Tuesday, October 21, 2008

When we entered Utah we stopped at the Welcome Center and told the desk attendant where we planned to visit. He gave us lots of information, including an interesting booklet that described all the things to see and do in Millard County and Delta. We wanted to get more details, so we tried to find the Art Store that was supposed to have better maps, but it seems to have disappeared.

We did find the Delta Tourists Bureau, but unfortunately there was no one there to answer our questions. While stopping for fuel we asked the staff and customers for suggestions, but that only confused us, so we set off with brochures and maps to make our own tour of the area.

Heading north from Delta we travelled out into the desert with the mountains in the distance. What we found was "a whole lot of nothing".



One feature that was quite predominant however, was the power plant. We thought that it looked to be quite close, but as we travelled along it became apparent that it was a long way off in the distance.

When we arrived at the gate we asked if we could have a tour (as suggested in the Millard County Book). The answer was "yes" but not today, so we made an appointment to come back the next day.





Further on down the road we noted that on the right side of the road there was lots of vegetation, while on the other side there was next to none. As we travelled along we also noted that the right side was rather wet looking.

According to the map on the right is the Topaz Marsh. We surmised that the water comes from the springs that are prevalent in this area.





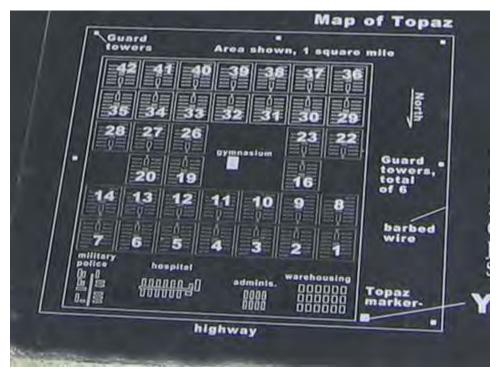
A few miles
later we
stopped at the
Topaz
Monument, in
the shadow of
Topaz
Mountain.
During the
Second World
War over
8,000
JapaneseAmericans

were forced to evacuate their west coast homes and were sent to this internment camp.



At that time
the camp,
surrounded by
barbed wire,
was Utah's
fifth most
populous city.





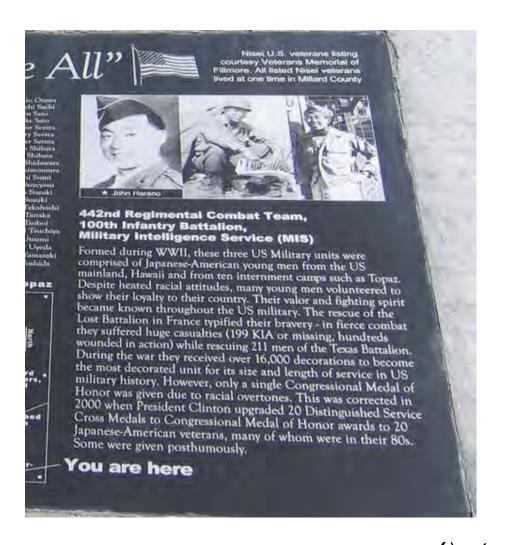
Topaz
consisted of
42 gridded
blocks, each
housing
upwards of
200 persons
divided among
12 barracks.
The buildings
have all been
removed, but
the streets and

cement pads are a grim reminder of the travesty that was committed many years ago.

A monument marks
the place to
commemorate the
people who lived
here, as well as the
442nd Regimental
Combat team,
composed of
Japanese-American
boys — many of
whom volunteered
from Internment
camps such as Topaz.









We then drove south west through Deseret and came to Old Fort Deseret. This \$50 square foot adobe enclosure was built in 1865, out of mud and straw by the settlers to protect their cattle from the Black Hawk Indians.

A bit further down the highway we came to a sign for the Great Stone Face.

About 7 miles down a gravel road we found a high hill covered in Lava Rock. At the top of one hill there is one that bears a remarkable likeness to Joseph Smith, a beloved prophet and Mormon leader who was killed at the hands of a mob.



