

## **Four Corners Trip**

5/30/01-6/14/01

### Wednesday, May 30 – Albuquerque

Judy takes us to airport. Fly Delta to Albuquerque. Get car and drive to Monterey Non-Smokers Motel just a few blocks from Old Town. Get lost on last turn to motel, but find it. Walk to Old Town and do some shopping. Eat at Mexican eatery right on Old Town Plaza. Head for motel and turn in early.

### Thursday, May 31 – Albuquerque

Go to Petroglyphs National Monument. Hike the three trails that are on the one bluff. Go to lunch at Arby's before hiking the canyon trail in the park. Go to Albuquerque Museum of Art and History and see some beautiful rugs, a nice Geogia O'Keefe of a mission church with a photography collection of the same church. Down in the basement was the historical collection with a horse and rider with full Spanish armor. Since the museum was right next to Old Town, we walked into Old Town and ate at a crapiere. Have an adventure looking for food and fuel for our camping for the next few days.

### Friday, June 1 – Canyon de Chelly

Drive to Canyon de Chelly. Find campsite and arrange to next day's tour. Drive southern rim stopping at tunnel overlook to get first look at the canyon and then on to White House Ruin trailhead. Hike down to White House Ruin. Check out various jewelry vendors and ruin before hiking back up. Hike up is much more taxing than hike down. Stop at Junction Overlook where we see other ruins on the canyon walls. Drive back to campsite for dinner and then to ranger program. The program was about "Treaty Day" and the establishment of the Navajo reservation.

### Saturday, June 2 – Canyon de Chelly

Take tour through the canyon. There was a Jeep rally in the canyon. As your tour "bus" (really a converted Army personnel carrier) entered the canyon, we passed a huge crowd of Jeeps. They really didn't bother us over the day, we always knew that they were there. First ruins were the ones we saw from Junction overlook at the junction of Canyon de Chelly and Canyon del Muerto. We see pictographs of Spanish on horses just at the junction. Ruins and pictographs and petroglyphs were found at various places throughout the canyon. The tour first went up Canyon del Muerto stopping at Antelope House and Mummy House (where we ate lunch). We drove back down the canyon and up Canyon de Chelly to White House. Our bus broke down at White House and we waited for another one. Bought a bracelet for Karen from a young salesperson here. We then drove at breakneck speed up to Spider Rock. Here we had a watermelon afternoon snack. We then were driven back to the headquarters area where we checked out the gift shop. Back at the campsite we cooked dinner and went to another ranger program. This one was on cradle boards and was presented by a very inexperienced ranger.

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### Sunday, June 3 – Mexican Hat, Utah

Broke camp and visited the park headquarters to see the hogan and sun shelter that they had built there. Drove up to Monument Valley Tribal Park and drove through the loop tour. Beautiful red buttes, spires, and mesas. Jewelry and trinket stands at many of the view points. Had fried bread at one of them. At end of tour, we stopped again at the first overlook and bought a necklace for Becky. Then drove to and check-in to our motel at Mexican Hat just outside the Navajo reservation. Continued on to Natural Bridges National Monument. The road was good except for a three mile stretch of gravel hairpin turns up the side of the canyon. Viewed two of the three bridges (Sipapu and Kachina Bridges) from the car; took a hike to Horsecollar Ruin Overlook; and finally hiked the quarter mile to Owachomo Bridge. Drove down the hill and back to Mexican Hat and ate in the motel restaurant which had Navajo soups and fried bread (twice in one day!).

### Monday, June 4 – Mesa Verde

Since we went to Natural Bridges on Sunday, we were able to visit Howenweep National Monument today. While we were expecting to have to drive on dirt roads all the way, the man at the bar at the motel last night told us how to go to stay on mainly paved roads. The only dirt roads that we encountered were at the monument itself. Drove to the visitor's center (actually the ranger station...a new visitor's center is under construction), hiked the trail around the Square Tower Ruins, and had lunch at a table near the parking lot and the ruins. Then drove to the trailhead for the Horseshoe and Hackberry ruins and hike into the ruins. Finally, we continued down the dirt road to the Holly ruins. Here the ruins were a short walk from the parking lot. After going around the rim, we took a short trail that led to some pictographs which the park ranger had told us were solstice markers. Drove to Cortez and shopped in a City Market. Drove on to Mesa Verde and found a campsite at the Morefield Campground. Had dinner, shopped the village store, and walked to the amphitheater (via the road, the long way) for the evening ranger program. Coming back, we cut through the second loop and got back to the campsite much more quickly.

### Tuesday, June 5 – Mesa Verde

After breakfast, we headed for the Visitor's Center where we got tickets for the Cliff Palace and the Balcony House tours. Got to the head of the Cliff Palace trail and the ranger started pointing out ruins all along the canyon. Toured Cliff Palace, drove to Balcony House parking lot stopping at the view points along the way, and toured Balcony House with its high ladders and its tunnel exit. Had lunch in the parking lot and talked with the ranger. Headed for the next loop drive where we viewed excavated pit houses and early pueblos in addition to viewing the cliff dwellings of Sunset House, Oak Tree House and New Fire House from overlooks. Got to the Sun Temple at the top of the canyon just after our Cliff Palace ranger guide had started an informal tour of the temple. Continued on the final loop of Chapin Mesa and parked at the museum. Saw a Segoe Lily outside of the museum. Spent some time in the museum (taking in the movie about the park) and walked

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into Spruce Tree House. Stopped in the museum again after the hike. On the way back to the campsite, we stopped at the Far View Ruins and looked at some of the pueblo ruins on top of the mesa. We were too tired to view them all and we headed back to camp for some dinner. Walked over to the amphitheater for the ranger program (this time taking a shortcut through loop 2...much quicker) and then went to bed.

