

15.Special ■ 30 Years of Third Arizona Trip-1996-2026

ayAzart Conference July 1
10+1 Anniversary, 1986-19



de Stolfe
Journal

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15.Special ■ 30 Years of Third Arizona Trip, 1996

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On The Cover



A small group of us getting a quick photo after the "clay walk" on 7.22.1996. The three of us on the left were part of the third trip to Flagstaff, while the lady on the right (shown with her husband) went on our first trip in 1994. That red shirt I was wearing showed abstract figures of a kokopelli. The below photo from July 1997 shows me wearing the same shirt when I went on a Nava-Hopi bus tour to Monument Valley as a birthday present to myself.



We live in the 2020s, not the 1920s! Wherever a web link is like below, click it to go to the webpage it references! (Click it now!)

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Comments By RG

A Third Trip Remembered

This special issue finishes the trio of extended studies trips to Flagstaff, Arizona the summers of 1994, 1995, and 1996! This issue covers the 1996 trip to Flagstaff. This issue has taken me several months to finally get finished!

By the time I got to sorting through photos and writings for this last year, I became increasingly aware that I was not exactly sure which years the photos belonged to! It is possible that among the three issues, I might have attributed the photos to the wrong year, particularly for sites I visited more than once, like the Painted Desert, Grand Canyon, and Sedona. But I suppose in the long run, it doesn't matter very much as they all go together as part of a multi layered group experience in the very middle of the 1990s.

Also, as I was going through all of the old information and photos, I realized that I could not identify everything, and various details were lost, or I needed to reconstruct the information either in part or fully.

The main difference with this 1996 trip as compared to the other two trips is with a special ceramics conference scheduled that summer. This added a different level to the general local experience

of the trip of firing wood burning kilns. In fact, as part of the conference, all of the wood burning kilns in the ceramics complex were fired at the same time! These kilns included the Anagama, the Naborigama, and a few smaller kilns. (Our group fired the Anagama kiln in 1994 and fired the Naborigama kiln in 1995.) After the kilns got to the desired temp, were sealed, and were cooling, the conference activities went on for several days at the Old Lumberjack Gym located in the middle of the campus. Many more people attended the conference and was not part of the ceramics class specifically, but we were definitely invited to attend as many well known potters were there.

The main set of activities for this summer included making pottery in Jacksonville beforehand, travelling to Flagstaff, firing the wood kilns over several days, attending the conference activities, unloading the kilns after they cooled, and travelling home. Scattered among all of that was some travelling to popular sites in Arizona, a few we went to the other years.



Our group was a little smaller than the group in 1994 but similar in size to the group in 1995. Only a small few of us went on all three trips. Several people went on two of the three trips. And, of course, there were a few that only went on one of the three trips.

This issue also includes my travel back to Flagstaff when I moved there a

couple of weeks after the summer classes. I would stay in Flagstaff from August 1996 through to the middle of July 2001 when I moved to Lubbock, Texas to go to school at Texas Tech University.

I hope you enjoy this last special issue of the extended studies trips to Flagstaff, Arizona!

RG

Third Flagstaff Trip

About the Third Trip to Flagstaff in 1996

In the summer of 1996, I went on a third extended studies trip to Flagstaff, Arizona. So, let me recap the last two trips to bring you back up to this issue. I went on an extended studies trip in the summer of 1994. Despite thinking it was the only time I would go, I ended up going again on a similar extended studies trip the next summer in 1995. Even while on that trip, I was not expecting necessarily that there would even be a third trip. But, there was casual discussion about having a trip again in 1996 despite this second extended studies trip barely meeting the minimum requirements to make. But by the spring of 1996, it was already decided that trip would indeed happen in 1996. So, I planned to go again, except this time I had already decided that after the summer trip, I was going to move to Flagstaff to go to NAU there in the fall. I would still need to come back to Jacksonville to pack and take care of a few things before turning right around and leaving again back to Arizona as a one way move.

One of the things about the 1996 summer trip that was different from the two previous trips was that there was going to be a big ceramics anniversary celebration—not related to our extended studies trip,

but coinciding with it—a decade after an original conference. It was called Clay AZ Art 10+1. I think the original conference was in 1986, and I do not know anything about what that original conference was about. But they obviously wanted to have an anniversary event which was in 1996. The “plus one” part probably had to do with a count irregularity where technically 1995 would be the tenth count and 1996 technically would be the eleventh count. I suppose it was one way of looking at it! (I think today, we just refer to it as year to year and just call it a decade later.) And on a sidenote, it turned out that they kept that unusual format for a future conference that was held in 2006 called 20+1: A Wood Fire Exhibition. But, I think that is where it stopped, and there was not a 30+1 conference in 2016, as several key people of that original conference had died by the 2010s.

I had two main things I needed to take care of in the spring, the extended studies trip and the going to college. As for the summer trip, I needed to pay for the trip and make pottery, among other things. For going to college in the fall, I had to apply, get financial aid, and pick out classes, among other things. I did



*Small group of us after the “clay walk” (on 7.22.1996)
The three of us on the left were part of the third trip,
while the lady on the right went on our first trip in 1994.*

a writing two separate times ahead of the summer term which gives more detailed information about each of those two preparations.

In summary, we made pottery ahead of the summer class starting, did a little bit of stuff in Jacksonville when the summer term started, traveled to Flagstaff in July, was in Flagstaff for two weeks, then I came back to Jacksonville for just over two weeks to pack and get things sorted out before leaving again back to Flagstaff to get there about a week before classes started when the

dorms opened. I was going to live on campus, and I have another writing, with added commentary, about arriving to Flagstaff to go to school.

Of the three summer trips, I think this one was the most organized, and the best documented, not only with paperwork, but also with photos, although there were a few photos I cannot find or did not take, and notes I did not write down that I tried to extract from memory the best I could, especially with it now 30 years later!

Third Flagstaff Trip

First Train Trip, Jacksonville to Flagstaff, July 9-13, 1996

July 9, 1996. 9:25 PM EST. Jacksonville, Florida. I just boarded the train and got my seat. I am now going to Flagstaff! At the start of the summer term, I started to make pottery; actually, I started in the spring term. The bulk of which is pinchpots. I went to South Campus for my portfolio class and spent some extra time to make pottery. Well, I got the last of it today then packed it the best I could. I ended up putting the pottery in two boxes, a banana box and a small box. Today, Carrie gave me a birthday cake. Although, she wasn't actually there when I got there.

9:52 PM EST
We are now moving and on our way!! They announced that for the new people boarding, dinner (chicken) would be provided since there is no dining car. Also, breakfast in the morning.

10:26 PM EST
The car lights were just turned off. I just finished my second dinner, which was Popeyes chicken. I wonder what will have for breakfast. At this point, I am in a seat by myself. I hope it is this way for a while, but I know it probably will not be. I'll write whenever I feel like writing again.

10:52 PM EST
Arrived in Lake City, Florida stop.

11:42 PM EST
Arrived in Madison, Florida stop.

July 10, 1996. 1:02 AM EST.
Arrived in Tallahassee, Florida stop.

2:10 AM CST
Arrived in Chipley, Florida stop. [*This is approximately 400 miles from Jacksonville.*]

6:05 AM CST
As I wake up, it is light and in the distance, I can see a sun, the color of a tangerine. Then I wonder how can I see the sun if we are going west?

