



POULSBO TO TUCSON, 2018

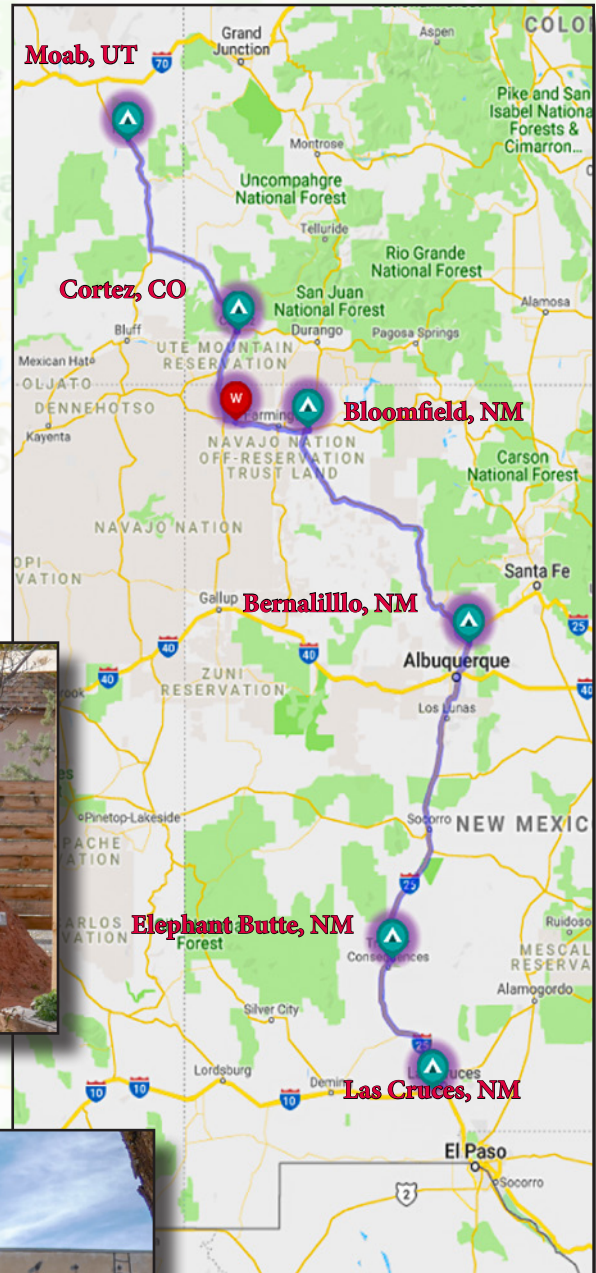
PART II - (MOAB, UTAH TO LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO)

Cortez, Colorado

From Moab, we continued south. Our next stop was for one night in Cortez, Colorado. Our friends Robert and Mike had recently moved from Cortez to Tucson and had given us a suggestions for our overnight stay. One of the restaurants they recommended was right next to the RV park we landed in, but really... the entire business district of Cortez was only a few blocks long with a stop light or two. This made the main part of Cortez easily walkable so we did not need to unhook the Jeep to drive ANYWHERE, yet were able to explore Cortez for a few hours.

While on our afternoon/evening walk-about in Cortez, we stopped at The Cortez Cultural Center, *"a showcase for regional arts and culture"*. There is an art gallery featuring local artists and some interesting cultural displays.

The Cortez Cultural Center is also the steward of Hawkins Preserve, a 122 acre preserve on the south side of Cortez with over 2 miles of pedestrian and bicycle trails that meander across ancient pot holed sandstone slick rock formations and through a densely forested piñon/juniper and sagebrush landscape. There are also archaeological ruins and Dakota sandstone cliffs. More information here: <https://cortezculturalcenter.org>





Bloomfield, New Mexico Bernalillo, New Mexico

Our next stop was a one night stay and a short distance down the road in Bloomfield, New Mexico. The distance between Cortez and Bernalillo was further then we like to drive in one day on what we thought were probably going to be narrow and winding mountain roads with chances of snow as well. As it turned out, the roads were wide, not very winding or steep and there was no snowy weather. We could have easily made the drive from Cortez to Bernalillo in one day but two easy days was okay with us as well.

To the right, a view of the Sandia Mountains looking east from Bernalillo.

We took a drive into the Sandia Mountains from Placitas using some forest service roads. The jeep's high ground clearance was necessary on these roads. At the outlook called Sandia Crest we found a grand view of Albuquerque and beyond to the west. Going down from Sandia Crest we took the paved road into Albuquerque, but it was much less exciting than the road up.



Apparently Sandia Crest is also the highest geographical location in the Albuquerque area.



