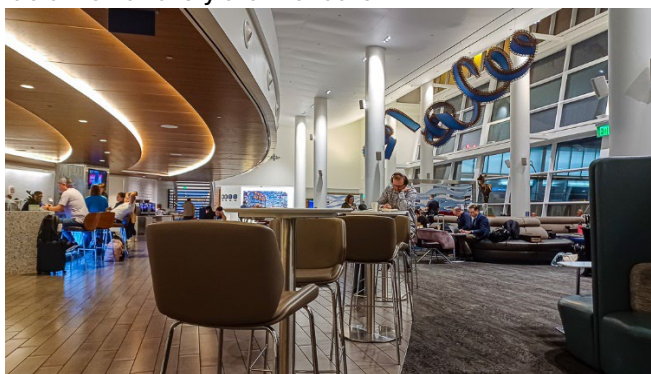


Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho – Visiting Places Where I lived over 50 Years Ago

The second week of September I took a flight to Spokane, Washington with the plan to visit a couple of places (Republic, WA and Bonners Ferry, ID) where I had worked more than 50 years ago and hadn't been back since. So, I was looking forward to seeing what had remained familiar and what had changed! My trip began with a journey on the Metrolink train from Redlands to Rancho Cucamonga and the Express bus to Ontario airport, a route I've taken several times. (at a fare of \$6.75 it's much less expensive than the \$45.00 airport shuttle!) After checking in for the Delta Airlines flight to Seattle, I went to the Aspire Airport Lounge, complimentary with my Diner's Club credit card, and enjoyed the quiet, relaxing atmosphere, in addition to a glass of Tsing Tao beer and a tasty selection of snacks before boarding the plane. A delicious lunch of a roasted turkey breast and cheddar cheese sandwich was served shortly after takeoff, along with a chilled glass of Pinot Grigio. The flight was smooth and very nice, with a gorgeous view of the sunset over the Cascade Mountains. Upon arrival in Seattle, I spent a couple of hours in the Delta Skyclub prior to boarding the flight to Spokane, which was unfortunately a bit turbulent.



Delta SkyClub – SeaTac Airport

When I arrived at the airport in Spokane, I experienced some hassle regarding the “hotel shuttle” to the Spokane Tribe Resort Hotel and Casino. When I called the resort to ask where the hotel shuttle was, I was told that I should have received a text message about the free “Uber” ride to the hotel – I had received no such message, which really pissed me off! So, I went to the taxi stand and got a taxi instead. To my amazement and frustration, the ride to the resort was more than 7 miles from the airport and cost me \$37.00! (not exactly an “airport hotel” as it was advertised) When I finally arrived at the resort hotel, it was 11:30pm and I was mad! I complained to the hotel manager, and he claimed it was because of a communication problem with “Hotels.com” with whom I had made the reservation! (apologies were extended and accepted) The hotel room was very nice and the \$3.00 premium craft beer, “Cascade Fog IPA”, in the casino bar helped to ease the stress of the evening.

The next morning, I needed some cash to tip the Uber driver for the ride back to the airport where I would pick up the rental car. So, I went to one of many ATMs in the casino to withdraw \$20.00 – the “default” withdrawal was \$200.00! After the transaction I received a “receipt” that I had to take to the casino cashier to **complete** the transaction! There I encountered a very friendly and “chatty” lady who informed me that I needed to apply for a casino “Club Card” that also gave me “free” casino money, which I wasn't really interested in, but finally she gave me \$20 and the casino “Club Card”! Then I joined a lady from Pennsylvania for the shared Uber ride to the airport. She was on her way back to Pennsylvania to join family for a celebration. The Uber driver talked almost the entire time to the airport – but I barely understood anything he said despite being seated directly behind him.

At the airport I picked up a new Nissan Sentra, but the agent was unable to find a local map for me. Perhaps the Budget Rental Car Company now assumes that we don't need a paper map since there's Google Maps online! Leaving the airport, I encountered a **very** long drive on US Highway 395 north out of Spokane toward Colville. There was also a massive traffic delay south of Chewelah due to an incredibly

slow-moving machine painting lane lines on the newly paved highway. The northbound traffic was backed up many miles with no way to pass! (very frustrating) Finally, as I reached Colville, I picked up a large decaf Americano at Starbucks in the Safeway store, which I had been looking forward to for the past couple of hours since leaving Spokane.

