



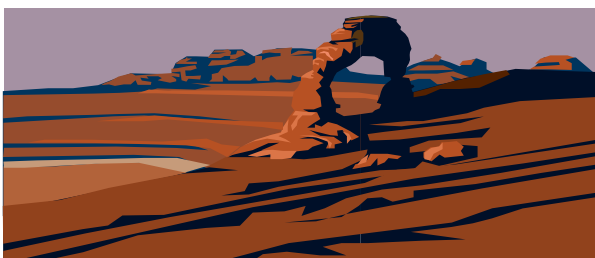
DELICATE ARCH : 15 miles from the park entrance

According to the AAA Tour Book, Arches National Park contains the largest number of natural stone arches in the US. More than 2,000 arches, spires, fins and balancing rocks. The Delicate Arch is one of the most outstanding one. The opening is nearly 35 feet high. As it needs a strenuous 2.5 km climb to get to the Arch itself, I preferred going to the viewpoint a half mile to the southeast at the end of a paved road.

(This photograph was taken from The Viewpoint by Pentax645 with zoom 80 160 Telescopic lens at 11 pm) A half mile walk on the flat rock surface of the mountain seemed to be easier than the strenuous 2.5 Km climb to the Arch.

As I was a little tired from walking, it was very hard to carry a heavy camera sturdy tripod, telescopic lenses, etc to the Arch.

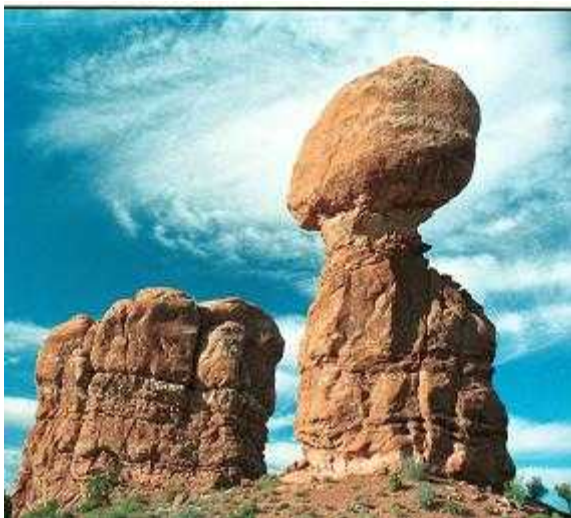
I wish I'd like to go to the right spot of the Delicate Arch and to take its photographs by short-focus lenses some day.



NORTH WINDOW



I wanted to know how the Arches were formed geologically not theoretically but elementarily. I found some materials, but they were too difficult to understand for me who was poor at English and an amateur. Explanations contained too many geological terms.



All I could understand was that, arches were formed by hundred millions' weathering. rain, snow, water, wind frost, ice, earthquake, hurricane, glacier, dust, gravity, etc.

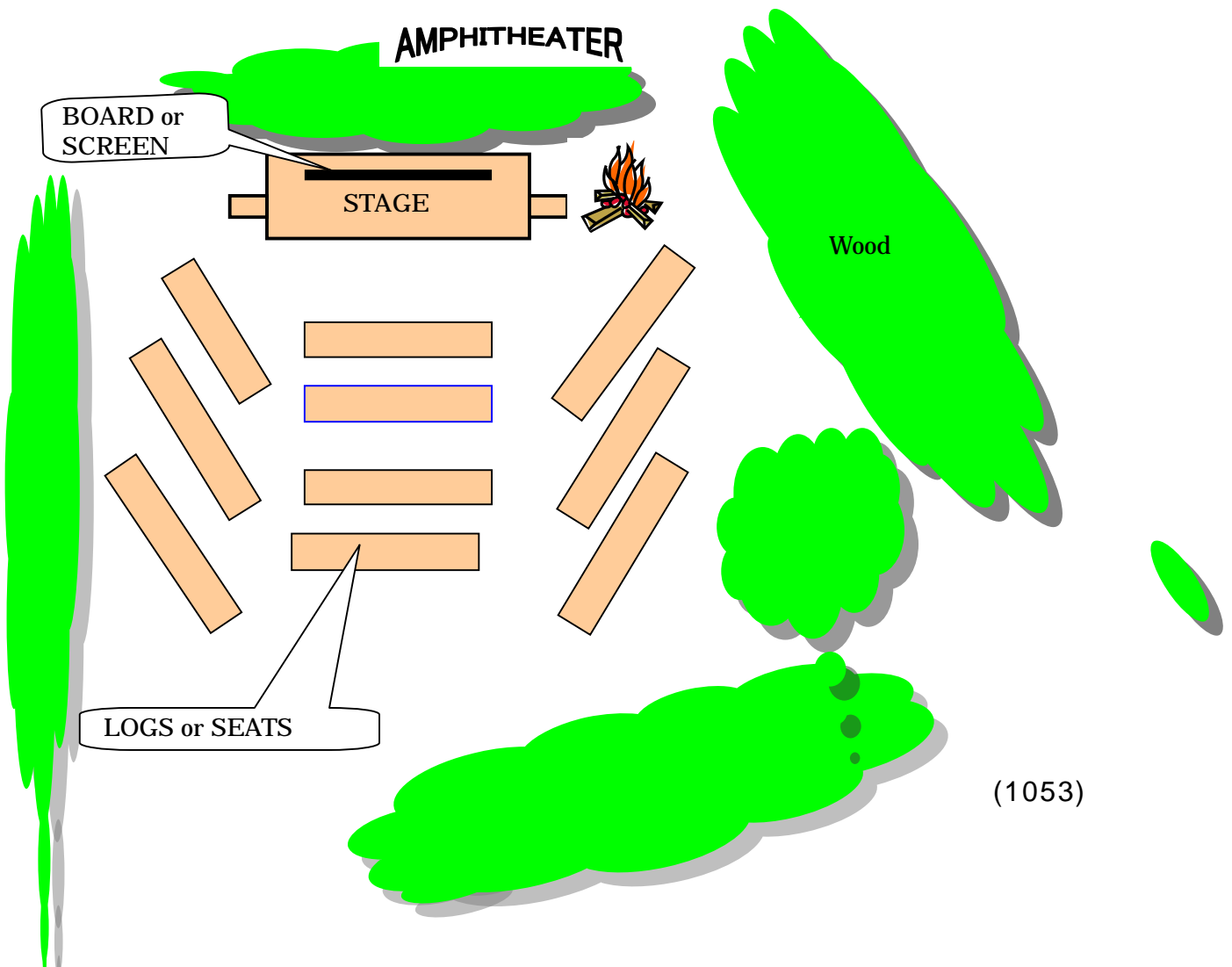
The Wonder
Of
The nature
Balanced Rock

June 18th (Monday)

The day before though I didn't have reservation, I got a campsite for free in Saddlehorn Campground of the Colorado National Monument. After driving 110 miles from the Arches National Park, the visitor center served visitors cups of coffee for nothing. I took an enough rest there.

From 9 to 10 pm, we about fifteen campers were assembled in the amphitheater for campfire by a woman ranger. She called at every campsite to inform of the Campfire in advance.

Whenever a camper came into the amphitheater, she introduced the campers, her or his name, and the place where she or he was from. All the presents clapped their hands. One third of the presents were foreigners. She lectured for about an hour by slide orientation program. It was so kind of her to speak very slowly, but I could understand only less than 30 percent. I lost self-confidence and was deeply depressed.



Colorado National Monument



According to the Official Map and Guide of the National park Service/US Department of the Interior:

“Colorado National Monument preserves one of the grand landscapes of the American West. bold, big, and brilliantly colored, this plateau-and-canyon country, with its towering masses of sculpted rock, embraces 32 square miles of rugged, up and down terrain. This is a special place, where you can contemplate glorious views that stretch to distant horizons ;where you can discover solitude deep in a remote canyon ;where you can delight in wild country where desert bighorns roam and golden eagles soar.

Treat the Park with respect so you and others can share in its grandeur tomorrow.”

I left the Saddlehorn Campground, near West (Fruita) Entrance and drove down through the 25 mile scenic Rim Rock Drive to the East (Grand Junction) Entrance. The highest point on Rim Rock Road is 6640 ft (2024 m.) . The road seemed to be a procession of the view points.

Official map informs that there are a lot of trails to the spectacular overlooks canyon views, highland views, rock overlooks etc.

From Colorado National Monument to Rocky Mountain National Park



Grand Junction

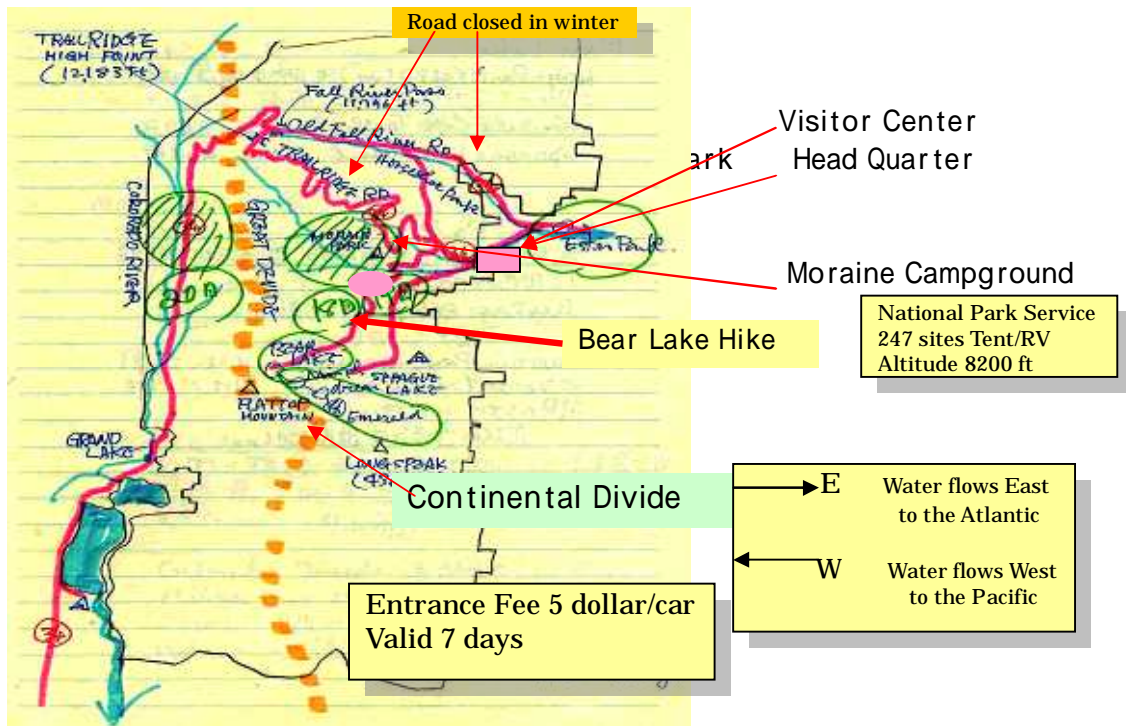
After leaving Colorado National Monument, I took I-70 (interstate highway 70) in a few minute drive and got to the city of Grand Junction. The city is not very large (pop. Less than 30.000),but I thought it was familiar to my ear. I consulted the AAA Tourbook, it said:

“Two junctions made Grand Junction what it is : that of the Grand—now called the Colorado and Gunnison rivers, whose waters brought to life the fertile soils of the surrounding valleys and the linking of the railroads from Denver and Salt Lake City. The surrounding Grand Valley, a major producer of pears, peaches and a variety of other crops, is bordered on the east by the Grand Mesa, said to be the largest flat-topped mountain in the world, and the sandstone beauty of the Colorado National Monument on the west.”

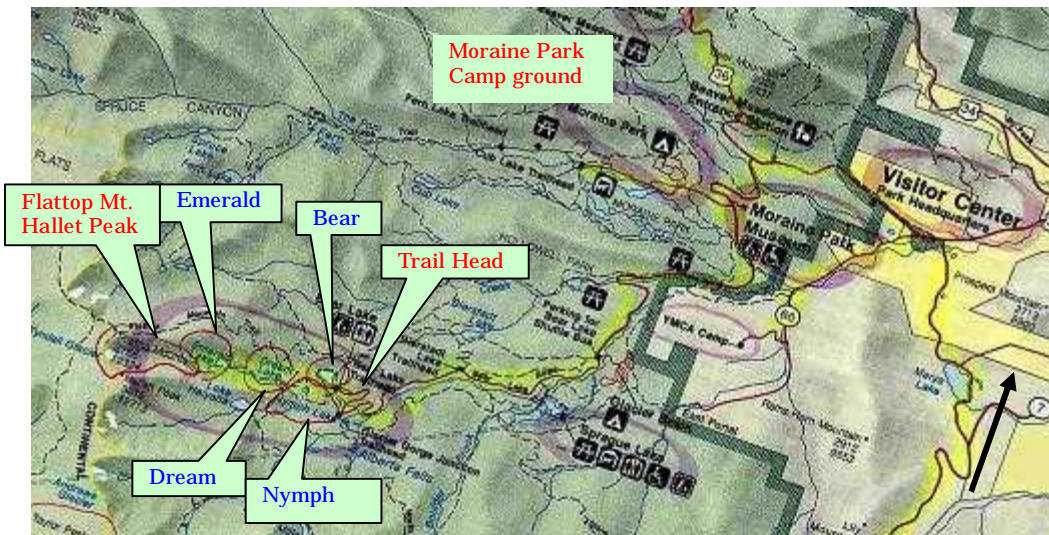
I-70 runs northeast about 100 miles along the Colorado River and at the Gypsum Interchange the Colorado River parts from the highway to the northeast. After a hundred mile drive I took off the ramp to SR12 going due north to Rocky Mountain National Park I got to the Visitor Center at 18:40 pm and asked about campground the ranger in front of the counter told me that campsite could be registered only at the Park Headquarter neighboring office near by Visitor Center. I hurried to the office and fortunately I could reserve a campsite for two nights (fee 9 dollars a night).

At first, I was going to Denver by way of I-70 and then going to Rocky Mountain National Park by way of I-25. It was right that I took a short cut by SR12 to the Park without going round Denver. (1055)

June 18 (Mon.) and 19 (Tues.)



