

The Brauers Havin' Fun

Part 3b
Crater Lake National Park, Oregon
August 2003



**A chronicle of our RV travels as documented in a series of
Emails to our grandkids (and others) and photographs.**

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Introduction

This is the third installment of our chronicles of our travels and adventures since we started being full time RVers. This adventure is very different than our first two. This time we spent three months in one location.

Our last adventure ended when we arrived in Inyokern California in October 2002 after visiting Alaska. We spent the winter in California helping the Carrie Ovall Children's Center refurbish a building to open an Infant Care Center. We also had two college graduations and a wedding to attend. We found it easier to spend quite a bit of time in Inyokern.

After Larry's daughter's wedding, we seriously looked for a summer job. In January we had attended a Workamper's Job Fair in Yuma. We think we could have had a job right away, but we had to be honest and mention our commitments. So we told them we would not be available until early July. In early July, we learned that Xanterra, the concessionaire at Crater Lake National Park, was looking for help. We called them and had a job offer within hours. We left Inyokern on July 7 and arrived at Crater Lake on July 10. On July 11 we attended a new employee orientation and started working. Larry was a Campground Attendant and Adrienne was a Campground Services Hostess. In retrospect, we never worked so hard for minimum wage in our lives. However, we did lose some weight, had a lot of fun, and really enjoyed the summer. In fact, we had so much fun, we were often surprised when we received our paychecks, we almost forget we were working for wages.

By August, we were well settled into the working life. We now had the opportunity to do some significant sightseeing.

Larry and Adrienne Brauer

Subj: 130. Where are we?
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2003

If you've been reading our emails, you already know where we are, Crater Lake National Park. We have been workamping for about 5 weeks now and we are still enjoying it. As the season moves on, and so do some of the seasonal employees, our jobs have changed slightly. Yes, Adrienne still works the Kiosk and Larry still works as a Campground Attendant. But, sometimes we have additional duties. Sometimes Adrienne works in housekeeping at the Mazama Lodge (this is not the well known Crater Lake Lodge which is about 8 miles from here). She typically works housekeeping for about three hours when the kiosk is not busy and there are other people working in it.

Larry sometimes drives the laundry truck. The only laundry is down here in Mazama Village and they have to do all the laundry for Mazama Lodge, Crater Lake Lodge, and the restaurants at the rim. Larry may also work in the Kiosk in the future but that hasn't happened yet.

We don't have the aches and pains that we had the first week. Fortunately our stamina is returning and we are certainly losing a little weight. Plus, it's still a lot of fun.

Michelle and Keith came up to Crater Lake and camped here a couple of weeks ago. Larry still has a hard time thinking about Michelle in a tent however, she did well. Of course she also enjoyed visiting the RV and being able to take a real hot shower. They had a beautiful, large tent campsite overlooking Annie Creek Canyon. Xanterra even comped the cost of the campsite. Even though we had to work, we really enjoyed their visit and they seemed to enjoy it too.

Michelle and Keith's visit reminds us of a story we have to tell. One of Larry's tasks is to drive a golf cart through the campground in the morning to pick up the slips showing that the campsite was paid for. Well, in the morning, many of the campers are cooking breakfast and most of them seem to be cooking bacon. Just imagine 211 campers cooking bacon! It's hard to ignore the smell of cooking bacon. When Keith and Michelle were here, he finally had the chance to have a piece of bacon during his first run through the campground. That may not sound significant to you, but it certainly was to Larry!

The weather here has certainly been different. At first it was cool in the mornings (we used our heater several times) and warm in the afternoon.

Then we had several 90 degree days. It certainly wasn't as bad as Ridgecrest summers but it was noticeably warm. Then it turned cool again with some rain. So far, the coldest it's been was 33 degrees and the warmest was 90 degrees. That's certainly better than Ridgecrest.

While working we discovered some things that could have been done better. So we did our usual thing and came up with some ideas for improving various processes. We proposed several ideas to our boss, who presented them to the Operations Manager, and they were approved. So in some small ways, we have had an impact on the ways Xanterra does things (and there are many things the company could improve).

We figure we must have done something right. Today, Thursday, August 14, our boss asked us if we would extend our contract. We agreed. So we will be here until October 15 or until Mazama Village closes down because of snow, whichever ever happens first. We are also looking at potential winter jobs. We may consider Death Valley, the Everglades, or Grand Canyon. Of course those jobs are with Xanterra, we may also look for other jobs for the winter. We are open for almost anything just so we get to do some touring around between jobs.

Speaking of touring around, there is still a lot of Crater Lake National Park we have not explored. It seems like our two days off every week are taken up by shopping (we have to drive at least 55 miles to find a grocery store), or doing other important things like laundry and such.

The Brauers
Still Havin' Fun
Workamping in Crater Lake National Park

August 2003
Crater Lake, Oregon



Crater Lake has many moods. On this day the overcast weather and lack of sun changed the color of the lake to gray.



Wizard Island has almost a mysterious look to it.



A few days later, a hike on the Castle Crest Wildflower Trail brought us to some beautiful meadows.



Lady of the Woods is a sculpture carved in a rock.

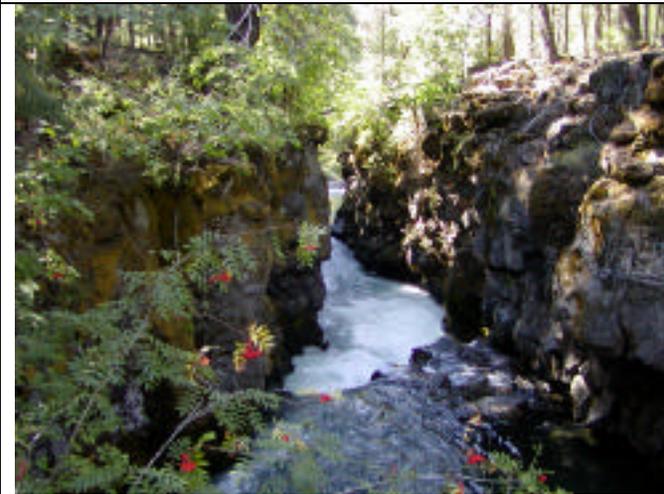
August 2003
Crater Lake, Oregon



Mount Bailey is an extinct volcano that escaped carving by glaciers during the last ice age.



Mount Theilsen is much older. Ice, wind, and water has eroded much of the original mountain.



The Rogue River Gorge is a very narrow area but beautiful area of the Rogue River.



There are waterfalls in the Gorge.

August 2003
Crater Lake, Oregon



The Rogue River actually disappears underground.



While the River flows through a lava tube, a natural bridge is left on the surface.



After a short distance, the river reaches the surface again.



Of course, our little friends were all over the place.