From Colville, I continued north on US Highway 395 to the village of Orient on the shore of Lake Roosevelt near the Canadian border. (Lake Roosevelt was created as a reservoir by the construction of Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River during the 1930's) At the small town of Kettle Falls on the Columbia River was the junction with State Highway 20 where I travelled west over the Kettle River Mountains toward Sherman Pass. I was surprised to see the route had been designated as the "Sherman Pass Scenic Byway" that included several fascinating "Heritage Sites" along the way that told the history of the region. As I drove west on highway 20 to Republic, the beautiful fall colors of the forest followed me – bright yellow, gold, and red!



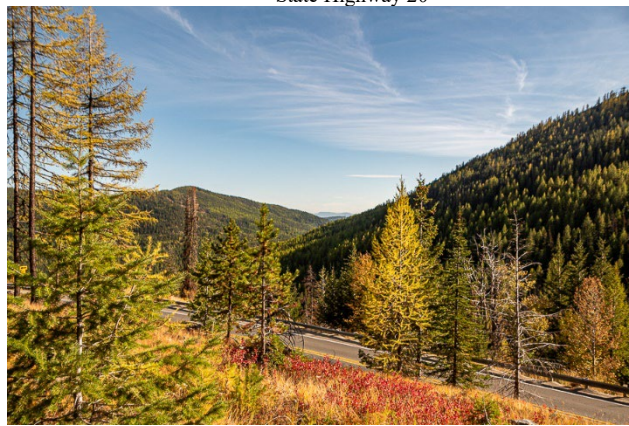
Lake Roosevelt



State Highway 20



Highway to Sherman Pass



Kettle River Mountains

When I pulled into Republic, the town appeared to be a lot like I remembered from the past, but as I drove up Main Street, I began to notice most of the old buildings looked the same as I remembered, although many were now totally different businesses. Looking for accommodations, I chose the "Northern Inn Motel", conveniently located on Main Street in the center of town. I checked into a single room on the second floor with a view of Main Street. The room was clean, but with just the basic necessities – nothing fancy. Later in the early afternoon, I drove north of town to Curlew Lake State Park to take some photos of the lake and surrounding mountains. There were some gorgeous colors among the trees around the lake

which made for a picturesque autumn scene. When I got back to Republic, I spotted the “Republic Brewing Company” at the far end of Main Street, so it was time for a beer, and their “Widowmaker IPA” was a very nice west coast style IPA. Although the brewery was only a few years old, Republic once had a brewery back in the late 1920’s before it was forced to close during prohibition. As I sat at the bar, a group of local men were enjoying large pitchers of beer and plates of French fries after work.



Entering Republic



Northern Inn Motel in Republic



Curlew Lake



Republic Brewing Company

By now it was approaching time for dinner, and when I asked the lady at the motel for a recommendation, she told me the “Knotty Pine Lounge and Restaurant” was a good choice of the only two places to eat that were open in town! I walked across the street to the restaurant and was greeted by a young woman who highly recommended the “Chef’s Special” that night, “Steak Chimichanga” topped with sour cream and guacamole! When the plate arrived, it was “huge”, and although very tasty, I could only manage to eat about a third of it! The rest was boxed up and went into the frig in my motel room.



Chef’s Special

I ended the evening with a beer at the “18 North Happenings Bar” down the street. I couldn’t help but notice a sign on the wall behind the bar that read “Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Control Board”! The first time I had seen the two substances being regulated by the same board. When I returned to the motel a group of cyclists were just arriving for the night, and their leader told me they would be headed to Canada tomorrow to cycle the “Selkirk Tour”. I bid them a safe journey and retired for the night.

