# Monday October 13, 2008

Happy Thanksgiving to all our Canadian friends and relatives!

We had been waiting for the snow to subside south of us and it looked like Thanksgiving Monday would be our best bet to travel south through Montana without getting cold white stuff all over the rig.

We headed out just after sunrise and took one last look at Bridgeview Park and the Famous Railway Bridge that celebrated it's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year.







As we drove south we saw evidence of the weekend storms, but fortunately there was no snow on the highway.





By 9:30 am we were at the US border. The customs agent studied the list of our foods and asked us to leave the mandarin oranges (from China) behind.
Once that was done we were on our way!



Stopped at a scenic lookout and learned about St.
Peters Mission where Louis Riel spent some time as a lay teacher until he went back to Canada and was eventually hung following the Rebellion.

# ST. PETER'S MISSION

Approximately 10 miles northwest of here the Jesuit missionaries to the Blackfeet established their fourth mission near Birdtail stage route on the old Mullan Road. They had abandoned three earlier sites due to Indian attack or inadequacy for subsistence farming. Even this site was left uninhabited for eight years. Ironically, the same year the Jesuits returned (1874), Congress moved the reservation boundary northward, putting the Mission over 60 miles outside Blackfeet country!

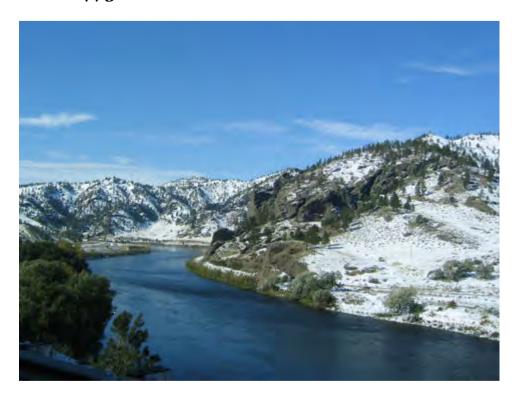
To continue operation, the Jesuits converted the Mission into an Indian school for boys. Ten years later, Ursuline nuns opened a girls school and taught Indian and white children. The Mission flourished until 1895 when the government established its own Indian schools and quit paying tuition. The Ursulines continued to teach white girls there until 1912 when they moved to new quarters in Great Falls.

A small group of Metis (people of Indian and white descent) settled on the Dearborn River near the Mission after the unsuccessful 1870 rebellion in Canada. One of them, Louis Riel, became a lay teacher at St. Peter's until some of his compatriots traveled from Canada in 1884 to ask his help in a second rebellion. Again they failed and Riel was hanged. Metis continued to live near the Mission for years, but their numbers were diminished in a to live near the Mission for years. They are buried in the Mission cemetery.

Percy liked the piles of snow and Maureen admired the snow capped Mountains.



Along the way we saw lots more snow and were happy that the skies remained clear.





After six hours on the road we decided to stop at Helena, the capital of Montana. There was a Wal-Mart close to the Freeway, so we parked the rig there with 14 other campers. The site did not cost us anything, but we did buy lots of groceries there. Even got a new toy for Percy!

WAL\*MART\*

## Tuesday October 14, 2008

Mike had parked our rig between another trailer and a small garden with enough room to get out in the morning. A car parked between us and the garden (go figure!) making it a bit tricky getting out but we managed to be out by 7:00 am. We needed some fuel so by the time we got out of town it was 7:30.

It was quite cloudy.

As we drove through the first mountain pass there was lots of snow on the side of the road and the temperature dropped from 6 to 2 C.



By the time we got to Boulder there was less snow and the skies began to clear.

As the day
went on we
went back and
forth between
snow and no snow.



OLD TRAIL TO THE GOLD DIGGINS'

Along in the early 1840s the Americans were like they are now seeking to go somewhere. It got around that Oregon was quite a place. The lowa people hadn't located California yet. A wagon train pulled out across the plains and made it to Oregon. Then everyone broke out into a rash to be going west.

They packed their prairie schooners with their household goods, gods, and garden tools. Outside of Indians, prairie fires, cholera, famine, cyclones, cloud bursts, quick sand, snow slides, and blizzards they had a tolerably blithe and gay trip.

