

# News from Nan

## TRAVEL

# CALIFORNIA TO COLORADO 2018

MAY 21, 2018 | ANNA | 2 COMMENTS



*Between May 18 and 24 we drove from San Jose, California, to Boulder, Colorado. We have rented a house for about 5 weeks in Boulder, where we hope to revisit people and places from the time we lived in Lyons (2007 to 2009). We're also looking forward to having our family join us for part of the time we're there.*

*The following blogs were written during the drive to Colorado; they appear in reverse chronological order, with the most recent blog on top.*

## **Wednesday, May 23: In and around Taos**

Today we visited the Taos Pueblo and Kit Carson's home and museum. We also drove out of town to the Rio Grande Gorge bridge and in the evening walked around the town.

The Taos Pueblo was especially interesting. It was a thriving place at the same time Chaco Canyon was in full swing, but unlike Chaco Canyon, it is still occupied today. We walked around on our own and also took a tour led by a young woman who was born and raised in the Pueblo and is now studying art in Santa Fe. We also talked to the owner of one of the "condos," who inherited it from his grandparents and now uses it as a summer home and display area and sales room for his arts and crafts.

The pueblo is a fascinating small community!



*North House, Taos Pueblo*



*Catholic church, Taos Pueblo. Inside the church, Mary is the featured statue, and her outfit is changed with the seasons. Earlier in the spring she wore green; today she was in pink (for the spring flowers).*



*Taos Pueblo cemetery, which is located just inside the entrance. This one is actually full; new burials are in a new location.*



*Door decoration*



*Taos Pueblo dog, who accompanied us on our tour. He looks just like one we saw in Chile!*

## Tuesday, May 22: Bloomfield to Taos, New Mexico

On this day we mostly drove, but we stopped for a delicious lunch at the Abiquiu (pronounced “abi-q” — the letter “q” as we say it in English) Inn. This part of the state was where the artist Georgia O’Keeffe spent a lot of time. Her workshop was in Abiquiu, and she spent summers at Ghost Ranch, about 15 miles to the north. Ghost Ranch is now a kind of spiritual retreat center.



*Ghost Ranch. Georgie O’Keeffe painted these cliffs and others in the area.*



*Anna at the Ghost Ranch corral*

We are both fans of Georgia O’Keeffe’s art, and what an interesting character she was! She reminds us a bit of Frida Kahlo, whose house and workshop we visited in Mexico.

## Monday, May 21: Tour of Chaco Canyon, New Mexico

On our many archaeology gigs in the Four Corners area we have heard a lot about Chaco Canyon National Historical Park, one of the premier Anasazi sites. Because it is somewhat remote, reachable only on an infamous buckboard gravel road, Dick booked us on a tour, which we did with local archaeologist Tori Myers (working out of the Salmon Ruins Museum in Bloomfield) and two other tourists from San Francisco.



*Pueblo Bonito in Chaco Canyon (taken by Dick)*



*Pueblo Bonito in Chaco Canyon (taken by Dick)*

It was worth the time, trouble, and expense! The many ruins are probably the best we've seen anywhere!



*Great Kiva, Pueblo Bonito*



*Steps, Pueblo Bonito*

## **Sunday, May 20: Flagstaff to Bloomfield, New Mexico**

Near Winslow, Arizona, we turned off the road briefly to visit the Homolovi Ruins, one of Dick's "finds" discovered in his thorough research for our trip. The ruins are on a plateau overlooking the Little Colorado River. Getting out and walking for a while was very refreshing.



*Sign, Homolovi State Park*



*Dick in Homolovi State Park*



*Sherds in Homolovi State Park*

We had lunch in Holbrook, Arizona, and we didn't even try Yelp, but instead looked for a local hangout downtown. We found a friendly, well-patronized Mexican place, where we dined on the bean burrito special and a Navajo taco.

### **Saturday, May 19: Barstow to Flagstaff, Arizona**

This was also the wedding day of Harry and Meghan, and I was pinged by my iPad at 3:00 a.m. just in case I wanted to tune in live. I didn't, but we caught up later with all the gossip and pics.

A word of warning, which we also need to heed in the future: if you check out restaurants on Yelp while traveling, always double-check the information on another website. We drove all the way through Kingman, Arizona, looking for a highly recommended lunch spot and arrived hungry at a restaurant that no longer existed! (We had the same bad experience last month with a non-existent Apple store in Eastridge!) The good news is we found a little BBQ place that had good pulled pork sandwiches.

In the evening we hiked the "Fatman's Loop" trail in North Flagstaff.

A word about trucks and travel on Interstate 40: In California the speed limit is 70 for cars and 55 for trucks. Both are a little low, I'd say, but the good thing is that the trucks generally stay in the right-hand lane and just chug along. In Arizona the speed limit is 75 for both cars and trucks, and the trucks are always passing each other, thereby blocking the path of all other vehicles. The highway lanes are often narrow, and there are lots of curves in some areas, causing the trucks to weave dangerously in their frantic desire to get ahead. Not good!

However, one good thing about the Arizona highways are the fact that they have signs before ALL bridges crossing water features: rivers, streams, and washes alike. I do like to get to know the landscape I'm passing!

### Friday, May 18: San Jose to Barstow



*Kohnen's Country Bakery, Tehachapi, California (taken by Dick)*

We drove down Interstate 5 and then started east on Highway 58 near Bakersfield. At Kohnen's Country Bakery in Tehachapi we had the brat and sauerkraut luncheon special at the bargain price of only \$5.00 each. And we couldn't resist the blueberry pastry and coffee for dessert!



Refrigerator magnets in Kohmen's Country Bakery

The place was hopping with locals and tourists alike. One fellow-customer asked Dick, "What time do you usually come in for lunch?" Don't we wish!

After lunch we toured the local museum.



*Tehachapi Museum (taken by Dick)*

And then began our love affair with trains that lasted until we turned north at Gallup, New Mexico. The dozens of freight trains that we saw zipping back and forth, always within sight of Highway 40, were fascinating!

On that first night we stayed in Barstow, not an appealing town in general, unfortunately, but its claim to fame for us was their train car classification yard (known locally as the “Hump Yard” — ha ha, they lift up the “chosen” car and roll it onto the appropriate track), which we toured before moving on toward Arizona.



Control tower at the "Hump Yard" in Barstow, California (taken by Dick)



Sign, Barstow Classification Yard



*Anna taking pictures of trains in Barstow, California (taken by Dick)*

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## 2 THOUGHTS ON “CALIFORNIA TO COLORADO 2018”

**GJB**

MAY 22, 2018 AT 3:57 AM

I wish I was on a cross country road trip too! Looks fun.

**Andi**

MAY 24, 2018 AT 8:41 AM

Love Chaco Canyon. When I ran the school, we took a group of HS students there and to the Hopi lands. We spent the night in the canyon and went to the ruins. Learned many things from the Navahos who hosted us. Our kids sat along among the CC ruins and has to pretend they were natives of long ago and then write about what they found from those dreams. It was great. Have been back several times. I took Drew and Wyatt there on the way back from the cross country trip with Gretch. Also remember with fondness the week I took Mom to Ghost Ranch. She did a Georgia Okeefe

painting class and I took a Mesa Verde black on white pottery class done as the natives did it centuries ago. Mom's first venture into that kind of living and she found it a bit off putting when I warned her about watching for rattlesnakes on the warm sidewalks if she walked to the bathroom at night and told her to shake her shoes for scorpions. She was a trooper though and then we spent the next weeked in Sante Fe and she loved that. Enjoy. Wish I was there. I love that area of the world and often long for it. hugs, andi

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