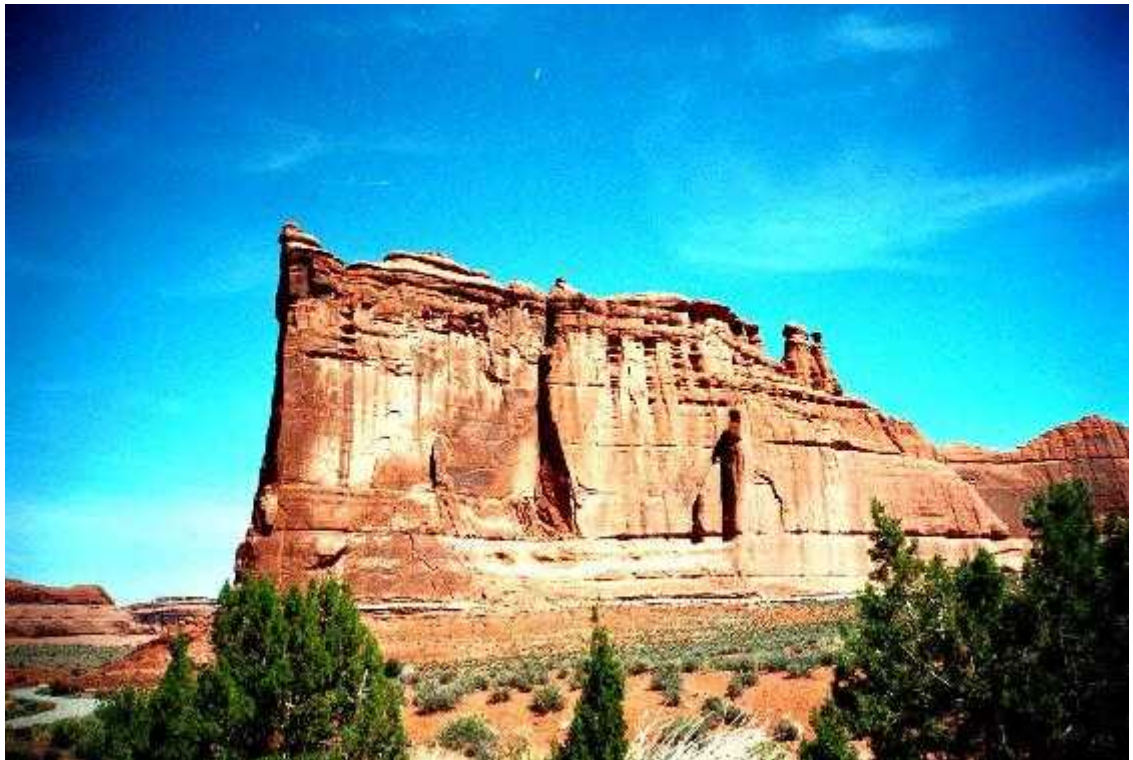


MEMOIR 1990 TRIP

PART-1

(1001 1050)

From Los Angeles to Grand Teton National Park
From June 7th to June 30th



Courthouse Canyonlands National Park, Utah

To begin with

In 1989, I had an about three week trip round the southern California and Baja California. It was a trial trip to know, how to what to and where to.

The trips which I intended were different from the trip in 1989. It was a motel to motel and a café to café, but this was a driving, camping, cooking trip. All were done for myself alone.



On 1989 summer trip, I visited a few national parks. I was deeply impressed with their idea and management for the parks. Then, I determined to go round almost all national parks in the western states and provinces in the US and Canada.

National Park in the US.

Il feel there is a definite conception which has been made for a long time to manage national parks among Americans and the US government. Sorry to say, there might be a definition of national park, but it s difficult to find any in Japan.

There seem to be some ideas in the conception:

- (1) preservation of nature, natural landscapes, historicals
- (2) present and coming generations can enjoy equally
- (3) Education about nature and history.

(1002)

There are few private lands and houses in the national park area. There can't be found any commercialism like in Japan.

The actual management is made by rangers who are well educated and trained. They wear uniforms neatly and look like armies or police; they are supposed to do police activities.



In emergency, they are permitted to use firearms, and have a prison in the park. They don't belong to the state police. They are independent and belong to federal officers.

Rangers also work as teachers. They have a series of education programs about park's history, geography, wildlife, etc for visitors particularly for the young such as elementary or middle school students.

The visitor information center of the national park is operated by rangers systematically under the control of National Park Service, US department of the Interior.

Regardless of sex, man or woman, ranger is all smart, kind, and look reliable. Woman rangers look quite attractive.

(1003)

The lectures by rangers are held at the amphitheater in the campground of the park, and interpretive day tours start there. However few participants were (if there were one at least), the program would be held. I have once a three hour tour with a ranger man to man in the Sierra-Nevada Mountains. We became friends soon.

I firmly made up my mind to make my own trip in the north American continent in my second life. I was convinced by summarizing the 1989 summer trip that the National Park in America and Canada were the essences of the Nature which I wanted to see.



My trip would be planed, park to park and camp to camp base. More than half of National Parks in western states and provinces in America and Canada would be my targets.

After returning from Baja California, I bought a few books about national park at the book store near my son s. They gave me a strong impression. They were:

- (1) Mountain World.....by Natio. Geo. Soci.
- (2) Great Rivers.....by Natio. Geo. Soci.
- (3) Glaciers..... by Natio. Geo. Soci.
- (4) The Rockies.....by Natio. Geo. Soci .
- (5) National Parks of North America.....by Natio. Geo. Soci.
- (6) National Parks of the west.....by Sunset Books

etc.
(Natio. Geo. Soci.; National Geographic Society)

I found the impressive articles in the book “National Parks of the West”.. The title of the article was:

NATIONAL PARK IDEA

I wanted to memorize it deeply in my mind. And I wanted it to be kept in my MEMOIR.

John Muir, naturalist, conservationist, and spokesman for the national parks wrote,

“THOUSANDS OF TIRED, NERVE SHAKEN, OVER CIVILIZED PEOPLE are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wilderness is a necessity; and that mountain



parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigation rivers, but as fountains of life”.

When Muir expressed these sentiments; it was 1898. There were only four national parks in existence----and

three of them were in California---and they could be reached only by an endless stage ride over backbreaking roads.

The seed of the national park idea was planted more than a century ago in California, where commercial exploitation of Yosemite Valley and senseless cutting of giant sequoias had aroused great public concern.

(1005)

Public opinion moved the congress to preserve the beautiful valley and a grove of the irreplaceable trees, both of which were on federal property.

A law was passed in 1864 and signed by President Lincoln and during the heat of the CIVIL WAR, Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees were granted to be in the State of California.

This was the first time that the public land was provided entirely for the purpose of the preservation of sceneries in the world, and it is said the first true national park was established in Yellowstone several years later.

President Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir only two, (great Conservationists) went to Yosemite Valley and camped for five days in 1903. After this meeting, president Roosevelt determined to expand federal protection of the nation s scenic, historic and natural heritages.

He made the most incomparable national park system in the world.



John Muir as well as President Roosevelt was truly great
NATURALIST. (1006)

I wanted to take photographs of wild flowers in remembrance of the places wherever I visited. Why I chose wild flowers, I m not sure.

I bought an Alpha 7000 or Minolta-make at Broadway, in the downtown of Los Angeles. The camera was called MUXUM. As the new model7700 started on sale, I had a good buy. (I bought an old model for about 300 dollars.)

I could get various things such as tour books, camp books maps etc were all available for free at AAA branch office.

The hotel to hotel driving trip needed few personal effects, but tent to tent and self-cooking trip needed a lot of indispensable goods, such as ;

a tent (a little roomy for two person)

a sleeping bag

an air mattress and air pump

a ground cloth

a trekking boots and sneakers

a deck chair and collapsible table

a hammer, an ax, a scoop, a pair of pincers, a pair of pliers,

a kitchen knife and a cutting board

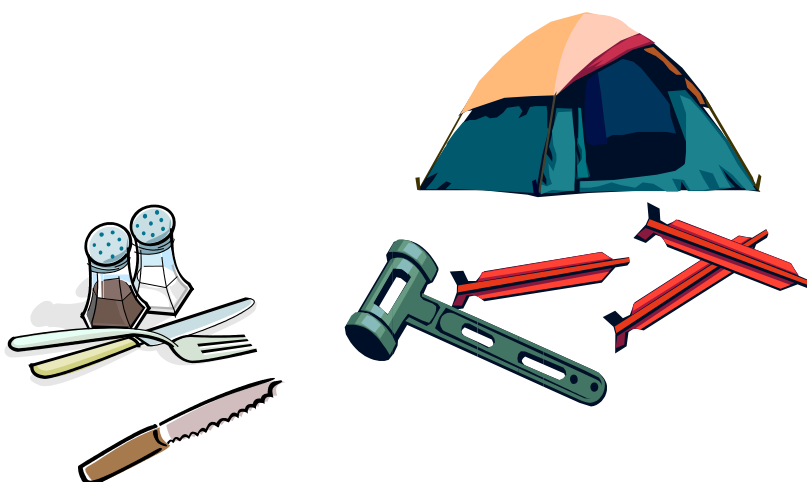
a cooking burner, a high pressure bottle of propane

a kettle a frying pan, a water bucket, utensils

a lantern, a flashlight

a cold box for food and a cold box for a lot of roll films

a series of paperbacks



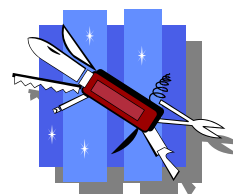
(1007)

I had a headache about food. It became terribly hot in the car. The cold boxes kept cool by one day and a half at the longest. They were indispensable for butter, cheese, meats etc to keep eatable. Each foodstuff was quite little, but there were a great many kinds of foods. I bought a lot of cup noodles and cup lamina for emergency.

I bought two bottles of bourbon whisky, Jack Daniels and Kentucky Wild Turkey and a dozen of canned beer.

I carelessly forgot to buy WATER to drink and to .cook, five vessels of one gallon of water and five bottles of one litter drinking water. They needed much space. There were full of things in the car, no room was left except driver s seat.

Since I wanted to have the simplest and the most primitive trip, I tried to cut off all things which were not always necessary for the trip.



But I found it difficult in case of long term trip such as three month driving, camping and self-cooking trip, in the far out of the way districts.

Then I thought of everything, as much as I could and I decided to start on June 7th, 1990.

(1008)

June 7th (Thursday) 1990

The first destination was Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Lake Mead showed up as the result of the construction of Hoover Dam, which was 726 feet (220m) high, one of the highest dams in the world. Lake Mead N.R.A. is made of two big



Hoover Dam (220m high)

man-made lakes, Lake Mead and Lake Mojave. Both lakes were made by two dams, Hoover Dam and Davis Dam along the Colorado River.

Lake Mojave extends 120km south from Hoover Dam to Davis Dam. I hear or read that the total length of the lake coast line is as long as that of Pacific and Atlantic coast lines of the US.

The memorable first day of the 1990 trip, I had two happenings, the one happened on the freeway (Interstate ten). I had to change my way from I-10 to I-15, I missed the on-ramp sign in spite of my minute attention. I drove for several minutes and I found I was on the wrong way. I drove off from I-10 east and took I-10 .west.. I thought that I had just lost thirty minutes or so, but I couldn't find the sign I-15 east. I was deeply depressed. I should have learned more about the connection structure between two interstate freeways.

(1009)

cThe second happening was the over heat of the car engine. I dropped in at AAA office at Las Vegas downtown, and I got some information about the Hoover Dam, Davis Dam and the campground in Lake Mead NRA. As I wasn't interested in Casino and gambling at all, I left the city for the Hoover Dam by way of US93 going south-east to Phoenix, Capital of Arizona State. It was a pretty busy highway.