In close proximity there are Petroglyphs on the rocks that may have been an agreement dividing up water and hunting rights in the area.







Mike decided that he wanted to do some more exploring, so we put on the four wheel drive and headed cross country to see what was out there. We came to a rather steep



hill, so got out and walked up to the summit.



Percy enjoyed the walk but did not seem

overly impressed with the rocks.



On the way back we found some Petroglyphs that were not in the enclosure with the others.



Friday, October 24, 2008

We got up early and drove back to the Intermountain Power Plant where the security Guard gave us our visitor's passes.

Mike Mooney met us in the lobby and introduced us to Lewis Rawlinson, our personal tour guide. Lewis has been working for IPP for 25 years.



Lewis took us
to a room that
was filled with
models that
were used to
design the
individual
components.
He explained
the history of
the project and
the impact that
it had on the
area.

The planning for the project started in the late '70's, so models were built (no computer graphics). The models cost over 1 million dollars!



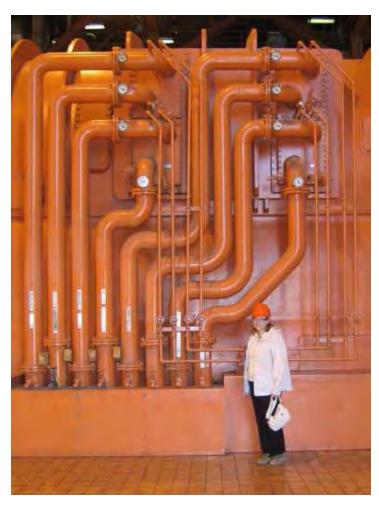


This is the repair area. It was OERY clean - remember they burn coal here!



This is one of the two generators.
The original plans called for 4 to be built, but the plans were scaled back before construction started.

This gives you an idea of the size on the generators.





Lewis took us up on the generator building roof, and we really got to see the size of the place. Here's a few figures - The whole project cost \$5.5 billion (1984 dollars), and it came in on time and under budget. Delta is a small community with about 2000 citizens. Temporary housing for 1500 workers and homes for 250 families had to be built at a cost of \$20 million. Delta was given over \$20 million for schools, infrastructure, etc.

They used 13 million feet of wire and cable, 615,000 feet of pipe, and painted over 14 million square feet of surface! It's really a BIG place.





The 700 foot chimney and related scrubbers and baggers remove over 99% of the ash, and over 95% of the sulfur dioxide. The project burns 10 tons of coal per minute! That's over 4.7 million tons per year.



All the water used in the creation of power is retained on the property.
Nothing is allowed to "leave." This makes for a very efficient and extremely clean operation.





This is the coal conveyer. Two 100 car trains per day bring coal to the plant. It is crushed to the consistency of baby powder, and blown into the boilers.

This power plant produces over 1600 Megawatts of power. The 5 plants on the Canadian side of Niagara Fall produce just over 2000 Megawatts.





They have created a "quiet" garden - very peaceful.







This is a model of the plant, situated just by the front doors.

After we left the plant we started back towards Delta

The cows really didn't seem interested in talking to us, or Percy for that matter.





Saturday, October 25, 2008

At 10 am we left Delta. It was sunny and bright, but very cool at 6 degrees Celsius.

Soon we were back into the mountains.



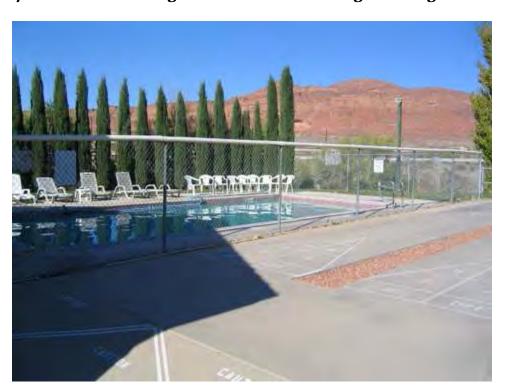


When we stopped in Milford for Diesel were pleasantly surprised to see that the price had dropped to \$3.49 a gallon! We hear that there is a shortage of Diesel in Canada, so we are thankful that it has not affected the US prices.



