

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Vol. 66, No. 1) The geological formations in Zion are all oriented north/south, rising to great heights and making one feel pretty small. We took a swim in the pool to cool down and then walked along the river up to “The Narrows,” where the river disappears up a large fissure to the north.

We saw some interesting birds and several white butterflies that resembled the usual “Cabbage White,” but with no black markings on the upper wing surfaces. Supper in the motel, which was very good, but followed in the morning by a not-so-good breakfast.

We took Highway 9 through Zion to the east, climbing a zig-zag road up the side of a canyon and then into a mile long tunnel that was completed in 1930 with wonderful views on the other side. We parked and walked around to take photos of the views.

Hwy 9 at last joined up with Hwy 89 and took us into Arizona, where we began climbing again and ended up on the North rim of the Grand Canyon, where we booked into Grand Canyon Lodge and made reservations for dinner. Then we drove to Cape Royal, found a picnic spot where we had some snacks from our “Koola-tron,” accompanied by a Raven who was looking for handouts.

Then on to Point Imperial, which gave us terrific views and on a twisty road to Cape Royal, where we got a view of the Colorado River far below us and marvelled at the vast panorama. After supper, we took a walk along the rim to Bright Angel Point and wondered at the colorful names assigned to all the beauty spots around the Canyon.

We stopped for a while to look at a herd of 8–10 Mule Deer, along with some other folks until a Park Ranger came along and told everyone to move. Then on our way again and the road started to descend and we came off the Kaibab Plateau to a vista of desert with the bright red Vermilion Cliffs to the west of us.

We passed balancing rocks and arrived at Marble Canyon where the highway bridge crosses the Colorado and we stopped for pictures, including two rafts full of people. We turned South after this and came to a sign that read “Fasten your seatbelts—it is Navajo Nation Law.” We turned west when we left Navajo Territory, back through the Kaibab Forest and into Grand Canyon National Park and found that our Hotel was out of the park.

Dinner was very good and I ventured to try a Mexican dish—Pollo Verde, which was quite hot, but cooled down with a carafe of Zinfandel. Monday was July 1st (Happy Birthday, Canada!) and loony Alan (as my wife put it) got up at 5 AM. to watch the sun rise over the canyon and it was unbelievably beautiful (Barbara wished she had joined me when she saw the photos.) Unfortunately, we had to leave but promised ourselves that we would return and spend more time getting to know about such a wonderful place.

We had planned to head up through the Coconino Forest to the Mogollon Plateau and Flagstaff, which is a great town with lots of interesting stores where one can buy Indian pottery (which we did). We stayed in a motel that was near the railroad tracks and spent a restless night with plenty of trains.

We had to start heading east towards home and made a vow that we would return as soon as we could. Found our way to Albuquerque and had supper in a Japanese restaurant with a very funny chef who cooked all the meals over an open fire—our first experience of this. We continued heading east and July 4th arrived (Happy Birthday, America!) as we crossed into Texas and turned north to start heading for home.

We have really enjoyed this and some of our other trips that have been made possible by the fact that the ATA moves their show locations around the country, which enables us to meet our friends and discover America in the process. We have tried to convince some of our Canadian friends to do the same thing, but many seem to prefer travelling in the “farther North.”

Until next time...

*Alan J. Hanks*