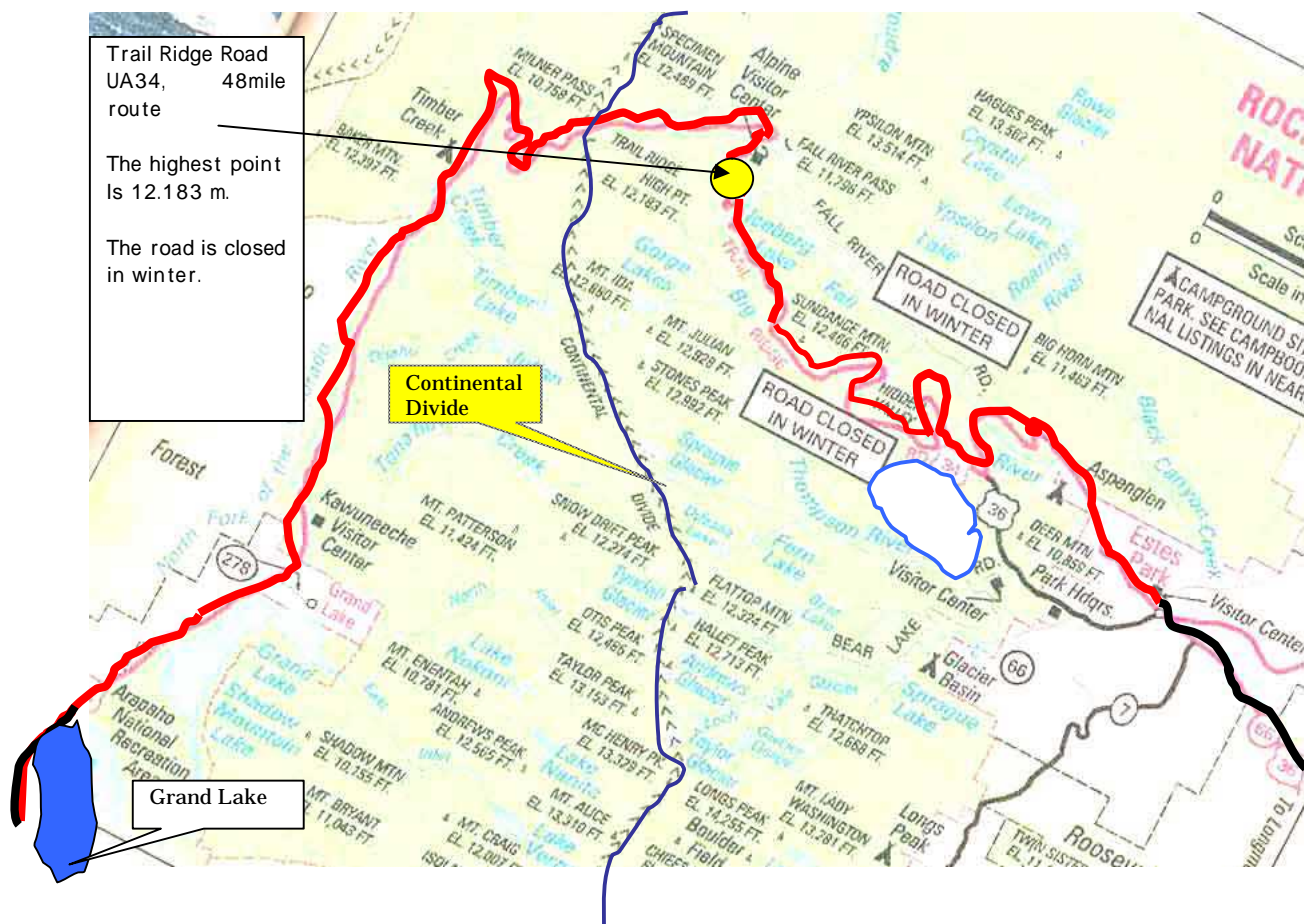
Hiking to Bear Lake - Emerald Lake:




Rocky Mountain National Park is one of the highest regions in the US and said to be the representative of the grandest in American scenery. From the trail, I could see more than ten peaks higher than 4,000 m close to the south. They were breathtaking views I had never seen in Japan.

(1056)

Trail Ridge Road



Trail Ridge Road, US 34, leads, W from Estes Park, climbs to the crest of the range and then follows the ridge to Grand Lake. The 48 mile route approaches elevation just over 12,000 feet. It cuts across the Great Divide (Continental Divide) over one of the country's highest continuous road, and reaches Grand Lake. Gore Range Overlook near the area around the highest point is wide tundra, I saw it for the first time. I found two marmots gazing at me with bewilderment at the roadside. They are not so called morumotto in Japan; it's like a rabbit or  large cat in size.

And I found some flowers in tundra, and went into the tundra by the trail to take photographs of wild flowers. I walked up and down along the trail for a while; I lost my breath, felt giddy, and had a slight headache. I sat down on the trail and took a short rest. I didn't know mountain sickness. until I got it.

Driving down just a mile from Gore Range Overlook I got to the Alpine Visitor Center which was pretty big building and had a large snack bar and mini super. I didn't expect such a gorgeous visitor center at such high altitude of 3594 m (11,796 ft).



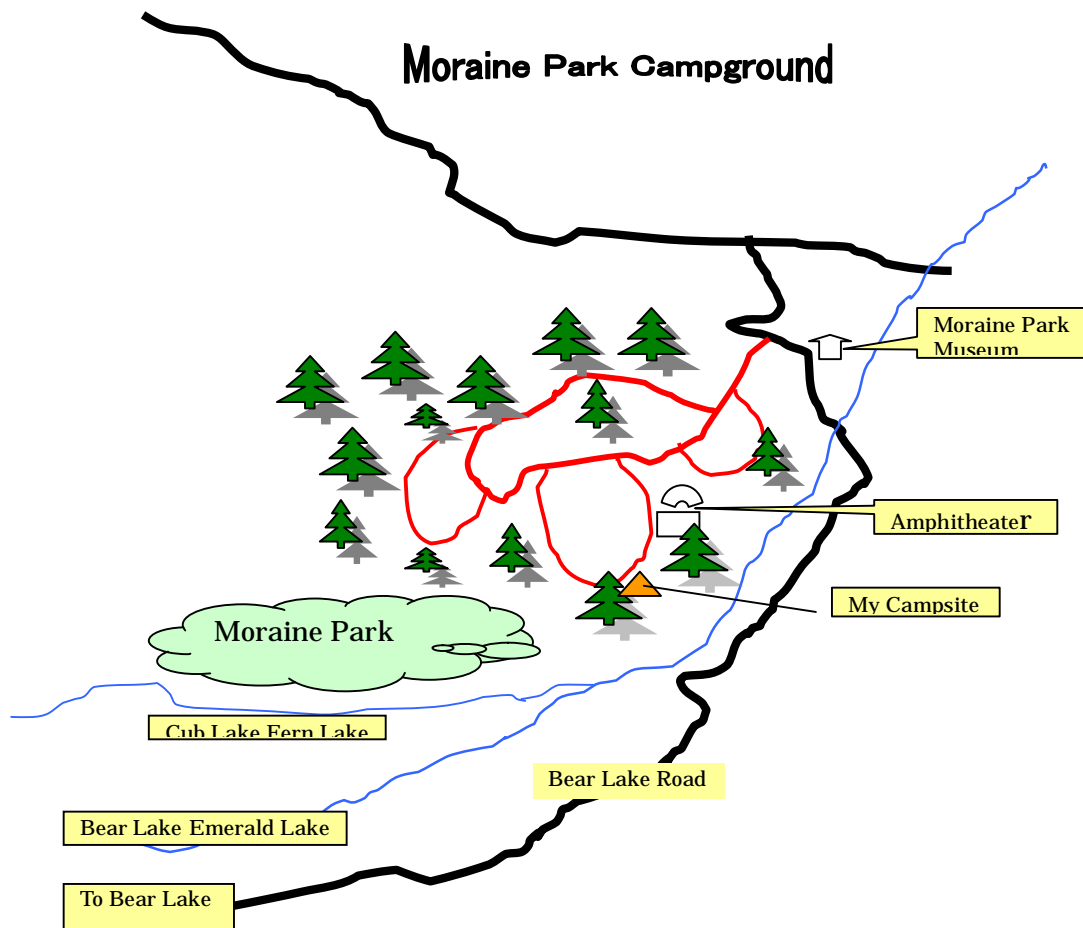
Lyndell Gorge



Trail Ridge From Bear Lake



The Colorado River from Timber Creek Campground



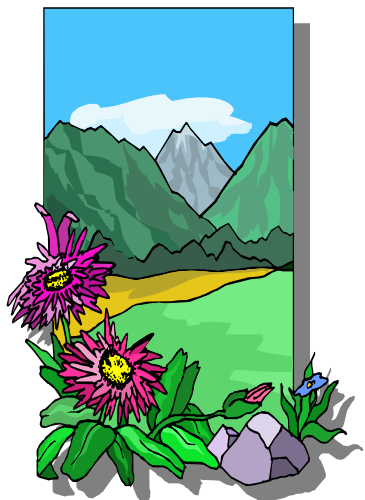
Big gorge, encompassed by Trail Ridge Road and Continental Divide, is supposed to be made by the glacier. A lot of lakes were made by glaciers too. And the land that the Moraine Park and Beaver Meadows were located was piled up with moraine.

There were five campgrounds in the Park in Moraine Park campground was the biggest, and had 247 sites. Registration was not made by first come and first served base. The campers had to register at the Park Headquarter near by Visitor Center. When I got to the campground, I was much confused how to register, because I thought the registration naturally should be made by me.

Park ranger said every campground in the park was full at about noon, and private reservation was not accepted in advance in summer. I knew there were many different ways to register in the national park.

I saw many elks and bighorns grazing everywhere in the Moraine Park Campground.

Somewhere on the trail from Dream Lake to the Emerald Lake, I was taking photographs of the small wild flowers with a tripod the shutter release macro lenses, Filters, hand made reflectors, water spray, etc, and their cases.



At the first stage of the trip to the North America , to Take photographs of the native wild flowers was the main purpose of my hobbies.

I brought a lot of accessories for cameras. The weight of them might be more than 5 kg. When I had a trekking, I brought a minimal set of them to decrease the weight

After taking many photographs I was convinced that those would be nice.

I picked up my things and left there for Eemerald Lake.

Standing on the lake shore, I stared at a grand sight of Flattop Mountain (3756) and Hallet Peak (3875m) right in front of my eyes.

I groped in my day bag for the camera. Suddenly I thought of my tripod and some accessories left at the spot where I took photographs of wildflowers on the route. I might have been in a good mood and absent - minded.

I checked all in the day bag, I knew a short tripod, a reflector, two hand-made plastic sheets ,a long shutter release cable, scissors, tweezers etc. As they were neither fatal nor expensive, I gave up looking for them and made up my mind never to leave them again.

On the way back from Emerald Lake, I dropped in at the spot where I left my camera goods. I was so lucky, I found everything that I had left there. several hours ago.

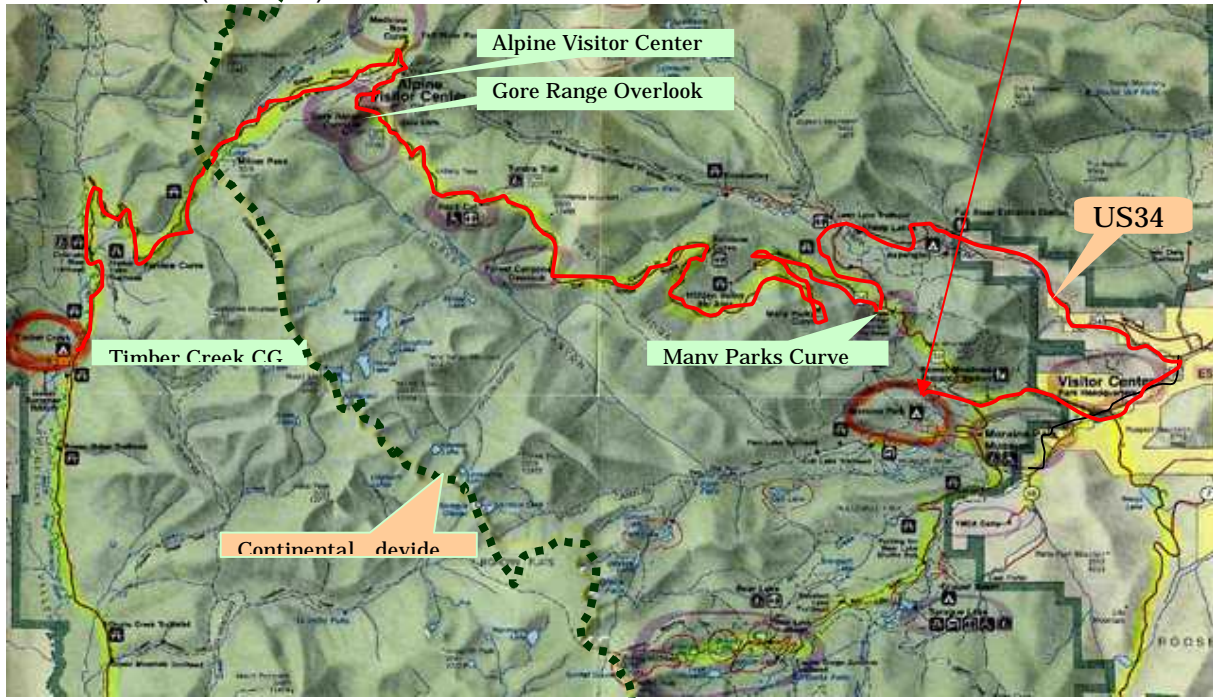
I got back to the Moraine Lake campground about six, and went shopping to the village of Estes Park, which was close to the border of the National Park. I bought a pound of sirloin, a dozen of can beer, some croissant, a block - ice, two gallons of drinking water, soft drinks, etc



June 20th (Wednesday)

As I walked a long way the day before and felt a little tired from walking, I went to bed at eight and had a fast sleep until half past five. It was enough to recover my energy.

In the morning temperature went down under zero degree, the car roof was frosted in snow white. It was natural, the altitude of Moraine Park campground was 8200ft (2485m)



Red line designates the route of the 20th day

The day before, I drove Trail Ridge Road quite roughly. I saw the Rockies for the first time. The first impression was different from my imaginations. I had thought the Rockies were unapproachable to the high ridge line, especially the great Continental Divide, but we could approach the heart of the Rocky Mountain National Park within an hour or so from the big city, the capital of Colorado State.

US highway 34 is called "Trail Ridge Road" which runs along the ridge more than 10,000 feet. The highest point is 12,183 feet (3713m). It's nearly the altitude of Mt. Fuji.

US34 runs in other words over the tree line and in the Tundra. I firmly convinced that this road was one of the most scenic US highways.

The Road is closed in winter (by AAA map)

There are many 360 degree overlook view points made along the US34. The sights of everything in the Rockies caught and enchanted my eyes.

(1061)

The overlook points have usually wide parking lot, we can see to the north a lot of high mountain peaks more than 4.000m beyond the Fall River Canyon, and to the south we can see much more 4.000m class peaks beyond the Gig Thompson River Canyon. I'm not sure but I think the highest peaks in the Rocky Mountain National Park is Longs Peak (14.255ft, 4345m). fifteen miles southeast from the Ridge Road.

Gore Range Overlook alt about 3700m.

Below the View Points, tundra spreads widely and web of short trails are made. Walking on the trail, we can see many small plants in tundra, mammals such as marmots, squirrels and birds.



Squirrel



Marmot

Tiny flowers of tundra were blooming here and there, It was prohibited to walk into the tundra from the trail, because tundra was so fragile for the foot steps. It is also strictly prohibited to feed any wildlives.

