

INCENDIARY GLIMPSES

Leaving the Spruce Goose behind, we traveled back down the Oregon Coast. It seemed logical after contacting home and finding out there was still 100 + deg. weather. We were getting used to having the heater on at night. It worked out that the people we were going to visit, in Auburn, CA were fine with us staying Fri. Sat. and Sun. on their property.

One of the highlights of our stay, was a visit to the Empire Mine, in Auburn, CA. This mine was operated for years, producing untold amounts of gold. Operations were suspended during WWII and the mine finally filled with water to such a degree that it was not practical to pump it out. Newmont Mining bought the mine for \$136,000 in 1929, and sold it to the State of Calif. For more than 1.2 million dollars, and they kept the mineral rights! Such a deal!

The mine was more than 11,000 ft. deep, and was a myriad of shafts and drifts. The grounds around the mine are beautiful, and the owner's large home can be toured. The club house has been rebuilt to original condition.

The route to the mine passed by the area of the recent Auburn fire. It was a very serious fire in a populated area, with a lot of forested areas next to homes.

The fire jumped into a tract of plywood sided houses and burned down over 63 homes in one tract! The photo depicts one of the victims of the raging flames, that day. Access to the tract was not possible due to sheriff patrols to stop looters..



We had a wonderful visit with Pete and Joni Dangermond, and on Labor Day we started for home. We were so anxious to get there we drove 500 miles that day. This ends another years journals. Hope you enjoyed traveling with us.

Dave, Bonnie and Marti