

## HOW COULD TWO NEW DOORS CREATE SO MUCH JOY?

September 28, 2004

After spending nine days in one park, which included four days waiting on the doors to arrive by freight, we had them installed and finally headed south.

We were to stay on the Columbia River for a few days and when we found the RV Park, it was 7 miles away from the river and up a thousand feet above it! Some days you're the dog and some days you're the fireplug! They were going to close it in two days anyway. Large Grey bushy tailed squirrels abounded everywhere and we had a flock of a dozen or so wild turkeys in camp.

In this area you can see several signature mountains on the way down. Hood, Baker, Rainier, St Helens. Driving through Portland we thought we saw St Helens erupting with steam and dark ash. After many pictures, we found out it was Mt. Hood and its own weather system was forming the clouds above its peak. Ironically, St Helens did erupt later.

Leaving the mighty Columbia River, we drove to Bend OR. In the area, is the Lava Butte Cinder Cone. It is a National Park and it is very interesting. You can drive up to the top of the cone and overlook the crater. The Visitors Center is chock full of things to see and do.



A couple of nights in Bend and we set sail for Reno NV. The countryside has abruptly changed into grassland and cattle country. The elevation is running about 4 to 5 thousand feet. The nights are nippy and in fact the water hose froze solid. It was 28 degrees that night. We should soon be in California. All the large lakes shown on the maps are dried up. Very little rain has fallen around here for years. We will see nothing but dry lands for the rest of the trip.

Dave and Bonnie