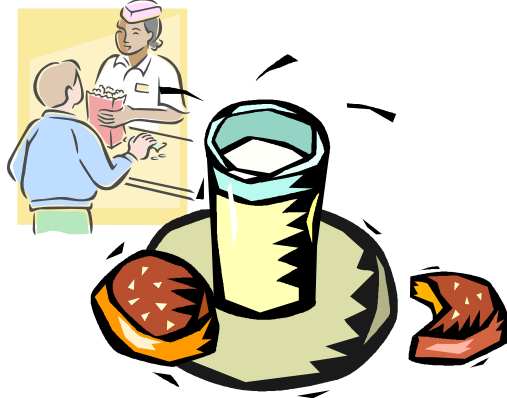
I saw a couple of marmot was sleeping fearlessly, close beside the trail. They looked like a fat cat or a rabbit in size. They completely ignored me.



Fairchild Mountain (13.514ft 4119m) from Rainbow Curve

At the Alpine Visitor Center :

The highest paved highway in the US was supposed to be Trail Ridge Road. The highest point was located just before Gore Range Overlook. Alpine Visitor Center was in the Tundra zone about 1 mile beyond the Overlook. Though it was located on the high altitude, it had a snack bar.



I saw a party of two people who were white-haired old cheerful ladies. They said they were from Chicago and on the way to the west, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Yosemite, etc. I told them about my trip plan to Alaska and Arctic roughly. They seemed to be interested in my trip, and were surprised exaggeratedly with American-like gestures.

All of a sudden they began to ask one after another about Japan. They knew quite a little, about Japanese foods, Hiroshige, Flower arrangement(Ikebana, Bonsai), Japanese jazz singer in the US, Kabuki,...As I knew little about their questions I was much embarrassed. They were typical sunny American housewives.

I really enjoyed being their company. I wished I had been able to speak a little better.

They hurried to the next hotel outside the Park and I went to The Timber Creek Campground (T/RV 100 sites) in the Park. The campground was on the bank of the north fork of the Colorado River thickly covered with cedar trees. The altitude is 8.900ft, is it below the plant limit?



When I was making my tent, a ranger, 24 hour attendant, came to my site and invited me to the evening meeting at amphitheater. I promised to come if he'd speak very easy and slowly. About 20 young and adult, male and female were assembled at the amphitheater at the appointed time. I could understand only half of what he lectured in spite of his thoughtful speech. I enjoyed it, and thought it was useful.

The Colorado River was frozen and glittered in white snow reflecting bright sky. The temperature would be sure to go down greatly next morning. (1063)

June 21st (Thursday)

I left Timber Creek Campground at half past seven for Grand Lake Village about 10 miles due south along the Colorado River. I had my car filled with regular unleaded there. There are usually self-service gas stations in the US, but at a remote village full-service stations are common. The gas station keeper does everything, refueling, tire change, little repair, salesclerk in mini-super, fast food service etc.

Grand Lake ((2550 m, 8367 ft) and the neighboring Shadow) Mountain Lake are the source of the beautiful Colorado River. Adding the big lower Lake Granby, three lakes make Arapaho National Recreation Area (administrated by U.S. Department Of Agriculture, Forest Service) There are seven campgrounds, five boat launches, and five picnic areas.



The National Recreation Area is open all the year round, Ice fishing is available from December to April.

In summer camping, hiking, and picnicking or mountain bikes and horse riding are available

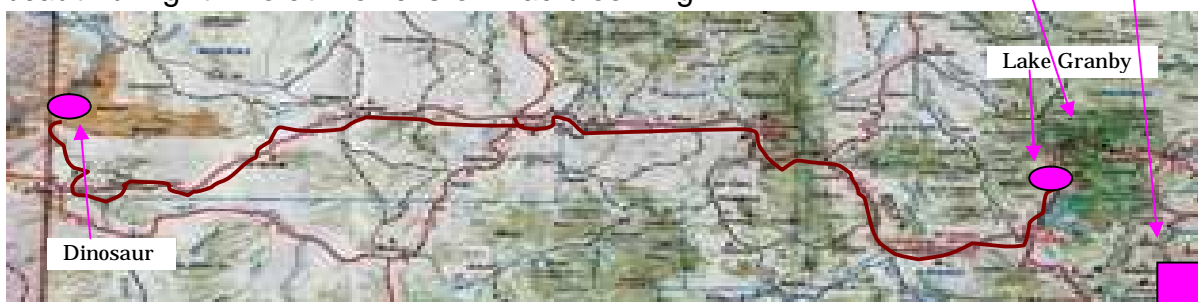
In winter, cross country ski, snowmobile, and snowshoe walk.

Rocky Mountain National Park

Denver

The destination on that day was Dinosaur National Monument:

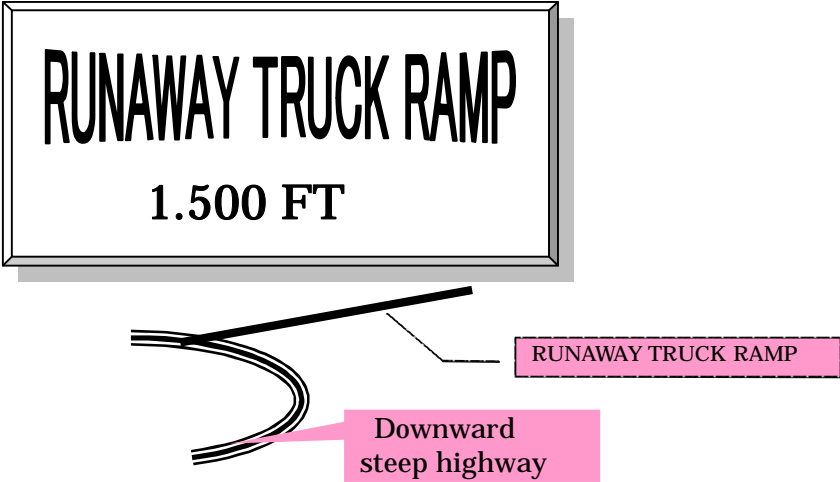
In a few minute drive from the Lake Granby, US34 meets with US40 that is the trunk road to Salt Lake City and crosses the great Rocky Mountain Range for 200 miles above more than 8.000 m. Along the highway I could see bunches of beautiful light-violet flowers of lilac blooming



Almost all Interstate Highways, Federal Highways and State Highways in the Rocky Mountain ranges in Utah State are designated Scenic Highways by AAA.

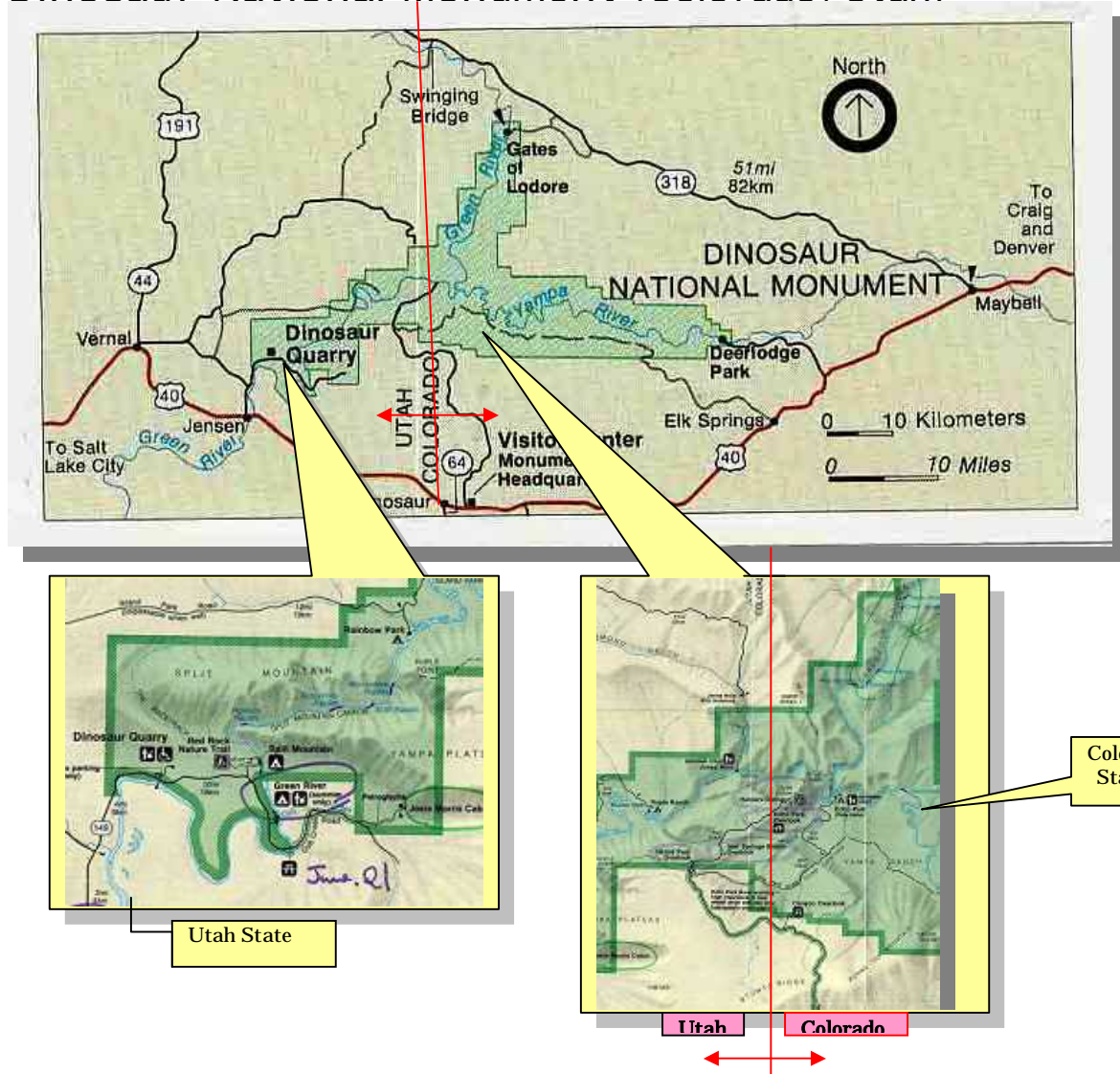


One scenic highway US40 crosses the Continental Divide twice, Muddy Pass (8.722ft),and Rabbit Ears Pass (9.426ft). After crossing the Continental Divide the highway runs down steeply to Steamboat Springs. Here and there we can see big signboards at the sharp corner;



This ramp is used by the truck that something wrong breaks out with its braking system. A driver can run into the ramp and he might be able to stop the truck, if he were lucky. The ramp has a steep up grade and is made of dry sand.

Dinosaur National Monument (Colorado/Utah)



Dinosaur National Monument is located on the border between Utah and Colorado. At Dinosaur Quarry in Utah section fossilized bones of allosaurus and other species of prehistoric creatures have been revealed in a single sandstone cliff, which was one of the world's largest concentrations of fossilized dinosaur bones.

Though the National Monument has about 325 square miles, Dinosaur Quarry Building, 11 kilometers north of Jensen, is the only place in the park to see dinosaur bones.



Because of limited parking space at the Quarry, a shuttle bus operates daily in summer from the main parking area.

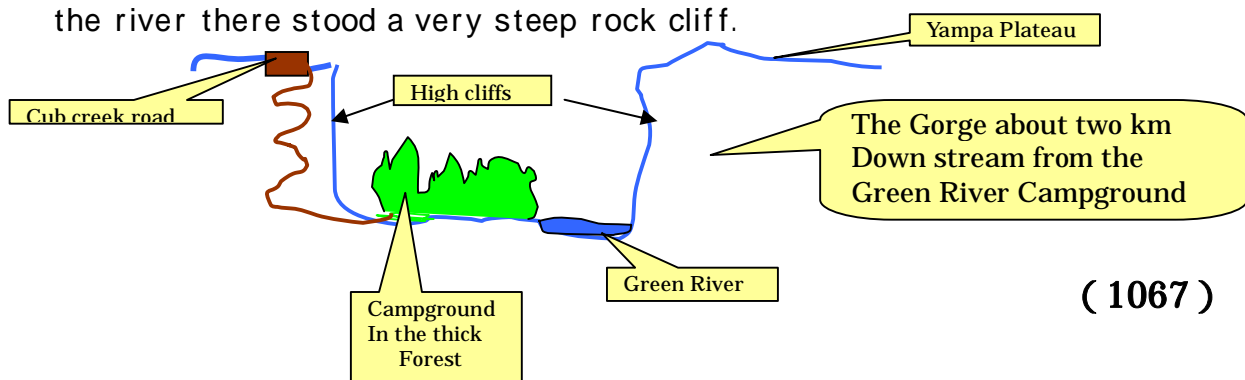
The Colorado section is called Canyon Country and which makes the main part of the Park. There're no fossils at all. Dinosaur Quarry is nothing but a small area. I think Dinosaur National Monument should be named Canyon Country National Park. The beauty of the deep canyon is superb. We can really find the grand view by just only drive on the Harpers Corner Scenic Drive. (Park access road)



Canyon Country composed of Green River Canyon and its east fork, Yampa River Canyon. Canyons are deep, narrow gorges with strangely carved and delicately tinted sheer sandstone cliffs along the Green and Yampa Rivers. The Canyon of Lodore, cut by Green River, ranges from 1.000 to 3.300 feet deep. The scenic Echo Park Road (13Mi 21Km) is available by ordinary two-wheel-drive cars but, is admitted to the hour-wheel-drive cars are admitted to the Yampa Bench Road (gravel 38Mi 61Km). I described about the Monument roughly, at first I thought the Monument was the treasure house of fossil bones of dinosaurs. At the junction of the Monument access road there was the Visitor Center of the Monument Headquarters which was on the gateway to the Canyon Country and had no fossils exhibited. I was given only orientation to the Canyon Country.

As I didn't have enough time to enjoy terrific sceneries of breathtaking deep canyons, I had to be satisfied with the Harpers Corner self-guiding Scenic Drive (33Mi 50Km). It was a superb view.

It was at about seven o'clock when I got to the Green River Campground. The campground located at the canyon floor cut by Green River deep from the Yampa Plateau. The campground was thickly and beautifully covered with forest like an oasis. I was strongly impressed by many big ginkgoes flourishing (about 1.000 mm in diameter) The sites were on the bank close to the flow of water and across the river there stood a very steep rock cliff.





Dinosaur Quarry

Dinosaur Quarry 11 kilometers north of Jensen, Utah is the only Place in the Park to see dinosaur bones. The Quarry is carefully protected in the building



Green River campground

Campground is thickly covered with big trees.



Split Mountain

About ten kilometers east of dinosaur quarry. Mountain rocks are strangely eroded

Wild flowers in Dinosaur National Monument



Looks like a thistle, but not?



What flower is this? In desert.

Green River:

I thought that the Green River was a tributary of the Colorado River for a long time. The Green River meets the Colorado River in the center of Canyonlands National Park. When I saw both of the rivers cut the vast rock earth deep and long, from the Confluence Overlook, I felt the Green River's gorge was as great as the Colorado River's.