After passing Boulder City, US93 runs down a steep hill to Hoover Dam and cross Lake Mead on the Dam. (See the Photograph in the preceding page). The road around there was very narrow and restricted to one lane and under construction. A long line of cars along the road moved inch by inch. It took nearly one hour to get Dam site.

Out of the car, I'm not sure, but it was more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit, the cooler was continuously on, the engine was idling with a little boosted for a long time. It was very hard condition for 1800 cc small power engine.

My car was unexpectedly spurted out the white steam from the radiator, the oil indicator scaled out. My situation was miserable in public. I fell in a bad mood. I was in the mood of going on a trip no more.



I gave up visiting Davis Dam 120km south of Hoover Dam, and changed lane to Las Vegas so as to get to the campground as early as possible.

(1010)

I got to Boulder Beach Campground which was situated a few miles northeast of Hoover Dam, on the hillside beside the west shore of the Lake Mead.

As Lake Mead is in the Mojave Desert, there rarely grow big plants but small low shrubs. There were about 150 campsites on the gently sloped hillside.

There was no attendant or anything. At the entrance of the campground there were a big signboard and a registration box.. An instruction how to register campsite was posted on the board. It was the first experience for me to camp in the campground under the control of National Park Service of USA

Self-registration of camp site

Everything was new for me. The trip in 1990 was quite different from the trip in 1989. I was bewildered for a while in front of the signboard at the entrance. I read the instruction carefully over and over again and I did faithfully as it said.

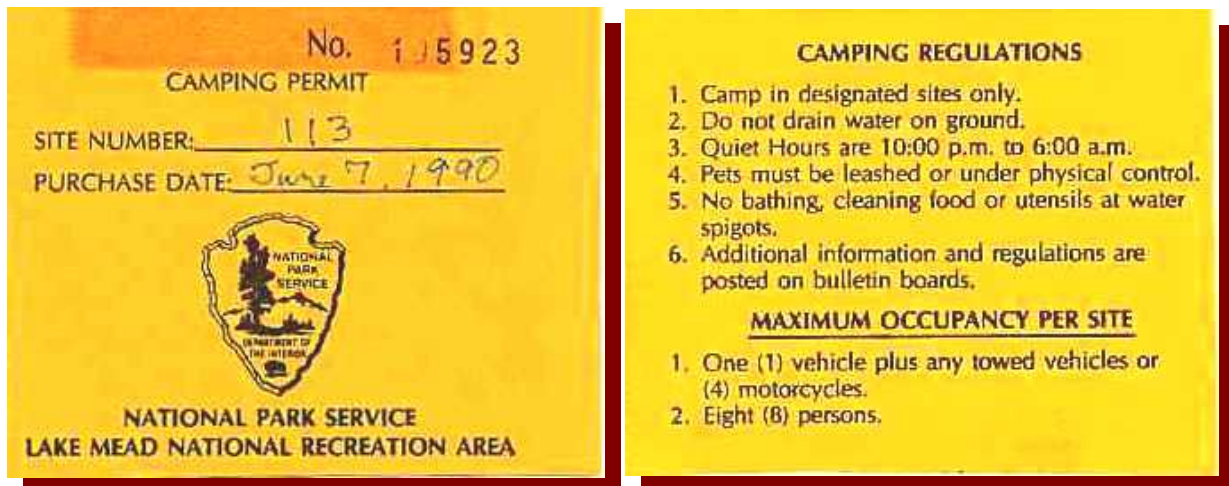
The order of self-registration of camp site is as follows:

- (1) Pick up registration envelope with tag from fittings
- (2) Drive round the campground, and look for a site, you like.
- (3) If you decide the site, write the site number, your name, age, car number, days of stay, etc on the envelope and attached tag.
- (4) Tear the tag from envelope and clip it on the pole in front of the site.
- (5) Return to the entrance gate, enclose the fee in the envelope and put it into the fitted strong box with a lock.
- (6) The site was registered.

The procedure of self-registration is a little different. subject to the office who manages the campground, Federal, State, etc.

Late evening or early night, a ranger comes to the campground to check the site. If someone is not yet registered, the registration procedure is asked.

As I put the envelope into the fitted box at the gate, it s not in my hand; I have only the tag that I used.



This camping permit tag had been clipped on the pole in front of my campsite, on my memorable first camp.

There was nothing to interrupt my view from my site. Though the lands around the lake were rugged and arid, the landscape was quite impressive by the wonderful contrast with the beautiful blue lake.

Few occupied sites were seen but on the shore of the lake about twenty people were seen swimming and water skiing. I wanted to swim and I looked for my swimming wear in my disorderly piled car. I couldn t find it anywhere; though I was sure I put it in my suitcase. I gave up swimming.

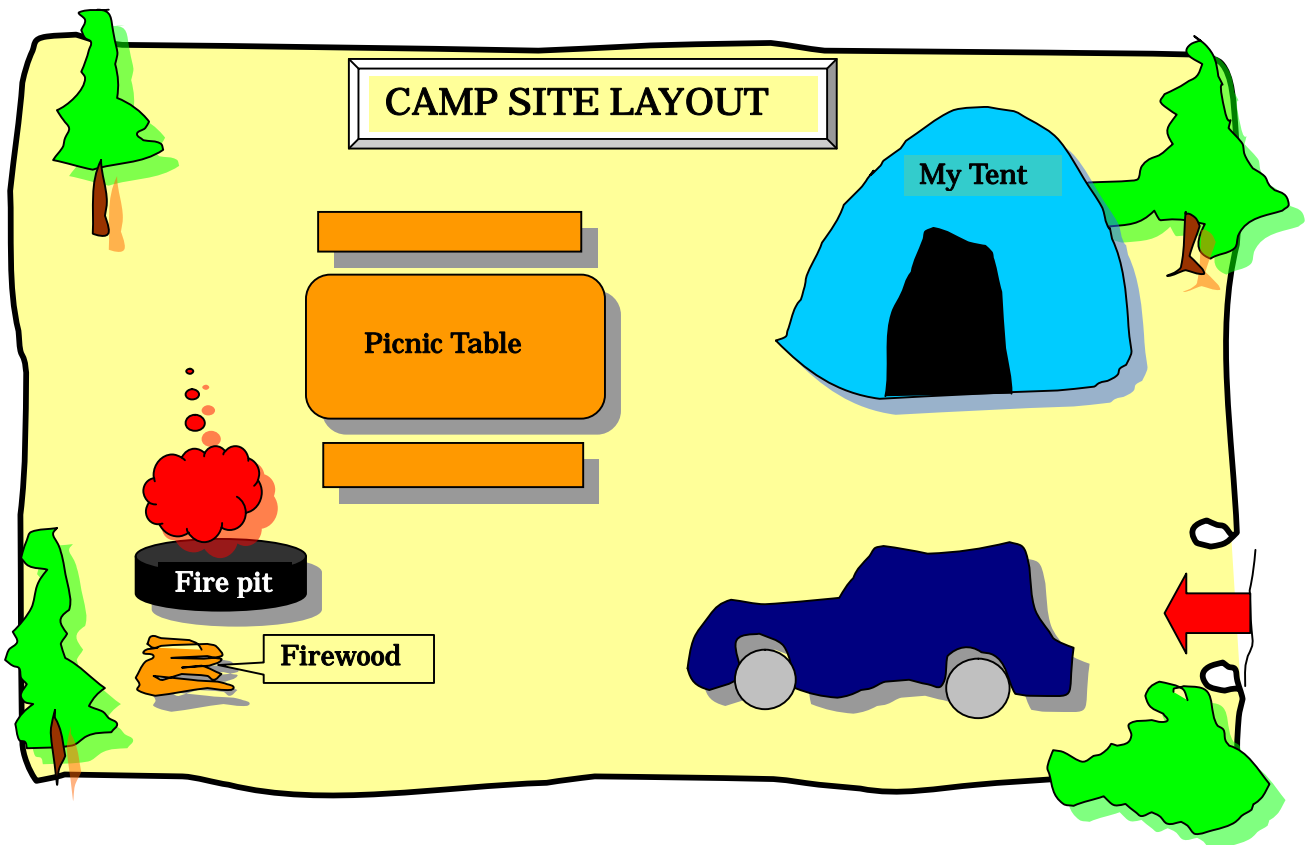
I saw an old white-haired woman sitting on the wheel chair under a colorful beach parasol by the lake shore.

I said hello to her, she put her glasses and the book down, and smiled. We talked for a while. Her eighteen year old grandson took her there every late afternoon. There was a full sized wagon there.

(1012)

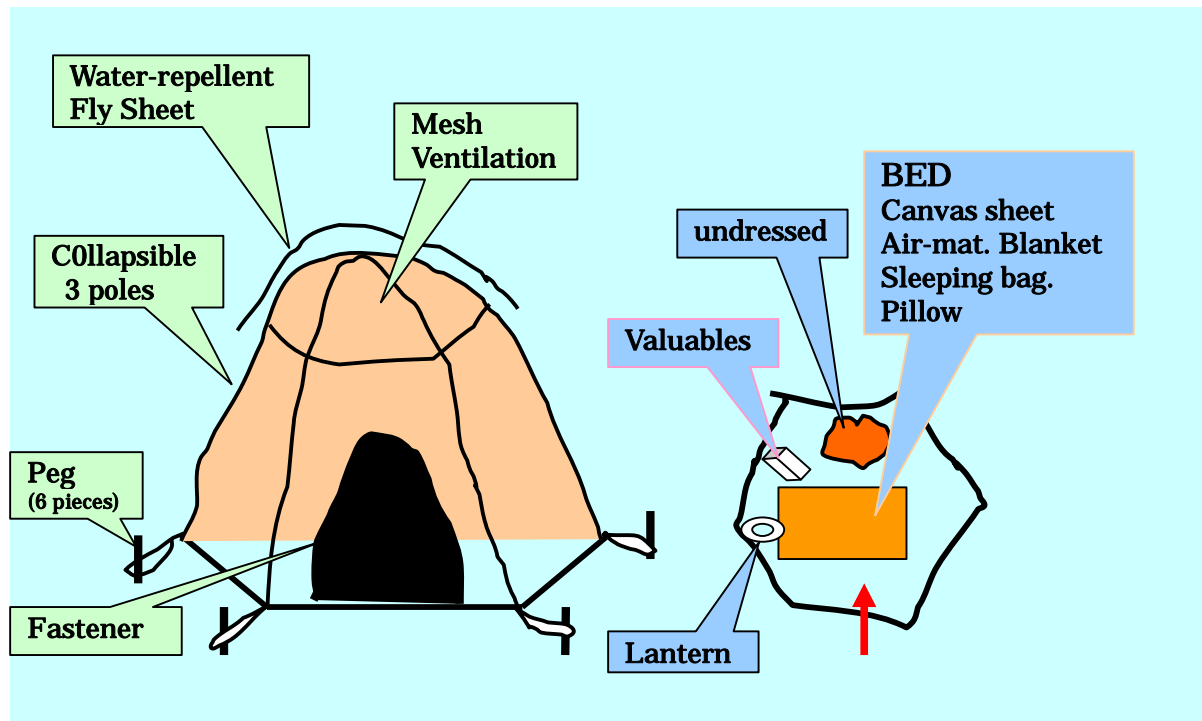
She said it was the best comfort for her to read the Bible there. She and her family lived in Houston, Texas, and a daughter of hers lived in Boulder City, close to the campsite. She said that place was her summer resort. Every summer she was with her daughter s family.

She must have known that I was a very poor English speaker, and then she spoke to me very slowly and clearly. After about a quarter hour, her grandson came back to her and took her to his home.



Dome tent is very easy to pitch.

It s like a balloon made of water repellent thin canvas. The base sheet is a hexagon. Dome shaped ceiling part is supported by three collapsible poles. The tent is set on the ground by six pegs.



No flies, worms nor small wild animals such as a snakes can break into the inside. Upper part of the tent is made of mesh for ventilation, and a fly sheet covers the mesh to prevent against rainfall.

