

MM Fall Blue Sheet October 1, 2015—On the Road



Some tools I used this summer



Lunch at Columbia Crest Winery



Margaret Joseph and Gabe Joseph in
Walla Walla

Morgan's Moment...

"Think of seasons that must end..."

***"Try the handle of the road
Feeling different feeling strange
This can never be arranged
As the light fades from the screen
From the famous final scene"***

I forget all Bob Segar's words
but the feeling fills my mind
as road miles roll by.

I'm in my native Washington
driving roads passing scenee
surprised still by burning vine maple
passing from summer into fall.

News came as we knew it would
as our friend's life came to an end
reminding me of my own brother
facing the end of his own season.

Then sharing dinner with old friends
sharing stage 4 news about chemo
who hope God will hear prayers
to do what no doctors can do.

We should not be surprised
when seasons change
as nature reminds us
that we are part of the same scene.

Art Morgan

TRYING THE HANDLE OF THE ROAD

You only get so many summers. I love them, wait for them, hate for them to end. Time to put tools away. None of the electric ones got a photo op. The gas ones are already in Corvallis for safe keeping.

Then comes fall. We love the fall, even as we lock the cabin gate. Our annual fall trip east over the mountains...the vine maple along the passes...crisp mornings and sunny days. A lot of beautiful and interesting miles connecting us with a few long-time friends along the way.

We always register for the October Turner Memorial Lectures in Yakima. We've done it for years. I may be among the few who now actually remember W.F. Turner whose name we honor. It's a high level lectureship as these events go. We've heard many of the leading scholars through the years.

This year the speaker is Christian Piatt who may not be as well-known nationally as some of the others. He's likely to be interesting and troublesome (which I think is a good thing). For instance, he's offering a \$100 prize for a better title for a book he's publishing which is currently Titled "Not That Kind of Christian — An A**hole Christian Survival Guide."

There are all kinds of Christians from day one of the Christian era. Creeds were supposed to separate true Christians from others. A non-creedal Christian, and there are many of us, can only explain ourselves as "not that kind of Christian." Whatever, we are all heretics and hypocrites in one way or another. We'll see what Piatt has to say when we get there.

The ever-present smart phone with voice, text and e-mail contact won't let us forget others in our world.

A text message reports on my brother's condition in Florida. Another reports on our cousin's rehab progress after a stroke.

An e-mail appeared from June Arnett. I took a quiet breath before reading. I knew the news would be about, Loren, who had been in hospice care. His death was expected. We had been thinking of them as we headed toward Yakima where we usually saw each other at the lectures. We'll dine at a favorite restaurant and remember.

We seek the blue highways. We often stop at Columbia Crest Winery. We had lunch before continuing east along the Columbia. The road took us to Walla Walla. Gabe was a groomsman in our wedding. We had a dinner date with the two of them. Our happy reunion talk included hearing Margaret's serious health report.

On to Spokane to visit Clara Fern Turner. Teddy and Clara Fern have been on our travel route for many, many years. We enjoyed our time and dinner with Clara Fern. We continue the tradition that lives past Teddy's death.

The road from Spokane to Yakima goes through Wenatchee where we will see my brother and wife before arriving in Yakima on Sunday.

Like everyone else we heard the tragic news from Roseburg, Oregon. There's no safe place. Not homes, streets, cars, malls, parks, schools or anywhere. The President is tired of facing still more grieving survivors and offering only sympathy and prayers. Who are we kidding? Does anyone believe that it is God who needs to do something about gun violence?

I'm ready for Christian Piatt to remind us what kind of Christians we humans need if we're going to have a decent world.

For the Moment...Art Morgan, October 4, 2015