This time I traced each river to its source; The Colorado River goes up to the Rocky Mountain National Park, while the Green River goes up to the Green River Lake near by the Grand Teton National Park north-west of Wyoming State. I knew the Green River was far longer than the Colorado River



At the Dinosaur Quarry

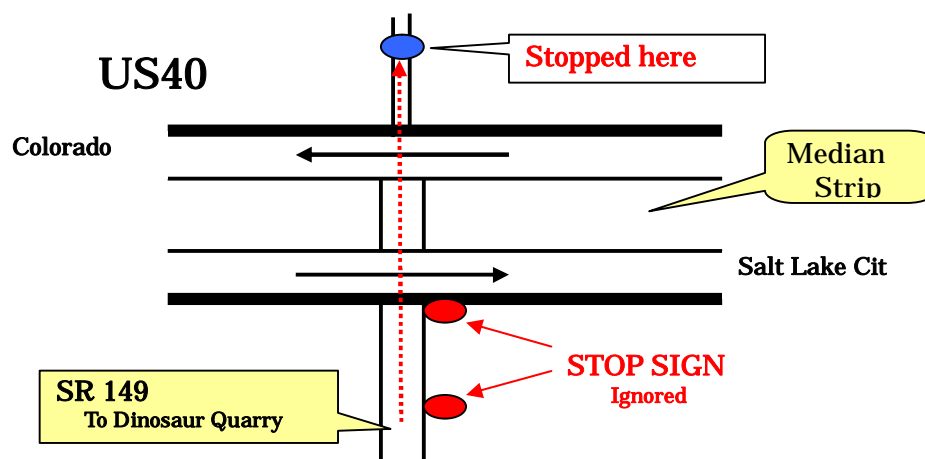


The parking lot in front of the Quarry was so small that the main parking lot was Set up about one mile apart from there and a shuttle bus with a trailer plies between the two parking lots busily the summer only.

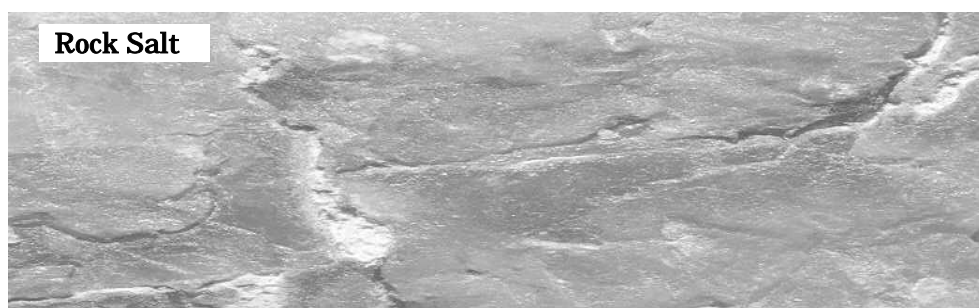
We can see how the excavation is being done with a minute attention. To my surprise, we can touch the excavated bone freely there. No, on the contrary the officials even suggest touching the bone that showed up on the earth after 140.000.000 years.

Have a narrow escape.

I left the quarry, at about eleven o'clock, I was driving on the highway SR149 to Jensen along the Green River thinking about today's destination Salt Lake City. I might have been in such a hurry and so absent-minded, that I missed the stopping sign and dashed into the intersection with the speed of 60 miles an hour. Oh God! It was lucky enough that nothing miserable had happened.



It was a three hour drive from Quarry to the downtown of Salt Lake City (about 200miles, 320Km) via Vernal, Roosevelt, Duchesne on the highway US40 and Interstate I-80. Though I wanted to have a sightseeing tour of the famous Salt Lake City, I gave up because of a shortage of time. I took a short rest at the rest area on I-80 and consulted a map and AAA-Campbook. I decided to go due north 30 miles to Brigham City on I-15 before dark.



Just after I got to Brigham City, I found a big sign board of campground that



I wanted to stop. The campground was private; AAA recommended, pretty large scale, holiday hot spring resort (I guessed). I drove under the big signboard gateway to the office. There were a few visitors there and an oriental(?) young office lady beyond the front counter. I gazed into her face for a while and I thought she must be a Japanese. I said to her in Japanese "Konnichiwa". She replied in poor Japanese "Konnichiwa" bewilderingly. I was so glad and relaxed because I didn't have had a chance to speak Japanese since I started at Los Angeles.

I had a good chance to enjoy speaking Japanese for a while. She was an American of the third Japanese generation. Her grandparents were from Hiroshima Japan, and had already been dead.


Her parents were still quite well, could speak Japanese and her father was an owner of this resort. They had it made flourishing like that day. Her grandparents had worked very hard and founded a hot spring resort. They had whirlpools, a recreation room, heated pools, hot mineral pools, waterslide, fishing banks and 41 tent sites and 83 RV sites.

When she saw emigrants from Japan in Salt Lake City, she spoke in English. She complained Visitors from Japan were so few that she had rarely chances to use Japanese.. She was studying Japanese to go to her grandparents' home country some day in near future.

June 22th (Friday)

As 41 tent sites in the Crystal Springs Campground were on the flat and thickly covered with beautifully mowed lawn, it was superb to have a good sleep in the tent sites. It was as if a comfortable soft bed.

We can never see such an unnatural tent plot in the national parks of US and Canada. Natural or inartificial is their consistent policy for national park.

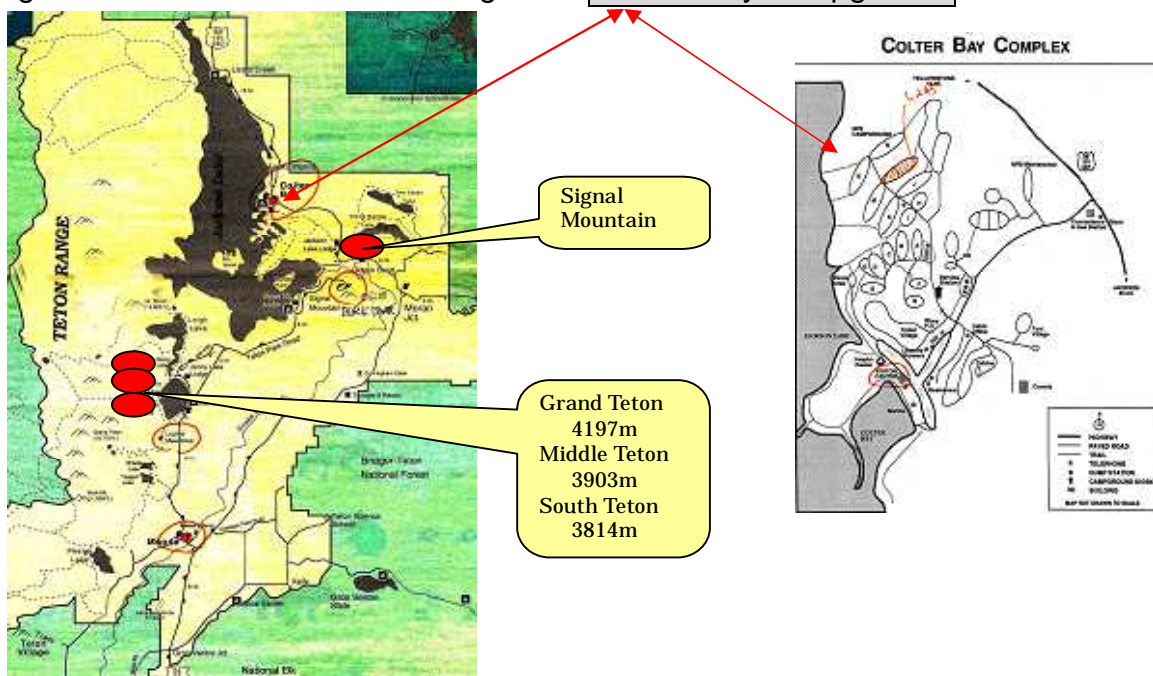
At about six o'clock Ms. the third generation came round the campground to check the sites. I said good morning and thank for offering a nice campsite and good bye at a time. I left campground for  Grand Teton National Park.

After a few minute drive I was aware that I might have taken a wrong highway. I might have mistaken Sr83 for US89. On the map I must have been running on the grand highway with two lanes and a central reservation. I was lost and lost much time.

Now that I was right on the US89 again, I drove through Utah, Idaho to Wyoming and due north along the boundary between Idaho and Wyoming to Teton National Park. It was about a 300 mile (480Km) drive and designated as a long scenic highway.

Throughout the route I ran in the thickly flourished forests, crossing beautiful prairies, on the lake shores and along the river banks.

I got to the Grand Teton National Park at about 5 o'clock In the evening ,and registered a tent site for two nights at Colter Bay Campground



Registration at the Colter Bay Campground

The campground has many user facilities such as Visitor Center, a restaurant, a Convenience Store and Gas Station, Store and Post Office, Laundry and Shower, Cabins and Cabin Office, Marina in Colter Bay, Trailer Village, Picnic Area, Amphitheater, MPS Maintenance, etc.

This area is called "COLTER BAY COMPREX" It's so convenient that the way of registration is a little different. At first, visitors go to the Visitor Center which has a vast front yard for parking etc to propose a campsite. At the front counter, we fill the application form with necessities. The ranger fills the site number column with the temporarily designated site number (left). Anyway I go there and look carefully if it suits me. If it's not I go round the campgrounds looking for a site that's not taken yet and suits me. If I fortunately find one, I should go back immediately to the Visitor Center and ask to change the site number. After paying campsite fee the ranger makes a receipt with a new site number L245 (112). (See the right)

Guest Registration

NAME: Kipp Kusamegi
 ADDRESS: 1-7-1 Toranaka Omiya-shi
 CITY & STATE: Saitama Japan 330
 COUNTRY: 日本国
 PHONE NO.: 1122 979 STATE: Cal.
 CAR MAKE: Nissan Maxima YEAR: 82
 UNIT NO.: STATE:
 NO. PERSONS: ADULTS: 2 DATE IN: 6-22-90 DATE OUT: 6-23-90
 CHILDREN: NO. OF DAYS: 1
 FEES: CAMPGROUND CHARGE: \$9.00 EXTRA PERIODS: \$ TAX: \$1.00 TOTAL CHARGES: \$14.00 ADVANCE DEPOSIT: \$ BALANCE PAID: \$9.00
 SITE NO.: 112

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK CAMPGROUND RECEIPT

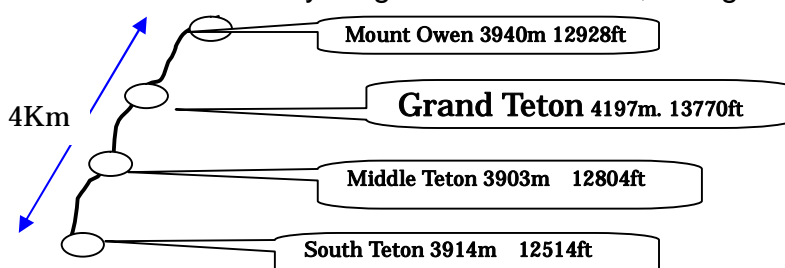
SITE # 245 DATE IN 6/23 DATE OUT 6/25
 # DAYS 2
 # IN PARTY 2
 NAME: [Handwritten Name]
 CHECK OUT/RENEWAL - BY 11:00 A.M. SHOW CAMPSITE OCCUPANCY BY LEAVING NON-VALUABLE ITEM AT SITE
 SITE NO. L245
 ATTACH TO LEFT CORNER OF WINDSHIELD
 38760

I attached this receipt on the left corner of the windshield, then the registration was completed. The fee was 14 dollars for 2 days.

Brief Introduction of Grand Teton NP

It is said that as the Teton Range rose through sporadic earthquake-producing jolts, the valley subsided and is called Jackson Hole.

Teton Range has more than 20 peaks of more than 10,000ft altitude, and Jackson Hole has many large and small lakes, and gentle flow of the Snake River.



I knew a little about Yellowstone National Park but I knew nothing about Grand Teton National Park until I visited there that year. I felt the atmosphere of the Grand Teton was much more familiar with my heart than any other national park I had ever visited in the US.

I found a lot of appeals in spite of only two day's stay:

(1) Wildflower's colonies in Jackson Hole (alt. 2000ft plateau)

Forget - me - not, Pink Geranium, Evening primrose, Balsam etc

(2) Aspen forests with young and fresh leaves.

(3) Beautiful lakes filled with crystal water, scattered in Jackson Hole

The still water mirrored high peaks of Teton Range

(4) Many kinds of wildlives

I saw Moose, Buffalo, Black bear, Elk, Mule deer etc



The most impressive point of the Park was the Signal Mountain near by Colter Bay Campground. The altitude of the Signal Mountain is 2314m (7593ft). Though it sounds to be very high mountain, the altitude of Jackson Lake is 2064m (6772ft), then the elevation of the Signal Mountain is only 250m from Jackson Lake.

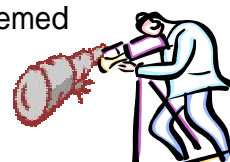
The Signal Mountain Road was thickly forested with aspen and spruce.

It was a few minute drive from the Teton Park Road to the small flat summit of the mountain, where we could command the 180 degree round grand view of the Teton Range and 180 degree of the flat Jackson Hole, which had a vast prairie and a lot of lakes.

On the Signal Mountain road just close to the Teton Park Road I found a big moose eating in a small pond about one meter deep and her baby sitting on the bank. The baby was so small and cute that I thought it was fresh from the birth. I parked my car on the turnout, I was fascinated with the sight and watched a mother and a baby for a long while until many visitors got together around me.

Just beneath of top of the mountain pretty wide parking lot was made. Only a few cars were parked there.

At the corner of the parking lot a man was taking picture of a beautiful wild bird with terrific long focused, big caliber lens mounted on the strongly -built tripod. Judging from his materials, he must have been a professional. He focused on the bird freely moving his machine. The bird seemed to act as if he were a model



(1074)

At the Jackson Lake Junction, the scenic Teton park Road from US89 and just before the Jenny Lake, the one-way scenic byway parts from the Teton Park Road which runs along the bank of Jenny Lake. There was a very nice turnout to look up three highest Teton peaks (Grand Teton 4187m, Middle Teton 3903m, South Teton 3814m) and Mount Owen (3940m) over the Jenny Lake at one sight. I convinced this scene was the best view in the Teton National Park

Jackson is supposed to be the first white man who found this beautiful Teton Range and Jackson Hole. The photographs he took were designated as national treasure.



Breathtaking first sight of the rugged young mountain Grand Teton from due south

The right photograph was taken from the Moose Visitor Center. Three mountains were Grand Teton, Middle Teton and South Teton from right to left. Each peak is much higher than Mount Fuji and the close range view is Jackson Hole through which the Snake River meanders calmly.

The elevation from the Jackson Hole is about 2.000m. I looked for the best shot of three peaks of Teton over the Jenny Lake in my CD photo-library, Sorry to say, I couldn't find it anywhere. If I found it by any chance, I'd like to replace the former photograph.



July 25th (Sunday)

I left the Colter Bay Campground for Yellowstone National Park at half past seven.

The federal highway US89 runs about ten miles to the north boundary of the Teton national Park, and due north about seven miles from there to the Yellowstone National Park along the Snake River.

