

Earl's Diary - Wednesday - July 22, 2009

This morning we headed off for Crater Lake National Park, about 45 miles southeast of here. I know most of you have already been to this park so I can't tell you anything new about it. I had been there many, many years ago when I was just a little (??) lad of about 12 years old. I suppose a lot of things have changed during the intervening years (all except that deep blue water!)

We entered through the north entrance and immediately headed up hill. The scenery looking out over the many, many miles of landscape was truly amazing and beautiful! (I hope I don't use that word too often.) The first sight of the deep blue water and the sheer sides of the caldera are breathtaking. One can only stand there with mouth open.

We decided to take the rim road around the lake. Our first stop was at the rim visitor center where we learned how this lake was formed. It's probably well that we weren't around when Mount Mazama decided to blow its stack and then collapse within itself. The weather was perfect for our day long drive.

Continuing on the drive we stopped at the park campground to have a quick look around. (For future reference). Mosquitoes??? Yes!!!!

Sister Suzi wanted to take a tour boat ride around the lake. The cost was only \$27 which wasn't too bad. However, she balked when it was mentioned to her that the hike down to the lake was 1.7 miles on a steep trail. That ended that idea. My saying is "What goes down, must come up, and that's ALL uphill!

Our drive continued as we saw the Phantom Ship, stopped at the highest point on the drive, and ended up back where we started from. What did we learn? The water is a beautiful (there's that word again!) blue. The terrain on the west side of the lake is much wetter than the east side (due to clouds condensing more on the west. Wizard Island is another volcano mound. Teddy Roosevelt caused the park's formation in 1902 (Bully for old Teddy!). As we rounded the southern corner Klamath Lake came into view all those many miles away.

I will say it once more: I was totally enthralled with the beauty of the place! When we returned to our RV park it was certainly time for that afternoon nap!

- - Earl

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We spent the day today in camp just resting and reading. Tomorrow I leave for California and Richard and Suzi leave for Idaho. My trip to Galt will be 416 miles which I will make in two days. My planned stop for the night is to be Red Bluff, a distance of 258 miles, that leaves 158 miles for the second day. If it hasn't cooled off by tomorrow in Red Bluff I will be glad to have the AC in the trailer. The RV park I have selected does have a swimming pool.

- - Earl