

California Journey 2011-12 -- Part IV

On Thursday we journeyed to Jean, NV. We noted that we were leaving with our odometer showing that we had travelled 1821 miles. \

Before leaving I created a panorama of the Snake Range. That showed what Wheeler looked like in the morning before the cloud shroud developed. Wheeler is the snowy white peak. It has the beginnings of a cloud mass growing toward us – east of the peak. The Border Inn restaurant and casino set quietly in Nevada as I photograph them from Utah.



I gassed up here. The galvanized pail was a protest for these people of northern Nevada that Las Vegas should not steal their water. Another ecological struggle.

Also gassing up was a cowboy with horses and dogs. Was he herding cattle or sheep? I'll never know. He just drove his rig down a dirt road to the north.

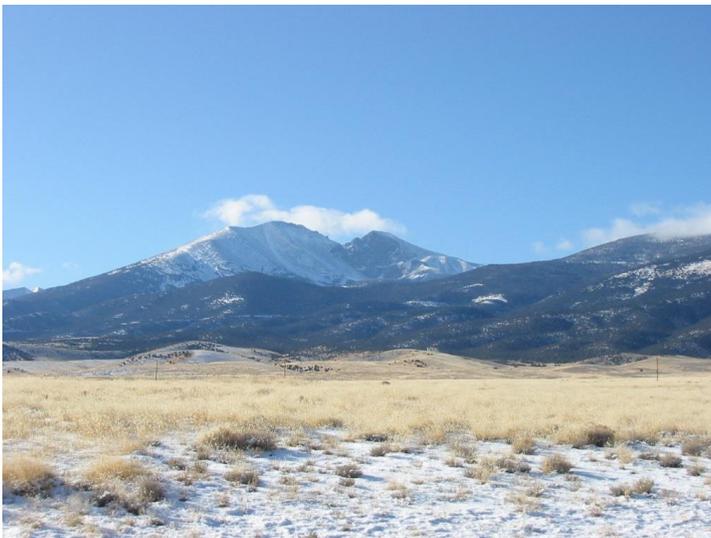


Sometime in the morning I took pictures of where we had come from on Wednesday – the House Range. That Range was dominated by Notch Peak. Its signature notch was plainly in sight. Utah had snow as

seen from the stretch along the highway. I like this panorama with the cloud banks and mountain.



We left going northwest on the roads that would take us around Wheeler. Just like yesterday morning we had to go around the end of a mountain range. On the way, we got to a point just north of Wheeler that showed its cirque (a structure carved into mountains by the presence of a glacier). See the curve and the steep slope. The picture does not show it well. I believe Wheeler's glacier was gone or at least minute.



So we were on our way and would be in Nevada all day. We cross the Sacramento Pass at 7154. Now we are looking squarely at the next range – the Schell Creek Range. I took one picture to try to record the uniform vegetation we traveled by. Were these bristlecone pines? I do not know. (The bristlecone pines are the [oldest](#) single living organisms known (though some plants form [clonal colonies](#) which may be many times older). The oldest bristlecone pines are single plants that have been alive for a little less than 5,000 years.)

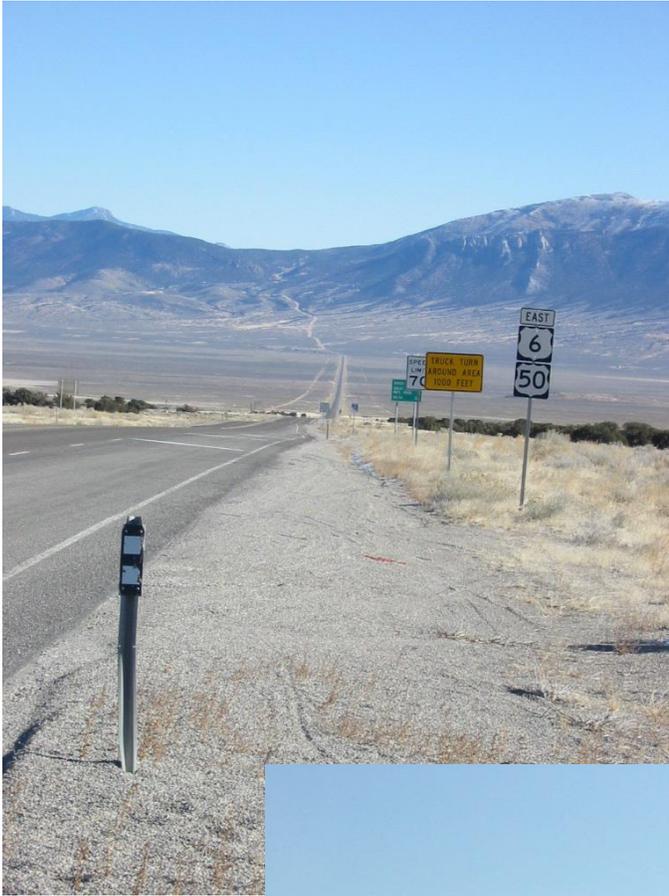


Another digression from our driving log. There were hardly any buildings or ranch houses along the way. However, we did pass just one I recall. The entrepreneur who resided there must



OR

advertise his work as Horns of Plenty. He did artwork with antlers. ☺ Yes, the archway to his homestead was covered with antlers. His two axle trailer gave us his “Horns of Plenty” business name.



The drive around the Snake Range and by the Schell Creek Range was beautiful. When we got to US93 we didn't go the mile or so into Major's Place – another dot on the map. We just stopped and took a couple pictures back from whence we had come. US93 went directly south and the morning sun was quite bright. We didn't photograph the road ahead for a while. This was yet another of those 80 mile wide-open-spaces ride. Roads off of 93 were dirt. The map showed destinations like Minerva and Atlanta. Both names were followed by “(Site)” indicating that they were ghost towns. Each was 20 to 30 miles out of the way. We were not tempted.

Most of the time, the road ahead looked like the following photo. I enjoyed that. I knew that after today things were going to get much more civilized.



The number of pictures of scenery will diminish soon. This Part IV has enough so I will start Part V. The time will be about noon on 12/22 when we reach the first of three or four towns. A state park that we happen upon provides some dramatic scenery for this day.