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Subject: Postcard

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Pueblo Indians are the descendants of the Anasazi and related prehistoric groups who left their cliff dwellings and adobe apartments in Arizona, Utah and Colorado to resettle primarily in New Mexico. When the Spanish arrived in the 1500's they subjugated the Puebloans using them as virtual slaves, making them speak Spanish, and forcing them into Christianity. In 1680 these Pueblos, in a singular act of unity, combined to throw out the Spaniards for a decade, occasioning the first known usage of the phrase *Hasta La Vista, Baby*.

Unfortunately for the Indians, the Spanish returned in force twelve years later and reestablished their control.

Ultimately Americans annexed the territory and conferred on the Pueblos the semi-autonomy they now have.

Currently there are 21 surviving Pueblos, of which 20 are in New Mexico and many are in this area along the Rio Grande.

Today we had the privilege of visiting one of them: Santa Clara Pueblo.



Santa Clara Pueblo buildings still retain that boxy, cliff dwelling look.



Inside we expected dirt floors or clay tiles and smoky fire pits. Instead there was plush carpet and a luxurious ambiance. There were felt covered gaming tables and rows of slot machines! It *was* smoky.



In spite of all this modernization, the basic native character and spirit were clearly evident.



Sheila pulled out her raven fetish and played. What else could we do?



We won!



We won!



We won!





We won!



We won!



See? We won!

Hasta la vista, baby.

D&S