Sitting in the tent makes me easy and relaxing as if I were in my home bed room. I don t feel terror or loneliness at all however far from the human community it is located. If we lie on our back, we can see a full of stars glittering in the dark sky.

As Lake Mead National Recreation Area Lies in the middle of the Mojave Desert, we can t get firewood. In almost all national parks in the United States, firewood gathering is strictly prohibited in order to preserve natural ecology. Firewood is sold at the groceries near the entrance of the national park.

I imagined before that I was taking a good supper alone beside the camp fire. It was a pity of me that I couldn t have supper at my first camp with campfire.

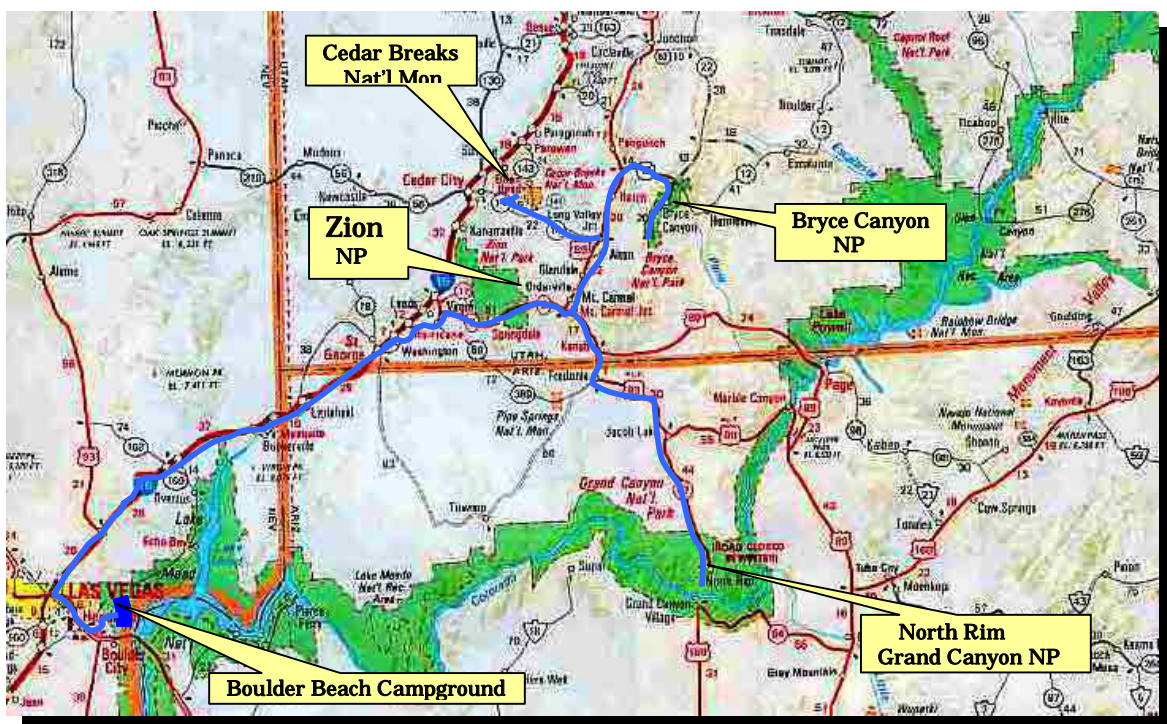
Anyway I had experienced many things on the starting day of the1990 summer trip.



(1015)

June 8th (Friday)

I intended to go up about 80kms along the west lake -front of Lake Mead. I was to get interstate I-15 at a small village Glendale. But after a few minute drive from campground, at the first junction of SR167 and SR147, I took a wrong road SR147. From the start, I made a careless mistake as the same failure as I did on the first day. Moreover I mistook on ramp to I-15 for off ramp to Main street of Las Vegas. I wasted much time near interchange I-15 and I-515.

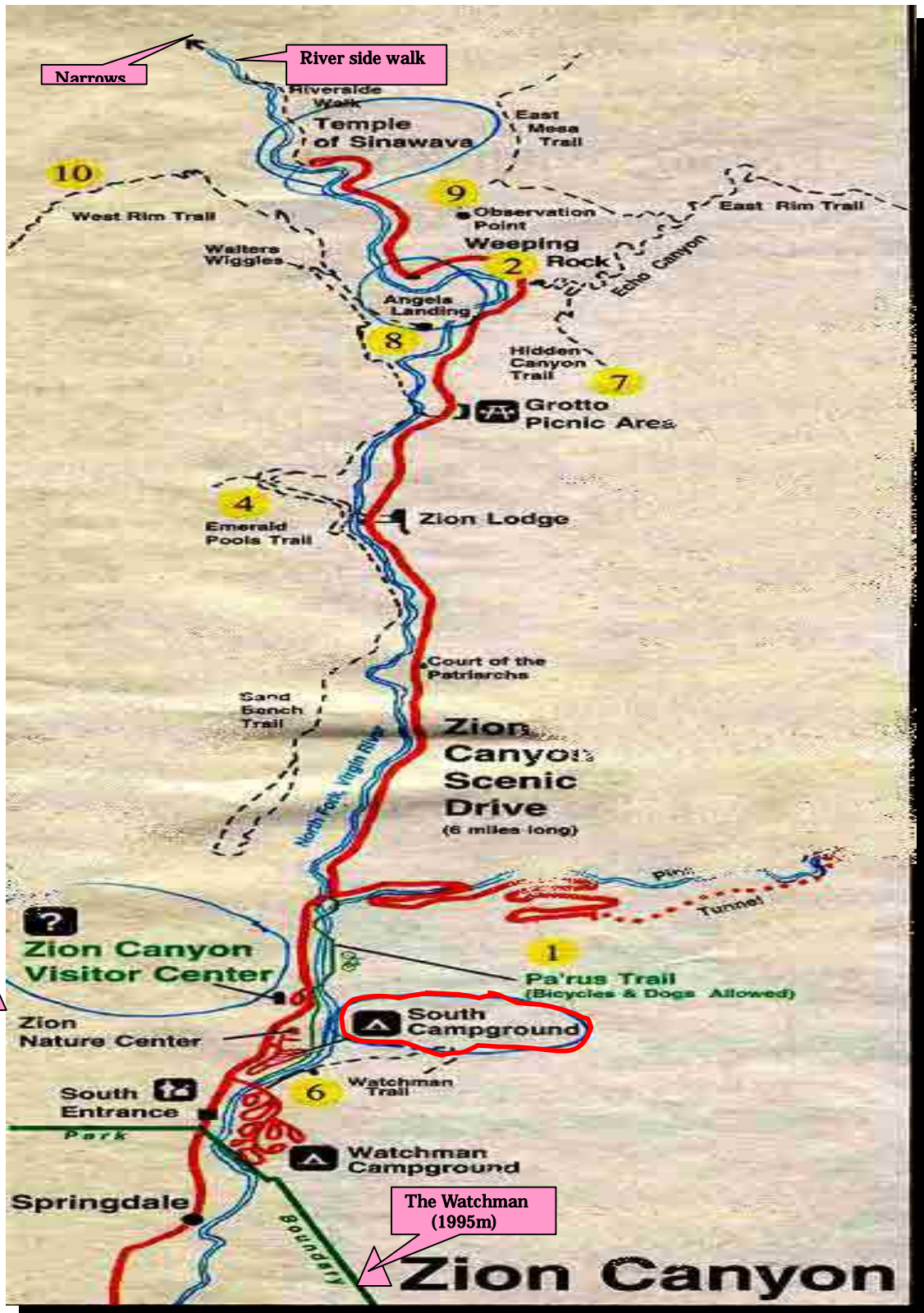


By the way, I drove along the strip, Las Vegas boulevard where casinos and hotels stood in a row. I saw the Circus-Circus Hotel that reminded me of the visit about 40 years ago. I got I-15 north at the interchange of the Mc Carran International Airport.

I got to the entrance gate of the Zion National Park in Utah at 15 pm. As I was going to visit more than 30 national parks, national monuments, national recreation areas, I got a Golden Eagle Passport valid in 1990 for 25 dollars at the gate.

(1016)

Southwest area of Utah is called "Color Country". My first impression of Zion National Park was "red brown".



(1017)

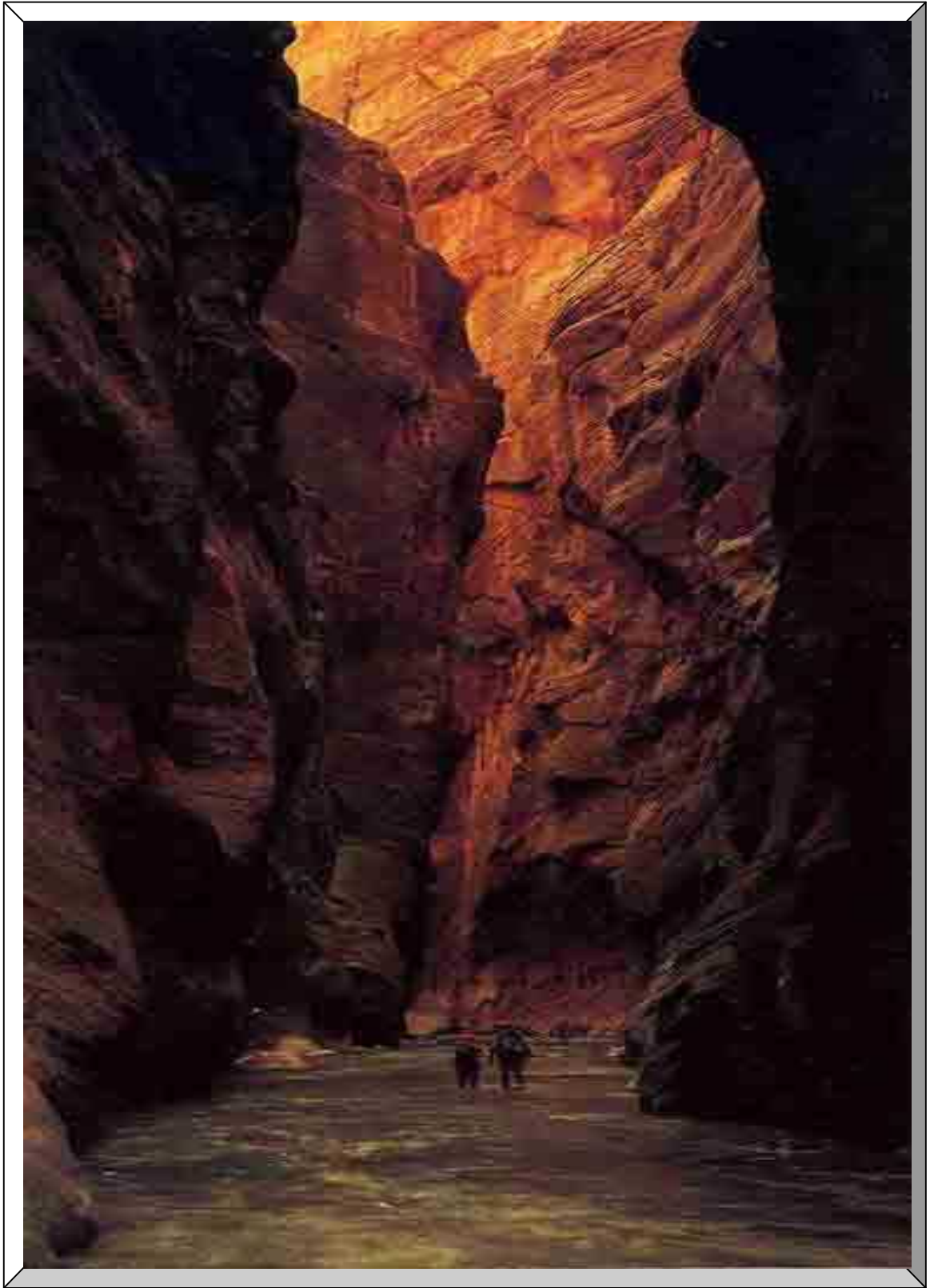
The red brown road from the entrance to the Temple of Sinawava is a Zion Canyon Scenic Drive: Short drive along the Virgin River canyon floor (12kms).

