

When last you heard from us, we were enjoying the incredible scenery of Southern Utah. But, most of Utah is a desert and so we were forced to move on by the increasing temperatures of summer. There is so much to see in Utah and we've hardly touched it. We can't wait to go back again. We left **Cedar City, Utah** where you last heard from us and headed northwest on Highway 21 toward Nevada. Highway 21 is a very desolate road through open range, abandoned mines, and remote ranches. We were cruising along at a leisurely 55 mph when off in the distance we saw a herd of unusual looking animals. We didn't know what they were. Further on down the road, we saw more, but this time they were running across the road. Good grief, are we in Africa? They looked like Pronghorn antelope. Hey, that's exactly what they were.



Antelope in Utah

Well, we just revealed our ignorance of wildlife. Remember the song, "*Home on the Range?*" You know, "*Oh give me a home where the buffalo roam, and the deer and the antelope play...*" Many parts of the U.S. still have lots of antelope. We had just never seen them before. Just another lesson from the road.

Highway 21 ends at the Nevada border right near **Great Basin National Park**. We were eager to see this park as it contains an exceptional cave system, i.e., **Lehman Caves**. You have to go out of your way to see Lehman Caves as they're not on any road frequently traveled. We got a wonderful tour of the caves from a National Park Ranger who has dedicated his career to cave systems. The caves were definitely worth the trip.



Lehman Caves, Great Basin National Park, Nevada

We had planned to spend the night at the park, but the RV parking was no place for our rig. Spaces were way too small and difficult to get in and out of and there was lots of dust. We cannot recommend the RV park if you're over about 25 feet.

After getting the coach filthy dirty, we gave up and headed out on **Highway 50, "the lonliest road in America."** If you're going to travel Highways 21 and 50, you want to make sure your vehicle is in good shape. This is desolate country and a bad place to break down. Highway 50 took us to **Ely, Nevada** and the historic Hotel Nevada. We dry camped behind the hotel and went in for drinks and dinner. Both were good, fun, and the price was right. When the 6-story Hotel Nevada opened in 1929, it was the tallest building in the state and its first fire-proof building.



Hotel Nevada, Ely, Nevada

Dinner was so much fun at the Hotel Nevada, we went back in the morning for breakfast which once again, was inexpensive and delicious.

After breakfast, we drove all day on Highway 50 clear across Nevada to **Reno**. Parking and traffic were so bad in Sparks and Reno that we grabbed Interstate 80 and went to the Boomtown Casino and Resort west of Reno. We dry camped in their parking lot and excitedly went in for their all-you-can-eat Maine lobster buffet. Well, it was true. For \$20 you could have all of the Maine lobsters you wanted. However, they were badly overcooked and tasted like rubber. What a disappointment!

In the morning, we rolled toward **Sacramento** and an RV park in **Loomis, California**. This allowed us to see our old friends, **Bill and Trish**, who live in nearby **Granite Bay**. Then it was off to the Elks Lodge in **Nevada City** so that we could have our TV satellite system modified at DeMartini RV in **Grass Valley**. Our next stop was the Elks Lodge in **Carmichael** so that we could have dinner with another old friend, **Don**. From there it was back to **Redding** and four nights parked in the yard of our friends, **Jerry and Judy**.

From Redding, it was off to **Alturas**, California where Chuck gave a lecture on biodiesel. It's a fun and interesting drive from Redding via Highway 299 to Alturas. It is very scenic as you pass through the towns of **Burney, Fall River Mills, McArthur**, and others. We spent one night in the parking lot of the Alturas Elks. Then, it was back to Jerry and Judy's in Redding. We spent 18 days camped out in their yard working on our websites and liquidating more stuff from our Redding storage shed. We needed to build up some cash for our next great adventure and the start of a new career. More on that topic in our next letter.

Until next time, home is where you park it.

Chuck & Donna