

Wednesday October 20, 2010

Randy suggested that we look up some fellow Suite owners who lived behind us at the Rally in Goshen. We called Chuck and Cheryl and discovered that 2 other Suite couples were currently residing in our park. We called them as well and left messages.

Just after we got home from seeing the Texas Tenors, a truck pulled into our driveway. It was Linda and Dave with Lynnea and Jim. We made a date to get together for breakfast the next morning at Shoney's.



Thursday October 21, 2010

After a great breakfast we headed down to the Lake to see what was happening. Branson is situated on a Lake that looks more like a river.



There are boat rentals and restaurants





Mike and Percy were happy to see the Bass Pro store



We strolled along the boardwalk and did some window shopping.

Half way down there is a great place to sit and watch the dancing waters





Later that afternoon we travelled to Chuck and Cheryl's place and enjoyed a pleasant afternoon with the Suite owners we had breakfast with.

After a quick dinner at the rig we headed out again to see a live outdoor presentation of "Shepherd of the Hills". This play is based on a book and features over 90 actors, many horses, donkeys, sheep and a real burning log cabin. It was a beautiful evening in the Ozark hills and the play was fabulous.



Friday October 22, 2010

We left Branson before 9 am under partly cloudy skies and headed south again. The Ozarks were pretty but the roads quite twisty.



When Maureen took over the wheel the orange construction signs appeared.

Driving between cement pillars and pylons is a test of the nerves. We saw piles of gravel on the side of the road. When will the Americans stop building these bumpy cement roads?

Drove past another town named Warner. Wonder if there are relatives there?



It was a long drive, slightly over 500 km, but we arrived in Shawnee Oklahoma just as it began to rain about 4 PM

Our campsite was near the Fire Lake Casino and our big back window looked out over a meandering stream and onto open farm land. The front of the rig was pointed towards the parking lot which was full of trucks. Quite a contrast.

Maureen went to the Casino to check in and was pleasantly surprised to learn that up to 3 days of camping is free if you get a Players Card. The free card came with \$20 of match

play. That means that if you play \$20 you get another \$20 to play with.

It was Friday evening and so of course it was Seafood night at the Buffet. After eating our fill of fish, shrimp and crab we tried our luck at the slots. Mike won a bit but then lost it again. Maureen did quite well and took home enough to pay for dinner and still have cash leftover .

### Saturday October 23, 2010

We awoke to the sound of the wind howling and the rig rocking. After making coffee Maureen checked the weather and learned that rain and wind were expected for most of the day. We had planned to drive into Oklahoma City but decided to stay put and ride out the storm.

Things settled down by mid afternoon, so Maureen decided to try her luck again at the casino and added to her winnings from the day before.

A free site with full services, and money left over. What could be better?



### Sunday October 24, 2010

Said good bye to the Casino and headed west at 9:30 am. The Oklahoma landscape was very flat.





This tower looked as if it might have been hit by yesterday's wind.



This church boasts the largest free standing cross in North America.





At 3:30 we reached our destination, Amarillo Texas.



The Big Texan welcomed us and offered us a 72 oz steak. That is enough meat for about a week! No thanks.



Our campsite was waiting at the Amarillo RV Park. The wind was blowing the dust around (what else would we expect □ it's Texas)





Certainly not a destination park - but it had long flat sites, perfect for an overnight stop.



Maureen did a few loads of laundry while Mike watched football on TV.



Monday October 25, 2010

It was warm but still very windy when we pulled out in the morning.

Travelled past a lot of ranches and through little towns. Lots of cattle for Percy to bark at.

The sign in Hereford claimed it is the Cattle Capitol of the World.



Also saw some cotton fields. Certainly don't see those in Ontario!



Also lots of trains out here.



Stopped for fuel at a little place in the middle of nowhere. The food smelled great, so we got half a chicken, potatoes, beans and a tortilla for \$3.99. There was more than enough for the 2 of us and it tasted wonderful.