Through the night, we passed a lot of little towns. We just passed the first field of cows. [*That I saw by that point anyway.*]

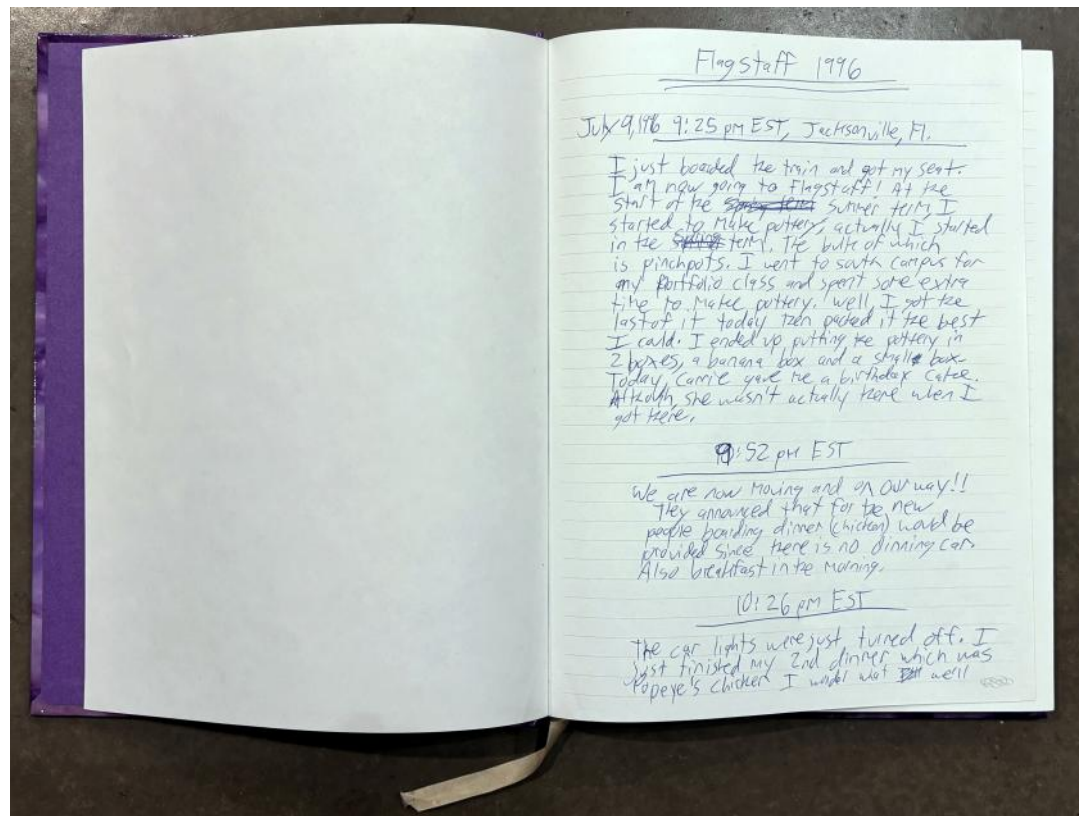
6:15 AM CST
A sign I just saw said that we were in Mobile City. Whether that is Mobile in Alabama or another one, I don't know.

6:40 AM CST
All through the area on the one side as we were riding are fields of crops. The corn was obvious, but I don't know what the other crop was. And a few minutes ago, I saw little goats all sitting together.

6:42 AM CST
We just arrived in the Atmore, Alabama station. The station is right through the middle of the town.

6:45 AM CST
I have been looking at the spring/summer schedule, and they must have changed it because we are nowhere near following it. The dirt is really red/red orange, which must be that "Alabama clay".

7:50 AM CST
Arrived in Mobile, Alabama stop. The ride since morning has been pretty nature scenic.



My actual journal I used to make notes during my trips by train.

Third Flagstaff Trip

9:20 AM CST

I finished with breakfast which they were giving. It wasn't as great as last night's dinner, but not bad. They had coffee, juice, danishes, muffins, apples, oranges[...] continental, in other words. I think we just left Biloxi, but I didn't see a station.

There's a pattern on the fabric of the seats I like.

9:37 AM CST

Arrived in Gulfport, Mississippi station.

10:00 AM CST

Arrived in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi station. There were some neat buildings along the river.

10:38 AM CST

We passed a point along a river where hundreds of egrets were sitting in the trees. I'm also seeing a lot of dragonflies. I also see a few alligators, as well as other birds. I've also seen a lot of different colored and sized wildflowers, most are vines.

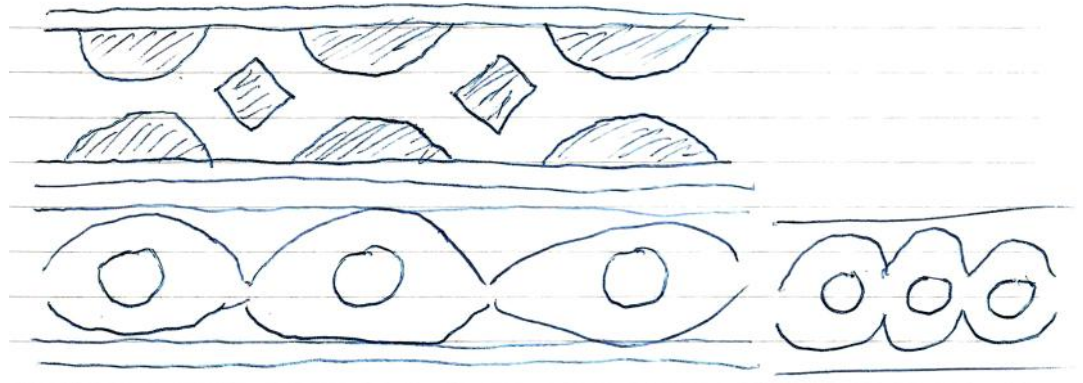
12:00 PM CST

I counted seven cars and a locomotive after New Orleans. We will have the dining car, also. We now are going backwards to the station.

12:10 PM CST

We are now in the New Orleans station, and I will be going on a bus tour through New Orleans for a couple of hours. It should be fun!

There's a pattern on the fabric of the seats I like.



I sketched out in my journal the patterns on the seats I liked. I don't remember the colors.

3:10 PM CST

Well, I just boarded back the train from my tour of New Orleans, and I am very happy with the tour. We basically got a broad overview of the whole city from the downtown area to the large city park, to

the Mississippi river, to outskirting residential areas, plus we got lunch! We ran short of time near the end because the train was originally late. So, I was not able to get the croissants I wanted. Well, that's okay. I hopefully

will get them on the way back. [Other than this snippet of writing, I don't remember much about the tour now 30 years later. But I do have some of the photos I took while on the tour (I think it was at this point?)]



View from the train of the Greenwood Cemetery in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Third Flagstaff Trip

3:20 PM CST

We are now leaving the New Orleans station.

5:15 PM CST

We just now left the New Orleans station, again! We left, stopped for a while, then went back to the station where we waited for a little longer. There apparently was some problem with a bridge we had to go over. So instead, the people going to the stops in Louisiana deboarded, and the rest of the passengers would ride straight to Houston.

[That sounded like a very smart move on behalf of Amtrak! But it did put us two more hours behind!]

6:04 PM CST

So far, we have only gotten as far as a large bridge, and in fact, we are still on it (passed the water that is).

6:40 PM CST

We still haven't moved much, but just a few minutes ago conductor said that we will be going a new route to Houston that Amtrak has not gone before! Except for a brief stop in Beaumont for more crew members, the ride will be nonstop. They might actually make up time if it is possible. I have a 7:30 PM dinner appointment, so I will have dinner at that point and not worry about much for the rest of the night.

9:15 PM CST

I just came back after eating my dinner in the dining car. I had the New York strip steak, which was pretty good. Before I went to dinner, we finally got moving and pretty fast much of the way. After we ordered, I noticed that we were heading into some bad weather. We did and it rained pretty hard along with lightning flashing everywhere. At this point, I have no idea exactly where we are. I am figuring that we are somewhere near the Texas border.

July 11, 1996. 2:55 AM CST.

We arrived at the Beaumont, Texas Station.

4:56 AM CST

I think we arrived at the Houston, Texas station. At this point, we are about five hours behind. I hope we make up the time today.

6:40 AM CST

It is now light outside and actually the sun has come up to give an orange sky. The land is flat with grass and small trees by the tracks and in between what looks like pastures. There is still a lot of ground fog on the fields.

6:51 AM CST

Saw a deer standing in an open area.

7:03 AM CST

Just saw two more deer and of course cows everywhere.

7:18 AM CST

Went through a town called Weimar.

8:04 AM CST

As we ride along, the land gets more hilly. Also, I see prickly pear cactus everywhere. I don't know where in Texas we are, but I am pretty sure that we have not gotten to San Antonio yet.

8:11 AM CST

Went through Luling, Texas another train oriented town.

8:18 AM CST

Saw some oil pumps like I did the past two years.

9:35 AM CST

Arrived at the San Antonio station. We will be here for a little while to add some cars.

11:55 AM CST

As we have been riding, the land has varied between flat and hilly with *[quick interrupt]* (We just went through Hondo, Texas.) an occasional ravine. We were in San Antonio for at least an hour before we left.

12:07 PM CST

Passed through D'Hanis.

12:21 PM CST

Just saw little sheep, fuzzy too.

2:25 PM CST

The terrain has gotten very hilly and dry climate like, with the Mesquite trees, prickly pear, and scrub.