The area between the two parks including seven mile US89 which was contributed by John D. Rockefeller was named **JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER JR. MEMORIAL PARKWAY.**

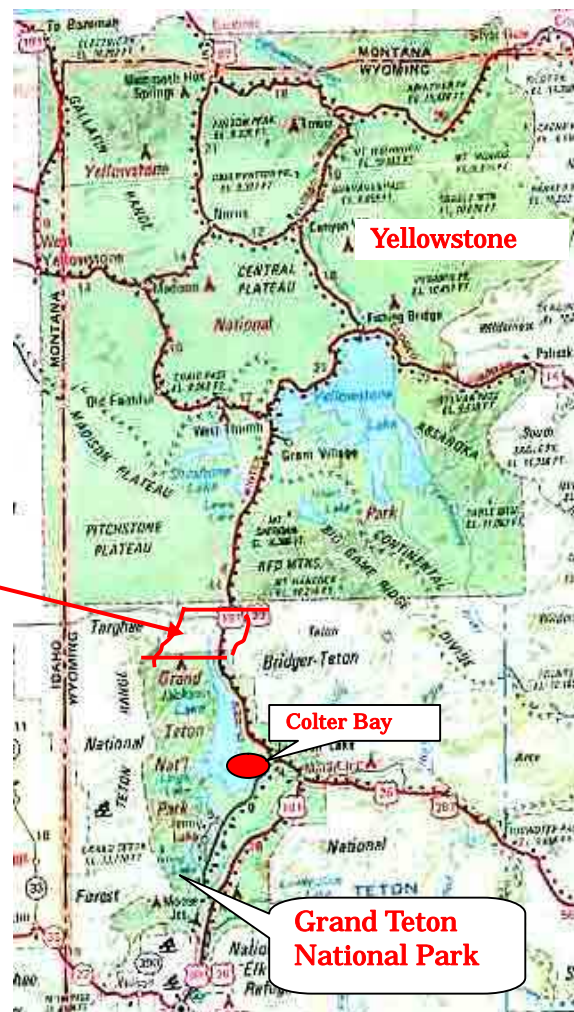
All I knew about Yellowstone National Park was that the Park was the first and the biggest national park in the world.

Driving on the John D. Rockefeller JR. Memorial Parkway I could realize the enormous wealth of the Rockefeller Families. (See the parallelogram in the right map).

I had heard from my son before I started this trip that the area of the Yellowstone national Park was about half of SHIKOKU Island and larger than twice of metropolitan Tokyo. At the South Entrance I got the official map of the Park and the tabloid “Yellowstone Today” as usual.

I stopped on the wide road shoulder just for a while and had a glance of the official map and newspaper to decide where to pitch a tent tonight. To make sure the campground is the most argent problem for the travelers, who have a sleep in tent every night,

The park size is so large (50miles, east to west and 60miles,north to south) that there are a lot of facilities in the Park (See the next page, the map of roads and facilities in the Yellowstone National Park.) I looked for the nearest Visitor Center of the five. It was located in GRANT VILLAGE on the bank of the south west end of the Yellowstone Lake about 22miles north from the south entrance.



A few miles before Grant Village US89 crosses Continental Divide, The elevation of the pass is 2435m (7988 ft). As the elevation of the Yellowstone Lake is 2357m, I couldn't believe that I crossed the Continental Divide.

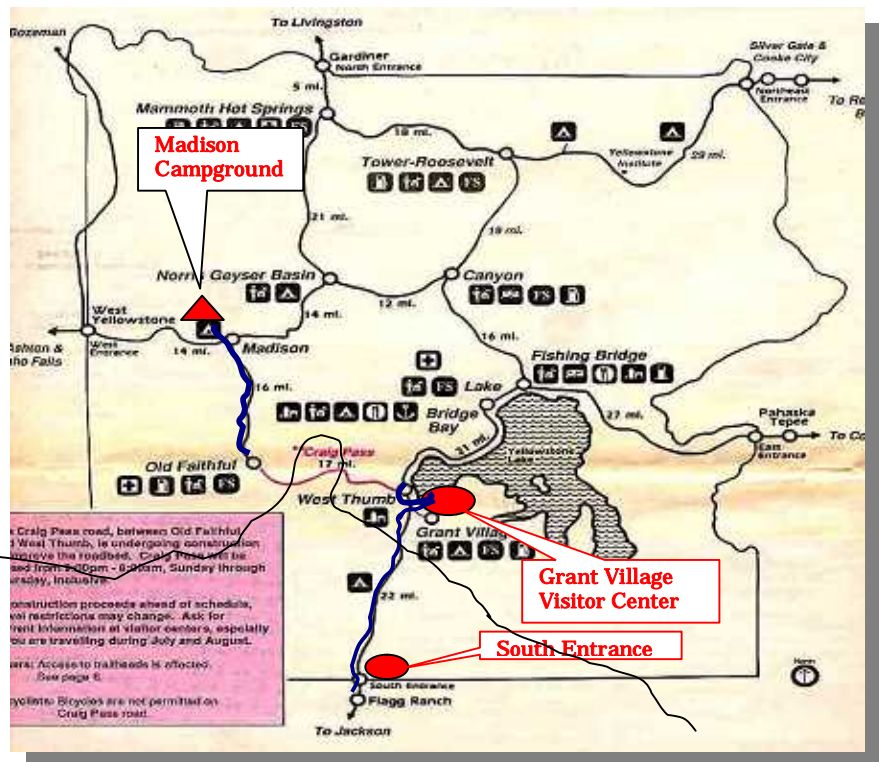
I got to the Grant Village Visitor Center at eleven. I had enough time to get informations about what I should do that day,

There is one of the largest campgrounds near the Visitor Center and on the shore of the Yellowstone Lake. The number of site is 403, and almost all sites were occupied, at that time but not a few campsites might be vacant by the evening, because of Sunday, ranger said. I made up my mind to drive northeast along the Yellowstone Lake to Fishing Bridge to enjoy this scenic road. There were five picnic areas and one campground along the route. The Bridge Bay Campground (420 sites) was the largest of 12 campgrounds in the Park.

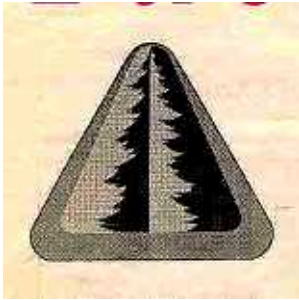
Returning to West Thumb Junction, a few miles northwest of Grant Village Visitor Center, I Took the way to Madison via Old Faithful which was one of the most famous seeing spots for the geyser. This section of the road (about 27km) was under construction, the road condition was the worst for sightseeing drivers. One lane was the temporarily made gravel road . 30 40 cars were led by a guiding car and cars going to the opposite direction had to take turns waiting. It naturally took a lot of time.

The bad time in the trip remains as a strong impression and also as a good memory.

Another thing I was wondered was that almost all forests along the US89 were burnt and unlimited numbers of black dead tall trunks were sprawling in my view, not only in Yellowstone national Park but also in Grand Teton and Rockefeller Memorial Parkway. I didn't know the reason, until I read "Yellowstone Today".



1988 Yellowstone Fire



Fire roadside exhibits, and auto or foot trails through burnt areas are available where we see these symbols.

In 1988 (two years before my visit), naturally caused fires occurred in the Yellowstone area and kept on burning as long as there was vegetation to burn. which appeared following the retreat of glaciers 12.000 years ago. (Yellowstone Today Summer 1900 said).

This article tells the enormous scale of the fires, I can find no words to add to this expression.

The fire burnt down more than 80 percent of forest in Yellowstone only two years before, every earth in the burned forest was covered with grasses, shrubs and tiny next generation of the lodge pole pines. I felt the mystery of ecological environment.

80 percent of trees in Yellowstone national Park were supposed to be lodge pole pines and there are two kinds of species among lodgepole. The one produces pinecone burst open after two years, the other cones don t burst open until pine- resin melt by the forest fire.

The seeds of the next generation begin to put out buds at the same time when the fire is put out. It s one of the terrific wonders of the nature, isn t it ?

Old Faithful Geyser

Through the way to Old Faithful, the highway was under construction. We were led by the guiding truck mounted big sign board written "FOLLOW ME" crossing Continental Divide Twice. I got to Old Faithful a little after noon.

Old Faithful is famous for its geyser which spouts up to 60m at predictable intervals. Most of the appoloximately 10.000 thermal features

(geysers, fumaroles, hot springs and mud pots) are in these geyser basins



(1078)

The spout of high pressure steam was a terrific grand view. About a hundred spectators sitting and waiting on the logs set about 150m in diameter around the spout applauded loudly

Along the self-guiding board trail we can see a lot of small irregular geysers. The surface of the earth is so hot and dangerous that to get the trail off is strictly prohibited. Hot steam and hot springs irregularly spurted out from the spouts everywhere in this area.

the red dot line (.....) designates the trail round thousands features of the volcanic activities (geysers, fumaroles, hot springs, and mud pots).

Two photographs below show hot springs which beautiful see-through bluish very hot water gently comes up from deep in the earth for millions years. The sights were fascinating as well as mysterious by their snow-white crystal rim of the pool, their transparency and unearthly deep holes.

Yellowstone National Park is supposed to be an enormous volcano with an oval caldera, approximately 80km from east to west 50km from north to south .



One of the small geysers seen from the trail



Large bloomed morning glory



Madison junction with East Entrance road.

Left Old Faithful for Madison via Upper Geyser Basin, Middle Geyser Basin, and Lower Geyser Basin. I saw many kinds of volcanic features, I must have surely seen them in Japan because Japan is a world famous volcanic country. The scale made me stare. For instance, the caldera of Yellowstone is 80-60km oval, I think it'll be tenth of outer caldera of Mount Aso, Old Faithful Geyser, spouts 40.000 litter hot water, 60m high, every 65 minute, for more than one hundred years. Grand prismatic spring in Biscuit Basin has a pool more than 100m in diameter ,etc.

I could fortunately reserve a campsite(107) in Madison campground for two nights- date in 6-25-90, date out 6-27-90. The campground was rather large one ,about 300 sites in the Yellowstone National park, but, almost all sites were already occupied. It was said that to make sure to get a campsite in the campground under National Park Service in summer was indispensable to make reservation. I had never made reservation, because I had made no definite itinerary, I couldn't make reservations in fact. My own way of trip was very suitable for me. I'm free to decide where to go, what to do, it was only up to me. If anything should happen. I could do every solution I like. I had never had such freedom of action in my business days.

Campground made a community; campers become friends with neighbors immediately when we pitched tents. Campers are usually naturalists who deeply love natures. They are open-minded and friendly. We give and accept helps each other as if we were old neighbors.

When I was making wood- fire, a neighbor brought me a well burning wood to start fire easily. When I was looking for a water tap a neighbor old lady took me to the tap with her bucket.

I usually took my meal alone I was often invited by neighbors to take meal with them on their table. I made a point of accepting it always.

At night at Madison campground an old neighbor came to my table with his bottle of bourbon whisky to have a chat with me.. about his visit to Japan. He had a little drunk already. He spoke about his old Japanese girl friend and over again. I said; Why not go to Japan to see her ?. He said it 'was too late, he was not young .

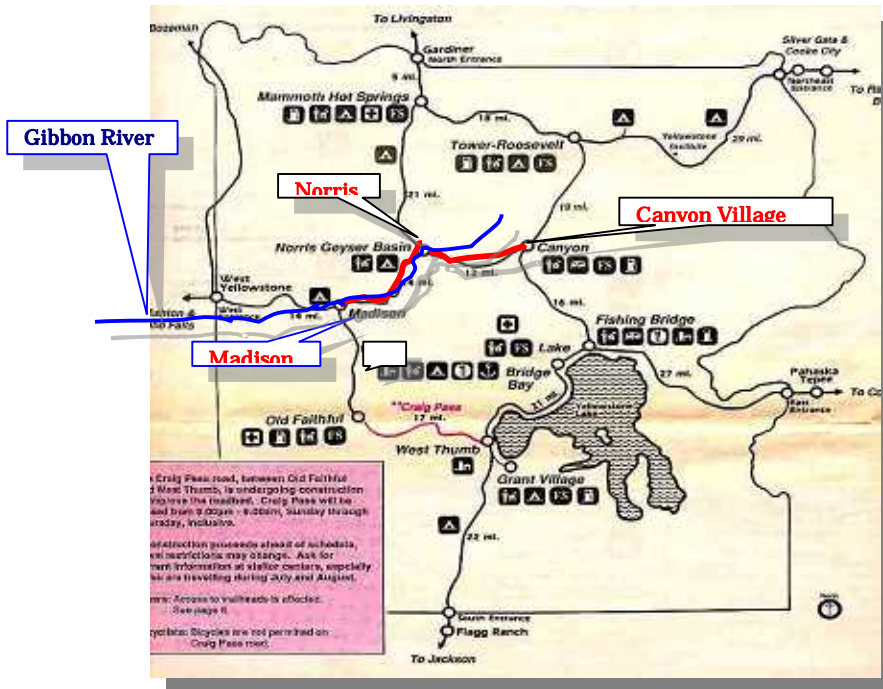
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YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK CAMPGROUND RECEIPT		
SITE #	DATE IN	DATE OUT
107	6-25-90	6-27-90
NAME K. Kusumagi	TENT <input type="checkbox"/> RV <input type="checkbox"/>	EDUC <input type="checkbox"/> GROUP <input type="checkbox"/>
LICENSE #/STATE	GOLDEN AGE <input type="checkbox"/>	GOLDEN ACCESS <input type="checkbox"/>
	HIKER / BIKER <input type="checkbox"/>	
# OF DAYS 2 days	# IN PARTY	
WARNING! FOOD & ODORS ATTRACT BEARS All food and objects that might smell of food must be locked inside your car, in the cab of your pickup, in a food storage box (available in some campsites) or hung 10 feet above the ground and 4 feet from the nearest object. Do not leave in tents or soft-sided units. In campgrounds where modern restroom facilities are provided, pour waste water in disposal sinks. Do not use pit toilets to dispose of food, garbage or waste water. Dispose of all trash and garbage in bear-proof cans. A \$25 citation will be issued for non-compliance.		
ATTACH TO LEFT CORNER OF WINDSHIELD		
154813 PART I		

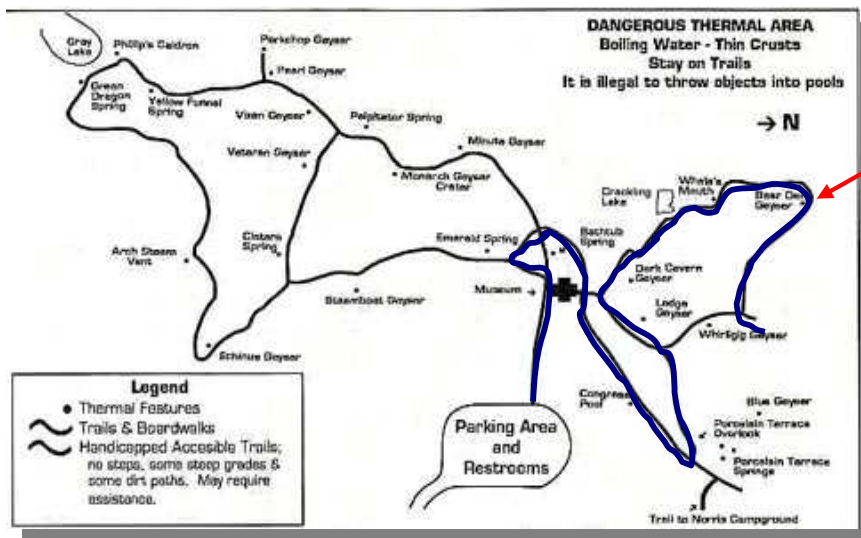
QUIET HOURS 8 PM TO 8 AM
STRICTLY ENFORCED

June 26th(Tuesday)

Got up at 5:30, I Left Madison Campground for Norris Geyser Basin 14miles (23km) northeast along the bank of the Gibbon River.