The gigantic stone masses of the West Temple (2380m) close to the west of visitor center and the red brown Watchman (1995m) to the visitor center make strangely colored spectacular gorge curved by the Virgin River.



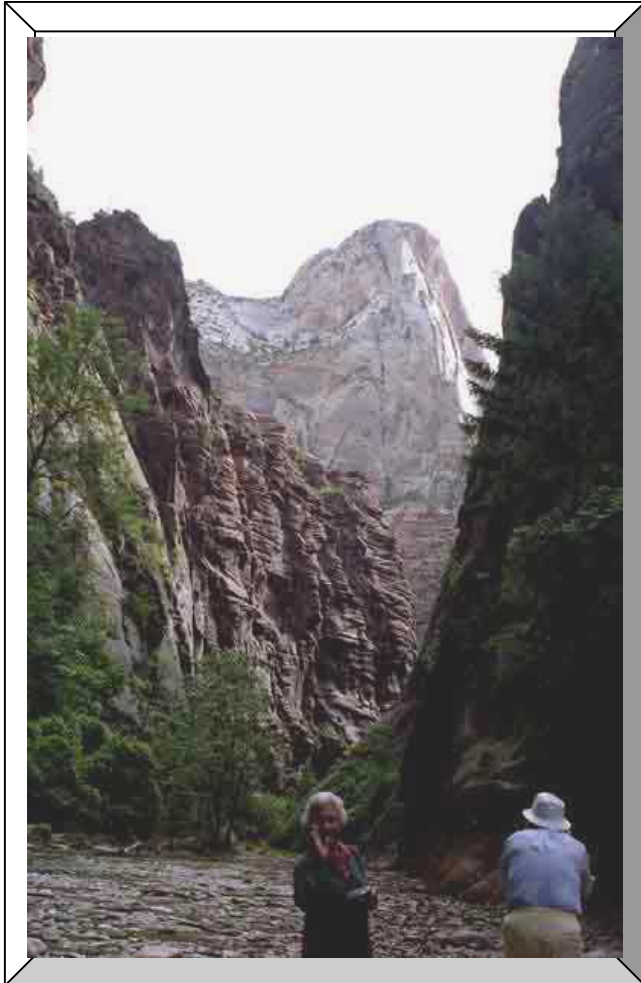
**The Organ (1554m) on the left bank of the Virgin River
(Beyond the parking lot, there s a deep cliff of the canyon)**

The end of the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive is Sinawava, Gateway to the Narrows Trail. At the entrance, the Virgin River Canyon is half mile deep and half mile wide. At the Temple of Sinawava,(at Narrows trail head) the canyon floor is about 300 feet. The Narrows breath-taking sceneries are on the next page.



Narrows(along the Virgin River floor, at one point more than 1000feet deep and 20 feet wide) Big warning sign says "Inquire about potential flood before starting"

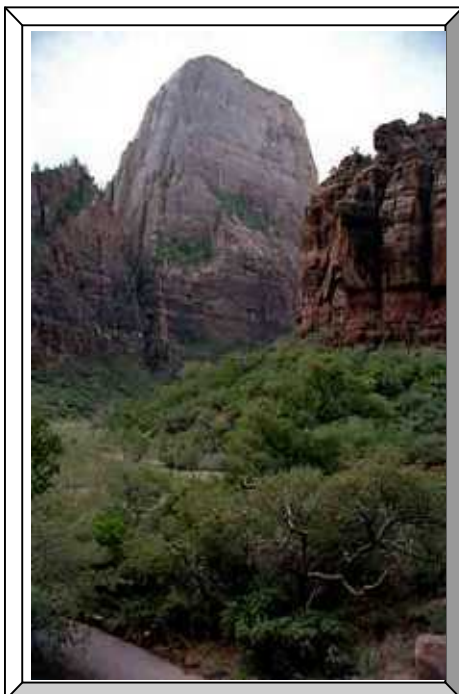
The photograph is the starting point of Narrows and also the trail end of the popular scenic one mile riverside walk which starts from Temple of Sinawava.



The canyon was almost rectangular with sheer cliffs, and the river floor was flat and clean.. Pebbles, boulders, driftwoods were not seen. After the rainfall, terrible torrent washed out everything curving the canyon wall and floor.

The warning sign board stood at the entrance of Narrows,

Never fail to
inquire about potential
flood danger before starting
out at the Zion Canyon
Visitor Center.



Great White Throne (2056m).
This towering monolith gradually changes shade from white at the top to red near the bottom.
Opposite the Great White Throne is a smaller monolith, Angels Landing (1765m).

(1019 a)

Having a short walk along the deep canyon floor of Narrows, I hurried back to the campground so as to make sure of my campsite. There are two campgrounds between the south entrance and Zion Canyon Visitor Center, one is South Campground, 141 sites 3/4 mile north from the South Entrance on SR9 the other is Watchman Campground 228 sites 1/2



mile north of SR9, camping fee is 6 dollars a night.

Individual campsites are available on a first come, first served basis, and self-register at the campground.

I registered a campsite in the South Campground for two nights (July 8 and 9).

South campground is located along the right bank of the Virgin River and close to the Zion Canyon Visitor Center.

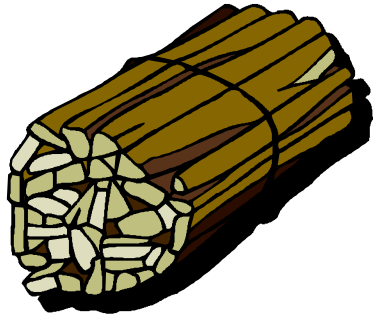
Each site is in the thick forest. The bank edge makes sharp deep cliff curved by the Virgin River. The layout of the campsites are of ring shape. I drove round the ring road slowly over and over again looking for a good site.

Every site looked pretty, there was no fault could be found in every site. I knew that I didn't have any standard to select my site. I made it as I like.

I carelessly forgot the important thing to bring firewood into the park from the super market out of the park.

(1020)

In almost all national parks, gathering fire woods is strictly prohibited even if it s a dead tree.



June 9th (Saturday)

Awfully windy all night, it was like a storm, nevertheless I had a good sleep and a good dream

It was at five early in the morning when I got up. As the campground was on the narrow canyon floor and covered with thick forest, and rain cloud covered on the park, It was very dark.

After taking a simple continental breakfast, I went to the visitor center. Naturally it wasn t opened yet. No visitors were there but several mule deer were wandering about for their favorite greens. The West Temple (2380m) to the west and the Watchman (1995m) to the east were seen dark gray instead redrown.

I wanted to visit the Narrows of the Virgin River Canyon again. I headed my car for Temple of Shinawava, trail head parking lot. The day before I took a walk on the two mile riverside trail from there to Narrows in the clear sceneries, but on that day, the trail was meandering in the thick dark fog. I can t help remembering the warning sign board **Attention for a flush flood**. I vividly imagined a spectacle with fears; on the Narrows Canyon floor is usually very little water, but once a heavy rain or a shower falls, a fierce flush flood dashed down through the narrow Narrows in torrents. Of course, I gave up walking up along the Narrows.

(1021)

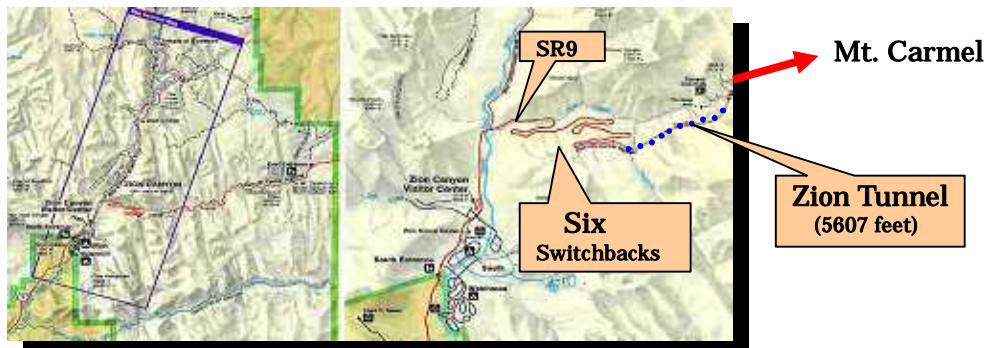
Columbine: State Flower of Utah.

I was walking along the riverside trail of the Virgin River, when I found a lot of wild columbines with red, violet, yellow, purple petals blooming everywhere on the trail side.

As I thought firmly that columbine (odamaki) was native to Japan, it was a great surprise for me.

Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway (SR9)

From the west entrance, SR9 climbs the steep slope of Pine Creek Canyon in six switchbacks, enters 5.607 foot Zion Tunnel and continues to ascend on a 5 percent grade. AAA Tour Book says that the construction of this road is considered remarkable engineering feat.



This tunnel has many big windows (3m high 2m wide) on the wall Pine Creek side drop-off. From these windows we can enjoy the breathtaking grand view of drop-off of the Pine Creek and the magnificent view of the East Temple (2359m).

Divine Help of Golden Eagle Card:

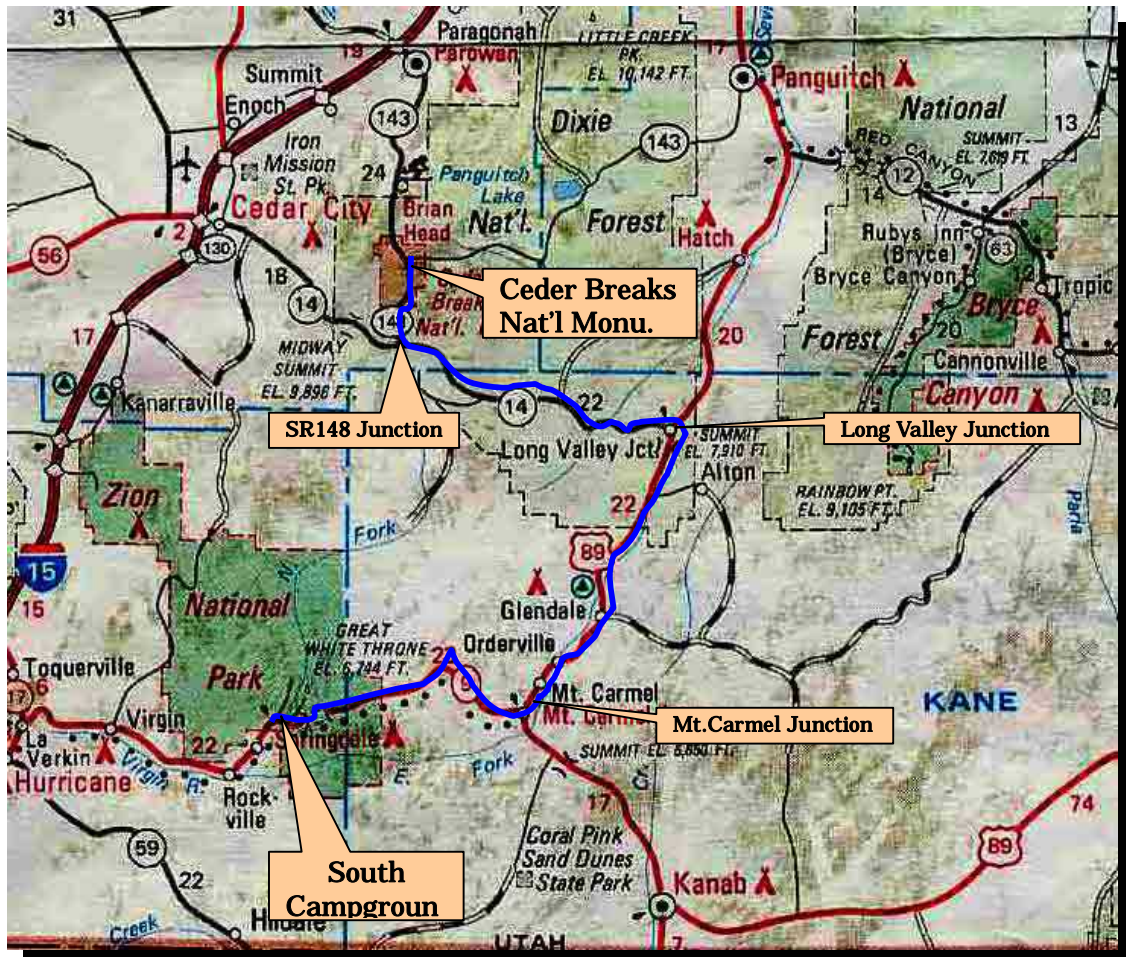


Showing this card, every entrance gate of all national parks, national monuments and national recreation areas is always free until the last day of the year from the day we get the card.