4:12 PM CST

I have noticed as we are riding that all of the creeks and rivers are all dry. The only water I've seen is in The Rio Grande. I have also seen a lot of buzzards around.

Everything seems to be drier than what it would probably normally be.

5:00 PM CST

Arrived at the Sanderson, Texas stop.

5:38 PM CST

I have noticed with the rain we've had that the rain has collected and filled many of the creeks, which is good considering how dry everything was.

6:03 PM CST

Passed through the town of Marathon, Texas.

6:36 PM CST

Arrived in the Alpine, Texas station.

7:00 PM CST = 6:00 PM MST

Time change. *[I think the conductor mentioned it or maybe I saw a sign.]*

Third Flagstaff Trip



*These photos show the Amistad Reservoir near
Del Rio that is part of the Rio Grande.*



Third Flagstaff Trip

7:30 PM MST

I just finished my dinner, which the train said before Alpine would be free. The land around West Texas is flat surrounded with small mountains. It is also starting to get dark. It is still light, since the sun hasn't set yet. *[Maybe I should have said it something like "The sun will set soon, and it will get dark"]* There are a lot of cows and some horses in the fields feeding *[more like eating or grazing]*. Since leaving Alpine, the train has been going pretty fast.

8:45 PM MST

It is now essentially dark outside. *[Essentially? I apparently had a strange way with words!]*

10:30 PM MST

We arrived in the El Paso, Station.

1:00 AM MST

Arrived at the Deming, New Mexico station.

[Here is where I stopped writing on the train until after getting to Phoenix and spending the next day in Phoenix.]



From the train, looking over into Greater Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.



Third Flagstaff Trip

Stations Along Amtrak's Sunset Limited Route, 1996

My time in the mid 1990s lined up nicely with the arrival and interim period of the Sunset Limited line by Amtrak (which started in 1971 as a single nationwide passenger

train service taking over from the varied private passenger lines). At this time, the Sunset Limited has just started in 1993 and went from Jacksonville to Los

Angeles. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the stretch between Jacksonville to New Orleans was discontinued and has not yet returned despite discussions to the

reinstating of the full line. Also, the stretch from Tucson to Phoenix to Yuma was altered in early 1995 to remove Phoenix from the route.

Florida

- Miami (MIA)
- Hollywood (HOL)
- Fort Lauderdale (FTL)
- Deerfield Beach (DFB)
- Delray Beach (DLB)
- West Palm Beach (WPB)
- Sebring (SBG)
- Winter Haven (WTH)
- Kissimmee (KIS)
- Orlando (ORL)
- Winter Park (WPK)
- DeLand (DLD)
- Palatka (PAK)
- Jacksonville (JAX)
- Lake City
- Madison
- Tallahassee
- Chipley
- Crestview
- Pensacola

Alabama

- Atmore
- Mobile

Mississippi

- Pascagoula
- Biloxi
- Gulfport
- Bay St. Louis

Louisiana

- New Orleans (NOL)
- Schriever (SCH)
- New Iberia (NIB)
- Lafayette (LFT)
- Lake Charles (LCH)

Texas

- Beaumont (BMT)
- Houston (HOS)
- San Antonio (SAS)
- Del Rio (DRT)
- Sanderson (SND)
- Alpine (ALP)
- El Paso (ELP)

New Mexico

- Deming (DEM)
- Lordsburg (LDB)

Arizona

- Benson (BEN)
- Tucson (TUS)**
- Coolidge (CLG)
(discontinued in 1996)
- Tempe (TMP)
(discontinued in 1996)
- Phoenix (PHX)
(discontinued in 1996)
- Maricopa (MRC)
- Yuma (YUM)

California

- Indio
(discontinued in 1998)
- Palm Springs (PSN)
- Ontario (ONA)
- Pomona (POS)
- Los Angeles (LAX)

***From Tucson, Amtrak bus shuttle service to Phoenix.*

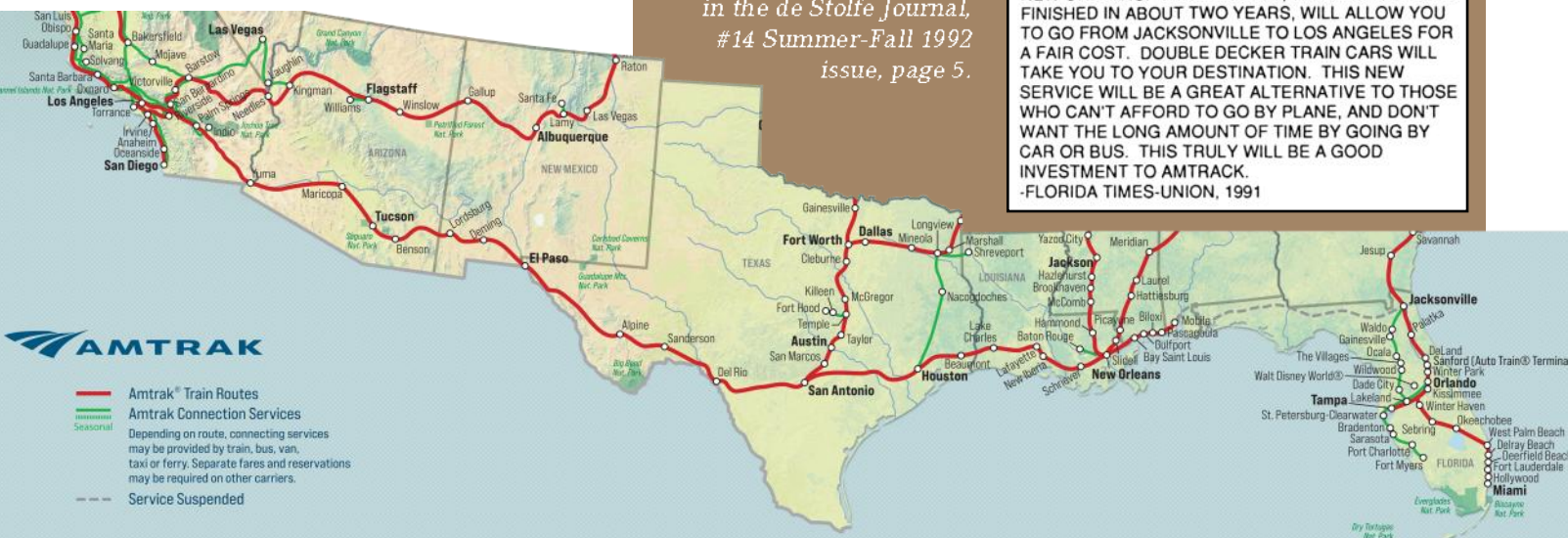
Read more of current and historical route information:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunset_Limited

Green: RG's route

My article about the Sunset Limited extension in the de Stolf Journal, #14 Summer-Fall 1992 issue, page 5.

AMTRACK

AMTRACK IS CONSIDERING A NEW EAST-WEST ROUTE THAT WOULD GO FROM JACKSONVILLE TO NEW ORLEANS. THIS PROJECT, WHICH SHOULD BE FINISHED IN ABOUT TWO YEARS, WILL ALLOW YOU TO GO FROM JACKSONVILLE TO LOS ANGELES FOR A FAIR COST. DOUBLE DECKER TRAIN CARS WILL TAKE YOU TO YOUR DESTINATION. THIS NEW SERVICE WILL BE A GREAT ALTERNATIVE TO THOSE WHO CAN'T AFFORD TO GO BY PLANE, AND DON'T WANT THE LONG AMOUNT OF TIME BY GOING BY CAR OR BUS. THIS TRULY WILL BE A GOOD INVESTMENT TO AMTRACK.
-FLORIDA TIMES-UNION, 1991



Third Flagstaff Trip

Establishing Amtrak's Sunset Limited Service

Plans for east-west passenger trains in North Florida on track

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Amtrak has committed to running trains between Jacksonville and points west in one to three years if the state helps pay capital costs, a transportation official said yesterday.

North Florida has been without east-west passenger rail service for more than 20 years, when the Gulf Wind was sidelined.

"It's a ways from becoming a reality, but it's encouraging," said Fred Wise, rail chief for the Florida Department of Transportation.

Amtrak President Graham Claytor made the commitment for three-day-a-week east-

west service across North Florida at a meeting Tuesday with officials from Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, Wise said. Amtrak already runs trains between Louisiana and California.

