

Date: 3/10/2016 7:51:28 PM

Subject: Postcard

Today was our day for the Interstate casinos. While there is a large concentration of pueblo casinos between Española and Albuquerque, there is also a stretch along I-40 of pueblos and reservations that can't be ignored. Much as we would like to. We left Sandia and its pretentious, 2000-employee resort behind and hopped on I-25 to get through Albuquerque. We roared up the ramp at 70 and promptly screeched to a halt. Accident ahead.

We got stuck behind a silver Grand Cherokee as we crept along. Identical to Bogie. With the possible exception of the Sanders 2016 sticker on its tailgate.



We finally left the wreck and Bernie behind and started cruising along I-40.



If you call this cruising.

We headed for our first casino, Sky City at Acoma Pueblo. The Acoma people claim to have the longest continuously inhabited (800 years) town in America. It's on a tall mesa south of the Interstate and the casino shares its name.



Excuse for the bad picture: We had been taking interior shots of the casinos until we started getting serious opposition from security guards. So we stopped. Today we have shots of casino exteriors and signs. And a 4-lane highway.

At Sky City Sheila discovered *Double Bonus Video Poker*. We're glad she did. And for the first time in her life, her total lack of a poker face was not counterproductive.

Statistics

Casino – Sky City

Décor –4/5 – neat, clean, nothing spectacular

Smoke – 3/5 – yep, pungent

Hospitality – 3/5 – no cameras allowed, no smiles given

Winnings – \$36.00

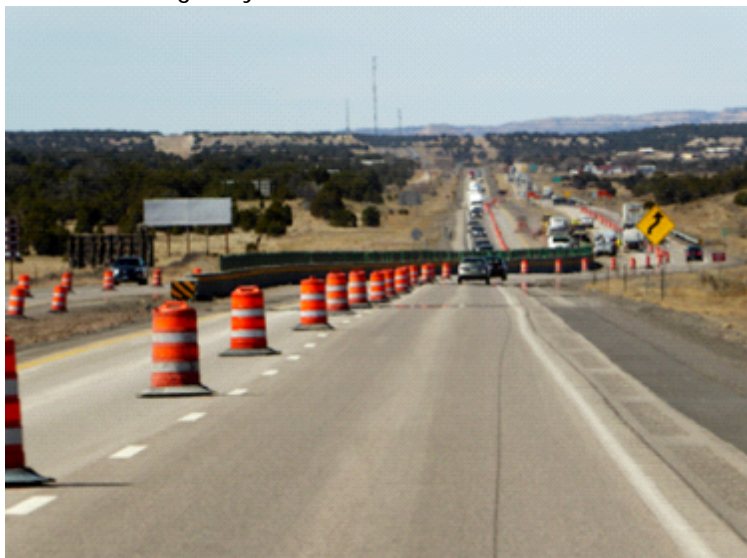
Time – 60 minutes

Back on the highway.



We had an inspired choice for lunch today – La Ventana in Grants, NM. Just happened to be passing by at lunch time. We split the Ray's Pasta specialty which is those springy noodles along with mushrooms, spinach, olive oil, shrimp and a touch of red pepper flakes.

Back on the highway.



Our next casino was Fire Rock, a Navajo enterprise. The Navajo are the largest tribe in the nation, approximately 300,000 strong. As points of reference, the Acoma are 5000 and the Sandia 500. The Navajo squabbled for years before they built casinos. Now, five years and three casinos later, they have yet to disburse a single dollar of casino earnings. They are squabbling over what to do with it. Ah, but not our problem.



Fire Rock is presumably named for the red rocks behind it.



Feel free to linger over this one, it's our best pic.

Sheila's luck with video poker stayed with her in diminished form. So she abandoned it for the *Survivor* slot machine that featured spinning coconuts, torches, flowers, masks, Jerries, Rudys and Ruperts. She actually knew who Jerri, Rudy and Rupert were. The girl is amazing. So I don't know if it helped, but she cashed out ahead on that one too.

Statistics

Casino – Fire Rock

Décor – 4/5 – neat, clean, nice touches

Smoke – 3/5 – place was packed, ergo...

Hospitality – 5/5 – they had the KU game on TV

Winnings – \$27.81 (1.26 poker, 26.55 Survivor)

Time – 60 minutes

Tonight we're in Gallup, listening to police sirens.

D&S

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