(1022)

June 10th (Sunday)

I left the South Campground for Cedar Breaks National Monument through the Zion Mt Carmel highway via south east entrance of the park and Carmel junction.



SR14, from Long Valley Junction to SR148 junction (22 miles) wandered through the meadows. I thought that it might have been a typical scenery of American rural life.

Cedar Breaks was a small National Monument, it was an enormous 3-mile-wide limestone amphitheater eroded to a depth of nearly 2500 feet. American Indians called Cedar Breaks the “Circle of Painted Cliff”, They mistook the Junipers at the base of the rock layers for cedars.

From the small visitor center at the entrance of Cedar Breaks National Monument, in about half an hour, we can climb up to the circular rim. All of a sudden, grand view of amphitheater s 10.000foot rim shows up. Below the rim there are rugged walls, spires, columns and arches tinted shades of red, yellow and purple.

A narrow muddy trail was found around the rim. I could see columbines grew in colonies everywhere on the trail side.

SR148, road to Cedar Breaks extends through the site from south entrance to north entrance.



The road runs in the resplendent meadows, gentle slopes and intermittent birch woods. A park ranger told me proudly “in the resplendent wildflower gardens, never miss them.” I had a good time in the meadows.



From Zion to BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK.

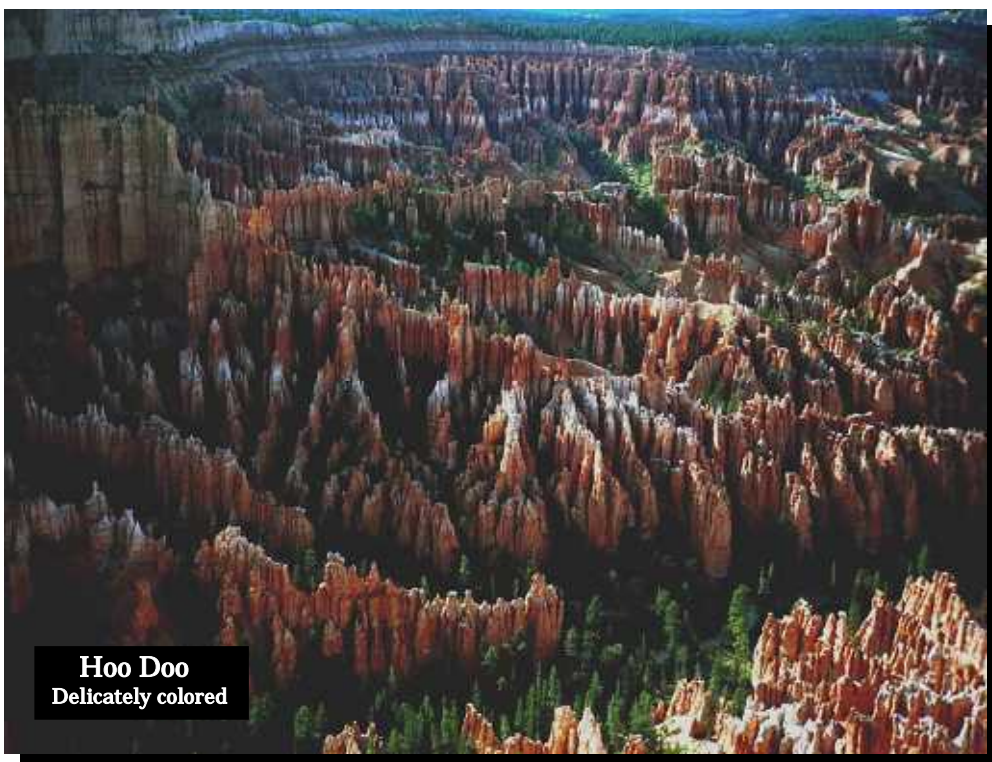


The Paiute Indians Called the Bryce Canyon
 “Red-Rock-standing-like-a-men-in-a-Bowl-shaped-Canyon”
 (UNKA-TIMPE-WA- WINCE-ROCK-ICH) .



The highland in the park range from 6.600 ft at the bottom of the Canyon to 9.120 ft at Rainbow Point. I didn t know that it was so high. The park is on a slender plateau 20 mile long from northeast to southwest and from 8.000ft to 9.000ft high.

By the AAA Tour book.....
 The main geological features of the park are easily seen from numerous roadside viewing areas. Visitors can take a 37 mile round trip on a road that follows the high rim to many vantage points, such as Inspiration Point, Sun rise Point, Sunset Point, Bryce Point, Paria Point, the Natural Bridge and Rainbow Point, at the park s end.



Hoo Doo
 Delicately colored

(1025)



from Inspiration Point



from Bryce Point

On the Fairyland loop Trail

(1026)



I took a site in the Sunset Campground as soon as I got to the visitor center of Bryce Canyon NP in order not to miss the campsite. As it was 02:10 pm, there were few sites left. I pitched a tent in a hurry and I made up my mind to have a short look of all 14 vantage points of the Bryce Canyon Nat I Park in two or three hours.

I wanted the best vantage point of the canyon around the time of sunrise of the next morning.

We can't stand at two places at a time. So I chose one for the sunrise point.

June 11th (Monday)

It rained a little heavily the night before. The temperature suddenly went down. There were no lights in the campground. In the dark rainy night, an electric torch was of no use. I could hardly find the restroom in the dark woods.

When I got up at four, it was cleared up that morning. I wanted to see the mysterious views at first from Sunset Point under the morning sunshine. And I'm going around Sunrise Point, Inspiration Point, and if I could, Bryce Point too. I was in high spirits. All preparations were completed for starting. I started engine and I drove my car backward a little to change car direction just a little, when I had a small shock and heard a scratching noise under the floor panel.

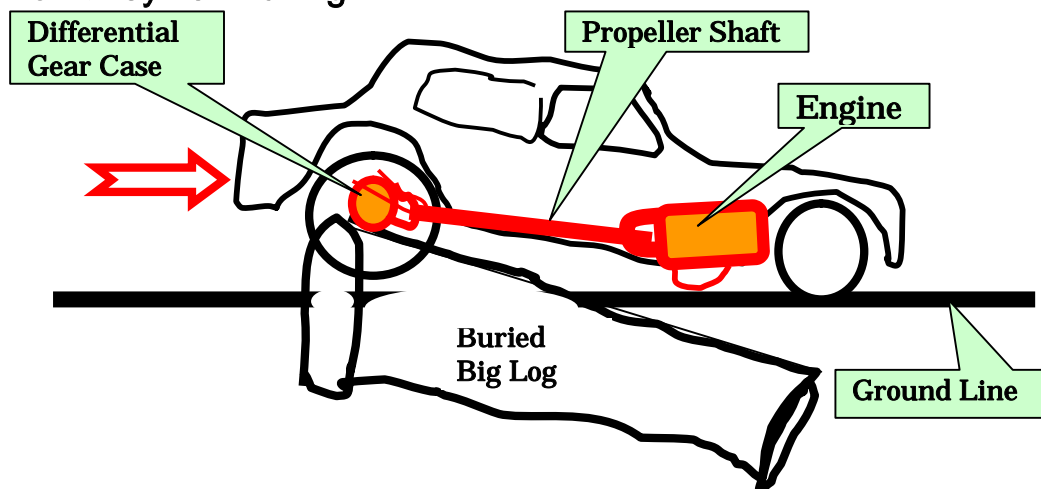
(1027)

The elementarily careless car driving trouble.

Seeing what had happened to the car , I hit the ceiling.

Both rear wheels were hung, the rear part of the body was pushed up by differential case on the big wood half buried in the ground.

As my car was a Nissan compact sedan MAXIMA two-rear-wheel-drive, the rear wheels must be loaded firmly on the earth, or they ran idling.



I looked for wood or something to lay under the wheels, but I could gather few.

Campers around my campsite were seemed to be asleep. I gave up leaving for Sunset Point to see the sunrise. I went to the nearest rim edge on foot. I could see thousands of colorful Hoo Doos stood on the wall of the amphitheater-like canyon.

I got back to my campsite and I saw two neighbors preparing breakfast. I told them my situation and asked them for some help. They came willingly to my car right away and pushed the car forward, but it wouldn t move at all.

They brought two jacks and lifted until the differential case made a little cleared the wood, and then pushed again. The car moved easily and rear wheels touched softly on the earth.

They shouted loudly for joy to me. I was strongly impressed withtheir cheerfulness, kindness and frankness.

<u>POINT</u>	<u>ALTITUDE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Sunset Campground	2406 m	08:10
Sunset Point		08:20
Swamp Canyon	2438 m	09:30
Fairview Point	2688 m	10:50
Natural Bridge		
Aqua Canyon		
Ponderosa Canyon	2682 m	11:20
Black Birch Canyon		
Rainbow Point (southeast end)	2778 m	11:45
↓		
Junction (SR12-SR89)		13:00
Mt. Carmel Junction (restroom)		13:40
Jacob Lake		15:30
NORTH RIM (Grand Canyon National Park)		16:50
(Every site in the North Rim Campground was reserved. I had to go back to Jacob Lake for Campsite.)		
Jacob Lake Camp ground		18:20
(Public, T/RV 53 sites, Fee 14 dollars, National Forest Service)		



The campgrounds at the popular national parks such as Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Yellowstone etc are supposed to be no vacancy in summer. It was really true.

June 12th (Tuesday)

The day before, I thought, judging from the time when I got to Jacob Lake, I should stop a night there. But I drove 44 miles south to North Rim in Grand Canyon National Park. There was a sign board written **NO VACANCY** in red paint in front of the gate of North Rim Camp ground. I asked to the ranger to make sure of it, he told me the number of campsite was so small (80 sites) that the reservation should have been made in summer before a year in advance

I went to the view point, "Bright Angel Point", which commanded a breathtaking over look-view of the Granite gorge and Bright Angel Canyon.

In order to look for a campground I drove back 44 miles to Jacob Lake in a hurry.