There were a great number of geysers in the Norris Geyser Basin. Each geyser was not as big as Old Faithful Geyser but the quantity was countless. Somewhere on the highway the steam concealed cars from a view.



Handicapped Accessible Trails; No steps, some steep grades, and some dirt paths. May require assistance.

Norris Geyser Basin is said to be the hottest, the most volatile in the thermal area in north America. Boiling water and thin crusts are dangerous. To stay on Trails is strictly required.

(1081)

When I was heading to Norris along the Gibbon River, I saw a large family of Bison crossing the park highway close in front of my car slowly and gently. One of the biggest bison came close to the left door window of my car, and was standing until the last one crossed the highway. He looked very genial but dignified. I guess his weight was more than 700Kg and I thought he might have been the boss of the group.



I want to know the difference between Bison and Buffalo

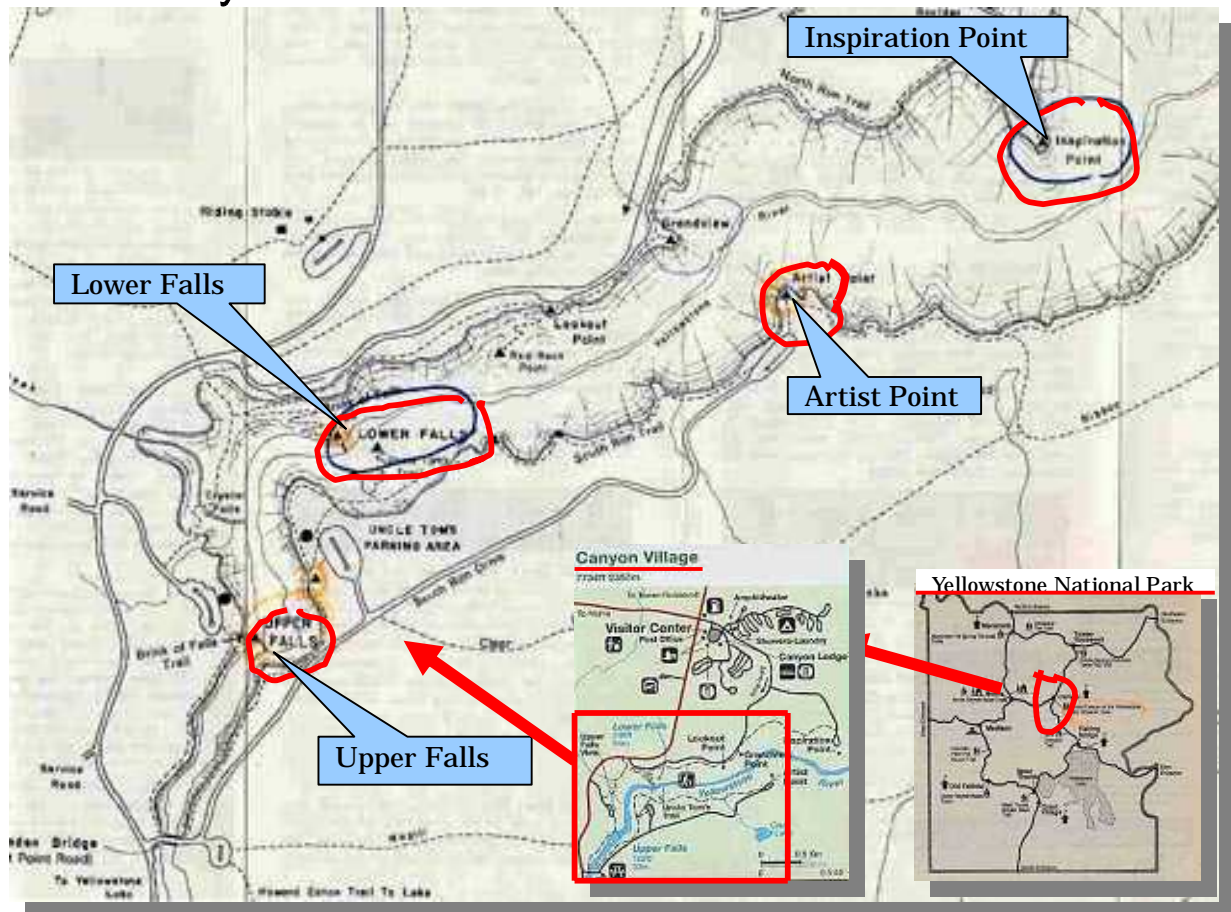


Young two have a play or a fight?

Bison may appear tame and slow but are wild, unpredictable and dangerous. They sprint at about 50Km an hour, three times as fast as we can run.

(1082)

Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone



I got to Canyon Village (12 miles due east of Norris) at ten. There were Visitor Center, Post office, Store, Restaurant, Canyon Lodge, Gas station and nice Campground with showers-laundry. That was a small nice complex. I took a late breakfast there, two eggs sunny-side-up with some bacon, two slices of bread fried potato, tomato juice. and a middle cup of American coffee.

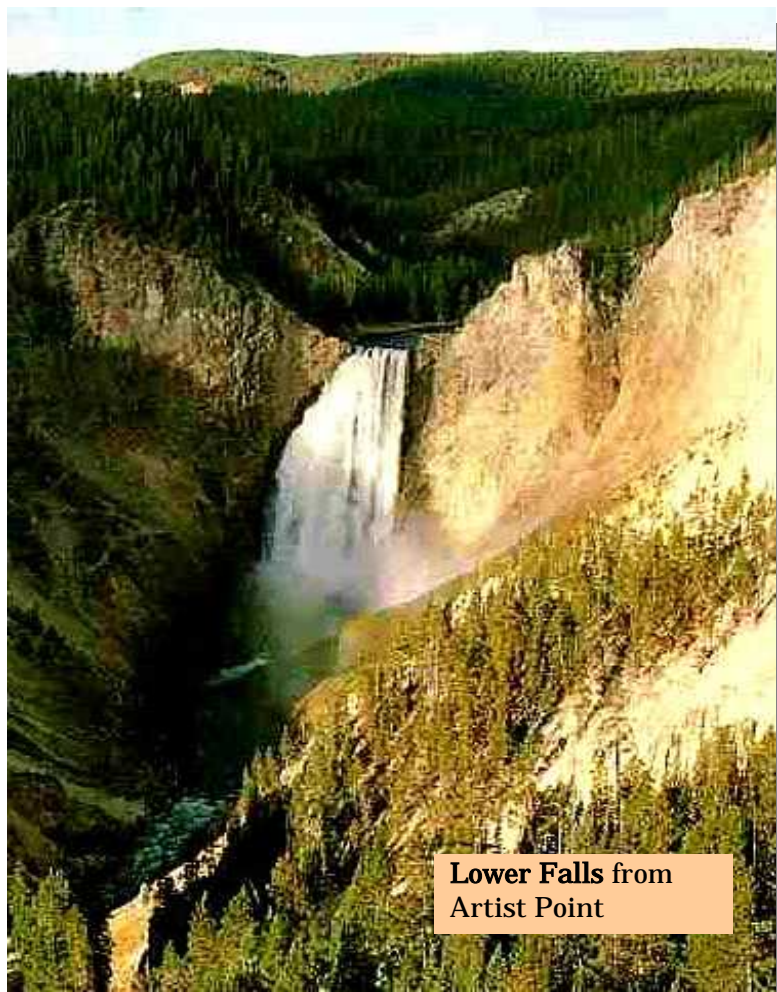
The water of the large crater lake in the enormous caldera ran down to the northeast as the Yellowstone River ever sculptured deep "Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone".

As I saw the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, the sights of this Canyon were not so amazing. The V-shape canyon was vertically sharp and deep. The red earth layer of the canyon was rather simple. There are three big falls in the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone; Upper Falls, Lower Falls, near Canyon Village and Tower Falls, near Tower Roosevelt. I saw Upper Falls looking down on the brink of falls. It saw exciting. The Lower Falls is the biggest of the three, 90m high and a large quantity of water drops down. The (Uncle Tom's) Trail led visitors to the basin of the waterfall via 400 steps of stairs. To my regret, I gave up.

I drove down on the South Rim Road to Artist Point which was the best vista to see the Lower Falls through the deep valley at the distance of 1.5Km.. The photograph of the Lower Falls taken from there was supposed to be the most popular signboard of Yellowstone National Park as well as Old Faithful Geyser.



Upper Falls



Lower Falls from Artist Point

The Canyon was said, at that time, to be approximately 800-1200 feet deep and 1500-4000 feet wide, 20 miles long. I thought the area along the Yellowstone River between Canyon Village and Tower Roosevelt was the most spectacular in the park. The two of the best vista points were Artist's Point on the south rim and Inspiration Point on the north rim.

The view with yellow tint was the southeast wall of the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone from the brink of Inspiration Point. on the northwest rim

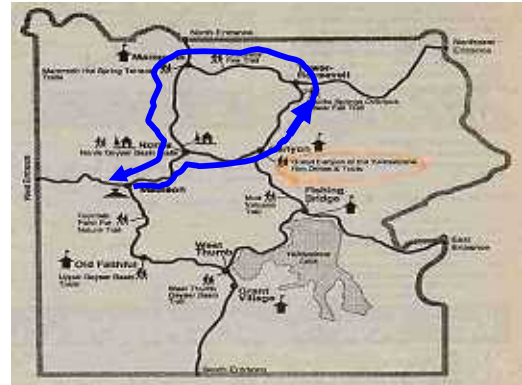
(1085)



From Tower Roosevelt to Madison Campground via Mammoth Hot Springs and Norris. On that day I went round, so called, the most scenic Upper Loop. Particularly the road from Canyon Village to Tower Roosevelt was superb.

The Lower Falls was so terrific that Tower Falls didn't appeal strongly.

As it was getting rather late to return to my tent in Madison Campground, I passed through the Mammoth Hot Springs which was famous for its limestone terrace. I made up my mind to visit there without haste next day.

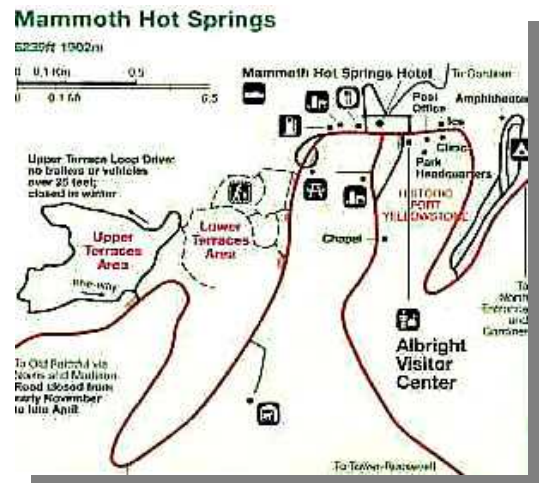


I realized that a two night and three day's stay was too short to know the Yellowstone National Park. I had just only a glance of its features.

As I felt weary and hungry I took a large portion of meal and beer, A little early as it was, I went to my favorite bed in my tent on a full stomach.

June 27th (Wednesday)

After a ten hour good sleep, then I got up at five. Without taking a breakfast, I hurried to Mammoth Hot Springs 35miles (57Km) due north, to see its world famous limestone terrace.



Mammoth Hot Springs are located at the northwest of the Park near the north entrance. The springs are famous for its wide terrace-like formation created by limestone deposits. I drove round one-way UpperTerrace Drive by my passenger car (no vehicles over 25 ft). In the lower terrace area, there was a net of fine boardwalk trails.

I said "Adieu Yellowstone!", waving in farewell under the west gate of the Park. I had to drive through a long way to Glacier National Park from the southernmost to the northernmost of Montana State. It was a 400 mile (640) drive

I took US191 northward nearly 100 miles to the junction of Interstate Highway 90 (I-50). This section of US191 runs down close along the Gallatin River and is nominated for the scenic road by AAA. I drove about 200 miles on I-90 from the US 191 to Missoula and from Missoula to Glacier National Park about 100 miles.



I crossed the Continental Divide at Homestake Pass (6939ft) just before Butte City. Butte was a little big city which had population 33,000 and famous for its copper production. It was the largest truck-operated pit mines in the world. The name of Anaconda Copper Co. was world wide famous in the past.

I went shopping to downtown and bought some necessities for the day. I took a light meal at a cafeteria, and at the parking lot, I lost my sense of direction. I was too careless; I couldn't remember where I was. I asked many passers - how to get on ramp to I-90 West. They kindly and friendly told me, but their instructions were so complicated that I couldn't understand clearly. I went round the very big small city Butte, and I wasted much time. Finally I got I-90 West. I really felt weary in body and mind.



I was driving on I-90 at the speed of 65 miles an hour, speed limit for passenger cars, when fuel indicator warned me the decrease of fuel all of a sudden. It was the first time that I was warned by the loud voice from the indicator.

I stopped on the shoulder of the highway carefully and consulted the AAA Triptik. I found the sign of gas station at the interchange of Clinton which was the second interchange from that place was. I drove being afraid if gas would be enough or not. I was on pins and needles. At last, just before Clinton interchange, the second warning uttered mercilessly. I dashed to the Clinton interchange without lessening the speed. I managed to drive into the gas station.

I had my car filled up with regular unleaded, 15 gallons, 17 dollars and half. I felt much relieved. After a short rest, I turned the starter switch on, but there were no responses.

When I checked the voltmeter, it indicated 8 volts instead 12 volts. I asked the storekeeper to check the engine, but he denied. There were neither mechanics nor tools for repair.

The gas station was so small that they only dealt with gas and grocery.

Inevitably I had to check by myself. The battery was a brand new, because my son had replaced it before I started.

I checked and found out the fact that the driving V-belt for generator was loosened.

I wondered how to tighten the generator belt. but engine room was so narrow for engine assembly. It was impossible to insert any tool. I knew it was essential to remove the cover of engine room in order to reach the belt.

I needed a pit for repair or a car lift. To my regret, there was neither.

I found very important fact that there were used two belts one for a radiator and the other for a generator. If I could start the engine I could go to the garage keeping in mind not to stop the engine.

I asked the storekeeper for a small favor to connect his battery with mine by cables. My engine started at one shot, driving a radiator fan smoothly.

I thanked the storekeeper and left there.

I had my generator belt tightened at a well equipped garage at Missoula. The mechanic (Mr. Sisney) recommended me to replace a belt and a battery. I politely refused because the battery was new and to replace a belt would take much time.



The mechanic, Mr. Sisney was a sunny nice guy. Everybody calls him "Kissme" he said..

I asked Kissme to change the engine, and transmission oil instead of a battery and a V-belt."