Arrived in Roswell New Mexico at 2:30 PM. It was sunny and warm (26C) and no wind!

oswell is famous for UFOs and Alien sightings back in the late 40s.







We did not see any Aliens but Maureen enjoyed shopping at the dollar store.



Tuesday October 26, 2010

As we left Roswell I thought we saw something strange on  
top of the Honda dealership.  
Must have been my eyes playing tricks on me!



The flat plains of Texas gave way to rolling hills.



Percy did not know what to make of the cut-outs in front of this store.



There were plenty of signs and lots of stuff for sale.





In the distance we saw mountains and a white line of something at the base. Could this be snow?

As we got closer this sign gave us a clue



A beautiful mural was painted on this tank



Lots of Adobe buildings



Closer to the mountains the sand banks revealed themselves







This is where the Americans test their missiles



Not much else to see other than thousands of Cacti



Through the mountain range it was downhill for quite a while



The border guards waved us on when we passed through a checkpoint.

other mural and a beautiful sign





Wednesday October 27, 2010

Travelled half a day through New Mexico.



This is called Fragglerock.



The road was straight and kind of boring. A whole lot of nothing.



Finally we entered Arizona



Passed a lot of Pecan orchards



Arrived in Tucson at 2:45.

Will stay in Rincon Country RV Park for the next 5 days.







This is a nice park but is showing it's age. Lots of older Park models.





Our site is situated on a street with very few RVs so we feel kind of lonely.





Thursday October 28, 2010

Stayed □ home□ and did some cleaning and reorganizing of the truck and the rig. After 3 weeks on the road things need some attention.

After dinner went for a walk with the boys and met Ginger and Rich, Suite owners from Colorado.



Friday October 29, 2010

Time to do some exploring. Drove to the Visitors Bureau and purchased a □ Tucson Passport□ for \$15. This gives us reduced fares at many of the attractions in the area. Thanks to Jim and Lynnea for this tip.

Our first visit was to Biosphere 2, located in the Santa Catalina Mountains just north of Tucson. This 3 ½ acre covered mini-world is stocked with nearly 4,000 species of plants and sea life.

There are 6,500 windows and 7,200,000 cubic feet of sealed glass.







Our tour guide explained how they are able to make weather to replicate different areas of the world.



Students from the University of Arizona are conducting experiments here.



The Energy Center



We ascended down into the desert






### FOG DESERTS

**Phew! It's hot!**


But if you were here in the desert at night, it would be cool and foggy. Why is that?

Temperatures in coastal fog deserts vary a lot from day to night and from summer to winter.

During the hot days, water evaporates from the ocean and is pumped into the air by plants. As the temperature falls during the night, fog forms. In the driest fog deserts, some plants and insects survive entirely on the fog.



Moonlight over saguaros.



Joshua trees in the Mojave Desert, California.





Then we travelled up into the rainforest and down into the basement to see how things work from below.

The project was interesting, but the facilities are showing their age and there was little said about the human experiments that were conducted in the 1980s.

Saturday October 30, 2010

Our destination today is downtown to see the historical part of town.

We followed part of the "Presidio Tour" taking us past both old and new features.

## Tucson is in Pima County



We walked through a park that commemorated the men and women who died in wars. This monument described the  
□ Battle of the Bulge□







The original Presidio was built in the 1780s. This replica was built on the same site.







This bronze statue commemorates the day in 1846 when Mormon soldiers entered the city on their way to California.



Today was a record breaking day for temperature on October 29<sup>th</sup> with the thermometer rising to 32celcius (96 F). These flowers seemed to be thriving in the sunshine.



The next plaza was full of modern art.



