

After the trip to **Portland** to get Oregon insurance licenses, we returned to Green Acres RV Park in **Redding** and settled in as park hosts. Our goal was to spend several weeks selling more stuff from our storage shed and raising cash for another business/pleasure adventure. Incidentally, the Portland trip was a complete success and we are both now licensed as life insurance agents in Oregon and Arizona. In a week or so, we will also be licensed in California.

Well, on July 19 we left Redding headed for **Susanville** and on to **Reno**. We spent the next day at Biodiesel Solutions training all day on the brand new FuelMeister II biodiesel processor. It was a great day. The new processor is fabulous! That afternoon we picked up I-80 and headed east. We have a wonderful book called "**Don Wright's Guide to Free Campgrounds.**" This is a great book which lists campgrounds \$12 and under. The book led us to Rye Patch Reservoir which is out in the middle of nowhere between **Lovelock** and **Winnemucca**, Nevada. The camping was great and the fee was only \$10. What a find. See photo below.



Our motorhome and trailer at Rye Patch Reservoir.

The whole area is only a couple of miles off I-80. All in all, a very quiet and pleasant stop. To top it all off, about a mile from the campground is a little beer and pizza house. Without Don Wright's book, we would never have found this delightful stop.

The next morning, we continued east driving across the state of Nevada. On the border between Nevada and Utah is the gambling town of **West Wendover**, Nevada. There are lots of nice casinos and plenty of fine food. However, there are only two RV parks. One at the Nugget which is pretty bad and the other owned by KOA. We personally try to never stop at KOAs as we find their prices unreasonable. At over \$37 a night, this KOA was no exception and we elected to stay in the parking lot behind the Red Garter Casino for free. It wasn't a very pleasant stop since it was very, very hot in Wendover. Because of the heat, we got up very early and headed out across the great Salt Desert

of Utah. Shortly after you leave Wendover, Nevada, you have the opportunity to turn off and head for **Bonneville**. It was really tempting to see the Bonneville salt flats and the location where almost every world land speed record has been set. We passed, however, because we wanted to get across the desert before the heat became unbearable.

We were rolling at 5 a.m. and blasted across all of Utah and much of Wyoming; 430 miles of extremely ugly terrain. We were anxious to see Wyoming. You know, cowboys and the wild west. But along Interstate 80, there are no cowboys 'cuz there's no cows, 'cuz there's no grass. The freeway is up at over 7000 feet and all you see is sand, rocks, and snow fences. This is a miserable trip in the summer, but it gets worse in the winter. Every little town has flashing lights and a barrier that can be lowered like a train crossing. When the wind blows in the winter, they just close the freeway and send you back to whatever little town you just went through. The road freezes, the snow blows horizontally, and the wind is strong enough to blow the large trucks off the road.

At the end of 430 miles, we finally got to **Rawlins**, Wyoming and found a pleasant little RV park in an interesting little town with a really fun restaurant called "Sanfords." Chuck vowed that he would go anywhere necessary to avoid going back over the same 430 miserable miles. It was our intention to head into **Cheyenne**, but the road to Cheyenne was a zoo since Cheyenne was having its really big time annual professional rodeo. So, shortly before Cheyenne, we turned south and headed down into Colorado. It was like magic. All of a sudden, the terrain became green and interesting. Yep, it was the Colorado border. That night we got to the Elks Lodge in the town of **Westminster**, Colorado. What an oasis! Nice park, great lodge, wonderful bar, and great people. Unfortunately, it was still too far from our destination.

The primary purpose of this trip was to go to a very specialized insurance school in **Denver**. This is the premier school in the country to learn about annuities, which is our primary interest. At any rate, the Elks Lodge in Westminster was still at least 45 minutes away from the school via a very busy freeway. With the possibility of wind and rain, this location wasn't going to cut it. So the next morning, we headed for **Cherry Creek State Park** in **Aurora**. Ah, this was perfect. The commute to school was only about 7 miles and we didn't have to go on any freeways.



Our site at Cherry Creek State Park.

The park is very country-like and is on a lovely lake, yet the RV sites contain full hookups and there is even a laundry. As you can see, there is plenty of space between camping sites. This was perfect! Besides being close to school, we were only about 45 minutes away from the home of **Bob and Kathy** in **Morrison**, Colorado. Chuck and Kathy went to grammar school together. We rode to their home, had a lovely dinner, and did a lot of catching up. Wow, what a treat!

Every day, we commuted to school on the motorcycle which certainly got us a lot of attention. The instructors are all in business suits and the students are either in suits or dressed in slacks. Not the Coles. We're there in Levi's, sweatshirts, and motorcycle attire. Well, it worked to our advantage because everybody remembered us.

After a week of very intense instruction, we elected to not sign up with the agency in **Mesa**, Arizona, that had been courting us. Voila, as soon as we turned that small agency down, we got much better offers from two of the biggest in the industry. After more business meetings and much soul searching, we turned them down also. We have elected to start this new career working for ourselves! Happily, the school gave us exactly the contacts we needed. We have applied for

and received contracts with five of the largest insurance annuity specialists in the U.S. So, we are independent agents with the freedom to select whichever insurance companies can provide the best products for our customers.

While we were in Denver, we sold a couple of our new biodiesel processors, so it was time to vacation a little. The Denver trip was a great success, so why not head off to some place fun. We knew there had to be parts of Wyoming that were spectacular. So what the heck, we headed for fun. Our advisor at school, Michael, suggested **Glendo State Park** in Wyoming. Hey, why not? Michael was right on the money. What a lovely stop.



View from our dinette, Glendo State Park, Wyoming.



View from our front window, Glendo State Park, Wyoming.

Well, that's enough for now. From here, we were heading for **Yellowstone National Park**, but we'll tell you more about that in our next letter.

Until then, home is where you park it.

Chuck & Donna

P.S. We are using a new email address, ChuckandDonna@myexcel.com. Any time we send something out of our old Hotmail address, it bounces from everyone who is on AOL.