### Wednesday, June 6 – Durango

After breakfast at the campground and breaking camp, get tickets for the Long House tour. Drive through Witherill Mesa that had various marks of fires throughout the years, the latest being last year when the Long House area was burned. Practically the only plant life around were the Sego lilies and they were everywhere. Take the tram to Long House and take the tour. Then take the tram to the end of the mesa stopping at the Long House and the Kodak House overlooks. After the tram ride, have lunch at the parking lot and then hike down to Step House (peculiar because it took up only half of the rock shelter...the other half had excavated pit houses in it). Head out of the park, stopping at Park Point for the panoramic view. Drive to Durango and check in to the motel. Go into the downtown area, check out shops, and eat at Henry's on Main in the Strater Hotel.

### Thursday, June 7 – Durango

Even though our train is the last one out of town for the day (leaving at 9:00 am), we still have to be at 8:15. We see the 8:15 train pull out and get onto our train. The 45 mile ride to Silverton takes about 4.5 hours. Silverton is an old mining town with dirt streets. We eat lunch in an Italian place and do a little shopping in town. Take the train back to Durango. Again walk the downtown area and had a poor "American" dinner at Chelsea's of London (the only thing "British" about the pub was the Guinness). Again shopped until things closed and went back to the motel.

### Friday, June 8 – Chaco Canyon

Picked up supplies for the next couple of days in Durango and headed to Aztec Ruins. Saw the movie at the ranger center and walked the site. Then headed for Chaco Canyon. On the way in, we were passed by two local women who were driving quite fast for the dirt roads. They obviously knew the territory. About 1.5 miles from the park we found their car stopped and an SUV that had flipped over in front of them. The two women in the SUV were obviously hurt, but walking around. We went to the park headquarters and reported the accident and they sent out a ranger immediately. We later ran into the ranger who told us that the car was totaled, but the women were OK (one of them may have had a broken wrist, but that was the worst). The car had apparently flipped three times. After reporting the accident we set up the tent at the Gallo Campground and scrambled to get to the 4:00 ranger tour of Pueblo Bonito. After the tour, we finished setting up the campsite, have dinner, and go back to the Visitor's Center for the evening program about the park and about stargazing. We arrived a bit early and hike

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through Una Vida Ruins. Go back for the program and look through the telescopes at various galaxies until about 11:00.

### Saturday, June 9 – Cuba, NM

Decide to hike the Pueblo Alto trail on top of the rim of the canyon. Drive to Pueblo del Arroyo parking lot. Hike to Kin Kletso and view ruins. Climb up the canyon wall and go to the Pueblo Bonito overlook. Hike back to Pueblo Alto and then along loop back to canyon rim. Have lunch at shaded picnic area near parking lot. Walk through Pueblo del Arroyo and Casa Rinconada with its great kiva and the smaller sites. Drive back to Pueblo Bonito parking lot and tour Chestro Ketl. Walk to Pueblo Bonito and decide that we are too tired to go on. Go back to camp, decide to break camp and head out. Drive to Cuba NM and find a motel for the night. Eat in local diner across street.

### Sunday, June 10 – Santa Fe

Head for Ghost Ranch outside of Abiqui looking for Georgia O'Keefe land. We were a little disappointed that this was just a church retreat center now. Drive to Echo Amphitheater State Park and listen to our echos. Drive to Chimayó. Eat at Rancho de Chimayó after touring pottery shop. Go to Oréga's weaving shop and look at the rugs. Drive to Santa Fe by Camel Rock and the opera house. Shop the downtown stores and search out a Diary Queen for dinner. No luck. Have a Baskin-Robbins instead.

### Monday, June 11 – Santa Fe

Walk through Plaza checking out the Pueblo goods at the Palace. Go to the O'Keefe museum. Do a bit of shopping on Canyon Road, see Christo Rey Church, and visit with Barb Meem. Return to motel to "freshen up" and shop on the way to the La Fonda for dinner with Nancy and John Wirth and Barb Meem.

### Tuesday, June 12 – Santa Fe

Visit the Museum of Indian Crafts and Culture and the International Folk Art Museum. Do some major shopping downtown (including buying a bracelet for Jan) before having dinner at the Shed.

### Wednesday, June 13 – Albuquerque

Visit Place of the Governors and do one last bit of shopping in Santa Fe (getting some ear-rings for Jan). Drive to Albuquerque by the back way stopping at Sandia Peak. It's both late and cold when we get there. Take a quick look and drive on to Albuquerque. Start to have dinner at Fudruckers but don't like the atmosphere. Go across the street to Applebees.

### Thursday, June 14 – Cincinnati

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Up early and eat quick, uninspired breakfast at hotel. Drive to airport. Jan checks bags while Randy returns car. Fly to Dallas and then to Cincinnati. Judy picks up from airport.