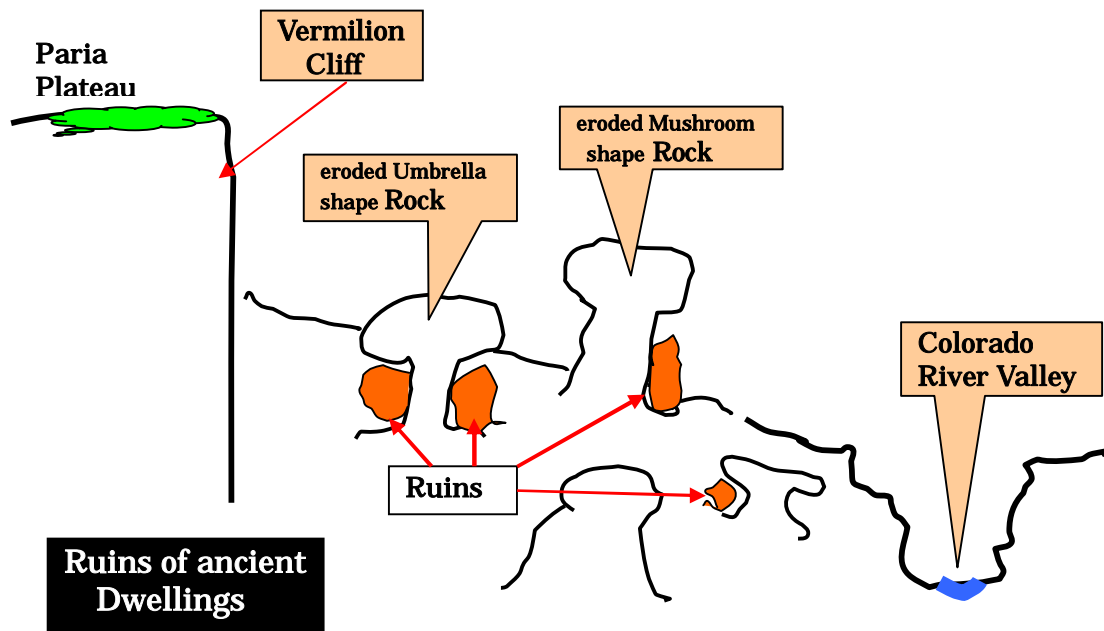
Sr67 ran through the thick forests of cedars and pine trees. Underbushes couldn't be seen anywhere and the grounds were seen as if neatly mowed. How I wish I were able to pitch a tent there. But it was not permitted.

Fortunately I could have a site at Jacob Lake campground.

(1030)

June 12th (Tuesday)

CLIFF DWELLERS: From the Jacob Lake Campground in a National Forest to Marble Canyon, US89A runs about 55 miles along the foot of vermilion cliff around Paria Plateau. On the route, I saw ruins of a small village named cliff dwellers. There were a lot of huge broken rocks close to the foot of Vermilion Cliff.



There were many wanders :

- (1) Broke down rocks were quite huge.
 - (2) Surface of every rock was smooth.
 - (3) The shapes of the rocks were strange ;
Like mushroom, umbrella, big hollow etc.
 - (4) The foot of the cliff was made of sand or rocks.
 - (5) The slope of foot sands was very gentle
- There might be a reasonable geographic solution.



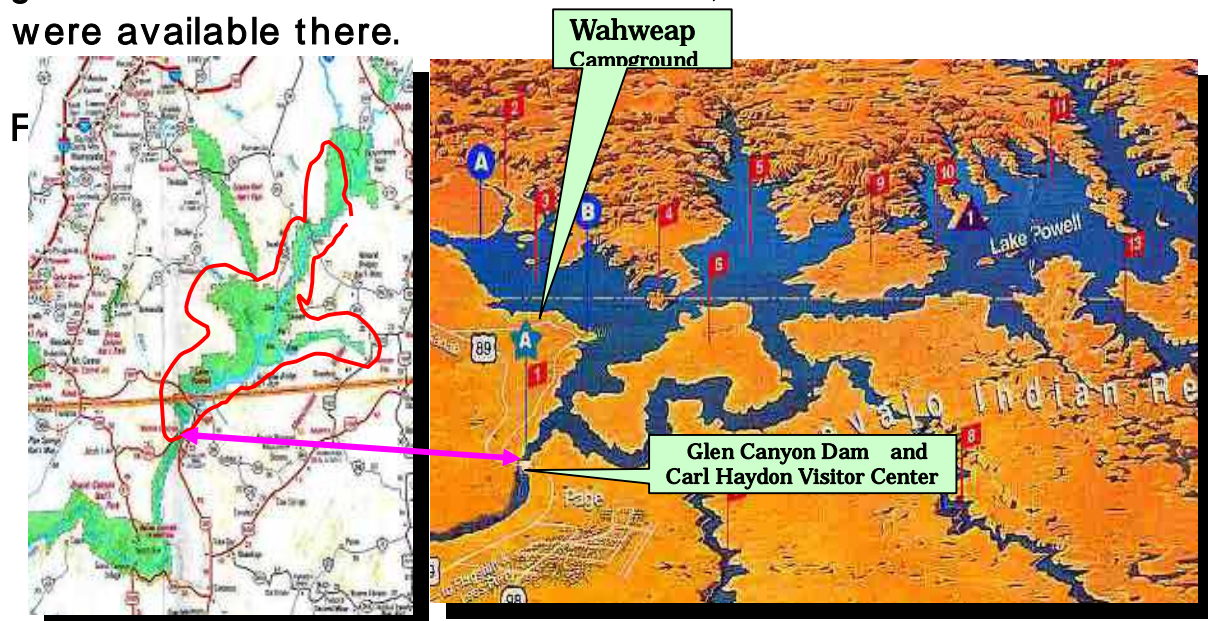
(1031)

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area:

I got to Carl Haydon Visitor Center beside the Glen Canyon Dam at 11:00 am.

To make sure to register a campsite, I went to Wahweap campground. It was five miles northwest from visitor center via Lake Shore Drive. The campground was a private one having 178 tents and RV sites.

Registration was "First come, first served" base. Luckily I could get a shaded site. And flush toilets, Laundromat and shower were available there.



Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

(from AAA tour book)

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area extends along the Colorado River about 186 miles from Grand Canyon National Park in far northcentral Arizona to Canyonlands National Park in southeastern Utah.

One of the highest in the United State and a Part of the Colorado River Conservation Project, the Glen Dam generates hydroelectric power that is distributed to cities and industries throughout the West.---continue---

Reaching out to hidden canyons, sandy coves, and inlets, and winding through towering red cliffs, 186-mile-long Lake Powell presents an ever-changing array of scenery and such recreational opportunities as water skiing, boating and fishing. Amenities include campsites, marinas and houseboat.

Lake Powell is the second large man-made lake in the world, the total length of the lake is about 300 km (Distance between Tokyo and Nagoya), the total length of the lake shore line is longer than that of American total sea shore line.

Natures, sceneries, wildlives are protected as Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.



The height of the Dam over the old water level is 638 feet. Generated electric power is 1.288.000 kw. Total expenses were 272.000.000 dollars.

The Glen Canyon Bridge, a little down stream of the Dam was to be said as the highest from the water level in the world, and on the bridge whole mammoth Dam can be seen in one sight. The Lake Powell was so large that it took seventeen years to fill it up to full water level.

At the view point on the east shore butte beside the bridge, I was parking my car, when a tall big man with an unshaved face approached my car in a hurry.

Judging from his appearance, he seemed to be a homeless. I felt terrified when I saw him at a short distance. I hurriedly closed and locked the window, and started engine, when he touched my car. He knocked my side-window glass and said something. I couldn't hear what he asked.

I saw him face to face at close range through the window glass.. I gazed into his face intently for a while. I was convinced that he was a timid and fainthearted old homeless,

I put the window glass just a little down and made a narrow clearance on the top of the window glass

What did he ask me for? He asked me for only two dollars for breakfast. I gave some money gazing into his small eyes in his large unshaved face.



I went to the small town where the park head quarter, gas station, super market etc were and filled my car up with gas and got some foods, fire woods etc. I gave up visiting famous Rainbow Bridge National Monument, because there were no convenient routes by car to get there. The easiest way to visit there was the sightseeing cruise service on the lake.

Vantage point to see mammoth Glen Canyon Dam in one sight was the bridge just a little downstream from the Dam. The bridge was the world largest natural bridge, span 275feet and 290 feet high. The top was 42feetthick and 33feet wide.

June 13th (Wednesday)

Every guide book says, the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River is one of the world's outstanding spectacles in form, glowing color and geographic significance, and it is unsurpassed.

According to the AAA Tour Book, the canyon is 277 miles long and average 10 miles in width from rim to rim. It is 5700 feet deep at the north rim which averages about 1,000 feet higher than the south rim.



Mohave Point



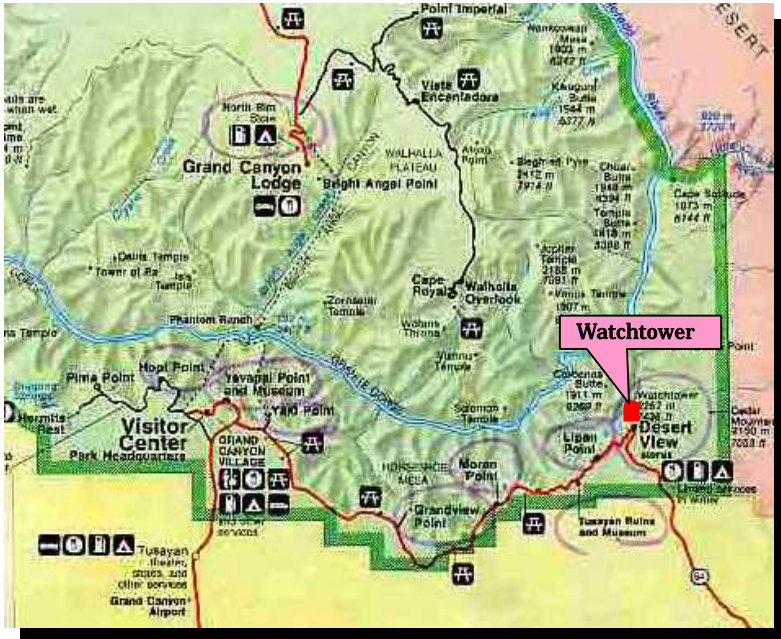
from Yavapai point



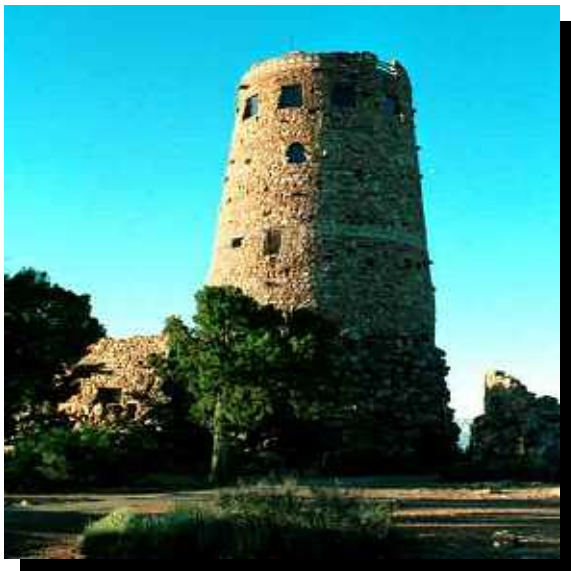
Though I saw the magnificent landscape of the Grand Canyon from the North Rim just a few days before, the breathtaking views from the South Rim gave me a great shock.

(1035)

I left Wahweep campground near the Glen Dam for the Grand Canyon National Park at 7:30. I drove on the US 89 about 80 miles due south to Cameron. Just after passing Cameron, the highway crossed over the Little Colorado River and got to the junction of SR64 which ran about 35 miles west to southeast end of Grand Canyon National Park. There s one of the



famous vantage point, Desert View. The Watchtower at Desert View



According to the brochure of the Watchtower; It was built in 1932 by Santa Fe Railroad as an observation station and convenient rest shop for Grand Canyon visitors. And it was intended to bring about better understanding of the American Indian and his life in past and present.

---- To be continued---

It is no restoration or copy of any particular Indian building, but a recreation of the strange prehistoric towers found scattered large areas of the Southwest.

Months of research preceded the actual building, and it took three years for it. The finest example of masonry and design found in prehistoric ruins went into the structure

Built in harmony with the eroded Canyon walls as well as with the legendary lore of the land, it seems a part of the rocky promontory from which it rises.---(Tour book ends.)



