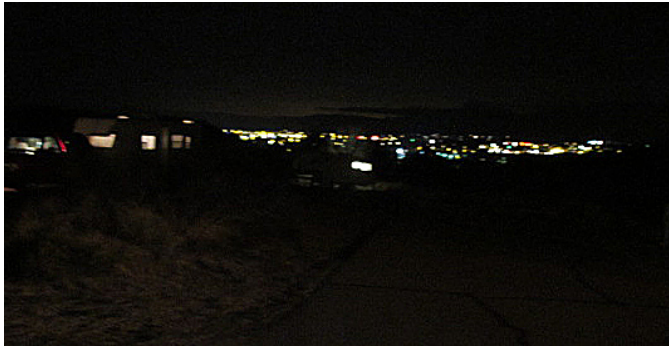


Earl's Diary - Friday - March 7, 2014

To all my many Loyal Readers, wherever you may be:

Today I left Dead Horse Ranch State Park and headed for home. Last night as I was going through all my photographs of the trip, I came upon several that I am going to present in this miscellaneous diary page.



The lights of Cottonwood taken from our camping spot at Dead Horse Ranch.



On a clear night we could see the lights of Jerome high on the mountainside above us. The lower lights are from Clarkdale.



The Peanut in site 102 In Dead Horse Ranch State Park taken from the mesa behind the campground.



Jerome on the mountainside - Clarkdale in the foreground.



Oh goodie! There IS a Dairy Queen in Cottonwood!



Last night as I was going through pictures, I noticed this one that I took from on top of Tuzigoot. Notice the white strip at the bottom. That's the Verde Canyon Train getting ready to depart.

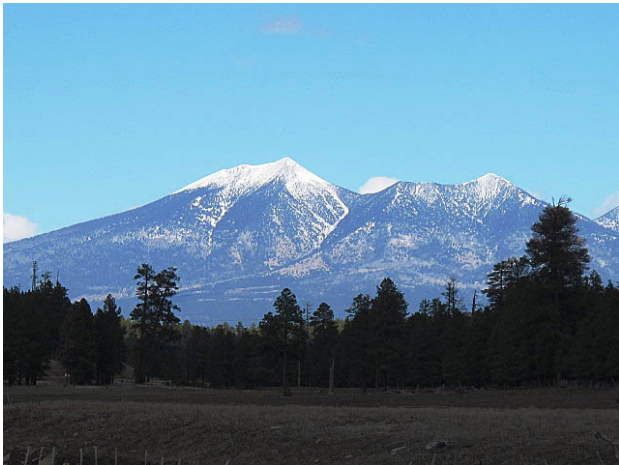


From Tuzigoot: The flat expanse west of the pueblo's base is where tailings from a copper smelter were deposited during this area's mining days.

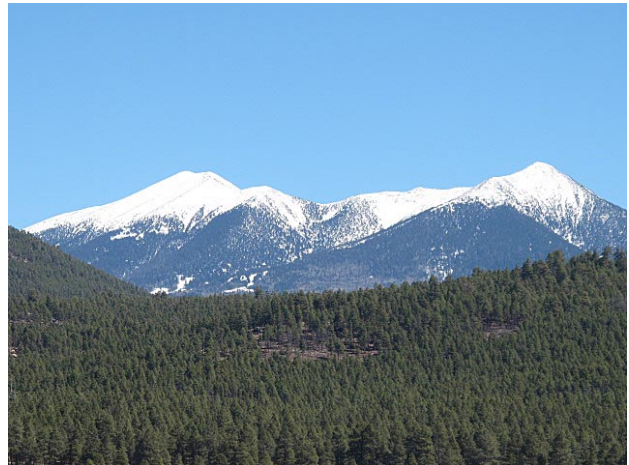
Here's my editorial for today. Remember these photos from earlier diary pages? Environmental disaster?



From the train ride: Slag is part of the waste material from the smelter and was actually poured in a molten state. The rusted iron pipes and sheet iron originally formed a barrier to keep the molten waste from the tracks. The slag cooled into the very hard material shown in these pictures. The mountain of slag covers about 40 acres, averages 40 feet in depth and represents almost 40 years of operation.



I was driving north on I-17 when straight ahead of me was a colorful picture. I quickly found an off ramp and shot this first picture. This mountain is just north of Flagstaff, AZ.



The same mountain range. This shot was taken about 10 miles west of Flagstaff.

I had an interesting observation while enjoying my blizzard at the Ludlow, CA, DQ. You have to understand that Ludlow is half way between Needles CA and Barstow CA. THAT'S WAY out in the middle of the desert!

As I was sitting outside (as I said) enjoying my Choco Cherry Love blizzard, two SUV's parked right across from me. Three or four adults and 2 or 3 kids got out of the vehicles. The men started unloading luggage from one and putting it in the other. After a brief rest stop, 2 adults and the kids piled into the SUV with the luggage now in it and proceeded to drive off, leaving 2 men alone in the other SUV.

It suddenly occurred to me that one SUV had Arizona license plates and the other had California license plates. Aha!!! Someone was either being picked up for a visit, or returning from a visit. It was just interesting watching AND this was WAY out in the middle of nowhere. I guess it was half way between somewhere!



Well, Loyal Readers, I am home now. The trip home was uneventful. I spent 1 night in Williams, AZ, at the Grand Canyon Railway RV Park. (Nice Park, I can recommend it. They also accept Passport America, and Good Sam.) Boy, was it cold at that 6,000 foot elevation town! I was glad to be on the road again the next morning.

The next night I spent in Needles, CA. It was much more pleasant there. After a long day's drive I arrived at Orange Grove RV Park in Bakersfield, CA.

I spent 2 nights there. During the day I walked to a fruit stand that was about 1/4 mile from the park. They had all manner of gourmet food goodies - olives, nuts, jams, jalapenos, pickled string beans, etc. and oranges (the stand was right in the middle of an orange grove.)

I bought a couple bottles of pickled garlic and olives to give to Eva - who picked up my mail for me while I was gone. The lady at the stand also gave me a sample of an orange with an interesting name - Cara Cara. That was a delicious orange! It was less acidic and sweeter than some other oranges. I decided to go back the next morning and bought a small box.

The rest of the trip on I-5 proved to be uneventful. I arrived home at 4:30.

That brings to a close this trip. I really enjoyed all the sights I saw. Thank you all for coming along with me on this adventure.

Bye for now - - Earl