He said the next step will be a request from the state for more details on how much capital outlay would be required. An existing Amtrak study has placed the cost of stations, locomotives and other improvements around \$25 million.

"We are not satisfied," said John Hedrick of the People's Transit Organization in Monticello, one of two groups pushing for daily Jacksonville-New Orleans service.

"What Amtrak is doing is nothing but a stall tactic," said Austin Coates, president of Jacksonville-based United Rail Passenger Alliance, which he said is supported by business interests.

Hedrick and Coates say they will continue their effort to bring public, media and political pressure on Amtrak to proceed more quickly and provide daily service.

Claytor told the state officials that Amtrak would begin daily service between New Orleans and Mobile, Ala., as soon as October, contingent upon annual subsidies from Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana of about \$166,000 each.

Wise said that would be a preliminary step for extending the Sunset Limited, now running three times a week between Los Angeles and New Orleans, east to Jacksonville and south to Orlando and Miami.

It would provide additional service to the Jacksonville-Orlando-Miami route already served by existing trains.

The Sunset Limited then also would handle the Mobile-New Orleans route on the three days it operates.

An Amtrak study predicts the company

(See GROUPS, Page B-8)

B-8 ★★ The Florida Times-Union, Jacksonville, Friday, May 17, 1991

Groups push for daily rail service

(From Page B-1)

would lose \$6 million a year on daily New Orleans-Jacksonville service, but Wise pointed out the predicted loss on the thrice-weekly route would be only \$1 million.

The \$1 million loss would be relatively small, representing only about 20 percent of the operating cost, Wise said. Amtrak now relies on subsidies for about 30 percent of its operating expenses overall.

There's no great clamor from Jacksonville residents to travel to Pensacola or New Orleans, Wise said. The key factor justifying the route is a demand for service be-

tween the population centers of South and Central Florida and those in the West such as Phoenix, Houston and Los Angeles.

Coates contends that with some rescheduling, Amtrak could begin daily New Orleans-Jacksonville service almost immediately without having to obtain additional train equipment.

His group has proposed using train sets from the City of New Orleans — a Chicago-New Orleans route — and the Southern Crescent, a New York-New Orleans route.

The City of New Orleans sits idle for 27 hours at its southern termi-

nus before heading back north, and 24 hours of train time could be saved by terminating the Southern Crescent in Washington and allowing passengers to proceed north on existing Washington-New York trains.

Coates said Amtrak has rejected the plan on grounds that passengers would refuse to ride the rails if they had to transfer trains.

"Amtrak's position is laughable," he said. He said passengers would have to walk only 40 feet at the Washington station and pointed out air travelers routinely walk much longer distances when changing planes at airports.

The Florida Times-Union, Friday, May 17, 1991. Pages B1 & B8.

Amtrak lowers price tag for east-west route

By Randolph Pendleton

Senior writer

TALLAHASSEE — State officials said yesterday that they will move aggressively to seek passenger train service across North Florida following word from Amtrak that the cost would be less than previously thought.

"I think within several years we could see a train running across there," said Gov. Lawton Chiles, who has been trying to get the service since 1972 while he was a U.S. senator.

Amtrak President Graham Claytor told Chiles and Transportation Secretary Ben Watts that three-day-a-week service from Jacksonville to New Orleans could be provided in as little as two years.

But the state would have to pay \$6.5 million in capital costs and work out details with CSX Transportation, which owns the tracks and operates freight trains on

them, he said.

Earlier estimates put the cost to build new stations and upgrade switching equipment to accommodate the new service at \$25 million.

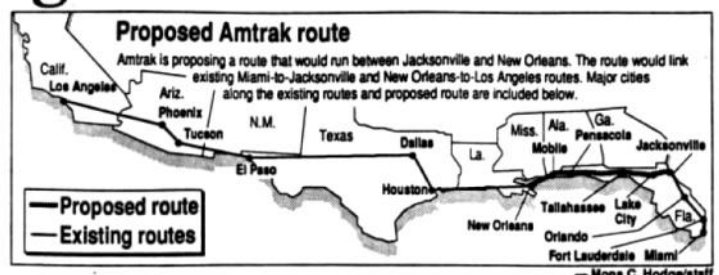
No explanation was offered for the reduction, but earlier discussions had involved 12 stops on the route, while Claytor suggested there might be only five.

The People's Transit Organization in Monticello, about 18 miles east of Tallahassee, will push for faster action at the Amtrak board's July meeting in Washington, spokesman John Hedrick said.

"That's unacceptable," Hedrick said of Claytor's proposals. "This service can be run right now. We're going to make sure he hears from his board on this one."

One of the biggest hurdles to clear for the proposed

(See EAST-WEST, Page B-5)



The Florida Times-Union, Thursday, June 20, 1991. Pages B1 & B5.

Third Flagstaff Trip

Establishing Amtrak's Sunset Limited Service



These double-decker passenger cars that now run between Los Angeles and New Orleans would be utilized between Jacksonville and New Orleans as well if the route were extended.

— Associated Press

*The Florida Times-Union.
Thursday, June 20, 1991.
Pages B1 & B5.*

Having ridden the Amtrak Superliner cars of the Sunset Limited in 1995 and 1996, I definitely recommend the double decker cars! Even in the mid 1990s, some of the cars were probably leftovers from the old Santa Fe routes. Today, the cars are most certainly much newer with updated features and more modern conveniences.

East-west route seen in 2 years

(From Page B-1)

route is eliminating the 15- to 40-mph speed limits for trains in many communities along the route, Claytor said. Passenger trains need to run at speeds up to 79 mph in areas with signals and up to 59 mph in the areas west of Chattanooga without signals if they are to keep schedules that will attract riders, he said.

While the new service would be from Jacksonville to New Orleans, the train would continue west all the way to Los Angeles on its existing route. It also might continue south to Miami on Amtrak's existing route from Jacksonville, Claytor said.

The train would be the Sunset Limited, with double-decker cars that have been used in the West but not in Florida.

The new service is feasible, Claytor said, because three-day-a-week service already exists between New Orleans and Los Angeles and the long layover in New Orleans would provide time to send the train to Jacksonville and Miami.

Because existing equipment would be used, there would be no need to build new cars and locomotives.

Although Amtrak earlier contended that the service would need a \$1 million subsidy annually, Claytor said he did not believe it would lose money. In any event, Amtrak would pay all of the operating costs of the service, he said.

Chiles said cities where the railroad would stop would be called on to contribute the \$3 million needed to build stations and platforms.

Claytor said stations would be needed in Pensacola and Tallahassee, while platforms could be put in at smaller cities where the train also would stop. Although no decisions have been made, he suggested the train might stop in Crestview, Marianna and Lake City.

Both ways, the train would travel at night through North Florida, leaving New Orleans in the evening on its way east and leaving Jacksonville in the evening on its return trip, Claytor said.

Chiles said the state would try to convince communities with speed limits of less than 40 mph to increase them.

Ray Sittig, executive director of the Florida League of Cities, said he thought many cities would be willing to increase speed limits somewhat in exchange for getting passenger service. However, he said he

doubted that the high speeds mentioned by Claytor would be implemented.

The possibility of service across North Florida was not all Claytor had to offer when he met with Watts and Chiles.

He said the Florida East Coast Railway had indicated it might be willing to allow its tracks to be used for passenger service from Jacksonville to Miami, serving coastal cities such as St. Augustine and Daytona Beach that are not on Amtrak's current Jacksonville-to-Miami route.

The FEC has not made its tracks available to passenger trains in recent years.

Claytor said Amtrak would like to shift one of its current trains from the CSX tracks to the FEC tracks if communities, particularly Daytona Beach, will build stations.

But Hedrick said that any coastal service provided between Jacksonville and Miami would not replace a present route.

A CSX spokesman said the company will prepare a formal estimate of the cost of upgrading its tracks and switching equipment to accommodate additional passenger service as soon as it receives a request from Amtrak or the state.



Wikipedia provides this photo of the Sunset Limited train crossing a bridge near Vail, Arizona in 2025. The same Wikipedia page also had the below photo also of the Sunset Limited train on the same bridge in 1921!

The bridge goes over Ciénega Creek.



Third Flagstaff Trip

A Couple of Nights in Phoenix, Arizona

July 12, 1996. 10:50 PM PST.

