

ART AND JEAN TRAVEL REPORT 3 WINTER TO SPRING

Report #2 was full of new car report and no travel at all! We didn't drive an inch from our escape destination at Desert Hot Springs. The only exceptions were a lunch with my brother, Dave (and wife, Jamie) who winter in Desert Hot Springs. They also drove us to Riverside where we had lunch with our cousin, Chuck Berst and Roelina, at the Historic Mission Inn Hotel where they hosted an elegant luncheon. Otherwise we stayed close to the natural hot pools. That's what we hoped for. That's what we needed.

We hated to leave sunshine. Weather or not, we said, time to head north. The morning gave a beautiful sunrise with shadows all the way to the top of snow-capped San Jacinto Mountains above Palm Springs. Weather threatened. Some heavy rains coming to Southern California. Any vague thoughts of driving north on 101 were put aside. Santa Barbara flood warnings were being prepared. We headed back the way we came.

Winter turns California golden to dusty yellow. Spring green is barely on the horizon, although some winter rains have made a difference. We can see blossoms peeking out on fruit trees. It should be nice in a few days.

It doesn't look like resurrection season, but I guess you just have to hope.

We like breakfast and lunches at major grocery deli's when we can find them. Safeway also often has gas pumps. One stop serves many purposes. A small hot soup for lunch serves 2 nicely. The breakfast bargain sandwich (egg, cheese, ham, veggies) is less than \$3.00. We cut it in half and share a Starbucks, which locates at many Safeway's. Breakfast for 2 for \$5.00. Our special Starbucks card also gives us a free re-fill! Tycoons like bargains.

The first day was from Desert Hot Springs over Tehachapi Pass to Bakersfield. The second day took us past Sacramento to Willows. You have to marvel that so many can drive so fast without many accidents. Driving is easier once past Sacramento. We found a Mexican place in Willows that was recommended to us that we don't recommend.

A few sprinkles yesterday coming past Redding, but not enough to make road spray. The big predicted Southern California storm will pass behind us.

It's not far from Willows to Ashland where we always find welcome. An easy 1-nap-along trip. The Weed Airport Rest Area is a good stop. Great views of Mount Shasta — when it's clear.

We actually stayed two restful nights in Ashland. We had a great but brief visit with our daughter-in-law, Sharon as we left Ashland. By-passed grandson Aram and Alia and our great-granddaughters Mikaela and Annika (age 5 on the 26th I think).

We were on the front edge of incoming cool weather for our final 240 miles to Corvallis. An easy 2-nap-along trip. Oregon is green right now. Linda had heat on and food in the fridge. Home is a great resort. It would be perfect were it not for stack of mail and business items. Two months of scheduled appointments are lined up through April and May.

It's 500 miles from Willows, California where we bought gas to Corvallis, over the Siskiyou's and southern Oregon passes. The car exceeded expectations but will take some time to get used to.

I left out the inevitable "moments" that make traveling interesting. Jean's aunt Faye used to always say, "*Travel while you can.*" Good advice. My biggest regret is that we were in range of at least 35 people we would love to have seen.

End of Travel Report #3 — Winter – Spring 2018

— For the Moment...

Jean and Art