When we arrived at the St. George RU Resort (actually closer to Hurricane) the temperature was up to 22 Celsius. We could hardly wait to get our shorts on.

The campground is nestled between Mountains and the 115 Interstate. The RUs are packed in like sardines, but with the fabulous weather and the great scenery there is not too much complaining about the close quarters and everyone seems to be very friendly.

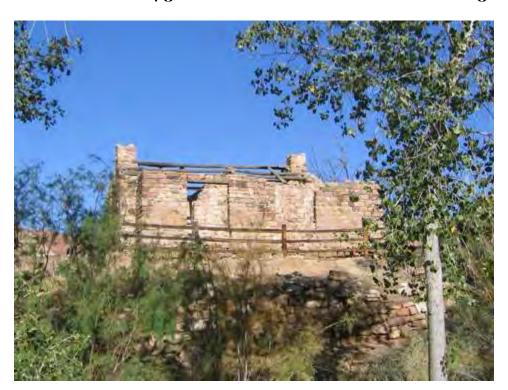








The campground is built on the site of an old ghost town



Sunday, October 26, 2008

Our rig had collected quite a bit of dirt as we travelled through the US so we decided to wash it. This park charges \$4.00 for the privilege of washing your RU.

For Happy Hour we got together with a couple of Albertans who are parked across the lane from us. Maureen thought that Gail looked familiar and as we talked, we discovered that we had met them last year in Pahrump Nevada. They have a son who just returned from a

tour in Afghanistan.



After dinner
our next door
neighbours
Larry and his
special friend
Barb joined us
and gave us
lots of tips
about things to
see and places
to go in Utah.
They had a

fabulous time in Grantsville where they were treated to a tour of the Larry Miller Race Track and Museum.



Tuesday, October 28, 2008

Our attempt to wash the rig was not entirely successful and we found out that the fellow who sprayed our truck liner in last year was now offering a rig detailing service. So we made arrangements for him to come to the park and do it up right.

The morning was a bit cool when we got up but it warmed up quickly. Daniel arrived at 9 am to detail the fifth wheel and so we decided to take a day-trip.

We had some business to do in St. George and took the scenic route there by driving around Quail Lake where they have a pretty little state campground right on the waters edge.











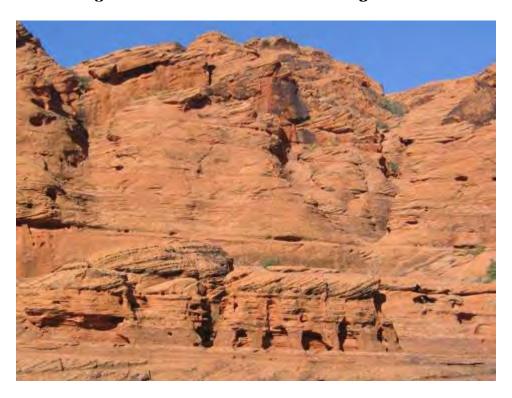
After traveling through St. George we arrived at Snow Canyon State Park.

We were impressed by the majestic mountains and the numerous trails.

Two of the trails were "dog friendly" so we chose one and headed off. It was a very wide and easy trail with lots to see.

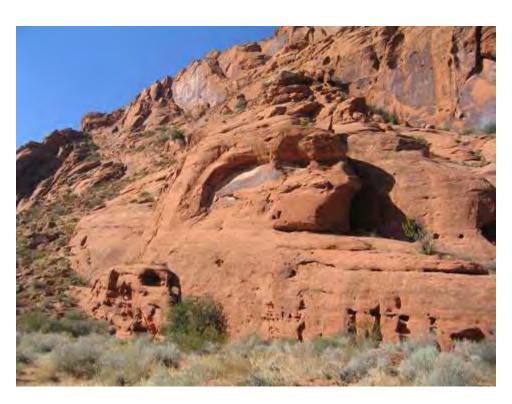


Along the bottom of this mountain you can see some hoodoos.





There were many interesting types of vegetation including numerous cacti.