Our friends Marianna Mears and Ken Jones had moved from Poulsbo to a small town adjacent to Bernalillo called Placitas. We got to visit with them a few times while here. Many of you may remember Marianna as the owner of the Poulsbohemian Coffeehouse (PBCH) in Poulsbo. For many many years the PBCH was my Poulsbo Situation Room. I met many people there, including Don Merry whom I still have coffee with most mornings after 23 or so years. I met Kenny Smith here and he became part of the regular morning Situation Room with whom I played music and recorded with for many years as well as becoming close friends. We rented the PBCH for parties, played music there, had artist gatherings, and had one or two art shows of my own there over the years. Any way, I regress... the photograph to the left is Marianna through the window of their home in Placitas.



From Bernalillo, we went to Santa Fe a couple of times. Once by car and once by train.



On one trip to Santa Fe we stopped at the Santa Fe Center For Contemporary Arts. Our planning lacked a bit and it was closed, but we were able to explore some of the exterior sculptures. If you go, here is a link to the web site so you can check out the hours, shows and other information: <https://www.ccasantafe.org/>



On another day trip to Sante Fe, we took the traditional walk along the gallery strewn Canyon Road. There is always something new to see and be inspired by.



Albuquerque, New Mexico

We made a couple trips into Albuquerque as well and found that they have put big efforts into public art, in particular sculpture.

At the Albuquerque Museum there are many exterior sculptures accessible anytime and a sculpture garden within the museum accessible during normal open hours.

On the street corner there is an enormous sculptural installation.



Again, our timing was not so good and the museum was closed, but we were able to enjoy lots of sculpture that did not require the museum to be open to see.





We liked this sculpture, if not just for the thought provoking aspect and our close proximity to the border issues.



Bob Haozous

Chiricahua Apache

born 1943 Los Angeles, California; lives Santa Fe, New Mexico

Border Crossing, 1991

painted and rusted steel

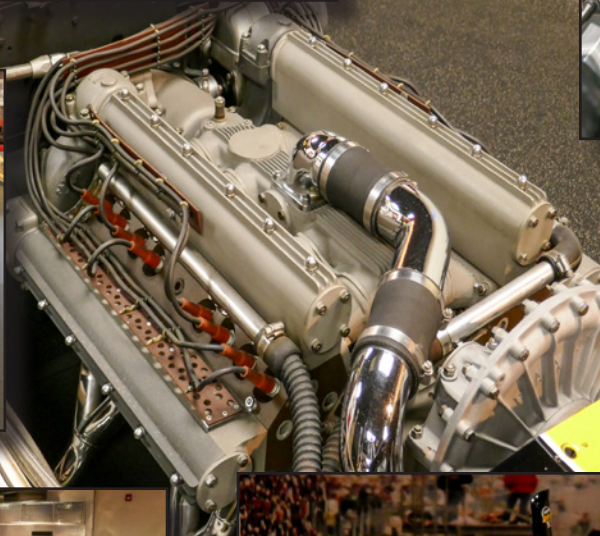
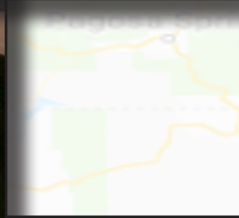
lent by the artist and the Tia Collection, Santa Fe

Border Crossing is one of two unique monumental treatments of the subject by the artist; the other permanently resides on the University of New Mexico campus. It has two distinct faces. One is painted with a bucolic illusion of vast New Mexican skies and an open, sage-covered peak. The reverse presents a dystopian reality built of cold, hard, rusted steel. Ornamented with symbols of refugee-generating conflict and economies of war, its entrance is locked tight, and the whole structure bristles with impenetrable barbed wire. Neither side of this border feels especially full of promise, and we are forced to consider the hard choices facing people dislocated and stateless.



Most auto racing enthusiasts know that Albuquerque is the car racing Unser family's home town. Over the years I'd hoped to get a chance to check it out even though my interest in auto racing is primarily road racing such as in Formula One. I'd heard of the museum before, but in truth had pretty low expectations of what I would see, expecting just a bunch of race cars on display... which can be interesting, but only for so long.

I was really really surprised... pleasantly. It was more than just a bunch of race cars on display. It was filled with history and other displays that celebrated all sorts things about the Unser family's racing heritage.