The next morning, I was suddenly awakened at 6am by the loud noise from the shower in the room next door, something I hadn’t expected after the stillness of the night! So, I got up a short time later and showered before heading down to the breakfast room for a delicious hot meal of scrambled eggs and biscuits with sausage gravy. The cook even made a special pot of decaf coffee for me. (I gave her a good tip) After breakfast I drove around part of the town I remembered when I worked for the US Forest Service on the Colville National Forest in an attempt to find the Republic Ranger Station where I had lived for two years. But what I found was a brand-new ranger station and nothing of what I remembered. (not surprising when I realized that the last time that I had seen the ranger station was over 50 years ago!)

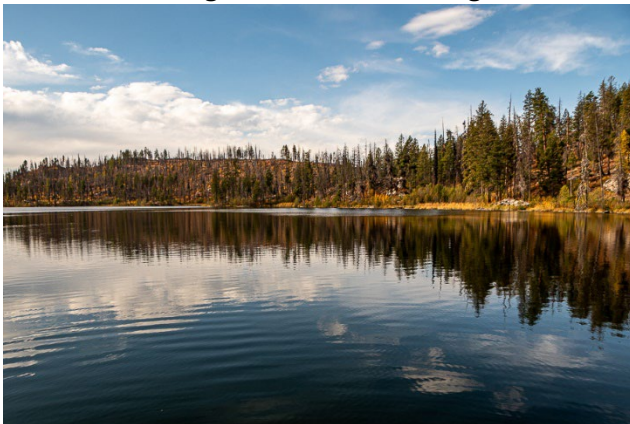


Main Street – Republic



View of Republic from Forest Service Ranger Station

After I checked out of the motel, I visited the new “Stone Rose Eocene Fossil Interpretive Center” and found it had a fascinating collection of incredible fossils from an ancient site south of Republic that had been discovered a few years ago. Before leaving town, I drove up Knob Hill Road to the old Republic Gold Mine, once the largest gold mining operation in the state, but now abandoned, having shut down many years ago. From Republic I headed south through the Colville Indian Reservation on State Highway 21 to catch the Keller Ferry across Lake Roosevelt. It was a lovely drive under sunny skies through the San Poil River Canyon with 500-foot-high rocky cliffs on both sides of the river. Along the way, I made a short detour to Swan Lake Campground in the Colville National Forest where there were beautiful views of the lake and the forest surrounding it – no one else in sight!



Swan Lake – Colville National Forest



Colville Indian Reservation

At last, I came to the Keller Ferry landing, and after about 20 minutes I joined a few other vehicles as we boarded the ferry boat named “San Poil”. The 15-minute trip across Lake Roosevelt was very scenic and I spent much of the time outside on the deck taking photos with the wind in my face!



Keller Ferry landing



Crossing Lake Roosevelt



Keller Ferry "San Poil"

Once on the far shore, I continued on highway 21 to the small town of Wilbur, filled up with gas, and then turned onto highway 174 northwest to Coulee Dam. Unfortunately, the Visitor Center was closed due to the federal government shutdown! I took photos of the massive dam before driving south to Coulee City where I discovered the "Banks Lake" Sinclair Station, Café, and Espresso Bar for a large decaf Americano! Further south of Coulee City on highway 17 I came to "Dry Falls State Park" with incredible, amazing views of the remains of ancient waterfalls that once covered the area millions of years ago! The Visitor Center had many very interesting exhibits that told the fascinating geologic history and phenomenon that formed the Dry Falls we see today!



Grand Coulee Dam



Dry Falls State Park

As the afternoon sun was beginning to approach sunset, I found a very nice place to stay for the night in Moses Lake – the “Best Western Plus Lake View Inn” where I checked into a lovely room with a balcony overlooking the lake! Then I headed for the “Paradise Bar & Grill” in the hotel for a cold pint of “Manny’s Pale Ale” brewed in Seattle, and to check my phone for email and messages – nothing urgent. Back in my room, as the sun was setting, I enjoyed a cold can of Hamm’s beer, a classic old brand from Minnesota, while sitting on the balcony with a gorgeous view of the lake. (very relaxing after a long day of driving)



Moses Lake – View from Lake View Inn

Now it was time for dinner in the Paradise Bar & Grill, and my server highly recommended the “Chicken Cordon Bleu” with garlic mashed potatoes and fresh steamed broccoli! It was fabulous, but so huge that I could barely finish it. While I enjoyed dinner in the restaurant, I couldn’t help noticing so many of the men continuing to wear their caps and cowboy hats as they ate! (it still amazes me) After dinner, I retired to my room for the night, which was quiet and peaceful, until early in the morning when I became aware of a loud, “gurgling” sound coming from the fridge! After half an hour, I couldn’t stand it any longer, so moved the fridge out of the cabinet and unplugged it! Peaceful, quiet sleep returned.

