

Earl's Diary - Monday - June 3, 2013

Dear Readers, One and All;

We left Custer Battlefield at 9:00 this morning headed east on I-90 toward the town of Sheridan, Wyoming. However, before we got to Sheridan, we turned off on State Route 14. This was a very scenic route - but one that took us high into the Big Horn Mountains. It was so lovely AND green. (Let me qualify that remark by saying, I have been warned that in all of Montana and Wyoming, it is not green all the time. In fact, most of the summer it's brown.)

After we turned off the freeway, we could look up into the mountains and see the road climbing ever upward. Climb upward it did in curvy and hair pin turns. Signs warned us that some grades were 10%! Wow! On our journey we passed towns such as Ranchester, Dayton, Shell, Greybull, and Emblem, until we reached the town of Cody, Wyoming. A few miles past Cody was the RV park we stayed in for the night.

The sun was shining, BUT the wind WAS blowing! And blowing! And blowing! Alan was going to barbecue pork chops for dinner but that got changed and Michele baked them in the oven. After dinner we sat around and played a card game of Phase 10. Then it was off to bed. By bed time, the wind had subsided to a dull roar!

It was such a beautiful drive through the high country today. There was quite a bit of snow, but none on or near the road. The elevation at the summit was 8500 feet. There were so many beautiful scenes but I didn't take the time to stop for photos. You can just picture going over Carson Pass, Highway 88, in California's Sierras!

That's it for today. Thanks for coming along with me. - - Earl

Earl's Diary - Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Dear Loyal Readers,

Today was another travel day. We left Cody, Wyoming, at 9:00, headed for Yellowstone National Park. At the point where we spent the night, it was only 25 miles to the east entrance of the park.

After we passed the entrance station, we had another 8530 pass (Sylvan Pass) to climb over. Of course, there was lots of traffic trying to climb over that pass also! It was another beautiful drive, just like the day before. As we topped the pass, most of ALL Yellowstone lay before us. The most impressive was Yellowstone Lake. According to the park brochure, Yellowstone Lake is North America's largest high-altitude lake. It has 141 miles of shoreline and is 20 miles long by 14 miles wide. Its deepest spot is about 410 feet. Its average depth is 140 feet.

We stopped at the first Visitor Center (Fishing Bridge) for a short break. Since this was a travel day, we kept going. Our plan is to camp outside the park in a little town called Victor, Idaho, and spend the next two days exploring the park and Grand Teton National Park. We also made a stop at Grant Village (on the south end of the park) to make reservations for a Circle of Fire bus tour for tomorrow. Michele and Alan have already been to the park, so Alan opted out of the bus tour, but Michele will accompany me.

So, that's tomorrow. It's a 9 hour tour that stops at most of the important tourist spots. Tomorrow I hope to get some pictures.

We passed through Grand Tetons on our way to Jackson. (I seem to remember that town used to be called Jackson Hole.) Just outside of Jackson, we crossed over a

river. Here's your geography lesson for today. Can you name that river? It's hard to believe but that river is the Snake River. The headwaters are on the east side of the Tetons. It travels south around the mountain ranges - past Boise - then into Hells Canyon before it empties into the Columbia River and then on to the Pacific Ocean.

Guess what? We climbed another pass to reach Victor Idaho. This time it was 8500 foot Teton Pass. Again they warned us about the 10% grade. There were so many beautiful Teton mountain scenes, I decided to take Thursday and go back to take pictures.

We got to our park about 4:30 and set up camp. I have a feeling it will be mighty cool tonight. I better put on an extra blanket. Michele and I need to leave here tomorrow morning at 6:00 in order to arrive at Grant Village at 9:15 to catch the bus for our tour around the park.

The sun has been out today, with lots of large fluffy clouds floating by. It's been a little cool, perhaps in the low 60's.

That was out day, so thanks for coming along with me. - - Earl

P.S. Watch for pictures in my next report. Bye for now.



Here is our spot at Teton Valley RV in Vincent, Idaho.