Okay, after leaving Deming, New Mexico, I basically slept until we finally arrived in Tucson about 3:00-3:30 AM. We left Tucson on a bus (a rather nice bus; nicer than a greyhound I think) and continued by way of I-10 to Phoenix. Again, I slept for a little while. It was light by the time we got into Tempe, then Phoenix, around 5:00-5:30 AM. Once we got into the Phoenix station, I called and had the motel pick me

up, and I checked in. After I got my room, I got cleaned up [*since I had not had a shower in about two days!*], then slept until around 1:00 PM, at which time, I got lunch and went to the Heard Museum. I stayed there until they closed (about 2:00-5:00 PM). I came back to the motel, and an hour or two later, I went to the closest AMC theater on Camelback Road in the Town and Country shopping center. This was a neat place. I walked around, had dinner, and

saw a movie, Striptease. I got back around 10:00-10:30 PM. Tomorrow, I leave in the morning to the airport to catch the Navi-Hopi bus to Flagstaff that leaves at 11:00 AM.

[*As I recall, the dinner I had at the Town & Country mall was a sandwich place called Togo's. But what was distinctive about the sandwich was that they cut the lettuce on a meat slicer so it was very, very thin, which was a popular way to cut lettuce at the*

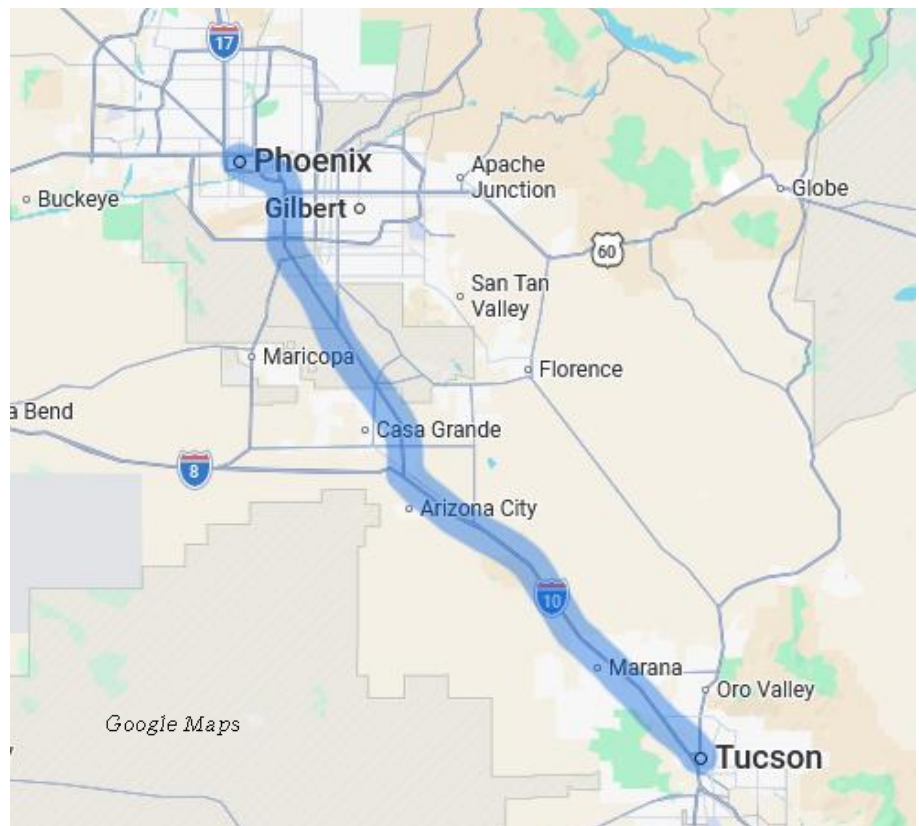
time, and I really liked and still like that fine texture. Also, I remember that the mall was open air, not an inside mall, and they had misters continually going off to provide moisture to the people walking around. After all, it was mid July in Phoenix! Also to note, I did not ride with my pottery teacher like I did last year, which is why I needed to take a bus to Flagstaff.]



Togo's was the name of the sandwich shop that has since closed. This was the logo from 1996.



This is the modern logo for the Heard Museum. I could not find the vintage logo used in 1996.
www.heard.org



Route the Amtrak bus shuttle took from Tucson to Phoenix.

Third Flagstaff Trip

Taking the Nava-Hopi Bus From Phoenix to Flagstaff

[This part of the writing journals my ride on the Nava-Hopi bus to Flagstaff.]

July 13, 1996. 11:15 PM PST.

I am now on the Nava-Hopi bus to Flagstaff. We will leave in a few minutes and will be on our way. This morning, I just basically got cleaned up and did nothing until it was time to get to the airport. The motel didn't actually take me. They, for some reason, don't go to the airport anymore. I rode in this luxury car of soft leather.

[I don't remember exactly if this was a specialized taxi or a private shuttle service or what exactly it was. This was of course long before the modern day concepts of Uber or Lyft.]

11:50 AM PST

We are now basically out of Phoenix. The landscape is flat with small mountains all around. The ground is mainly scrub with some bushes and occasional saguaros and even an occasional small tree. I can tell that there are a lot of other cacti, but I can't tell what kinds.



Nava-Hopi Tours

Bus Service To Grand Canyon & Phoenix • Sightseeing Tours

12:00 PM PST

We are still in the same type of area as before, but there are plenty of cacti around. Saguaros everywhere, and I mean everywhere. Some are just a single stem, and others have many arms. We seem to be climbing [in] elevation a bit. There is also plenty of piñon and mesquite. I'm also starting to see prickly pears and barrels.

[The more arms a saguaro has, the older it is. From seed to a full single stem, a saguaro takes about 50-70 years, even up to 100 years, before the first arm will appear. An adult saguaro is about 125 years and could be as tall as 50 feet. They will generally live to about 150-175 years, but can live to over 200 years.]

12:15 PM PST

I have seen a few areas of burned plants from past fires. I'm also seeing an occasional ocotillo. We have now gotten to [what] I guess is a mesa.

12:27 PM PST

We are riding along US 17. I don't see any saguaros anymore, and I see more small shrubs.

12:35 PM PST

We have now entered the Prescott National Forest. However, it sure doesn't seem like a forest unless at one time it was.

[Of course, now I understand that the designation of a national forest isn't specifically that it must be of big, tall trees, but rather lands that are covered in some sort of native growth, whether they are trees or

big shrubs or the like. Lands without trees, it would be a national grassland. Then, there are places like the Petrified Forest National Park that used to be a forest long ago but is no longer. Though, this is a park specifically rather than a forest.]

12:41 PM PST

I am seeing a lot of what looks like juniper bushes. I can see many different layers of rock and earth with the different colors.

12:45 PM PST

We seem to be going quickly down in elevation to the Verde Valley. *[The Verde Valley is roughly halfway between greater Phoenix and Flagstaff and is at the base of the Mogollon Rim that forms the southern boundary of the Colorado Plateau in Arizona. From Phoenix, the elevation changes several times going through small passes. Phoenix sits at 1086 feet, Verde Valley sits within 3000 to 4000 feet, and Flagstaff sits at about 6800 feet.]*

12:55 PM PST

We left the Camp Verde stop. The Verde River seems very low, in fact it is just a stream.



Illustration of an older saguaro with many arms.

Third Flagstaff Trip

1:01 PM PST

We just entered the Coconino National Forest. I can see the red rocks of Sedona in the background.

1:10 PM PST

A sign said that we were at 5000 feet. I saw some agaves, and I still see prickly pears.

1:15 PM PST

We are now getting to an area that is starting to look more like a forest. It is getting pretty dark, which means that it is going to rain. I see many pine trees, which is typical

of the Coconino National Forest and Oak Creek Canyon.

1:28 PM PST

Arrived in Munds Park, but there is no one to get on or off, so we are off.

1:35 PM PST

It is now raining, pretty heavily in fact.

1:42 PM PST

We have gotten to the Flagstaff city limits.

1:55 PM PST

Arrived at the Navi-Hopi station in Flagstaff.

Varieties of Cacti Mentioned



Saguaro. Single monopods are younger, while the multi armed ones are at least a century old.