The following morning, I woke up to heavy overcast skies and light rain – a big change overnight! The complimentary breakfast of scrambled eggs, country-fried potatoes, sausage and toast was a delicious way to start the day. Meanwhile, I watched a couple of guys fishing from a boat in front of the hotel as the light rain continued to fall. Leaving Moses Lake I drove south on highway 17 to the small town of Othello and then east on Hwy 26 to the village of Washtucna where I turned south on highway 261 on the way to Palouse Falls State Park. I passed mile after mile of gorgeous golden wheat fields that are so typical of the Palouse region in autumn.



Wheat fields of the Palouse region



Palouse Falls State Park

When I arrived at the state park, I was stunned by the incredible view of the 198-foot-high waterfall, the highest in the state! The weather was very windy and chilly (42 degrees), but well worth the visit! The Palouse Falls are a very unusual feature in the normally flat rolling hills of eastern Washington and would

likely be unknown to the majority of travelers driving through the region. But it's an amazing geological feature that should not be missed! (I lived in Washington state for almost 8 years and never knew about the falls)



Palouse Falls State Park

As I drove further east, I came to the junction of US Highway 12 that took me to a crossing of the Snake River at “Lyon’s Ferry State Park”. From the state park there was a clear view of a massive old steel railroad bridge high above the river and still in use today. As I walked around the park along the river, hundreds of Canadian Geese were resting on the river and feeding on the green grass on shore. Leaving Lyon’s Ferry, I drove east on US Highway 12 toward Lewiston, Idaho, and along the way I stopped at a gas station/food mart in the tiny town of Pomeroy. There was a sign on the front door saying the shop was closed but the gas pumps were working for credit cards only. The gas pump accepted my credit card; however, the pump wouldn’t work! Very frustrating so I left the town and continued on my way to Lewiston. Just then, I noticed the “low fuel” light came on shortly after leaving Pomeroy! A message on the dash screen indicated I had approximately 58 miles of fuel left, and when I checked my map, the next town, Clarkston, was 32 miles away. At that point I was wondering if I should trust the “expected” mileage, but I had no choice except to continue driving to Clarkston.

I passed miles of golden wheat fields and many tall grain elevators along an old, abandoned railroad. At one point the highway climbed steeply up to “Alpowa Summit” at an elevation of 2785 feet elevation and then suddenly became a very long steep descent to Clarkston on the Snake River across from Lewiston. I stopped at the first gas station I saw and then followed the signs for US Highway 12 through the center of Lewiston that became a very complicated route to the junction with US Highway 95 north. The highway north climbed steeply from the city to the top of the infamous “Lewiston Hill” where there were stunning views of Lewiston and the Snake River far below!



Scenic View of Lewiston, Idaho and the Snake River

From the “scenic Viewpoint” I could see the old highway that was known as the “Spiral Highway” because of the countless 10-15 mph hairpin curves! And it was still open for travel by any adventurous drivers. The drive north on US 95 to Coeur-de-Alene was through continuous rain that became heavy at times, which made the trip less than pleasurable. But the forest covered mountains were lovely, even in the rain. Fortunately, there were several sections of the highway that were 4-lane limited access which made the long drive a bit easier. As I entered Coeur-de-Alene I spotted the “Trails End Brewery” and decided to stop for a beer, and their “Dry Hop IPA” was very good! The bartender told me that whenever someone asked for the location of the brewery, he would tell them it was next door to “Adam and Eve” adult store! (one couldn’t miss with those directions!)



