

Earl's Diary - Monday - September 23, 2013

Dear Loyal Readers,

It was time to pack up and head for home. One by one the other campers were leaving until only 2 of us were left. Soon after 10:30 I was also on the road. I didn't get very far, fast. About 3 miles down the road I ran into road construction and had to wait about 10 minutes to be escorted around the work area. Traffic flowed smoothly after that.

My plan was to seek out and photograph some of the sights I had missed on the way up. It didn't take long. After the brief wait at the construction zone and coming around a bend in the road, what should I see but Mount Lassen with its brand new covering of snow that wasn't there six days before.



Traveling down I-5, I wandered off onto a narrow farm road where I spied another variety of olive plant.



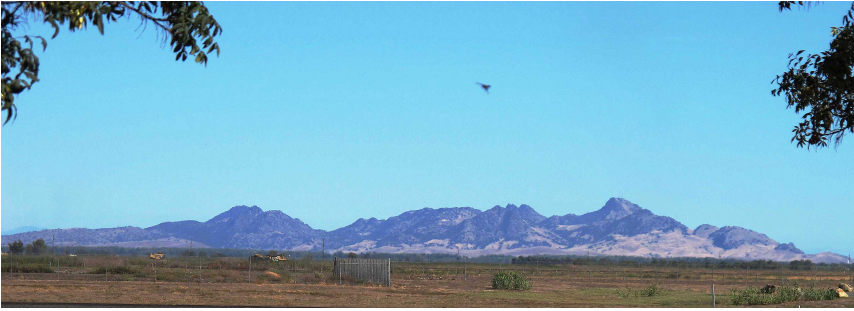
Remember those large olive trees from my diary page, September 17?



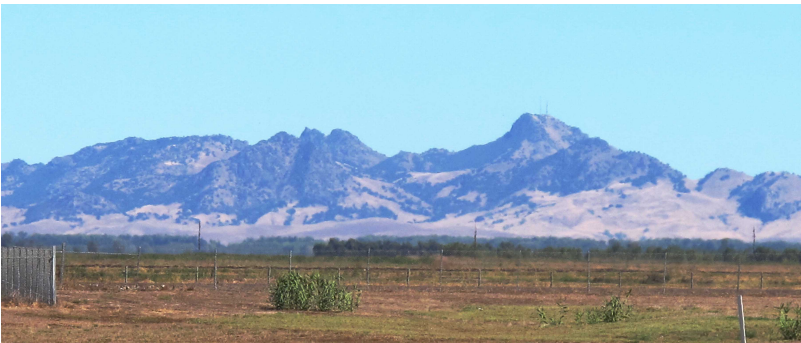
Here is another variety of olive plant that seems to be gaining popularity here in our Central Valley. It seems to be a dwarf variety that is planted close together and trained on wires. I'm not sure whether they are picked by machines, but according to internet sources, these fruits are used to make olive oil.



The smallest mountain range????



I got the WHOLE range in my camera view!



We Northern Californians are very familiar with Sutter Buttes here in our Central Valley. Lots of times they are not visible because of haze. Today was one of those rare days where they were visible so I took advantage of the occasion.

According to Wikipedia: The Sutter Buttes are a small circular complex of eroded volcanic lava domes which rise as buttes above the flat plains of the northern Central Valley. The highest peak, South Butte, reaches about 2,130 feet above sea level and is the high point of Sutter County. They are named for John Sutter, who received a large land grant from the Mexican government. The Sutter Buttes are sometimes referred to as the world's smallest mountain range. The small range forms a rough circle only about 10 miles from north to south and east to west.

Traveling further south on I-5, I came upon a pistachio grove. I know most of we Californians, as well as other people around the country, are not familiar with how the tree looks, so here are my photos.

Traveling down the freeway I spied what appeared to be the last sunflower field still standing. Quickly taking the next off ramp, I turned onto a frontage road. Not to be intimidated by the "No Outlet" sign, I continued, not knowing if a turn around was available at the end. I knew I had to get these pictures. It was my last chance! Fortunately the state had the wisdom to put a large turn around area - just for me!



From the looks of these flowers, it appears they were not going to be picked. A large percentage of the seeds are already missing.

I was now entering the metropolitan area of Sacramento and was anxious to get home. This had been a very full exciting day of searching out some of the agricultural products of California's Central Valley. Other products on view were rice fields being harvested, almond trees, already harvested, fruit trees, hay fields, and alfalfa. We do live in a very productive part of our state.

I arrived home at 7:00pm after an interesting day of traveling on the freeway AND along some very narrow bumpy roads. Now it's time to put The Peanut back under wraps for a few months. It's been a pleasure having you along with me on this journey. Thanks for coming along. Until next time we meet - bye for now - - Earl