This building was constructed with blue tile bricks that seemed to go forever

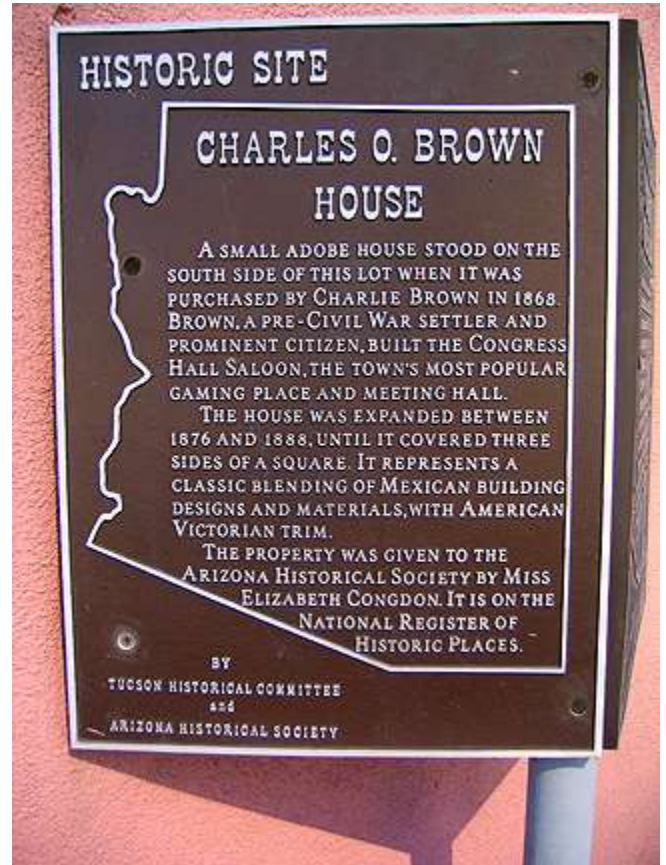


Tile is very popular here as is shown in this interesting door handle on a store.





It was getting warm so we decided to head back to the parking lot and walked through this park with a huge statue of a horse and rider. Maureen looks rather small beside it.



We found Charlie Brown's house (probably no relation to the comic strip character). It was an interesting blend of Spanish and British Architecture.

It was almost noon (and we are still adjusting to the time change) so we found a great little Mexican Restaurant called El Charro.





Mike ordered a pitcher of Marguerites to put out the flames from the Salsa that came with the chips.

Maureen had a mixed seafood plate that tasted as good as it looked



Mike got a beef combo that was both delicious and filling.





The room that we ate in was uniquely decorated.



On the way back to our park we saw many interesting buildings.

Sunday October 31, 2010

Today we got up early to beat the heat and headed out to  
□ Old Tucson □ to see the Film Studio.



There was practically no one there when we arrived, but it got busier as the morning went on.

This studio has been used to film many movies and TV programs including Little House on the Prairie, Chaparral and many John Wayne movies.

Some of the buildings are real, but many are just facades. Usually it is difficult to distinguish the difference from the front.



We dropped into the Hotel to see a documentary about John Wayne and this studio.





Then we wandered around the sets and imagined what it would have been like to have a bit part in one of the movies.





This steam engine is said to be the most photographed train  
in the US.

It has Been in over 100 movies.





One of the buildings housed many old posters with familiar faces.



We wandered back to the hotel and caught the end of Miss Kitty's Can Can show.

People were starting to gather in the square so we found ourselves a place to check out what was happening.



Some cowboys came into town and started a brawl that ended up with 2 dead bodies.





To finish up we took a ride around the property in a tiny train.



Along the way we saw lots of old relics







We stopped by the rig for lunch and then headed out again to the Tohono Odham Indian Reserve.

The attraction here is the Mission San Xavier del Bac which is lovingly referred to as the White Dove of the Desert□



Inside there was soft spiritual music playing and many candles burning. This active Franciscan Mission is also dubbed the "Sistine Chapel of North America" and we can certainly see why. The intricate paintings and statues inside are absolutely awe inspiring. Our pictures do not do them justice - you just have to see this for yourself.









On the way back we passed this cemetery,  
unlike any that we have seen in Canada.



