

Earl's Diary - Wednesday - July 17, 2013

Dear Friendly Readers,

This morning the sky was overcast AND drizzly. It was much different than yesterday when the sun was out, bright and cheery. I quickly ate my breakfast and was on the road by 8:00. I like Ancient Redwoods RV Park and was sorry to have to leave. I really wanted a picture of that logmobil!

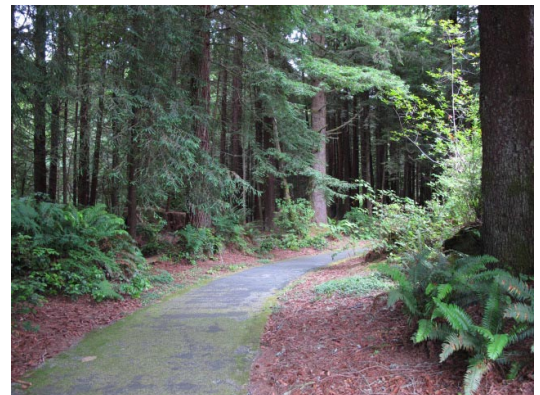
I made an unscheduled stop in the next town - Fortuna, at a Les Schwab Tire store. When I left home I noticed the driver side trailer tire was getting a little worn. Nah, I said to myself it will make many more miles. (My first inclination was to change tires before leaving Galt. Well, it didn't.) I kept watch on it at my stops along the way. At the Willits rest stop for lunch, I noticed the tread was separating a little. It's time to put the spare tire on. It's probably a good thing I did! That's the story. Fortunately, Les Schwab had the right two tires in stock so an hour and a half later The Peanut has a new set of tires. I think it feels much better now.

Shortly after leaving Fortuna, the town of Eureka appears on the radar. Highway 101 goes right through the bottleneck of Eureka with its many stop lights. The town fathers do have SOMETHING right. In the downtown section there are a dozen stoplights, one on each corner! Fortunately they have the lights timed and I was able to zoom (at 25 mph) right through town without one stop! From there it's clear sailing (almost). There's lots of road construction going on, up and down on 101. There are many stops for one lane road ahead.

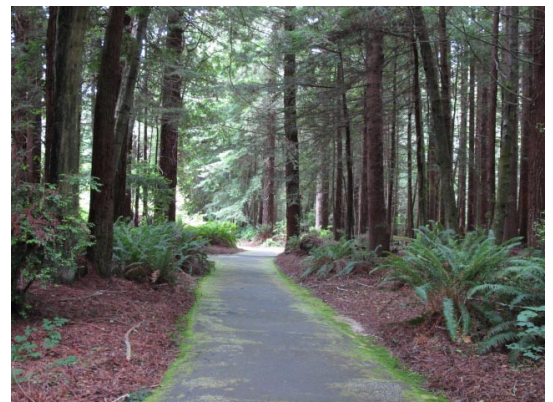
One of my favorite, and I consider it the best, rest stops in all of California is the northbound 101 rest stop north of the community of Trinidad. It is called the Trinidad (of course) rest stop. Here, let me show you.



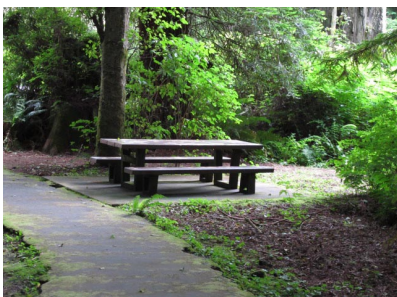
They have a kiosk that tells about the redwood trees, the animals, and the geologic history of the area. It's very informative.



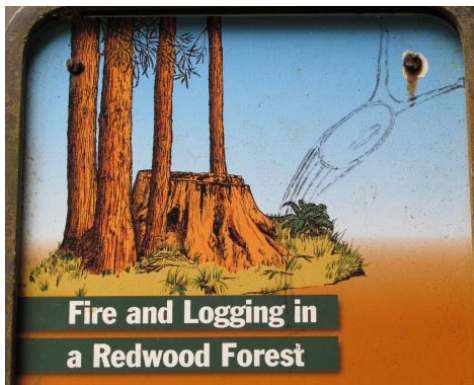
Numerous picnic tables are available throughout the walk. Although, the five times I have stopped here, the weather has been overcast and chilly. Not a good spot of picnicking if the sun is not shining. What sun would be shining through this tall canopy anyway?



Paved walkways behind the restrooms provide a beautiful restful tree lined walk.







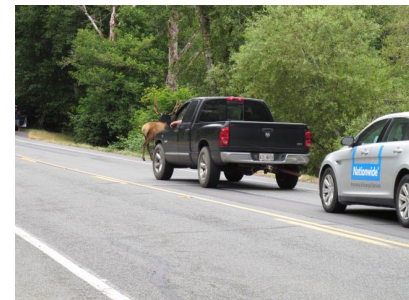
One of the sad stories of the area is that “old growth” logging was done at the dawn of the 20th century. Stumps of old growth logging are still visible throughout the rest stop. Most of the redwood trees in the area are second growth trees which surround the stumps.



Awhile later, as I was driving just north of the community of Orick, I noticed a large group of cars parked beside the road. Upon further investigation I saw a herd of elk, right beside the road. Fortunately I saw a wide spot with enough length and quickly pulled off the road and grabbed my camera.



This one seems to be looking both ways before crossing the road.



This picture sequence gives added importance to paying attention to those “Elk crossing” signs.



The rest of the family seems to be resting and napping after eating lunch. I counted almost a dozen heads showing above the grass.





It was getting a little late, so I drove straight through the rest of northern California and crossed into Oregon about 1:30. A rest stop on the north side of Brookings, Oregon provided a place to stop for a bit of lunch. There are several points of interest along this section of 101, but I was in a hurry to reach my destination. Perhaps on the way home I will have time to stop and see more sights. A quick drive through Gold Beach and Port Orford brought me to Bandon. By this time it was nearly 4:00.

Oh HOORAY! My Dairy Queen radar IS still working! There IS a DQ in Bandon and I will be here for four more days. I feel a Blizzard attack coming on! My favorite is the Choco-Cherry Love! An added incentive is, I will have to pass DQ on my way to the library! We central Californians do miss our DQ visits!



I arrived at Bullard's Beach State Park just after 4:00. By the time I got my site and set up, I had already met several of my fellow acquaintances from years past. A short walk around A loop brought more visiting with friends. By this time it was time for dinner and crawl into bed after a long day of driving. Tomorrow will be another chance to do more visiting. Thanks for coming along with me today. Bye for now - - Earl

P.S. There is no WiFi service here at Bullard's Beach. There is also NO McDonald's in Bandon! (How can that be????) Anyway, in years past I've found that the local library has a really good WiFi available. So - - at least once a day I travel the short distance into town to use the library facilities. Of course, that will provide an opportunity for a Blizzard break at DQ! Since I don't have internet connections until library visits, my daily diary pages may not be transmitted on a regular basis.