Trails End Brewery and the Adam & Eve adult store – Coeur-de-Alene, Idaho

Following the refreshment stop in Coeur-de-Alene, I continued north to Sandpoint and filled up with gas at the Exxon station. When I went to use the restroom, I noticed a sign on the wall above the toilet that read “to report the condition of this restroom, take a photo and send it to [844-747-3402]”! So why not just tell the clerk at the checkout counter? The wet weather continued to follow me all the way to Bonners Ferry, my destination for the night. Upon entering the town, I passed a large road sign one would have to be blind to miss seeing – “Welcome to Trump Country, Love God, Guns, Family, Freedom, and your Neighbor”.



Welcome to Bonners Ferry, Idaho

I discovered a wonderful place to stay on the shore of the Kootenai River – “Kootenai River Best Western Plus Inn”, a new resort and casino operated by the Kootenai tribe. I checked into a lovely king suite that was decorated with many articles of Kootenai cultural significance. After dropping off my bags in the room, I walked over to the restaurant and bar for a bottle of Canadian “Kokanee Beer” that I remembered from the time I lived in Vancouver, BC. It still tasted like a classic Canadian beer, but the bartender told me it was now brewed in St Louis! For dinner, the bartender recommended her favorite, grilled fresh King Salmon from British Columbia, served with rice and steamed vegetables – superb! The restaurant had a beautiful view of the Kootenai River as well. After dinner, I paid a visit to the casino next door – a very loud,

smoky environment where I watched a young couple as they poured several hundred dollars into a very complex slot machine. I was amazed when they made at least a couple of trips to the ATM to withdraw more cash! (they were still playing the machine when I left)

The next morning dawned cloudy but dry, so after a delicious breakfast of ham and eggs, along with very tasty whole wheat toast from a local bakery, I decided to walk around downtown Bonners Ferry. Although I didn't recognize anything from the time I had spent a summer working on the Kaniksu National Forest over 50 years ago, I enjoyed taking photos of the old, historical buildings. Unfortunately, the Boundary County Historical Museum was closed, but there were several very interesting exhibits outdoors. From downtown, I drove a short distance to the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge where thousands of Canadian Geese rest on their way south for the winter. Back in town, I searched for the old Great Northern Railroad passenger station where I had passed through in the winter of 1968 on the "Empire Builder" train, but the station no longer existed since the Great Northern was merged with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad.



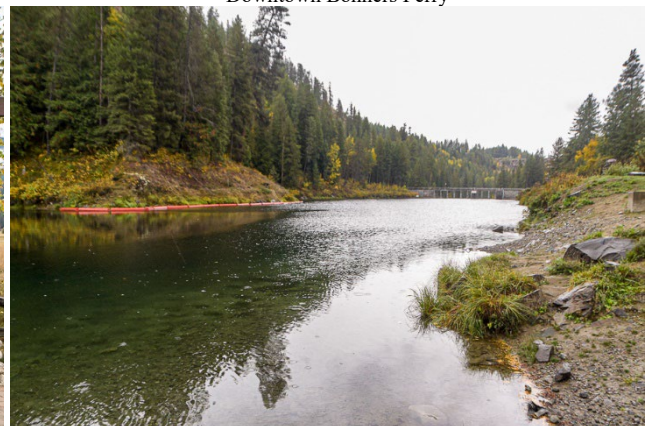
Kootenai River



Downtown Bonners Ferry



Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge



Moyie River

From downtown, I drove north to Moyie Falls where an old hydroelectric power plant continues to operate, and high above the river was an old steel arch highway bridge. As I hiked along the edge of the river, light rain began to fall, and the drive from Bonners Ferry to Sandpoint was not fun in the rain that became heavy at times! As I turned west onto US Highway 2 in Sandpoint the rain followed me all the way to the small town of Priest River, Idaho. When I reached the small town, surrounded by thick forest of Douglas Fir in the Kaniksu National Forest, I spotted the "Timber Town Brewery" downtown. So, I stopped for a pint of their "Fresh Cut IPA" and sat at a small table in the corner of the brewery overlooking Main Street. Meanwhile, a lively "cribbage tournament" was going on at a table near me where everyone seemed to know each other as if it were a regular event. (a lot of fun to watch) Before leaving the brewery, I explored the historic old building that housed the brewery and a couple of local craft shops where I discovered a fascinating exhibit about its history. Driving around the small town, it was obvious by the number of sawmills that it depended heavily on the logging and timber industry.