Mike found this interesting wildlife ready to defend his territory.



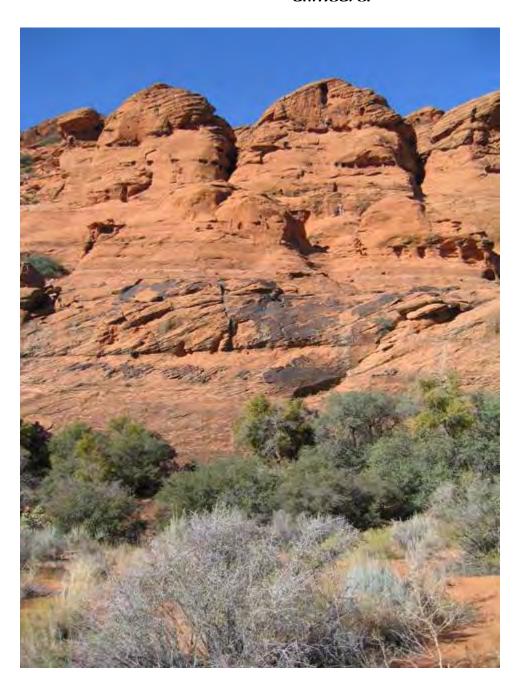


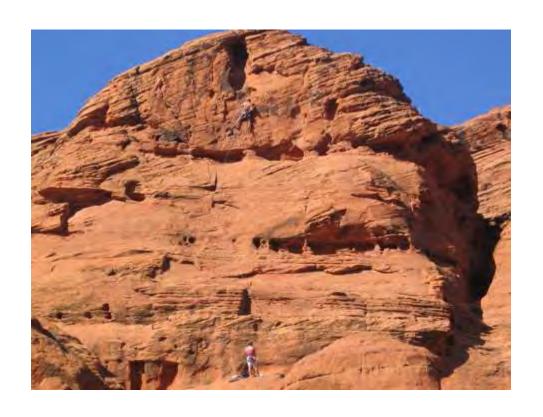
Just like last year there were some "dips" along the way.

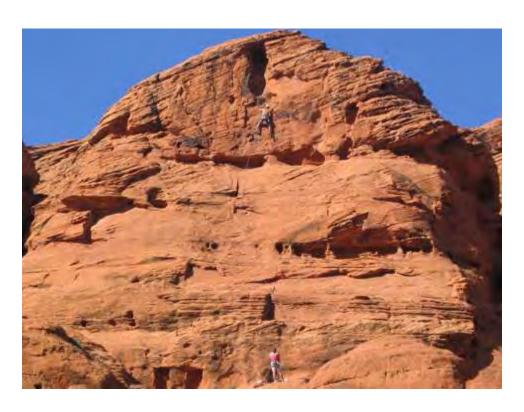


This hill looked like a face staring down on us.

At the top of this mountain face we noticed some very brave rock climbers.









A Panorama shot of the mountain.



Following a
great picnic
lunch beside
the
campground we
headed out
again and
decided to
check out some
of the nearby
neighbourhoods





This one was very fancy. Here is the pool.



Some of the houses were rather plain but the landscaping was spectacular.







The Golf Course





The Club House.





The gates as we left.



When we got back to our campsite Daniel and Holly were hard at work making our rig look just like new. They were able to polish out the scratches that we had accumulated over the past year.



They also removed all of the bugs that we had not been able to remove.

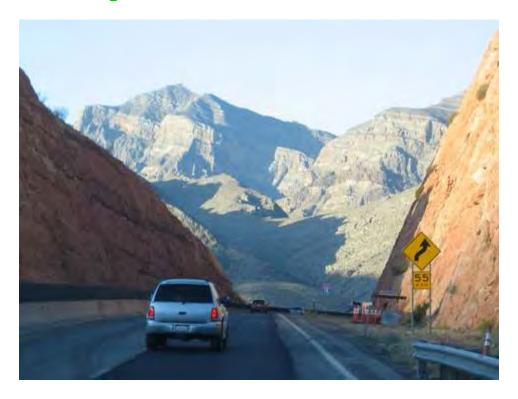


Then they put on a polymer coating to make it very shiny. It was a very hot day but Daniel stayed until everything was perfect.