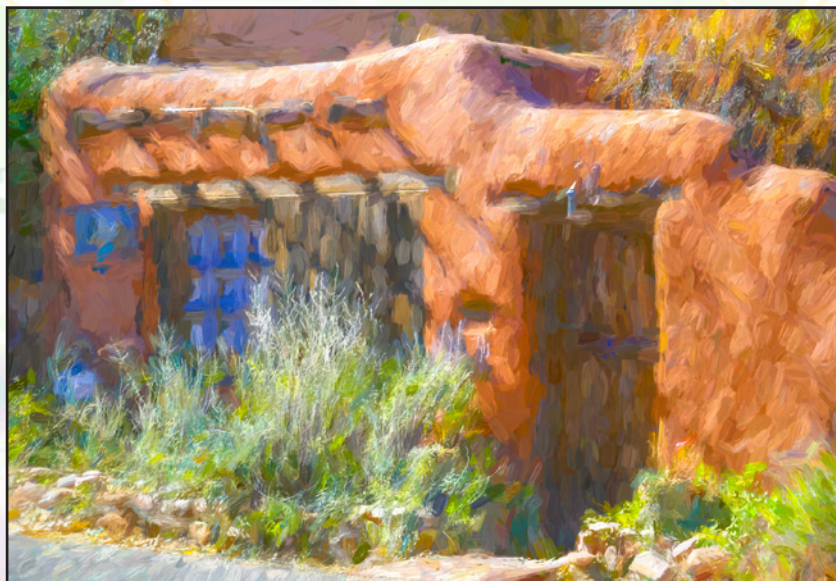
From the Unser Racing Museum's web pages:

The Unser Racing Museum is a multi-dimensional museum experience utilizing modern technologies to educate and immerse the visitor in the exciting world of racing. Take a guided tour and learn about the Unser family history, then explore on your own, seeing and interacting with racing history as it happened. The museum spans the early days of racing from Pikes Peak and Indianapolis to the latest technology, including a racing simulator that puts you in the driver's seat, and interactive kiosks for young and old to learn more about racing in a fun, educational environment.

More information here: <http://unserracingmuseum.com>



The *Situation Room* at the Unser Racing Museum



One of my Sante Fe inspired paintings

In Albuquerque I found a coffee roaster that I liked. I resupplied for the trip on to Tucson as I was getting low on beans.

If you are in the Albuquerque or even the New Mexico area and prefer the kind of coffee beans I like:

SO (Single Origin)

Ethiopian Yirgacheffe, Harrar, or Sidama beans
1st Crack Roasted Beans (light roasts)

I recommend trying Red Rock Roaster's coffee beans. They sell beans and coffee gear out of a store front in the NE section of Albuquerque as well as other outlets around New Mexico.

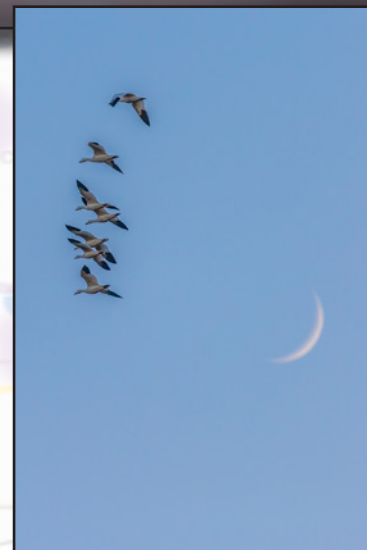
More information here: <https://www.redrockroasters.com>





Elephant Butte, New Mexico

Our next stop was south of Albuquerque and just north of Truth or Consequences at Elephant Butte. There are lots of things to see in this area, but our primary reason for stopping here was to do some birding in the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. It is a great spot to watch the migration of the Sandhill cranes and Snow geese in the fall. It was a bit of a drive back north each day, but this was as close as we could find a suitable RV park on this trip.

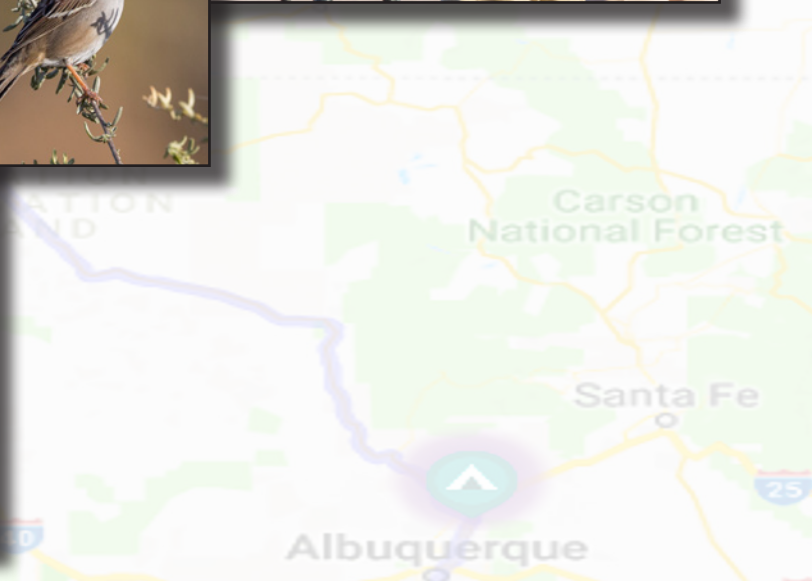




There were a few other photographers with BIG glass at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. However; these fellows were Nikonites not Canonites like myself, so differences kept us from any proper socialization... Nikon vs Canon... Apple vs PC... et. al.