Timber Town Brewery – Priest River, Idaho

After enjoying the beer at Timber Town Brewery, I continued west on US 2 through Newport, WA on my way to Spokane, my destination for the night. At last, I came into downtown Spokane just as the rain turned into heavy drizzle. I checked into the DoubleTree Hotel overlooking the Spokane River, dropped off my bag in the hotel room, and made my way downstairs to “Spencer’s Bar” for a beer. Unfortunately, there was a very loud group in the bar, and combined with the price of the beer at \$15, I only stayed for one before heading out to find another much less expensive beer! A couple of blocks away was “Saranac Bar & Grill” that looked worth investigating, but as soon as I entered the crowded bar, I found it to be dominated by an extremely loud group, so I left immediately. Across the street was a small bar named “Zola’s”, and when I walked in, the first thing I noticed were the strangely dressed people sitting at the bar “painting pictures” – a bit too weird for me so I left. Nearby, “Chilis” was also way too loud with a large crowd watching the Seattle Mariners’ baseball game. Once again, I left and continued walking down the street until I came to the “Grand Davenport Hotel”, the oldest and most historic hotel in Spokane. Once I found the hotel entrance on the next street over, I followed the signs to the “Table 13 Bar and Restaurant”. I discovered it to be a lovely, quiet place with beautiful music in the background and no sound from the TV above the bar. In fact, I was the only customer in the bar! I felt bad for the young Hispanic bartender, so after a pint of “Firestone Union Jack IPA”, I asked him for his dinner recommendation. Right away he said the Vodka Pasta Fettucine with fresh Dungeness Crab was fabulous. It wasn’t cheap, but it was truly outstanding! All in all, the bar was the perfect place to relax from a long day of driving in the rain. After the delicious dinner, I walked back to the DoubleTree Hotel and enjoyed my complimentary chocolate chip cookies as I watched the evening news in my room. The weather the past two days had been “miserable” with constant rain, sometimes quite heavy, in addition to a “winter storm warning” issued by the National Weather Service with the snow level down below 4,000 feet elevation. (fortunately, I wasn’t planning to head to the mountains)

The next morning, I woke up to partly cloudy skies, no rain, very chilly weather (35 degrees) and gusty winds! After breakfast I took a long walk in Riverfront Park, the site of the “1974 World Expo” where I discovered the fascinating history of the fair that required the removal of an extensive railroad network downtown along the Spokane River, including the demolition of both historic railroad stations, the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific! The Great Northern Railroad clock tower was the only structure that was preserved, and it became a centerpiece of the World Expo! Fortunately, many of the 1974 World Expo buildings were preserved and remain the “essence” of Riverfront Park today, creating a gorgeous city park with lots of trails winding their way along the Spokane River. As I walked along the trails there were spectacular views of the Upper and Lower Spokane Falls, as well as the historic Washington Water Power Plant that continues to generate electricity. Riverfront Park is truly a “gem” in the city of Spokane, and a site not to be missed on a visit to the city!



Riverfront Park



Lower Spokane Falls



Spokane River

I checked out of the hotel and then drove west on US 2 to Davenport, and from there to “Porcupine Bay State Park” on the shore of Lake Roosevelt. Besides the lovely view of the lake and surrounding mountains, I noticed that several hundred Canadian Geese had taken up residence in the park which necessitated taking care to avoid stepping on the numerous goose “droppings” as I walked around! From Porcupine Bay, I drove to “Fort Spokane National Historic Site” and walked around among the remaining old buildings under sunny skies, but very windy weather. Unfortunately, the Visitor Center was closed due to the federal government shutdown. But I was able to take a lot of photos and there were plenty of interpretative signs around the site that provided a wealth of information about the history of the fort that was established in 1880 to protect the new settlements and the Spokane Indian Reservation.



