

Earl's Diary - Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Greetings to all my loyal readers. I'm on the road again! The Peanut is packed and we are off on another excursion and you are invited to come along with me. In fact, the first day has already happened. Tonight I am parked at Orange Grove RV Park in Bakersfield, California.

That was not my original plan however. My original plan was to travel over the Sierra Nevada Mountains on Highway 88. (That's the Carson Pass Highway). The first day's travel was to take me down highway 395 toward Bishop, California, and from there down to the small town of Lone Pine.

My first day's itinerary was literally changed overnight. Here in California we have been having what Governor Brown calls a drought. Nary a drop of rain in sight. Wouldn't you know it, the weatherman called for rain and snow over the Sierras today and tomorrow (Thursday). I'm not very adventuresome and not interested in dealing with snow, although it was supposed to snow starting in the high country later today. I could have made it over the mountains. However, on Thursday there was still at least 2 mountain passes that climb to an elevation of 8,000 feet. No thank you!

The alternative is traveling south on highway 99 through our great central valley. I wasn't too excited about doing that because I have done it so many times in the past - but it is the safest route. I have been at the Orange Grove Park many times in the past. It truly meets travelers needs. I arrived here at 3:30, with plenty of time to spare and was able to take a few pictures.



The park was carved from an old orange grove with some of the trees still around. Park residents are even invited to pick some of the tasty fruit.



Of course, the place is crawling with big humongous "stickies". My Peanut is surely the smallest one here. (You do remember why I call it The Peanut?) It looks like a peanut among all those large stickies!



The park has spotless rest rooms and showers.

The trip down was uneventful. I stopped several times to stretch the legs. One stop was necessary to eat lunch and take the requisite nap! I also made a stop at the rest stop south of Tulare. That was one amazing rest stop, not the average generic pit stop! I just had to grab my camera to capture some of the highlights.



One of the first things noticed is the use of low growing native plants in the spaces between parking lots and around buildings.



Upon further examination, a person soon spies the solar panels covering the courtyard area.



The supporting structures were not just plain metal posts stuck in the ground. They were decorated with art work showing people, products, and history of the area.

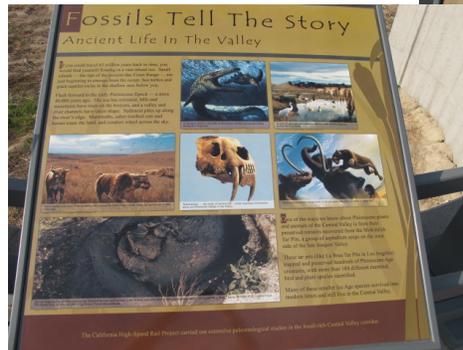




The surrounding areas were covered with grass-like ground cover. Mowing not needed!



Even the rest room walls were decorated with art work.



Pictorial panels placed around the walkways explained the geologic history of the area.

This was truly an interesting stop. It seems as though CalTrans got it right for a change. I wonder who put up the money for this stop? This stop made it almost worthwhile changing my itinerary plans. If you are ever down this way, be sure to stop in.

Tomorrow I head up over Tehachapi Pass on Highway 58. My ultimate destination for tomorrow will be Lone Pine. (I will arrive at it from the south). There are several interesting things I want to see there.

This trip is planned for 6 weeks. Places planned for stops are Quartzsite, AZ (a cult gathering): 4 nights at Anza/Borrego State Park, CA; Yuma; Sun City; and Dead Horse Ranch, AZ in the Cottonwood/Sedona area. I plan to be home around March 10/11.

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