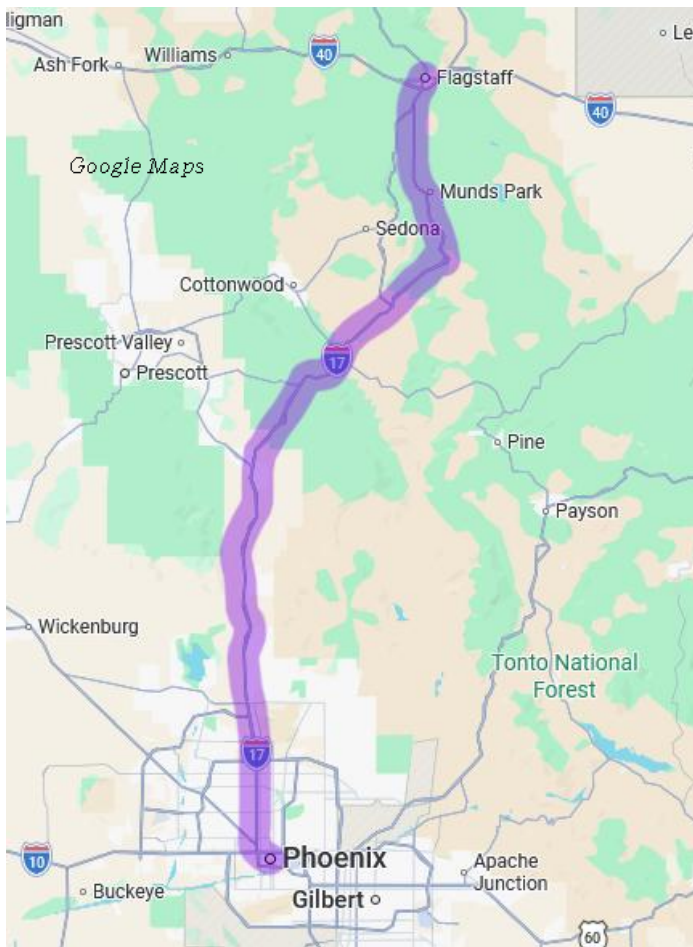
Agave. This one has a major bloom stalk. Agave is the plant that tequila is made from.



Prickly Pear (pancake shaped) with ripening fruit.



Ocotillo. This is one of my favorite cactus. It looks cool and has a fun name! This one is also flowering.



Nava-Hopi bus route from Phoenix to Flagstaff.

Third Flagstaff Trip

Two Weeks in Flagstaff, Arizona—July 13–28, 1996

**Saturday, July 13, 1996.
10:17 PM PST.**

After arriving at the Navi-Hopi station, I waited about an hour and a half for Mr. Weatherell to arrive. I decided then to take a taxi. However, I was taken to Riley Hall instead of Ridge Hall. So, I put my bags in a safe place and walked to Ridge, got my room, and found Mr. Weatherell. We then got my bags and went to a lunch/dinner afterwards. Once I got back to my room, I unpacked, then after [went] wandering for a while. I went to Milton Road to go to Target, Pier One, Hastings, and Swensen's for dessert. I got back to the dorm [and] finished unpacking and took care of a few things. Tomorrow, we are planning to go to Sedona and nearby areas to sightsee. Monday is the load the kiln day.

[Swensen's is an ice cream parlor I used to go to as a kid in Miami. Even back then, they had white marble tables and stained glass lamps and served ice cream in heavy glass containers giving a slight feel of early 1900s ice cream parlors. They were known for a huge bowl of many scoops of ice cream with gumballs called an Earthquake. (Because they were from San Francisco!)]

Sunday, July 14, 1996

Today, we left the dorm around 8:00 AM and started heading to Oak Creek Canyon and Sedona. We stopped by a creek and wandered through there [for] a while, then went to a lookout area. After, we went to another lookout near Sedona, then we went to Sedona. We had breakfast [at Oaxaca] and looked around the many

shops for a few hours. After, we headed to Jerome, where we walked around the town and mansion for a few more hours. We headed back to Sedona where we went to Airport Mesa, then headed back to the dorm. For the rest of the time, I had dinner and did odds and ends. Tomorrow is

the first kiln day, so we will be busy getting the kilns loaded.



Oaxaca Restaurant in Sedona, Arizona, now closed.

*I'm including this here as it does not fit anywhere else and would be random to include in other journal topics! I liked Swensen's as a kid growing up in the 1980s in Miami (along with Carvel Ice Cream!) Going there occasionally, Mom, Dad, and I would get ice cream, sometimes for my birthday, and I went a few times with my youth group. These photos show today's variations of the same sundaes from the 1980s.
www.swensensicecream.com*



Gold Rush



Earthquake
(8 scoops minus the gumballs) Usually, several kids would eat this and fight over the gumballs!



**Hot Fudge
Banana Split**



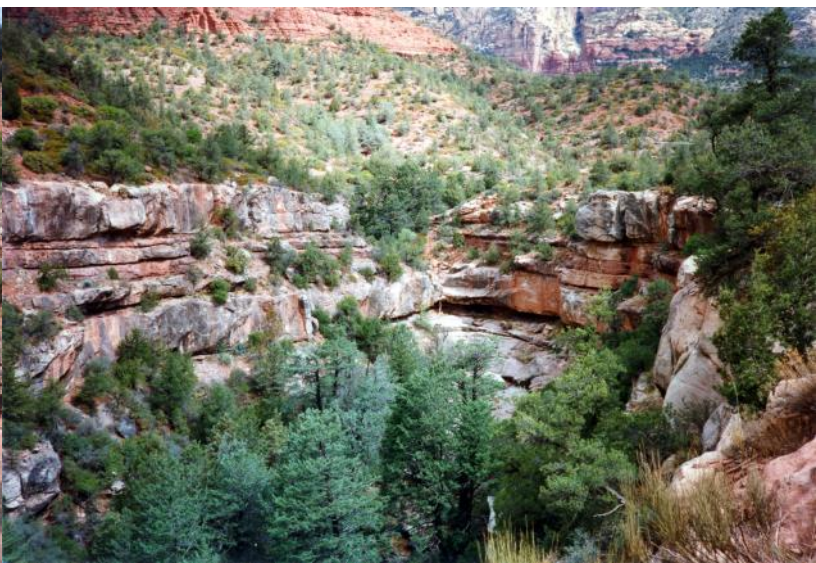
Coit Tower

Third Flagstaff Trip

Oak Creek Canyon, Arizona



A view from one of the lookout points.



Third Flagstaff Trip

Oak Creek Canyon, Arizona



Midgley Bridge along 89A over a tributary of Oak Creek.



Third Flagstaff Trip

Sedona, Arizona

I thought I had more photos of Sedona and Jerome, but the ones I found were from previous years. I think this photo was from 1996. I tried to find this location using Google Maps, but I think this site probably changed.



Jerome, Arizona

This photo is from 1994 and shows a valley view of Jerome from the Jerome State Historic Park. Jerome was a major, concentrated source of copper. The town, as of the 1990s, became a sort of artist colony preventing it from becoming a true ghost town.



Third Flagstaff Trip

Monday, July 15, 1996

I got up early this morning and went to the kiln site. We started out with a group meeting. Then we glazed pots, moved pots, and loaded the kilns. The loading lasted all day and through the evening. *[As I recall, Yukio Yamamoto was there to do a blessing over the firing before starting the process. He even had his own flag that flew over the area during the firing. Also, every kiln on the site was fired at the same time!]* Meanwhile, I went around the campus and started taking care of stuff for the fall. I came back and did little things. I rested for a few hours until my shift at midnight.

[By this point, even before leaving to Flagstaff, I knew that I was going to move to Flagstaff in the fall to go to school there I had already applied and got accepted and needed

to take care of things while I was there ahead of time.]

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

During my shift this night, we really didn't do anything except sit around and talk. Tomorrow though should be a little busier. After my shift *[which was Midnight to 6:00 AM]*, I came back to the dorm and went to sleep until around 11:00-11:30 AM when I took my bath. After, I again went around the campus and took care of things for the fall. I came back to the dorm, then went with Greg to Milton Road to go to the Target and Roma's Pizza. Later, I went to the computer lab. I now have an email address: rd23@dana.ucc.nau.edu *[which now has long since been deactivated]*. I came back to the dorm and did some paperwork and rested until my shift.

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

I went on my shift between 3:00 and 4:00 AM. I stoked the anagama. The rest of the time, I didn't do much. After my shift, I came back and slept until around 11:00-12:00-1:00 [range]. After, I went around the campus and took care of stuff for the fall. Later, I did laundry and basically didn't do much for the rest of the night. I decided not to go on my shift, so I slept that night.