There was no feeling of wrongness between the watchtower and the huge eroded canyon walls. The view from the tower was superb.

After I had a glance of the Desert View Campground, I hurried to the Grand Canyon Village to make sure of my campsite in the Mather Campground which was a pretty big one with 318 sites. As I was afraid, that there were no vacancies, every site was reserved.

Moreover, every parking lot was perfectly full of cars. In the village site, there were all kinds of facilities for thousands of visitors, such as lodges, 5 plots of parking, 2 RV parking lots, a big campground, a post office, a visitor center, a bank, a general store etc. Wherever I went, there were enormous people crowded all over the park ranges.

(1037)

There were too many people. The village and view points were so busy that the West Rim drive (16 miles) was prohibited private cars from driving and shuttle buses ran every 15 minutes. The village loop roads were also prohibited private cars from driving. All shuttle buses were free.

I took buses of two routes, West Rim Drive and Village Loop, and went round about 10 view points along the route in a hurry. I really thought I would never fail to come again to see the magnificent canyon overlook some day in near future.

I made up my mind to go back to Desert View Campground which was self-registered, first come and first served base. I drove into the campground looking for a site which was about to be expiring. I asked the camper for my using the site after he expired.

I was so lucky, I to get one within a round. The site was covered with thick pine trees and something. They were less than 10 meter high and made good shade. As the altitude at campground was higher than 7.000m, the temperature was rather cool.

There were Watchtower, trading post, general store, gas station and service station close to the campground. I bought food one pound of beef, gas, propane and two bundles of firewood.

How I wished there had been someone with me, there.

I ate up one pound of beef steak and drank up three cans of beer as the supper of the day. I was charged only 4.15 dollars for one pound (450gr.) of delicious rib steak. One pound was the minimum package in the super market.



(1038)

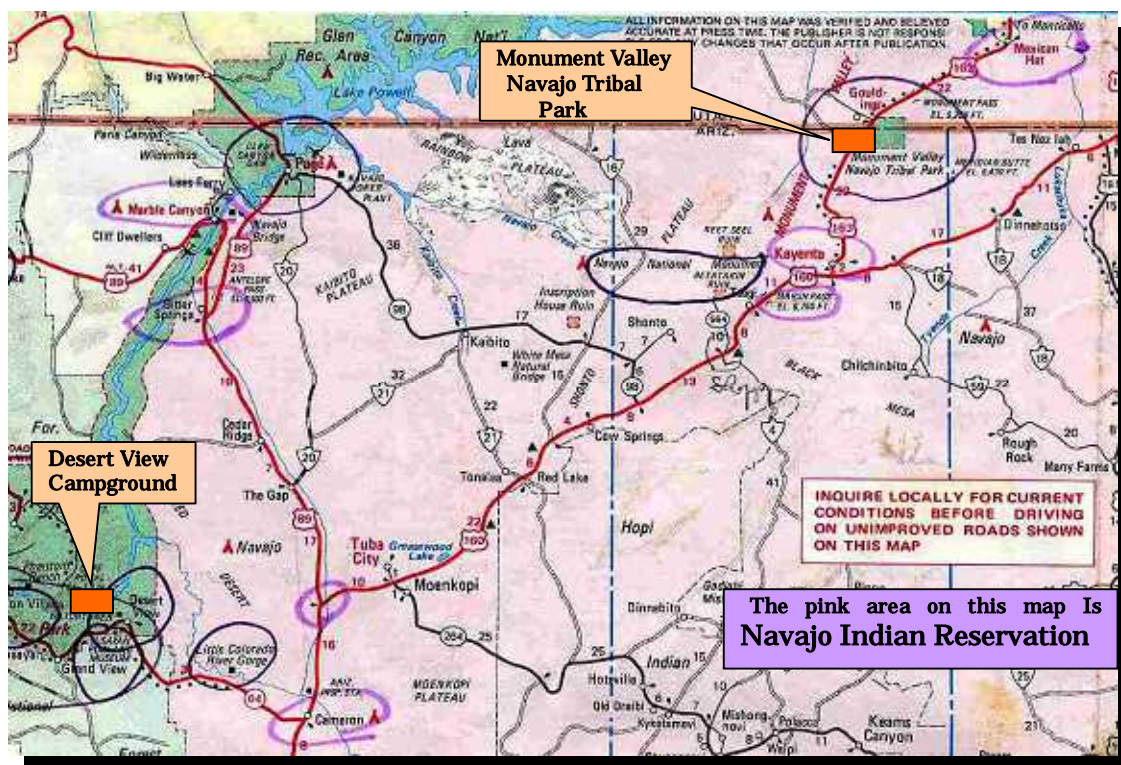
June 14th (Thursday)

Monument Valley Tribal Park

Monument Valley is very famous for its western movies such as “Ekibasha”. Whenever I heard America, I thought of big butte in the vast desert and a fleet of stagecoaches going to the West. I hadn't known the words “Tribal Park”, until I came here. I believed that the park was one of national parks managed under the control of National Park Service of the USA.

This tribal Park is in the vast Navajo Indian Reservation, and managed all operations by Navajo Tribal only.

My Golden Eagle Pass was not accepted at the entrance gate of



the park. Entry fee was 2.50 dollars, but I was 70 years old, then I was charged one dollar by senior (over 60) discount. Entrance keepers were of course Navajos.

The Visitor Center Complex was located on the rim of the Mitchell Butte, Visitor center, Museum, Cafeteria, Souvenir shop, big Parking lot, Mitten View campground, Tour guide etc.

(1039)



View from the Visitor Center



Mitchell Mesa

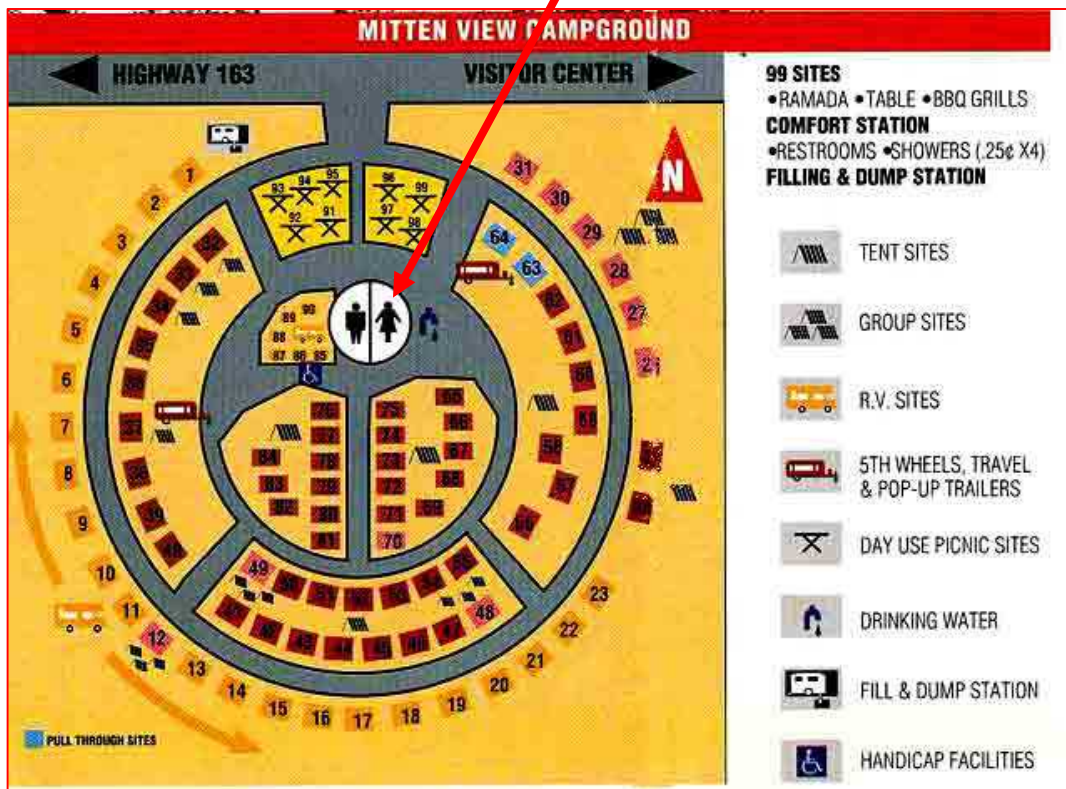


View From US163

Sign Board on the front wall of the entrance station. Visitors shouldn't photograph the Native Americans, their homes, or their possessions without asking permission. A gratuity is usually requested.



View from the Visitor Center



Monument Valley is a vast rugged sandy district. There is neither a wind shelter nor a sunshade around the campground in the Mitchell Butte. Late afternoon, strong winds were blowing on the surface of the valley with the cloud of dust. I saw a big whirlwind moving at the distance.

I was setting my Minolta 7000 on the tripod to take photographs of the famous Mitten and Merrick Butte, when a sudden strong gust of wind hit my tripod with camera.. They fell down and dug into the sands.



The camera hadn't worked at all until I had it repaired by Minolta service station in Japan. Fortunately I brought another camera for emergency (Pentax LX35). I thought I had to prepare on the premise that the worst could happen on my way of trip.

June 15th (Friday)



I was depressed by the accident happened on the day before, I wanted to leave there as soon as possible. I got up early and headed my car for Mesa Verde National Park via Mexican Hat, Bluff, and Four Corners Monument

(1042)

I left Mitten View Campground for Mesa Verde National Park. I drove on US163 about 25 miles northeast bound, Mexican Hat came into my sight close to the highway.

Mexican Hat is named for a 2.500 ton boulder that resembles a sombrero (60 feet wide, 12 feet thick and on a 200 feet cliff). There was a narrow gravel country road led to the foot right under the cliff. Only short wheel base vehicles like my car, Maxima, could approach. The road was so rugged and my car's reach was so narrow that differential case often beat the earth.

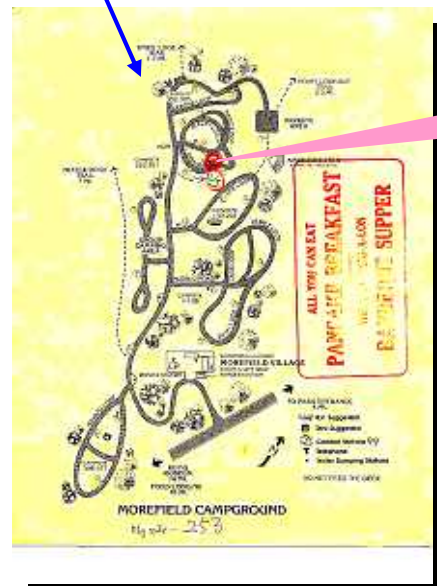
Four Corners Monument is located about 35 miles southwest of Mesa Verde National Park and is the only place in the country where four states meet. The junction of Arizona, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico is marked by a concrete monument bearing each state seal.



I stood on the intersection point of four states looking to the north, then I really stepped on the lands of four States at a time, the right foot on the lands of Colorado and New Mexico, and the left foot on the lands of Utah and Arizona. Some people crept on the point putting each hand and foot on the different land of the State and had their picture taken.

This Four Corners Monument seemed to be owned and managed by Ute Indians. Many Hopi and Navajo people sold their wares, handicrafts, souvenirs etc, near the site of the Monument. Admission was 1.50. dollar.