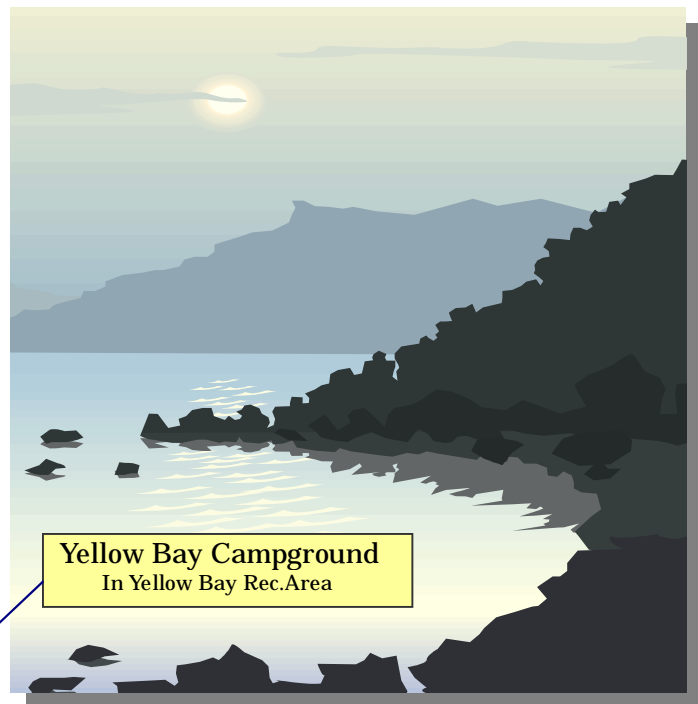


As it was getting rather late, I gave up pitching a tent in Glacier National Park. I asked Kissme to recommend some good campgrounds on the way to the Park.

He recommended Yellow Bay Campground on the east shore of Flathead Lake instantly, I decided at once.. The Flathead Lake is located half way from Missoula to Apgar, the south entrance of Glacier National Park. It's about 60mile drive from Kissme's garage. He told me precisely how to get there and how nice the campground was. The Flathead Lake was so scenic that there were five recreation areas and two state parks. The lake is also supposed to be one of the best fishing resorts in the Northwestern US. He spoke enthusiastically and endlessly.

I drove on US93 hurrying to Polson nearly 60Km due north and got to The Junction SR35.

Around the junction, nothing could be seen, no one no car ,no shop, no road sign.



Yellow Bay Campground
In Yellow Bay Rec.Area



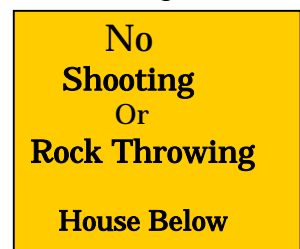
I drove northward on SR35 looking for a man whom I wanted to ask how to get to the Yellow Bay Campground, when I found a car parking in the highway -side turnout. But no one there in the car, I waited for a while parking my car beside the car. Shortly a blond-haired housewife returned to her car tugging a large dog. I asked the way and about Yellow Bay Campground.. She was so wise to tell the way for a stranger, She said "Follow me until I turn flash-light on, then you turn left" I could get to campground before dark.

June 28th (Thursday)

I woke up by the noise of a little heavy rain at 5:30. I was afraid it might rain all day long. I struck my wet tent and left for Glacier National Park. I had to have my tent dried at a Laundromat on the way to the Park by next camp.

At first, I check the battery; the voltmeter had a voltage of 13.5. The engine started with one turn. The battery had been completely recovered by about 50 mile drive even without recharging at the garage.

I drove back to Polson and took prearranged scenic course US 93 along the east bank of the Flathead Lake. Here and there, I saw signs on the brinks of highway road shoulder.



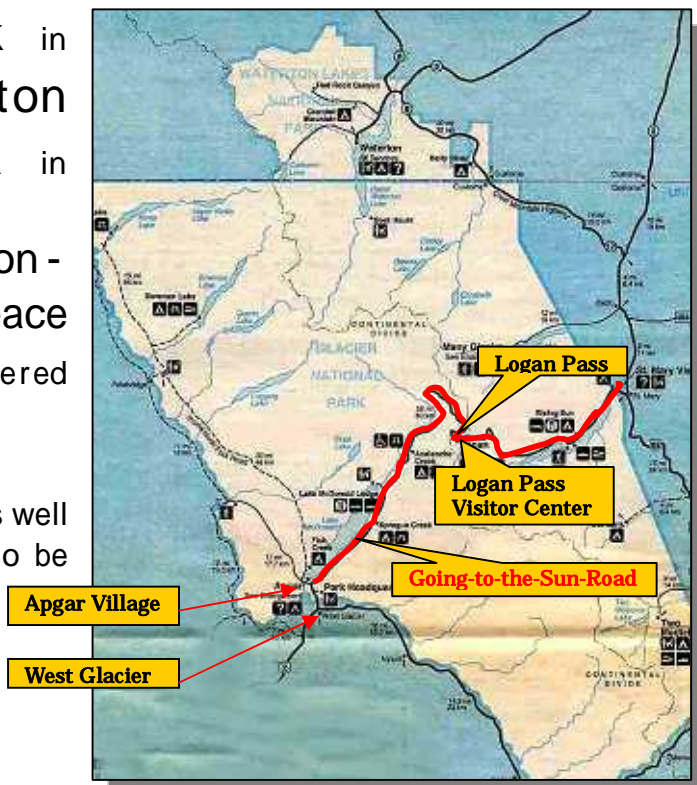
The 27mile section of US 93 runs on the brinks of west shore of Flathead Lake from Polson to Somers. It was so scenic that a lot of State Parks and State Recreation Areas were set up along the thickly forested lake shores.

I took a snack on potato chips at a cafe near Kalispell which was noted for its production of sweet cherries. I took US2 from there to West Glacier that was a 45Km scenic drive. West Glacier is the West Entrance of the Glacier National Park.

Glacier National Park in Montana, US and Waterton Lakes National Park in Alberta, Canada:

Together form Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, although each is administered separately..

More than 50 U-shaped valleys as well as most of lakes are supposed to be the legacies of the last ice age. The mountain sceneries of the Glacier National Park were really superb I had ever seen in US.



Going-to-the-Sun Road (80Km) was surely second to none.

AAA Tour Book described; It was acclaimed as one of the outstanding scenic roadways of the world, traverses the width of the park, crossing the Continental divide through Logan pass at an elevation of 6,680 feet. Joining US 89 at St. Mary and SR 2 at West Glacier, the 52-mile route affords magnificent views of some of Glacier National Park's loveliest scenery.



Mountains on the Continental Divide
From Sun Point on the shore of St. Mary

Coming from the east, one has exceptionally grand views of the mountains and St. Mary's Lake from high, level roads hacked out of the mountainside. Once over Logan Pass a continuous descent begins to the floor of the valley.

Going-to-the-Sun Road is so narrow that vehicles and vehicle combinations longer than 21 feet or wider than 8 feet (including mirrors) are prohibited from traveling Going-to-the-Sun

Road between the Avalanche picnic area and Sun Point parking areas, where they may park. Between the two parking lots the pay shuttle bus service was available.



Logan Pass (viewing west from the vista point on the Going-to-the-Sun Road)
Crosses over the Continental Divide here.



Grand View from the Logan Pass Visitor Center, the right hand peak is Reynolds. The U-shape valley was sculptured by glacier millions years ago.

Turn back the description a little; I got the west Entrance about noon. At the boundary of the park I saw an old building hanging a signboard written in English and French as follows Park Headquarter and Bureau-chef du parc. I remembered Canada has two public languages, English and French, so all signs and formal documents must be written in Canada by two public languages by law. Here is the Waterton Glacier International Peace Park managed by both Canada and the US regulations.

As usual at first I dropped in at Apgar Visitor Center (Centre D'accueil de Apgar)- -hereafter the French language will be omitted- -, there were a restaurant, a café, a souvenir shop. Ranger station, campgrounds and picnic areas in the neighborhood of the Visitor Center.. As the village was southernmost of the long narrow MacDonald Lake, the view of mountains on the Continental Divide beyond the lake. was really magnificent.

(1092)

I reserved a campsite in the Avalanche Creek Campground, 14 miles northeast of the Apgar Visitor Center, beside the Going-to-the-Sun Road.

Going-to-the-Sun Road runs northeast nearly 10 miles close along the lakeshore of McDonald. The road was flat, paved, two lanes and well maintained. Surroundings were thickly forested with old big spruces until the end of the long Lake McDonald.

The lake was supposed to be made by a huge glacier millions years ago. The U-shaped glacier valley floor pooled affluent crystal spring water and brought up thickly flourishing forest now. The road was dark even in the daytime.

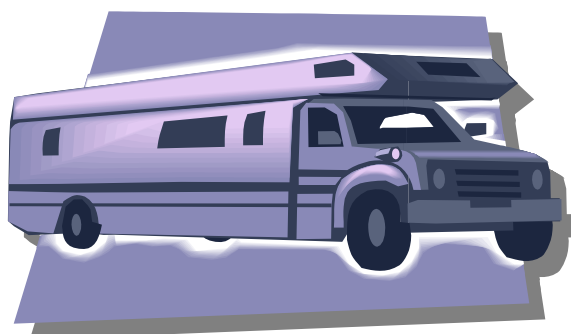


This is not a photograph of Lake McDonald but the thick forest is just like this.

(From clip art)

The road ascended gradually from the end of the lake into the dense forest along the McDonald River and after a 5 mile drive I got to the Avalanche Creek Campground. As it was a little rainy and foggy, the campground was darkish but well maintained. Quite a few campsites were occupied by long vehicles and long trailer houses.

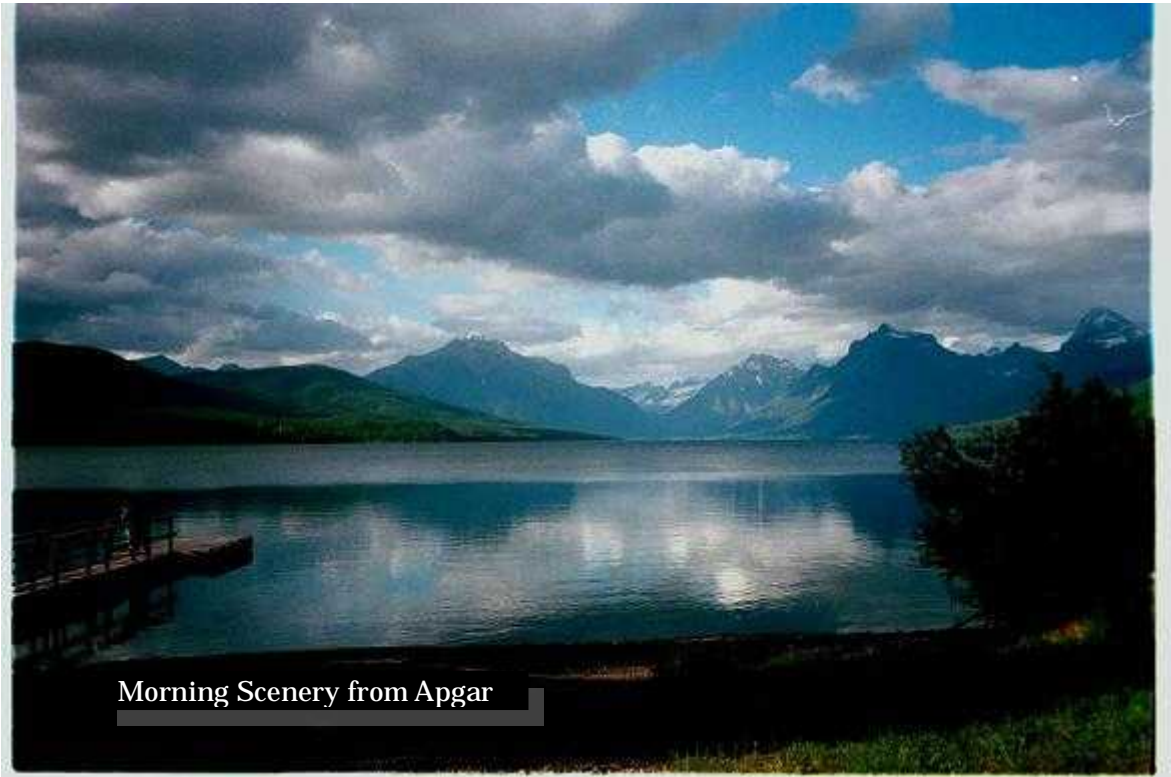
There were important notices on the billboard at the center of the campground; The Going-to-the-Sun Road would be narrow, winding and steep. Vehicles and vehicle combinations longer than 21 feet or wider than 8 feet (including mirrors) are prohibited from traveling Going-to-the-Sun road from here to Sun Point Parking Area. For those who can't go into the road by their own vehicles, the paid shuttle bus services are available.



(1093)

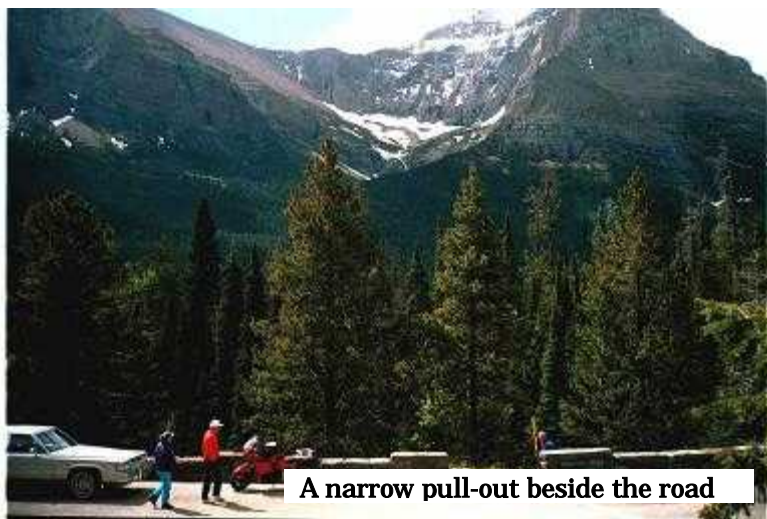
June 29th (Friday)

After taking continental breakfast on the picnic table of my campsite, I drove back to Apgar Village to see the morning sceneries of Glacier Mountains beyond Lake McDonald. Fortunately it was not rainy but partly blue sky could be seen.



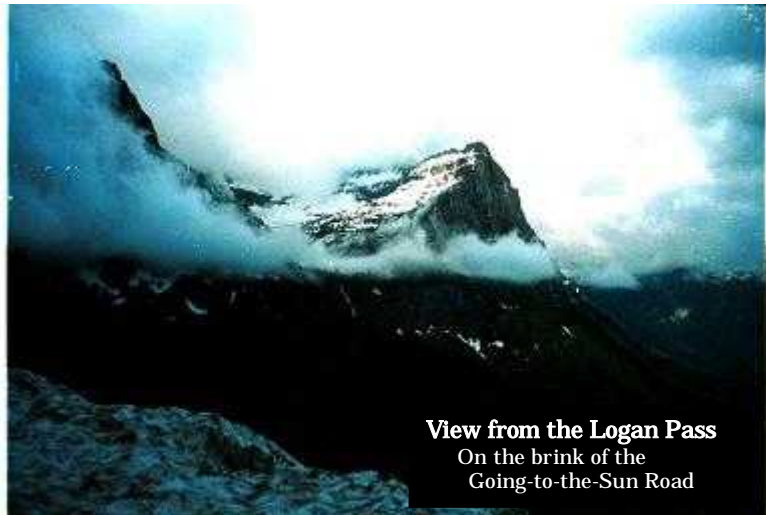
Morning Scenery from Apgar

No one was there yet except a photographer on the pier setting his tripod. I walked around the village for some time and I took Going-to-the-Sun Road for Logan Pass. From Avalanche Creek, the road became narrow and, steep, and the higher was the altitude, the more were windings on the hillside of Garden Wall. Here and there narrow pullouts were built on the brinks to see breath-taking grand mountain views.