[At that time, I did not tell people that it was my birthday. I know it seems like a weird mindset. But, my mindset was that I did not want to bother people with it being my birthday, making them feel like they had to do something just because it was my birthday. I probably got this from Mom during her mid years. As I recall, I don't think I did anything special for my birthday other than to skip my shift.]



Some pottery ready to load and fire.

Loading and Firing the Kilns



On the windy day I took these photos, the round flag for Yukio Yamamoto flew over the kiln site.

Third Flagstaff Trip

Loading and Firing the Kilns



Naborigama kiln, a chambered kiln

*Firing the kilns takes hoards
of wood just for one kiln let
alone firing all of them!*



*The kiln gets so hot that fire
shoots up and out of the
chimney!*

Anagama kiln



Third Flagstaff Trip

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Today, I woke up early and went around the campus to do more stuff for the fall. Then by 11:00 AM, Nancy and I went downtown and to the Coconino Center and Art Barn. After, we went for ice cream and came back

to the dorm. After a short while, Greg, Angie, and I went downtown to look around. I went around and came back to the campus where I ate dinner and came back to the dorm where I didn't do much until my shift.

Friday, July 19, 1996

Last night, I did go to the kiln site but did not work in my shift. In the morning, I got a workout [at the Rec Center], then got cleaned up and went to register for my classes for the fall. I understand that all of the kilns are

going to be finished firing today. The rest of the day was spent walking around the campus, around Milton Road, and around downtown. Tomorrow, we are planning to go to the museum and maybe other things.

Coconino Center For The Arts

We first visited the Coconino Center For The Arts in 1994. Here again, we went there in 1996.



Google Maps Street View

*Coconino Center For The Arts as it looks in 2024.
It doesn't look much different from 30+ years ago!
Source: Google Street View*

Downtown Flagstaff along old Route 66 and San Francisco Street taken in April 2009.



Google Maps Street View

Art Barn

The Art Barn was right across from the Coconino Center For The Arts. They sold various art, jewelry, and souvenirs. I would buy a silver bracelet from them in 1996.



Google Maps Street View

Apparently today, this barn built in 1910 is part of the Pioneer Museum in Flagstaff. In the 1990s, it was the Art Barn. Source: Google Street View

Third Flagstaff Trip

Saturday, July 20, 1996

I got up early (usual time early), got cleaned up, and went to the Museum [of Northern Arizona] with Ron. I spent about an hour and a half or two hours there, then left with Nancy to look for some falls. But we didn't go since there wasn't any water at this time. I ate lunch at Ed's Buffet on campus then did odds and ends until evening when I went with Donna Marie, Harry, and Nancy to the Lowell Observatory. I came back fairly late, then went to bed. Tomorrow, we will go to the Grand Canyon and a few other places.

Sunday, July 21, 1996

We left early today to make our way to the Grand Canyon. We first went to Sunset Crater, then after to the Wupatki ruins. We spent quite a few hours there, then we went to the Cameron Trading Post. By mid afternoon, we got to the Grand Canyon and went along the road following the rim. We were very tired by the time we left the El Tovar Lodge. We drove back to Flagstaff and ate dinner at a local Mexican restaurant. Tomorrow starts the lectures and demonstrations. This will be for most of the week. Thursday I think is when

we [will] unload the kilns. *[I keep mentioning about "getting up early" in these passages. If you know me, I don't do "get up early"! But understand that we lived in the Eastern Time Zone, and we were in*

Arizona that does not follow Daylight Savings Time. So we were three hours earlier in our internal clocks. THAT is how I could get up "early"!]

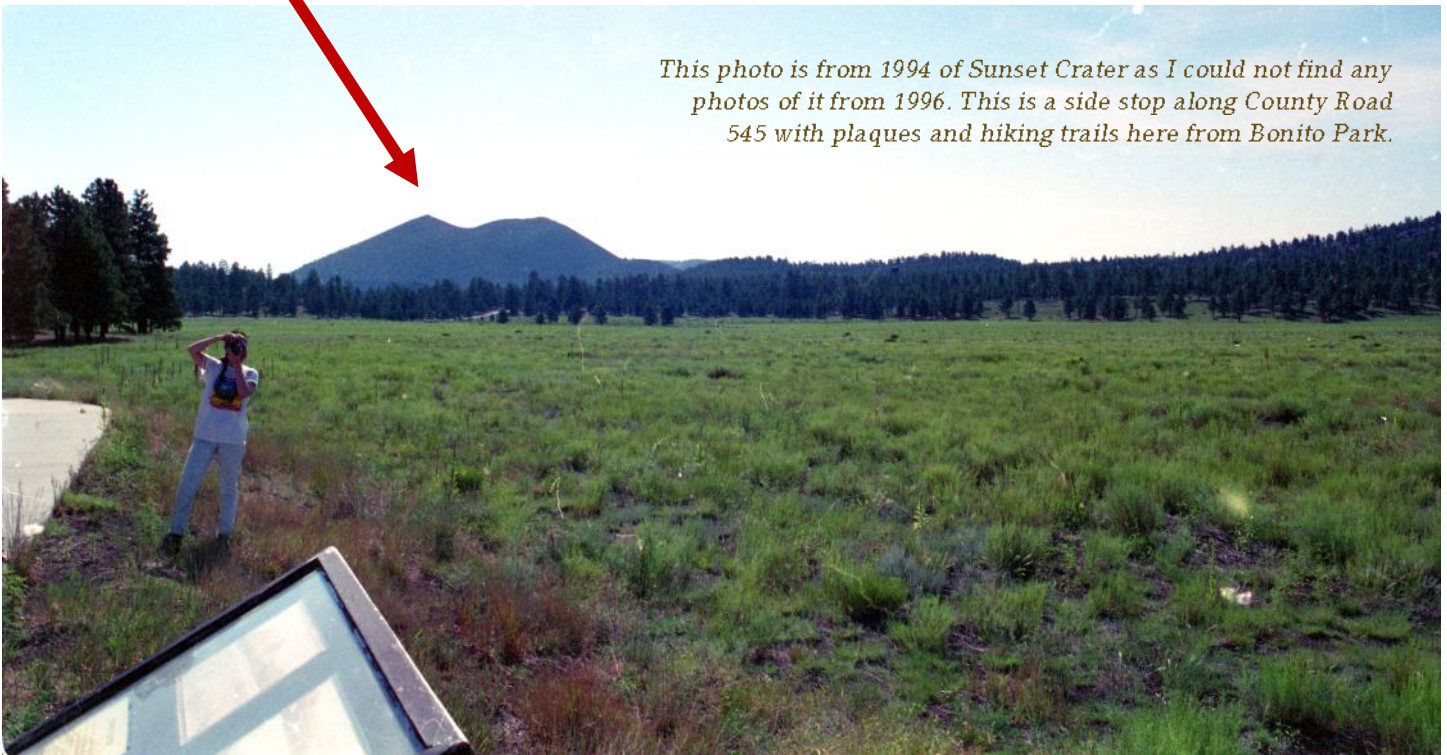


MUSEUM of
NORTHERN
ARIZONA

Celebrating the Colorado Plateau

Museum of Northern Arizona
www.musnaz.org

Sunset Crater



This photo is from 1994 of Sunset Crater as I could not find any photos of it from 1996. This is a side stop along County Road 545 with plaques and hiking trails here from Bonito Park.

Third Flagstaff Trip

Wupatki National Monument



This is one major section of the Wupatki ruins. At the time, you could explore up close. Not sure about now.

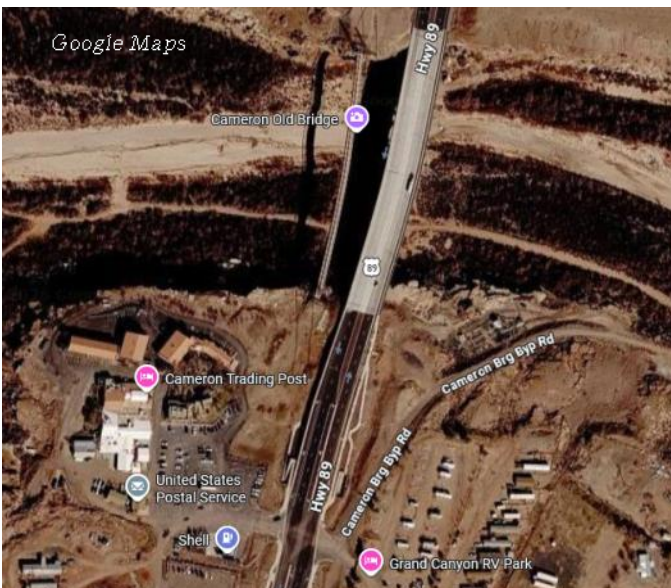


Third Flagstaff Trip

Cameron Trading Post



Google Maps Street View



Google Maps

Color image are from Google Maps and Google Street View.

