommunicated & ended up getting really angry with each other & having a fight & I was in a rotten mood the rest of the day. We had too much time & there's nothing interesting to do around Gallup. We went to a bunch of ~~pa~~ pawn shops - I get tired of looking

at the same same silver & turquoise stuff... Gallup is a horrid town - like a giant Highway 99. Awful traffic. Early for dinner - hardly any vendors there. Drove to ~~from~~ a Zuni pueblo for something to do. Just as I remembered it: a depressed Indian town without much to recommend it, & middle eastern gyps running the trading posts.

Our hotel is the worst yet. They're having a wedding rehearsal in the atrium right outside our room... Drunk people yelling outside our door at 2:30 AM. Hotel lessons learned: get a second floor room not on a courtyard!

Gallup Flea Market - no roasted corn, few actual artists, but still we met some really nice people & bought a few beautiful things! We got there earlier this time, about 9, and left at about 11. Seemed to just be getting in full swing about as we were leaving. A sunny blue morning, with a cool wind. We were told it was the first good weather at the flea market in a couple of weeks. Left Gallup ~ 11:30.

~~So~~ Took an unplanned trip through the Petrified Forest Nat. Park ~~the~~ which incl. views of the Petrified Painted Desert. So nice to get off I-40 & away from all the trucks. Fascinating to see petrified logs scattered everywhere. They're beautiful up close. Bought several pieces & another (!) necklace for me at the nice gift shop at the visitors center at the south entrance. Really nice people

worked that. We like to buy things from nice vendors... I bought a shorter liquid silver necklace for only \$20. It said they ~~is~~ are made by the Santo Domingo Indians.

Then headed south to Payson via Heber through beautiful pine forests, and over the Mogollon Rim.

4 Signs: They saw an elk  
Oh what a thrill  
Until they smashed it  
on their grill

Beautiful view of rolling green forest coming down from the rim into Payson.

Weather is following a pattern: bright blue sky in mornings, w/no clouds, clouds building in afternoon (nice for sunsets).