

Date: 4/11/2015 8:50:11 PM

Subject: Postcard

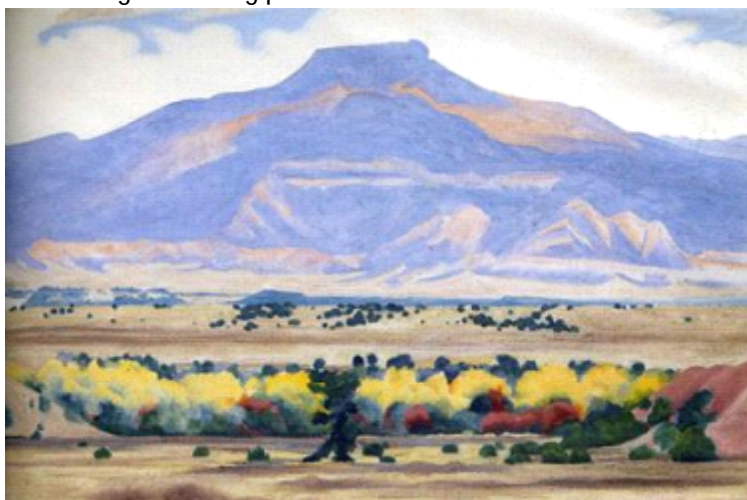
Oh, and by the way, we are staying in Abiquiu, NM at the Abiquiu Inn. Our accommodation is quite pleasant and the Inn has a great restaurant. Last night we had trout tacos and their signature dessert, a chocolate piñon tart. We also had the chocolate piñon tart the night after Chaco. We also had the chocolate piñon tart tonight. We actually feel pretty good about that dessert.

When we left the casino yesterday we drove to Ghost Ranch to confirm our hike to Kitchen Mesa today. Whoops and golly. Kitchen Mesa is closed for maintenance. Box Canyon Trail is closed for maintenance. Sorry, go hike somewhere else. Those darn Presbyterians!

At least we got to take some pics of Georgia O'keeffe's cabin before we went on the Internet to find a Plan B.



Behind the cabin (actually *way* behind the cabin) is a peak known as Pedernal. It was a favorite subject for her art and she referred to it as "my backyard". We offer this painting in lieu of good hiking pictures.



Our Plan B turned out to be #15 trail in Carson National Forest to a destination called Rim Vista. The day was mostly gray and whenever the sun peeked out it was filtered through a haze.



Looks flat but it ultimately goes up 1200 feet.



My feet hurt. Yeah? So my knees hurt. Yeah? Just smile it's going to take the picture. Click.



From the top you can catch a glimpse of Pederal in the distance. A dark glimpse.



And see Lake Abiquiu.



Ghost Ranch is over there somewhere too. The heck with Ghost Ranch.

End of hike.

But not the end of the day. We had lunch up the road at Echo Amphitheater, a natural bowl carved out of the rock that is supposed to create an echo. We yelled. It does.



The fee to get in is \$2.00. You have to fill out a form at the gate, put your \$2 in the envelope, tear off the top flap to put on your dashboard, jam the envelope into a box through a narrow slot using a metal ram that hangs there on a chain. Now there's a good system.

Bonus Section:

Our friend Harry called me a free range chicken.

I had to track this down, but here ya go:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3v1wFKKWMCA>

Good one, Harry. Good one.

D&S