

Dear Friends,

Greetings from **Grand Junction, Colorado.**

We're back on the road again. After weeks of absolutely gorgeous weather in **Rapid City, South Dakota**, we saw a large nasty storm moving in and so on September 30, we made a run for it. We took Highway 79 South and headed for Cabela's home store and campground in **Sidney, Nebraska**. No sooner did we get parked than the storm hit. What a night! The wind blew so hard that we had trouble sleeping. The next morning we picked up Interstate 76 and headed for **Denver, Colorado**. Heavy, nasty wind all the way to Denver when suddenly it was sunny, clear, cold, and no wind. We went to Denver to visit with our good friend and mentor, **Michael**. We had a good meeting that night as well as a very productive breakfast meeting the next morning. About 11 a.m. on October 2 we got on Interstate 70 and headed for **Grand Junction, Colorado**.

### **Scenic South Dakota**

There was so much to see in South Dakota that we hardly put a dent in it. Two of the huge attractions are the astounding mountain sculptures, i.e., **Mount Rushmore** and **Crazy Horse**. Mount Rushmore was only about 16 miles from Hart Ranch RV Resort. Without a doubt, it is a must see attraction.



**Mount Rushmore, South Dakota.**

*"The purpose of the memorial is to communicate the founding, expansion, preservation, and unification of the United States with colossal statues of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt."*  
*Gutzon Borglum*

**Borglum** was the artist who conceived of this incredible project and devoted his life to the endeavor.

The other huge, must-see attraction is the Crazy Horse Memorial sculpture. Mount Rushmore is very large, but Crazy Horse is huge. When it's finished, it will be the largest sculpture in the world. Surprisingly, it is a private operation conceived by a sculptor named **Korczak Ziolkowski**, who devoted his life to it. Today the project is still run by his wife, Ruth.

The second generation of Ziolkowskis began writing a new chapter of the unique Crazy Horse story when Korczak died October 20, 1982. His parting words to his wife were, "You must work on the mountain-but go slowly so you do it right." The torch was passed, and Ruth and her sons and daughters, together with the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation board of directors, now are guiding Crazy Horse and the ongoing progress.

Currently, there are ten men working full time throughout the year. They work in good weather and in bad. The foundation is optimistic that they will soon have enough money to add a second shift. Even so, the project will still take decades.



**Crazy Horse Memorial (September 2009)**



Crazy Horse model with the mountain in the background (2009)

## Interstate 70 West

But back to the present. Interstate 70 West is designated as a scenic highway. Scenic is the understatement of a lifetime. It's an unbelievable road through incredible country. The highway climbs up and goes through the historic gold mining towns of Colorado. Oh look, there is the quaint mining area of **Georgetown**. Good grief, the town is at 9,100 feet. It goes over mountain passes that are well over 10,000 feet and incredibly beautiful. It goes through gorgeous deep canyons that are so narrow that the two lanes westbound are actually stacked above the two lanes going eastbound. The road runs right through incredible and famous ski areas like **Breckenridge** and **Vail**. **Loveland** is off to the left, **Steamboat Springs** off to the right, and a dozen more. As you start down the west side of the Rocky Mountains, you pick up the Colorado River and follow it through beautiful valleys with high mesas on both sides. We need to come back to this highway and spend a week visiting the areas we saw in one day.

## Grand Junction, Colorado

Late in the day on Friday, October 2, we rolled into the Elks Lodge in Grand Junction. We got set up and went to the bar where we learned that dinner was being served. Boy that was great. Two beers each and a good low cost dinner and into bed for ten hours of sleep. We would have left on Saturday morning, but by a stroke of luck, Saturday was Grand Junction's annual Oktoberfest. They close the main street and turn the town into a big German party. Well, we had some annuity work to do, so why not stick around for another day and go to Oktoberfest?



German band at Oktoberfest.

## Travel Plans

Tomorrow morning, Sunday, October 4, we will again get on Interstate 70 West and head toward **Moab, Utah**. If the weather is good, we will check out some of the National Parks near Moab. If the weather is not good, we will switch routes and head for **Las Vegas** and **Pahrump, Nevada**, and then on to **Desert Hot Springs, California**. That's the news for now.

Until next time, home is where we park it.

Chuck & Donna  
(530) 524-5020