

## Notes from our 1993 Summer vacation driving through Arizona and Colorado

Saturday, June 26, 1993

Arrive in Tucson, Arizona around 10 am local time. Drive rental car to Aunt Marie's house. Aunt Marie serves chicken salad. Drive to Colossal Cave and take the tour. It is very hot—around 110 degrees. Discovered that Bonney cannot reach the pedals in the car, so Richard will have to drive for the whole trip. Eat a late lunch at Dairy Queen. Spend the night with Aunt Marie. She has a large grapefruit tree in her back yard that is bearing delicious fruit. Aunt Marie serves stir fry for dinner.

Sunday, June 27, 1993

Brandi videos Aunt Marie discussing her life. Drive from Aunt Marie's to Mission San Xavier Del Bac (White Dove of the Desert). Shop at the trading post. Drive to the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum (which is mostly a zoo). Stop along the way and observe the mountains and giant Saguaro cactus. The museum is mostly outdoors with some sheltered areas. Still around 110 degrees. The museum has many animals in various habitats. Return to Aunt Marie's for pork chops. Aunt Marie allows us to treat her to DQ for dessert. Spend the evening playing Scrabble.

Monday June 28, 1993

Leave Tucson for Aunt Ruth's house. Take a detour to see Biosphere II. Decide not to spend the time taking a tour, so we just photograph it from the road. Take the back highway to the Interstate just south of Phoenix. Stop at the Gila River Indian culture shop. Eat lunch at a Fuddrucker's hamburger shop just north of Phoenix. Continue to Camp Verde and Aunt Ruth's house. Aunt Ruth escorts us to Montezuma's Castle cliff dwellings. We next head for the Jerome copper mining town up in the mountains and shop. We take Aunt Ruth to a local watering hole for dinner. Brandi spends time with Aunt Ruth learning about her relatives.

Tuesday, June 29, 1993

Drive to Flagstaff via Sedona-Talquepaque and Oak Creek Canyon. Beautiful deep red rock mountains with lush green evergreen trees and a river. Stop at a national park overlooking a large canyon covered with pine trees. Lunch at Burger King in Flagstaff. Depart for the Grand Canyon via Cameron Trading Post, which is next to an old suspension bridge. Brandi gets a silver belt buckle. Continue to the Grand Canyon. We enter the south rim from the East. See the Canyon in the afternoon heat. Incredibly vast. Each look out point offers a unique view. First lookout has a stone observation tower. Return to Camp Verde. Forced to take a detour to avoid a brush fire near Flagstaff. Eat dinner at the Luby's in Flagstaff. We wash our clothes at Aunt Ruth's.

Wednesday, June 30, 1993

Depart Camp Verde for Monument Valley. Drive through Flagstaff and Cameron Trading Post again. North of Cameron is fairly flat. Stop at KFC on a Navajo Indian reservation for lunch. Stop in another city at an Indian shop. Bonney eats at Dairy Queen. Drive on to Monument Valley. Amazingly beautiful giant sculpted red mesas. Continue to Four Corners. Many Indians have fallen sick and died this summer from a virus that has been traced to this area. Leave Arizona and reach Colorado. Leave the deep red rocks behind. Start to see some streams and more green vegetation. Just miss the Indian dancers in Cortez. Eat dinner at the Golden Corral. Stay for the night at the Holiday Inn.

Thursday, July 1, 1993

Brandi is sick. We take her to the emergency room to be examined and to get some medicine for her upset stomach. The doctor suspects that she has a bacterial infection – probably from drinking well water. Short drive to Mesa Verde where we picnic on tuna fish. Bonney and I explore the large cliff dwellings there but Brandi is not feeling well enough to climb down. We drive on to Durango and get Brandi's prescription filled. The drive continues through the mountains along the San Juan Skyway, one of the most beautiful drives in America. We pass through Silverton and continue on to Ouray, an old-time

town surrounded by mountains. We eat spaghetti at an Italian restaurant. The sunset on the mountains is breathtaking. Bonney and Brandi soak in the natural hot springs pool at the Best Western hotel.

Friday, July 2, 1993

Depart from Ouray for Cañon City. Stop at the Black Canyon. Eat lunch at an A&W Root Beer shop. Brandi gets a glass mug. We take the tour of the suspension bridge at Royal Gorge. After arriving in Cañon City, we eat dinner at Wendy's and stay at the Day's Inn for the night.

Saturday, July 3, 1993

Depart from Cañon City via a small dirt road for Cripple Creek. Visit Historical Museum where Bonney finds records of her grandfather, George Bonney. Brandi gets to pan for gold. Bonney eats 'Texas' barbeque. Depart Cripple Creek and drive to Bruce Bott's home in Lakewood, a suburb of Denver. Bruce joins us for lunch at a Subway. We all go out to eat dinner at Chicken Ranch.

Sunday, July 4, 1993

Eat lunch at Pizza Hut. I drive the rental car to the airport and catch a 1:22 flight for Dallas. Bonney and Brandi stay in Denver.

Monday, July 5, 1993

Tuesday, July 6, 1993

Wednesday, July 7, 1993

Thursday, July 8, 1993

Bonney and Brandi return to Dallas.