I got to the **Morefield Village Campground** in Mesa Verde National Park, at 06:00 pm. The campground was private and in the park site, pretty large (RV T/RV 450 sites



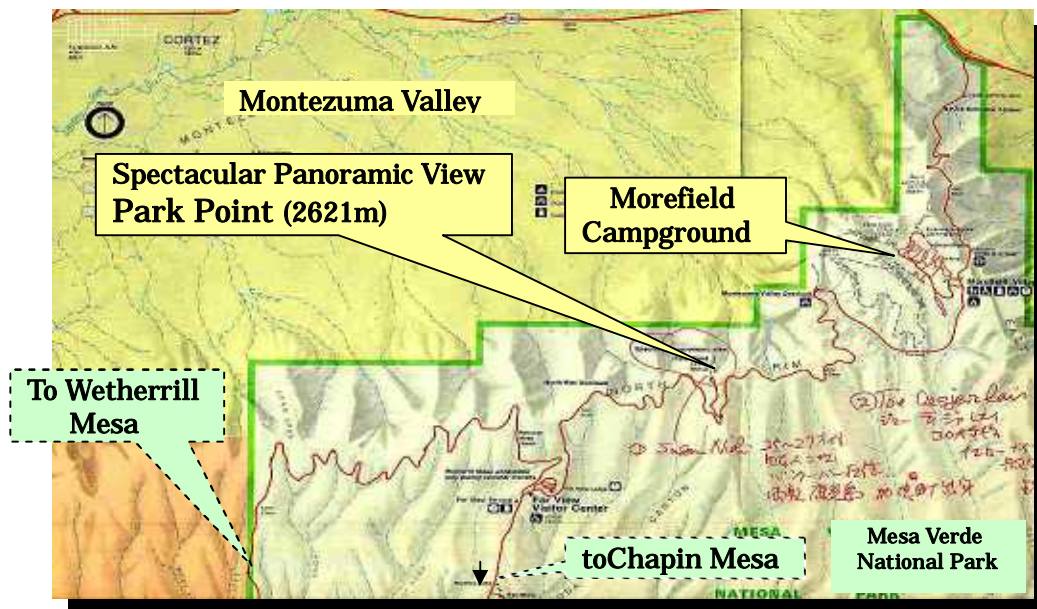
June 16th (Saturday)

Mesa Verde National Park is one of the US s major archeological preserves (AAA tour book says).The park consist of more than 4.000 ruin sites, which include 600 cliff dwellings. Mesa Verde, Spanish for “Green Table” is so called because of its comparatively level top heavily forested with juniper and pinyon trees.

(1044)

As I wasn't interested in the ruins of the old indigenous Indians in America, I saw few cliff dwellings and left the park for next destination, Canyonlands National Park.

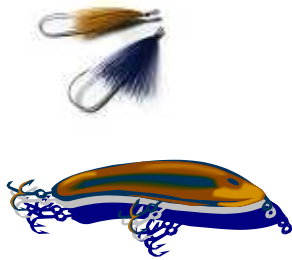
As I said before, Morefield campground was private, but located right in the park site.



At the trail head parking lot of “the Park Point of the spectacular panoramic view”, I happened to meet with a young Japanese lady named Susan Nishi and a young sportsman like a gentleman named Joe Desjarlais. They got off the new red gorgeous Ford sports car, Thunderbird. They seemed a well-matched couple. As I was so interested in them, I talked to them. We hit it off together soon. After a while, we took a trail to the summit about 100m higher than the parking lot. An arbor was built there and offered a good shade and commanded 360 degree all round grand views. Particularly northward view to Montezuma valley was magnificent.

We talked about everything at random, they were both from Canada, and the students of university (of Vancouver?). She was a second generation of Japanese whose parents came from Kaseda, Kagoshima. He was a native Canadian came from Yellowknife, the capitol of the Northwest Territories. (1045)

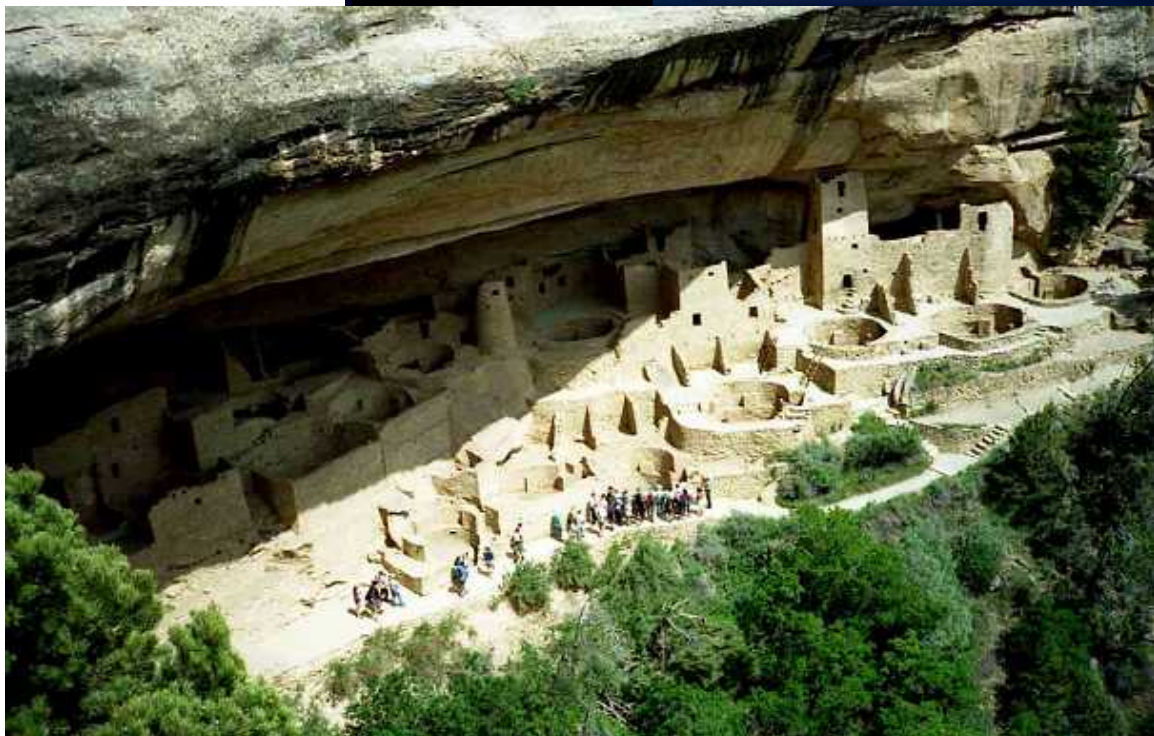
As I heard that his home was Yellowknife, I told him my itinerary. Yellowknife was one of my major destinations to learn lure fishing. He said he was so sorry not to be able to invite me to his home, instead he wrote to his uncle who lived in Yellowknife a letter of introduction for me. Judging from their manners, appearances, and good English, I thought they were good



LURE



Great Slave Lake
Northwest Territories
Canada



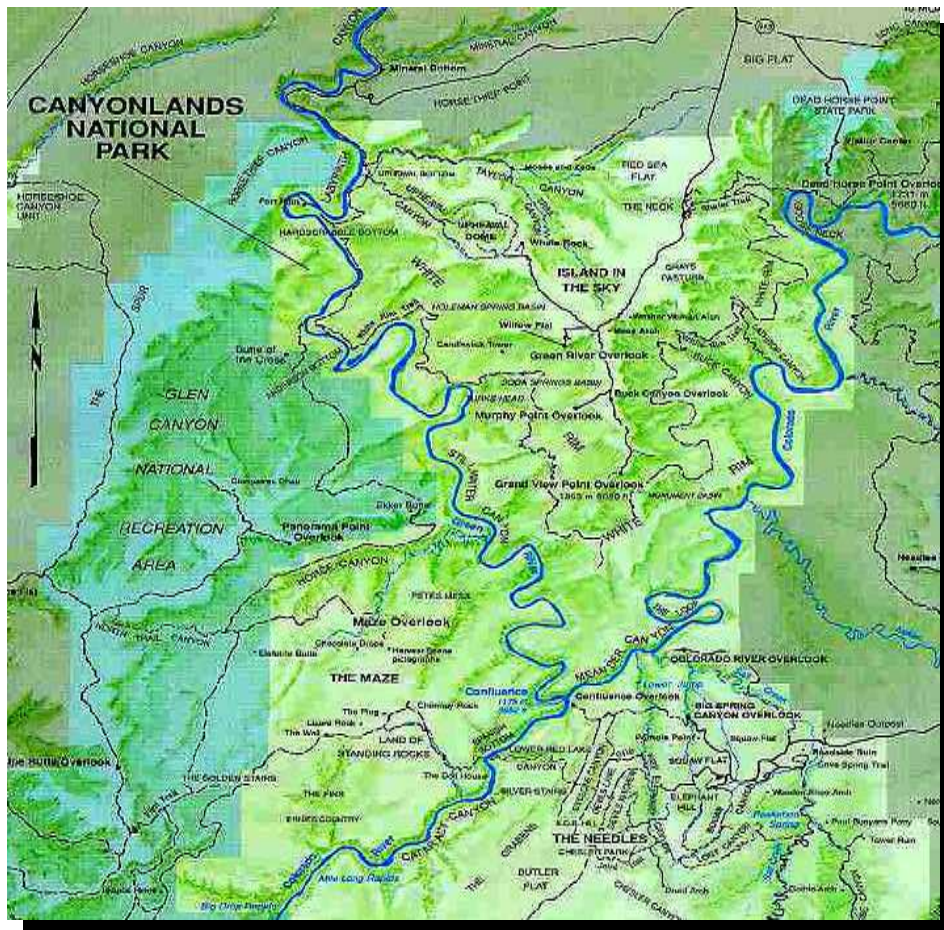
natured. They seemed to be very happy. I prayed for their good luck in the future and I would never fail to call on Desjerlais uncle.

(1046)

Saying good bye to Mr.Desjarlais, I took US666 northwest 40 miles and US 191 north to Canyonlands National Park. The park was cut in three by the Colorado River and its fork the Green River, the Needles, the Island in the sky and the Maze districts



It was about an hour and half drive by way of US211 from US191 junction to the Needles Visitor Center. In order to get to the Island in the Sky, it took about an hour from US191 through SR313 to the Island in the Sky Visitor Center.



News Paper Rock Petroglyphs

After about 20 minute drive on the SR211 from US191, I got to News paper Rock Historical Monument. News Paper Rock is a large cliff mural consisting of ancient American Indians petroglyphs and pictographs from distinctive periods. (? , by AAA Tour book).

State Park is located in the thickly forested Indian Creek Canyon. Fresh clear water was rustling. Picnicking and primitive camping were permitted, daily 24 hours free.

No one was picnicking nor camping, but I thought it was one of my ideal campsites there; I made up my mind to pitch a tent there that night.

I drove down on the scenic road along the Indian Creek to the Needles Visitor Center. Just before the entrance gate, there stood a sign board, Needles Outpost. I dropped in at the shop and filled my car up with gas.

The park had many facilities for back country travel by four wheel drive vehicles, sorry to say, mine s not.....

I left the Needles for Newspaper Rock again.



Big Rock at the entrance of the Needles Canyonlands NP

I should have pitched a tent there, and should have enjoyed a quiet and relaxing campsite.

But,

(1048)

As it was a little earlier to pitch a tent, I made up my mind to visit the Arches National Park and I wanted to make sure to reserve a campsite .The entrance station and the Visitor Center of the Arches National Park were just beside the US 191. There was a long line of visitor's cars in front of the entrance gate.

Showing the Golden Eagle Pass I asked the ranger if the campsite would be available at that night As I was afraid, he said there was probably not, every site might have been reserved.

I made the same question at the front counter of the Visitor Center. The answer was naturally the same, but the ranger told me that if I had been on the spot, I might have got a site. The Devils Garden Campground- located 15 miles north from the Park entrance. I hurried there, but in vain

Devils Garden Campground had no vacancy, every site was reserved.

I hurried back to the entrance gate and drove back on US 191 southeast, a

few miles to the Gate city, MOAB. I found a big sign-board " MOAB KOA Kampground " .

Fortunately I could get one there.



(1049)

June 17th (Sunday)

I left Moab KOA Kampground for ARCHES National Park at six in the early morning. I was impressed by their mysterious rock formations.



Delicate Arch



Balanced Rock



Turret Arch



Double Arch

(1050)