He has all the equipment to do the job right!

Wednesday, October 29, 2008



Time to leave St. George and make the last leg of our southerly trek. As we moved South, so did the price of fuel! We purchased fuel for

\$2.80 a gallon!



After a few hours we arrived in Las Vegas. No time for gambling today so we carried on through.

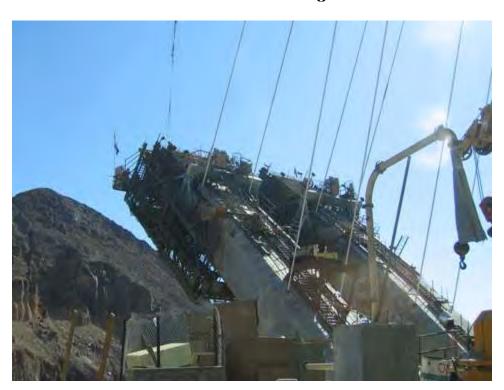
Next stop was
Boulder City
and the Hoover
Dam. We
were stopped
for a security
check before
crossing the
dam. The
guards were
very friendly
when they
found out that
we are Canadians.



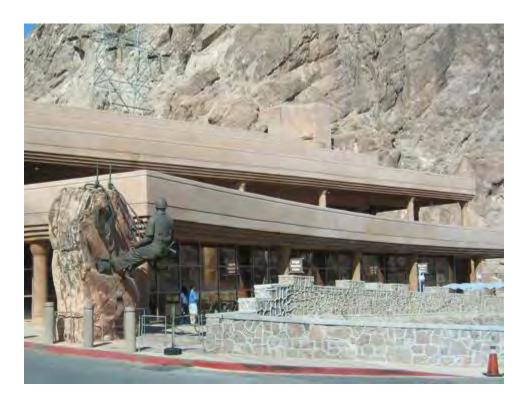
A new highway is being built so there were a few delays along the way.



The new bridge is massive!

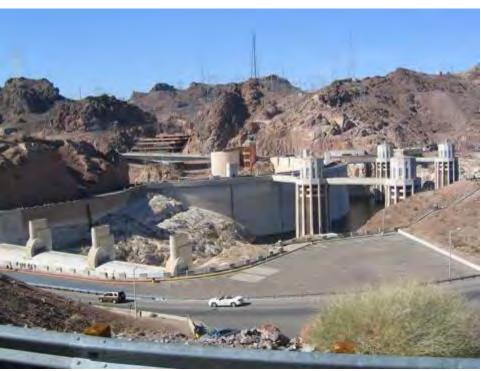






There were lots of tourists looking around but we just rolled on through.







Finally we arrived at our home for the night.





This is a very pretty little park a few miles east of Kingman.
It is extremely well laid out and easy to get in and out of.
It even had a dog corral for Percy!



Thursday October 30, 2008

Our very shiny rig as we were leaving the Blake Ranch early in the morning. The trip to Mesa was uneventful. We arrived about 1:30 PM and checked in with the office. For some reason they had moved us from the site that we were originally scheduled for. Unfortunately the new site had a brick wall across the street and we could not manage to back the rig onto the lot.

So it was back to the office and get another site. The staff were very accommodating and we moved into a spot just a few blocks north of where we were last year.



Of course we have a fruit tree in front of our site. This year it is a Lime tree. Perfect for Maureen's drinks!



Our door is facing west so we are very happy that we have a sun screen to keep the afternoon sun off of the patio.

Percy has made lots of friends at the Dog Park which is just down the street from our site.

Friday October 31, 2008

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

We attended a costume party in the evening and made some new friends. The food was yummy and the band was very good.

Saturday, November 1 ~ Wednesday November 5, 2008

We've been very busy (really). We're getting our patio ready, learning what's new here a ViewPoint, and getting the rig cleaned up inside. The weather has been great! Highs in the 30's and lows around 15. Bit cooler for the next few day - highs of 27-28.

We'll try to update sooner next time