A new RV park is being built in Truth or Consequences and the entrance art has already been installed.



The City of Elephant Butte is home to the largest lake in the state, (which is really the Elephant Butte Reservoir created by the damming of the Rio Grande River). The darker rock in the photographs is said to look like an Elephant... we didn't see it, but maybe we were not at the correct angle, frame of mind, there in the right light, or... under the appropriate chemical influence.

At the time we were there, not much of the Rio Grande River was getting past the dam. Further on down the road in Las Cruces there was no visible water left in the Rio Grande.

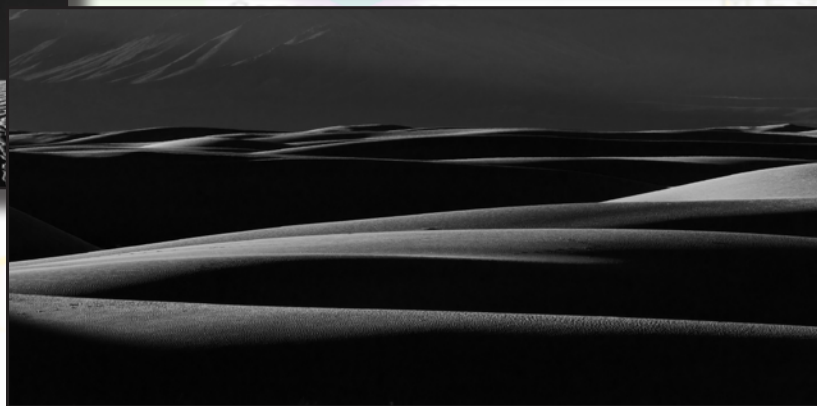
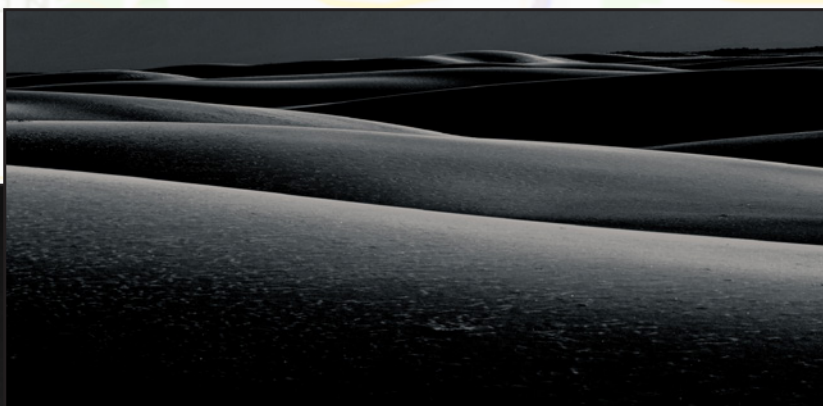


Las Cruces, New Mexico

At our next stop, Las Cruces, we stayed at an RV park on the west side of town that is up high enough to have a great view back over Las Cruces and to the Organ Mountains in the photograph below. We had stopped at this RV park in 1987 and been treated to a spectacular lightning storm over Las Cruces and the Organ Mountains. This time there was no dramatic lightning, but a bit less dramatic wind, rain and snow.



The White Sands National Monument was an easy day trip from Las Cruces.





There is a historic district in Las Cruces, but our walk-about through it left us a little disappointed. Probably unfair of us to judge it harshly after coming from Sante Fe though.



The Dry Rio Grande River In Las Cruces



Our First Roadrunner On This Trip



This is a solar charger for iDevices / Android devices and such at a bus stop. No charge for the charge!



The nearby La Mesilla Historic District, a few minutes drive from central Las Cruces, was a more inspiring place than the Las Cruces Historical District and we went there a couple of times. See a short YouTube video of this place by clicking the La Ventana de Mesilla on bricks image to the right.





On our way out of Las Cruces we stopped for another roadrunner sighting. This one at a rest stop overlooking Las Cruces and made from 'stuff'. So much 'stuff', that there is a good chance something of mine and yours was used in it's creation.



And so we headed further down the road towards Tucson, but not before taking a side road or two and making some more stops along the way. Those we will exaggerate and lie about in the next issue of our *Flying Pig Adventures*, to be published soon.

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