Fort Spokane National Historic Site

Leaving Fort Spokane, I headed back to Spokane International Airport to return the rental car and check in for the Delta Airlines flight to Seattle. On a side note, as I was returning the rental car, the Budget agent asked about my experience with the car. My response was that the car was so low to the ground “tumbleweeds” often got stuck underneath without my knowledge! Who knows how far I drove sometimes with a large tumbleweed stuck under the car? Later, I saw that I had driven over 1100 miles! I spent the time waiting for the departure of the flight enjoying a “Hop Valley IPA” at the “Fir and Pine Gastropub” near the gate. As I sat at the bar, I noticed an old poster on the wall of a large wagon filled with cases of beer and a large sign that read “BEER, we have it – call Henderson 8030”. When I asked the barmaid, she had no idea about the poster. So, I got out my phone, went online to Google, and found out it referred to the day when prohibition was repealed. Henderson 8030 was the phone number to call in Cleveland, Ohio for beer and not the brand name of the beer!



Fir and Pine Gastropub – Spokane Airport



End of Prohibition

Then, the man seated next to me suddenly asked me to watch his bag while he went to the restroom – no problem. When he came back, he told me that he collected “vintage beer cans”! (apparently his bag was filled with them) The flight to Seattle departed on time and was very smooth, as opposed to the previous flight from Seattle to Spokane. Upon arriving at SeaTac airport, I spent an hour in the wonderful Delta Skyclub before the departure of the flight to Ontario, which gave me the opportunity to savor another bowl of fabulous Ivar’s clam chowder!

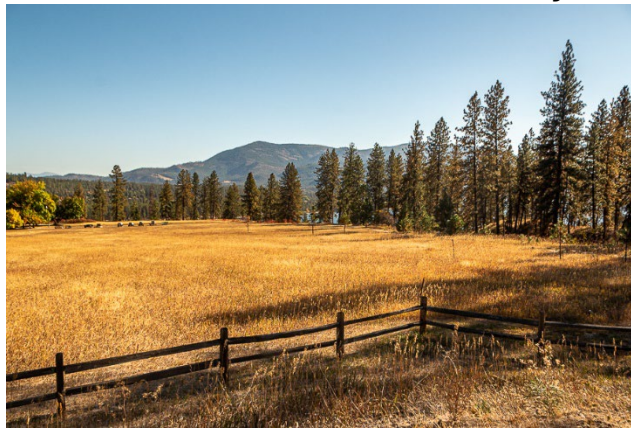


Delta SkyClub – SeaTac Airport

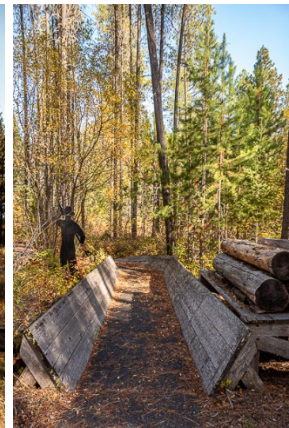
As I boarded the Ontario flight, I enjoyed a Gin Tonic before takeoff that was followed by a delicious “charcuterie plate” for lunch once we were airborne. I find it unusual to be served such a dish on a domestic flight, but very enjoyable! The flight in first class was very comfortable, and the in-flight service was excellent. Late in the evening at 11:30pm we landed at Ontario airport, and after I picked up my bag, I called “Prime Time Shuttle”. And within just a few minutes I was on my way home – excellent service!

As I look back on the trip, although it was short, just 5 days, it had taken me back to places where I had lived but not seen in more than 50 years! The trip was something I had thought about doing for many years but had put off for many reasons. However, my experience on this journey was both very enjoyable and a bit sad. Even though I knew that I probably wouldn’t find things as I remembered, there were just enough things I saw that did bring back fond memories, and for that reason, I counted the trip a success! I also “confirmed” that these places in my life still exist, and although I remember them, they don’t remember me! And I’m OK with that.