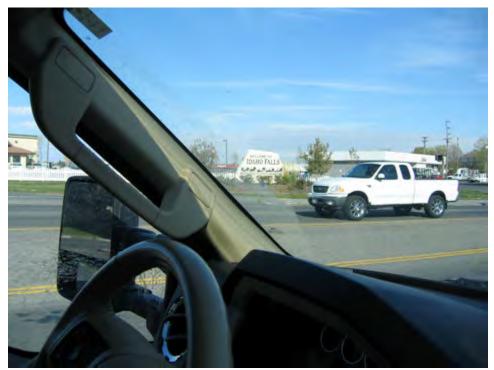
When gold was found in Montana some of them forked off from the main highway and surged along this trail aiming to reach the rainbow's end. It was mostly one way traffic, but if they did meet a backtracking outfit there was plenty of room to turn out.

It certainly wasn't boring.

This sign described rather comically, the trials and tribulations of the pioneers who travelled up and though these mountains in the past.







At 3:45 PM we arrived at our destination the Wal-Mart at Idaho Falls.

The sky was sunny and the thermometer registered a nice warm 12C.

This one was not as close to the Interstate, so there was only one other camper, but we found a great spot beside the boulevard and settled in for a restful evening.

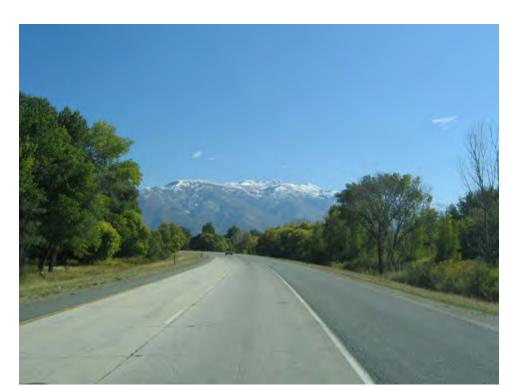
# Wednesday October 15, 2008



When we left this morning it was only 2 Celsius but the sun was shining and the temperature rose quickly as we continued our trek south on Interstate

15.

We noticed that the trees and grass were much greener as we put lots of miles behind us.

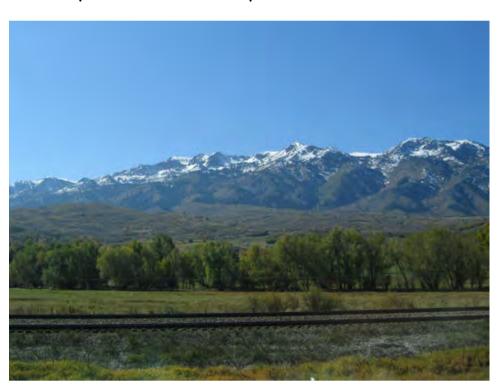


Finally we came to the Utah border and stopped at the Information Center for some maps and brochures. The State offers really beautiful books and pamphlets describing all the things to see and do here.

Just north of Salt Lake City we turned east, went into the mountains again and saw the familiar snow in the distance.

The scenery was breathtaking and we revelled in the peace and serenity

compared to the hectic pace for the last hour on the Interstate.



Our campground for the next five days is the East Canyon Resort just south of the State Park with the same name.





The first site that we were given was not long enough, but the second one was just right. Unfortunately the water has been off for the past

week as they had a massive snow storm here last weekend (sure glad that we missed that!). We do have 50 amp service, sewers and a full tank of fresh water, so we will be just fine.

When we arrived it was sunny and a balmy 20C. YES!!!!!



The weather forecast for the next five days is more of the same.



We are in a valley with hills around us and the fall colours are just starting to show.

This resort also has Condos and a Restaurant.

We hear that deer hunting season starts on Saturday and there will be lots of hunters. It is also a school holiday, so there will be plenty of rug rats.

## Thursday October 16, 2008



#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY KIMMY!

The sun was shining and the hills were beckoning so we headed out on a hike this afternoon.



and upwards until we arrived above the reservoir.

Along the way we saw lots of interesting things, including the "Brown" truck off in the distance.











The park is filling up quickly with lots of trailers, fifth wheels and ATOs.



Tonight it's off to the sauna and the hot tub.
(It really is a tough life)