A narrow pull-out beside the road

The Continental Divide runs from the southeast boundary of the Glacier National Park in US to the west boundary of the Waterton Lakes National Park in Canada crossing the Going-to-the-Sun Road at Logan Pass. Though the altitude of the Pass is not so high (2.025m) the shapes of sharp rugged peaks show up strongly.



The rocks of the peaks we look now were piled at the bottom of the sea a billion years ago. I can't help wondering how the ocean floor pushed up so high in the sky.

Just beside the Logan Pass the big visitor center was built. We can see a huge u-shape glacier sculpted valley and the peak of the Going-to-the-Sun (2939m) from the edge of the deep cliff. About 20Km long Lake St. Mary is made by Glacier floor.

Logan Pass reminded me of the Trail Ridge Over Look Pass (3700m) in the Rocky Mountains National Park Colorado. As far the altitude Logan Pass can't be compared with Trail Ridge Lookout Pass but Logan Pass is far north (about 1.000Km) than the latter. The geographical features are quite different, altitude is much lower, but it looks look much higher.

From the Logan Pass road descends continuously winding on the hillside of Mt. Going-to-the-Sun and along the lakeshore to St. Mary Village just outside the boundary. There was a gas station with a garage, a big restaurant, a cafe a super market, a souvenir shop, etc. The village looked new, modern, bright and flourishing.

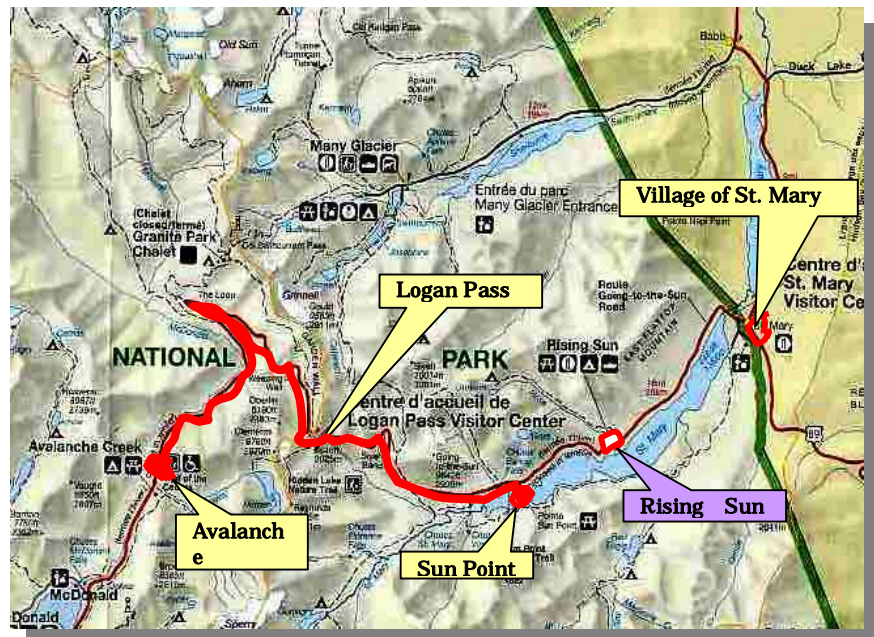
I took a dinner fully and a rest for a little time. at the seemingly modern and gorgeous restaurant. Consulting closely the official map of the Waterton/Glacier International Peace Park, I looked for a campground for the day.

I found a campground (83 sites) at Rising Sun on the north shore of lake St. Mary , about .10 Km back to the Logan Pass from St. Mary Village. (1095)

Rising Sun Campground

As the campground was built in the thinned out forest, large lodge pole pines in the primeval forest were left here and there.

The sites were so bright and see through that both the neighbor and I could see each other. Naturally we became familiar soon.



I was keeping diary

on the picnic table after supper, when a neighbor came to my table with a big mug of Coke. He asked me where I was from. He seemed to know about Japan, because his son was a civilian employee of the army and living in Mizusawa-shi, Iwate, Tohoku for three years.

The son had returned his home on vacation for about a month and had to get back to Mizusawa Base soon. He went fishing at the time

We had a chat about Japan and our trips for a little while. We had a good time.

When I was sitting on the picnic table thinking where to go, what to do tomorrow, I felt something approaching close behind me. I looked back. and I saw a big elk was standing close my back with gentle eyes as if she had visited her relative.

Generally speaking, herbivorous animals seem to be fond of campgrounds. Because the areas of the campgrounds are usually thinned in the vast dense forests and have abundant sun shine and gentle breeze. Then there are ample grasses flourishing.

Though it is strictly prohibited to feed wild lives, they are carefully protected their lives by law. They feel no fear for men, but go round with relaxing from tent site to tent site in the campground as if there were their home grounds.

The Americans stay in one campground for the full term of permit. I hope some times that I should do so some day.

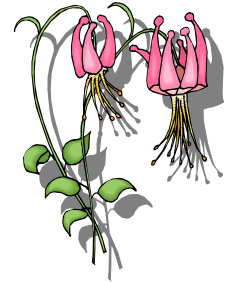
Some people said "to be in my tent is to be in my mother's womb " I feel at easy, too.

June 30th (Saturday)

I left Rising Sun for Many Glacier at eight o'clock. Many Glacier is 16 Km northwest of Rising Sun, but we had to detour outside of the park boundary about 50 Km.



I dropped in at St. Mary Visitor Center and got some information about Campground and trekking route good for wildflowers in Many Glacier.



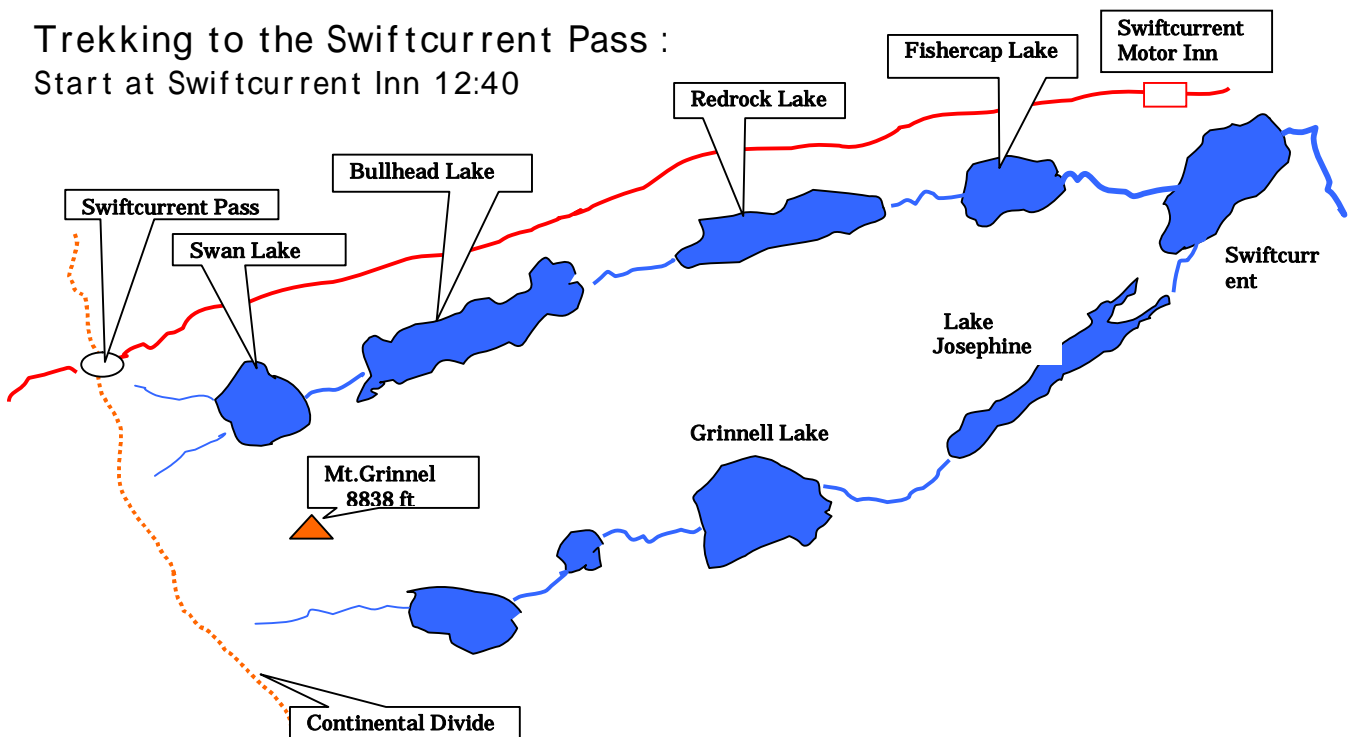
St. Mary Village borders the visitor center across the park boundary. I filled up my car with regular unleaded and my stomach with large portion of breakfast at a gorgeous restaurant at a glance in the village. I was charged 9.60 dollars for gas and 11 dollars for my rich breakfast.

I got to the Many Glacier campground at noon. I happened to find a lucky site (No.88) that the camper was just striking his tent.

The campground was a little large (112 sites), so most campsites were occupied by camping cars (recreation vehicles) and tent sites were quite few. Tent sites seemed to be less than ten percent.

Trekking to the Swiftcurrent Pass :

Start at Swiftcurrent Inn 12:40



The Trail connecting the glacier made lakes was superb, but trekking by myself was lonesome. I wished I had had a companion.

The destination of the day was Granite Park Chalet beyond the Swiftcurrent Pass crossing the Continental Divide. But as I ascended the trail toward the pass, the remaining snow became deeper and deeper. I couldn't help giving up my plan. I got back to my camp with a sense of fulfillment.

Somewhere on the way back, I met with a newly retired couple, I guessed. The man seemed to be a learned and was interested in Japanese literature, particularly in Basho. He said he wanted to walk, following his footmarks some day. He talked about OKUNO HOSOMICHI and asked me many questions, but I knew very little, I couldn't answer him. They were intelligent and modest couple I wish I'd like to sink through the floor.

July 1st (Sunday)

From Many Glacier to Waterton Lakes National Park;

Driving Many glacier road about 20 Km east road meets US89 at small village Babb, then 7 Km due north we get to the junction with Chief Mountain International Highway, and then 25Km northwest, we get to the boundary between USA and CANADA. A stone monument stood right on the borderline. Both sides of the border line dense primeval forests were cut east Atlantic and west Pacific by 2 5m wide,(I presumed). The photograph shows both monument and borderline.



At the gate of US customs there was an a little aged woman official alone, who asked me to show my passport and nothing else. I asked her if I could take photographs of the border monument and borderline. She said, no problem do as you like.

I crossed the border and went to the gate of Canadian customs about 100m apart from borderline. A young official asked me to come to the small office of customs like a police box. He asked me to show my passport and some questions, crop, fruit, fire arms etc. as usual and he gave me disembarkation stamp on my passport. He was very friendly and polite. After every disembarkation procedure was finished, I asked him how to enjoy Waterton Lakes National Park.. He recommended me immediately to drive the Red Rock Parkway, the Akamina Parkway and to Bison Paddock. And he was deeply interested in my trip from Los Angeles and Japan which was the greatest customer of Canada's products, timbers, fabricated.

(1098)

I felt Canadians were much more familiar with Japanese than Americans. They are not so sophisticated as Americans, and they are as simple as Japanese.

Chief Mountain International Highway was known as a scenic highway. Through aspen groves and lodgepole pine forests I saw magnificent views of Chief Mountain.

About the boundary on the highway I could see Mount Cleveland, Waterton / Glacier's highest peak, 3.190m(10.466ft)

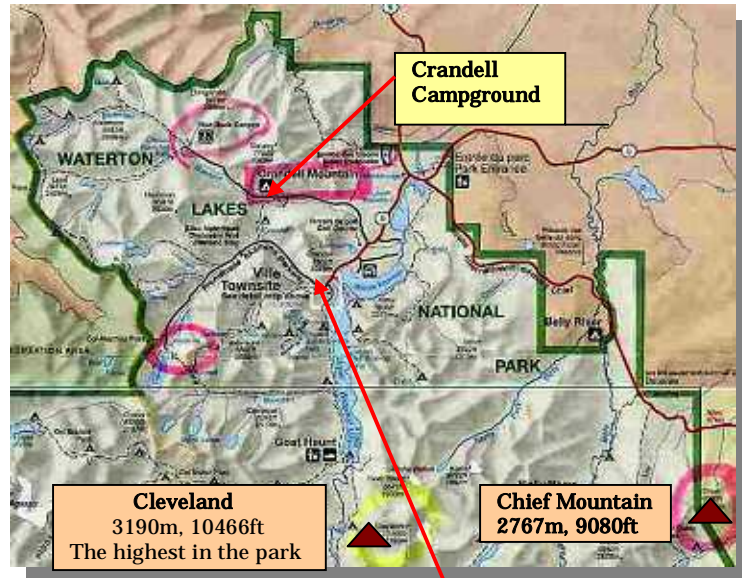


Route Internationale du mont Chief

This small hill was a view point beside the Chief Mountain International Highway of Canada side.



It was about 11:00 a.m. when I got to the visitor information center. The center is on the east hillside of Mount Crandell and at the entrance of the Waterton Park Townsite. From the center we can command a fine view of mountains and upper and middle Waterton Lakes (see1099page).



As the townsite in the national park, this town was rather big and has all the facilities. Judging from the appearance of the town, Waterton National Park has been very popular and must have had a lot of visitors every year.

Townsite Campground had 238 sites, Besides the townsite, Crandell Campground had 129 sites and Velly River had 24 sites and moreover 12 backcountry campsites.



As there's no vacancy in the Townsite Campground, I hurried to the Crandell Campground and could fortunately register a tent site, And then I felt much relieved. I set up camp and went for a 16Km drive to Cameron Lake by way of fine paved Akamina parkway along the historic Cameron Valley.

I was much interested in the site of Western Canada's first oil producing well. Oil City - the city that never was - and picturesque Cameron Lake. The Continental Divide can be seen just close to the west of Cameron Lake. There were a lot of picnic areas, ideal location for a rest or family luncheon along Cameron Creek. I returned my campsite (H-10) in the Crandell Mountain Campground with a little weary soul and body at 16:30.

The Crandell Campground was near the middle of the Red Rock Parkway about 16Km from provincial road 5 to Red Rock Canyon. This narrow two-lane road crosses over rolling prairie, then meanders through Blakiston Valley. Several roadside pulloffs and viewpoints along the route command magnificent views of Waterton's highest peak, Mount Blakiston 2940m.

