

Earl's Diary - Tuesday - July 16, 2013

Hello to all my Loyal Readers;

I got off at 8:15 this morning. (That's REALLY good for me!) As usual, there's the last minute things I forgot to do yesterday. The potted plants are all watered and I took the house and mail keys across the street to the neighbor. The very last thing, before crawling into the truck was to mow my humongous lawn. That took all of three minutes - four passes with the lawnmower!

The weather is beautiful and clear. Traffic through Sacramento was fairly heavy but I made it through without any major mishaps. This is a travel day, so I didn't plan on making many stops along the way. I thought I might stop a few times to take pictures of the agriculture products being produced along the Central Valley I-5 corridor. Of course, when I saw something to take a picture of, there wasn't anyplace to pull over. Dear readers, you will have to use your imagination on this one! I was surprised to see lots of fields of sunflowers that were almost ready for harvesting. Other crops I noticed were rice, pistachios, walnuts, almonds, and tomatoes. We do have a bountiful harvest here in our Central Valley.

I stopped for lunch at a rest stop on Highway 101 just north of the town of Willits. Oh yes, THAT town of Willits! Last year I wrote about the bottleneck that town creates. Traveling north on 101 freeway, it suddenly narrows down to 2 lanes, AND THEN narrows down to 1 lane! To add to the mess, there are a couple of stop lights! It takes almost half an hour to go from one end of town to the other. I did notice a little construction. I wonder if they are finally going to by-pass the town? Enough of my editorializing.

I really like traveling through our California Redwoods. Those beautiful huge plants are magnificent to look at and feel their powerful presence. Tonight I am staying at Ancient Redwoods RV Park, right in the heart of the Avenue of the Giants.

I have stayed in this park for the past 4 years on my way to the Bandon Gathering. In fact, I stayed here the first year they were open. Each year more and more people are finding this place. It's not too easy to find and a person has to be looking for it. It seems like every place in this area has a "gimmick" tree. There is the "drive through tree", the "house" tree, the "drive on top of tree", etc. This park has the "Immortal" tree.

They even have a "logmobil" It's a large hollow redwood section mounted on a truck bed. This afternoon I took a short walk around with my camera. The park owner takes kids (and adults) for rides. Alas, however, the logmobil had been put away for the night! I did attempt a few pictures of the Immortal Tree. Here are my results:





Notice the axe marks where loggers tried to chop it down.



Here's the top of the Immortal Tree



Other trees also had their tops destroyed.



One of my new readers asked, "How did the Peanut get its name?" I was traveling with a group of friends who all have big "stickies". When I was parked between them, my little Scamp looked like a peanut surrounded by those big fellows! Something like the photo at the left.

This evening is quite nice. A slight breeze is blowing, the door is open and the exhaust fan is running. A very pleasant evening. Tomorrow it's on to Bandon! My travels will take me through Eureka and Crescent City, CA; Brookings, Gold Beach, and Port Orford, Oregon.

Thanks for traveling along with me today. Bye for now - - Earl