

Earl's Diary - Tuesday - September 17, 2013

Dear Readers, One and All;

Last night I said I would be leaving this morning at 8:00. I almost made it! It was 8:10. That's really pretty good for me. It seems as though there's always something else to do before leaving the house. This time I was fairly organized!

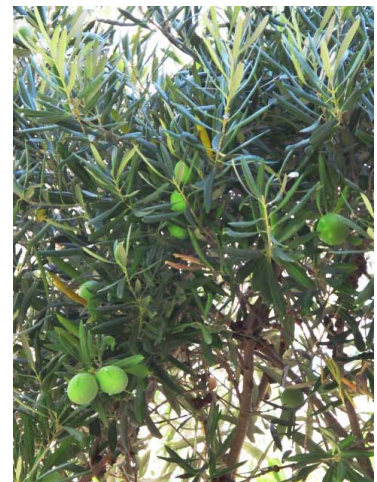
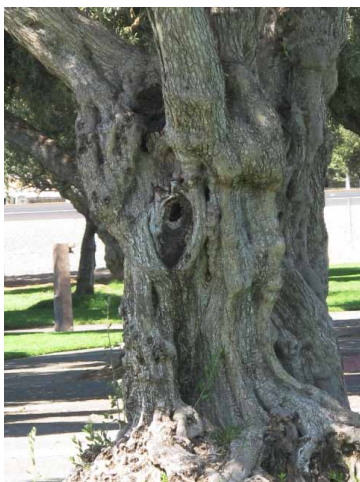
I might as well have waited to leave until 9:00 because as I neared Sacramento (on I-5) traffic came to a near halt and crept along at a snail's pace for half a mile. Come to find out there had been a wreck and it was just being cleaned up.

OK, now we can pick up speed again. NOT! Half a mile further down the road, merging traffic in the Elk Grove/Laguna area caused another back up! It took almost an extra hour just to get through Sacramento. After that, traffic flowed at a tolerable rate.

Our great Central Valley is a great farming area, and it's harvest season for many crops. One of the big crops is rice. Many fields have already been harvested. Many are to come in the next week or so. I saw several orchards (if that's what they are called) of pistachio nuts. I wanted to get some pictures, but alas, there wasn't any place to stop.

I'm not sure, but the city of Corning could just be the olive capitol of California. There are miles and miles of olive groves (if that's what they call them), with many visible from the freeway. I stopped at the Corning rest stop. While resting at a table in the shade, I noticed that all the shade trees in the rest area were olive trees.

I don't know how many of my loyal readers have been up close to an olive tree, but they sure are interesting. The trees in this rest stop have been pruned as specimens. As such, they grow with multiple trunks with bases growing in odd shapes.





Adjacent to the rest stop was a grove, orchard?? (whatever they are called) of olive trees in their natural habitat. This area has to be the ideal climate for olives - that's plenty hot in the summer, and cool or cold in the winter. Several olive shops (with free tasting) offer their wares in the Corning region.

It was time to hit the road again. I stopped in Red Bluff for a bite to eat before heading east toward my final destination for the day - Hat Creek Hereford Ranch.

I have passed this farm several times in the past and thought it was most photogenic. Since there was no traffic behind me, I stopped in the middle of the road to take these two pictures.

I had planned to arrive at Hat Creek Hereford Ranch in 5 1/2 hours. Well, the extra hour in Sacramento, AND stopping twice for road construction caused me to arrive at 3:00, a seven hour trip! Oh well, here I am nestled in the Peanut, all nice and cozy.

This evening the weather is cloudy with a chance for rain. Well, it's no longer a chance. As I was fixing my dinner, we have had light showers, just enough to add water drops to the Peanut and pickup. It didn't rain hard enough to even make much sound on the trailer. It did help settle the dust. We will see what the weather brings tomorrow as several of our "cult" friends are scheduled to arrive.

That's been my day. Thanks for traveling along with me. Bye for now - - Earl

Wed. AM - Weather is beautiful right now - sun shining, shirt sleeve weather.

