

THE LONG ROAD TO OAKLAND

Previous travel on 101 north, revealed the extensive planting of grape vineyards. This time it would appear that the Napa Sonoma area will soon take second place. Much of California wine is shipped to France for blending with their wines.



A stop was made at the Thousand Trails Morgan Hills Preserve. An interesting fact about this city is that it was once famous for the Morgan Hills poppy jasper. It is orbicular jasper formed by volcanic action and found on El Toro Mountain.

This mountain overlooks Morgan Hills and its shape is displayed on the Seal of the city.

It is fiercely hot in the inland areas now and we are getting ready to drive into the heat.

Currently we are parked in the Alameda County Fairgrounds. They maintain a full hook-up RV park with \$30/night rates. This is a convenient stop to stay at while exploring Oakland and San Francisco areas.

The Alameda Fairgrounds were established in 1912, and has had annual fairs ever since. There are, of course, many other uses for the site. The Pleasanton Fairgrounds Racetrack is located on the grounds. It was built in 1858, making it the oldest 1 mile horse racing track in the United States.

Another use that we saw the other day was a sign announcing the State Bar exams. I guess that for lawyers to be fair, they must have to take their bar exams at the fairgrounds!

Dave and Bonnie

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