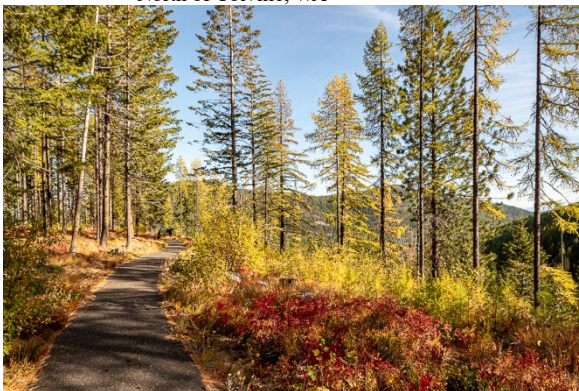
Photo Gallery



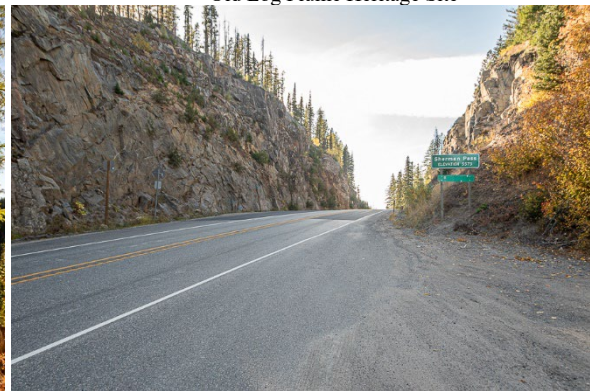
North of Colville, WA



Old Log Flume Heritage Site



Fall Colors – Colville National Forest



Sherman Pass (elevation 5574 ft)



Curlew Lake State Park





"Street Art" – Republic



Swan Lake Campground



Trail to Swan Lake



San Poil River – Colville Indian Reservation



Columbia River and Kettle River Mountains



Banks Lake near Coulee City, WA



Palouse Region of eastern Washington



“Grand Coulee”



Dry Falls State Park



Dry Falls State Park



San Poil River Canyon – Colville Indian Reservation



Lake View Inn – Moses Lake



Palouse Wheat Fields



Walla Walla County, Washington



Lyons's Ferry



Crossing the Snake River



Snake River



Garfield County Courthouse – Pomeroy, WA



Lewiston Hill Scenic View



Trails End Brewery – Coeur-de-Alene



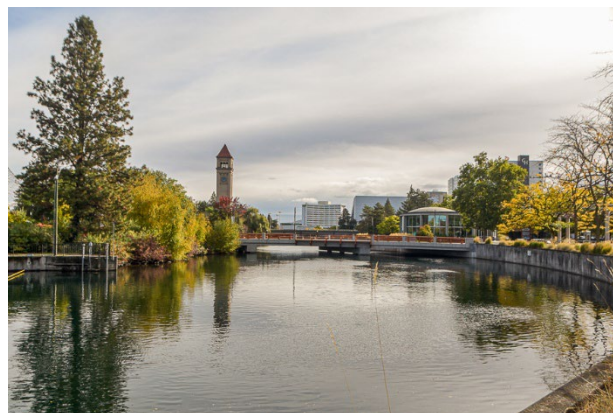
Kootenai River – Bonners Ferry, Idaho



DoubleTree Hotel & Convention Center – Spokane



Upper Spokane Falls



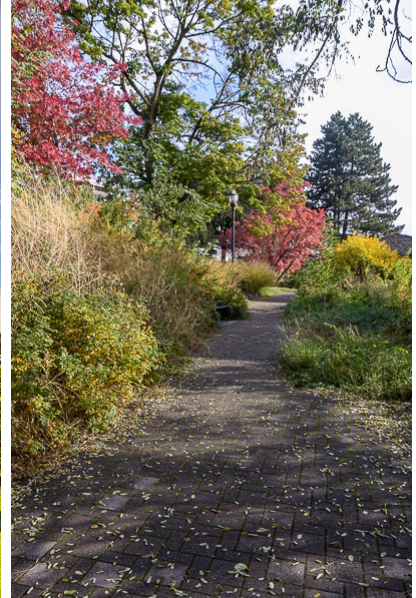
Riverfront Park – Spokane



1974 World's Expo



Great Northern Clock Tower



Riverfront Park



Fort Spokane National Historic Site



Eastern Washington Farm