Historical marker by bridge.

Dad and I revisited this trading post in 2016 on our way to the Grand Canyon coming back from a Las Vegas event.



Google Maps Street View



This is the Old Bridge spanning the Little Colorado River by the Cameron Trading Post, a stop on the way to the Grand Canyon.

Third Flagstaff Trip

Little Colorado River Gorge Overlook



On the way to the Grand Canyon along Highway 89 and on to Road 64 is an overlook into the gorge of the Little Colorado River. The gorge is deep with steep sides and many layers of sandstone.

Dad and I stopped at a second overlook over the Little Colorado a little further down in 2016, as I recall, on the way to the Grand Canyon.



Third Flagstaff Trip

Little Colorado River Gorge Overlook



Third Flagstaff Trip

Monday, July 22, 1996

Woke up early, got ready, and went to the Old Lumberjack Gym. There, Don Reitz, Jim Leedy, and [?] Anderson we're doing demos and later, after lunch, Yukio Yamamoto did a calligraphy demo, and more demos by the other people after that. I went back to the dorm [and] got cleaned up. Oh, we did a clay walk after the demos. I got cleaned up and ate dinner and went to Ashhurst Auditorium for the slide lectures and gallery opening. As I walked back to the dorm, I saw a mother and baby skunk

walking next to a building, which was neat.

Tomorrow is like today, but with Mrs. Beasley's party tomorrow night.

Tuesday, July 23, 1996

This morning after I got up, I did laundry then eventually got to the Union for lunch. After, I went downtown to get my glasses. From there, I went to the gym to watch the demos for a while. After a few hours, I went back to the dorm where I rested a while until the party at Mrs. Beasley's house. At the party, I met Yukio Yamamoto and Toshiko Takaezu. We all

ate, sat around, and talked about everything.

Tomorrow is the third and last day for the demos. Then Thursday, we open the kilns and unload, and go to [Don] Reitz's ranch for the cookout. Saturday and Sunday is the Navajo festival at the Museum. Friday or Saturday, we will go to the Painted Desert. Then Sunday, I leave to Phoenix to then leave Monday back to Jacksonville.

Wednesday, July 24, 1996

I woke up pretty late today, got cleaned up, and went to the computer lab

where I attempted to work on my master artwork list. After that, I went to the bookstore, then the Union for lunch. I then checked something at the credit union before I went to the demonstrations at the gym. After a few hours, I went back to the dorm before I then ate dinner and walked back to the gym for the slide lectures. Today was basically a boring day. Tomorrow early, we open and unload the kilns, which will probably take a few hours. Then, tomorrow afternoon and night is the cookout at Reitz's ranch.



Third Flagstaff Trip

Calligraphy Demonstrations—Monday, July 22, 1996



*These are the collection of calligraphy drawings made by Yukio Yamamoto, shown at top.
The small white sheets show the more formal shape of the Japanese characters. I do not know what they mean.*



Third Flagstaff Trip

Calligraphy Demonstrations—Monday, July 22, 1996



Here, Yukio Yamamoto is with Don Bendel, who is painting on the paper.

Yukio Yamamoto is explaining what the setup is and what he envisions to happen.

The setup here is long white sheets of butcher paper laid out in a textured way. Next, using the same black paint as with the calligraphy, Yukio started with some drawings then had a few others make drawings followed by everyone else to contribute a mark.



Third Flagstaff Trip

Pottery Demonstrations—July 23 & 24, 1996



Don Reitz demonstrates his technique for making large, heavy art platters.



I forget this guy's name, but he is prepping a tray for another artist. Here is the other artist, who I think is Jim Leedy.

Third Flagstaff Trip

Pottery Demonstrations—July 23 & 24, 1996



Toshiko Takaezu forming a very large piece that closes to just a pinhole at the top (to let air out so it does not explode when fired!)



*Jim Leedy.
Apparently, if you need
your clay to dry faster,
just light it on fire!*

Third Flagstaff Trip

“Clay Walk”—Monday, July 22, 1996

On the first day of the conference activities at the Old Lumberjack Gym on campus, Yukio Yamamoto did some demonstrations of calligraphy. There were a few other clay demonstrations that would continue for three days. But, on that first day, one very special activity was planned. It

was a clay walk. A layer of clay that had to be at least 6" thick was laid out on the floor maybe 100' long and 8' wide maybe. The walk started out with the primary artists—Yukio Yamamoto, Don Bendel, Don Reitz, and Jim Leedy—locking arms and walking across the clay from one end to the other! After that, everyone else

was invited to walk across! I'm not sure why, but I don't seem to have or cannot find any photos of that walk. There were probably a couple of hundred people there perhaps? The “clay walk” was then divided up into squares and dried, then fired in a wood kiln at some point long after the conference was over. The

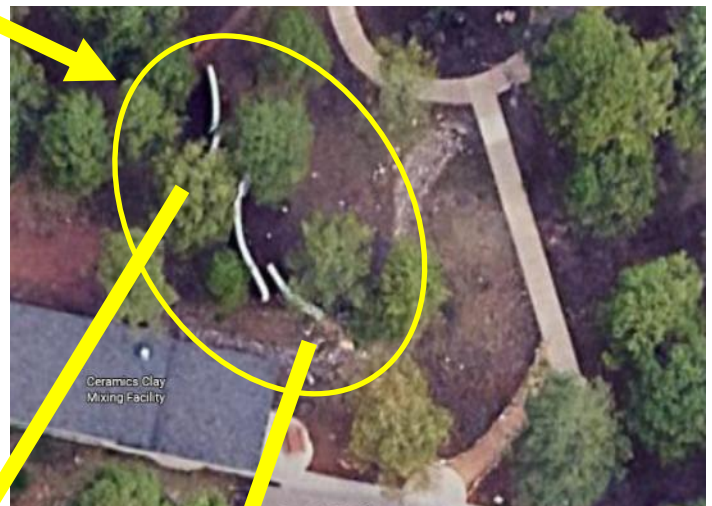
finished pieces were meant to be part of an art installation wall at the kiln site. I went to NAU starting later that fall and was there until 2001. The wall was not made in that time, and so it must have been a decade or longer before the wall itself got made and the installation of the art piece finished.



Here I am with several others from the FCCJ pottery class after the clay walk. The lady on the right (with her husband) was from the 1994 pottery class who came to attend this conference.

Third Flagstaff Trip

“Clay Walk”—Monday, July 22, 1996



This overhead view shows the ceramics complex of Northern Arizona University. The wood kilns are at the top.



Google Maps Street View—April 2023



Google Maps Street View—January 2026

Third Flagstaff Trip

Thursday, July 25, 1996

Today was a pretty good day. We got to the kiln site around 8:00 AM and not too long after we started unloading the kilns. It only took a few hours before all of the kilns were unloaded. All of the pottery turned out nice. Some areas were dry and others had nice glazes. All of my pieces came out. Two though will be refired. [*The dry and nice words refer to the existence of ash glaze*

from the firing. The wood kilns get so hot that the wood ash melts on the glowing pottery during firing, but it very irregular. Some areas of the kiln can get beautiful natural glaze, while other areas result "dry" or no or little glaze. My pottery that came out dry, I intended to refire at some future point.] After, [I came] back to the dorm for a rest and [to] cleanup. We left around 4:00 PM to Reitz's place for the

cookout. We arrived around 6:00 PM after riding through Oak Creek Canyon and Sedona and Cottonwood and on the miles stretch of dirt road. The cookout was neat. We had beef beans, coleslaw, potatoe salad, and strawberry shortcake for dessert. [*As I recall, there was also beer, but since I don't drink alcohol, I didn't pay much attention to it. But I did notice some of the cowboys and various other*

people drinking beer.] Not too long after we arrived, it started raining, heavily for a while. It rained off and on the whole afternoon and night. There also was a blacksmith set up making various metal things out of iron. The whole party was loose, free, and roaming. I thought it was very nice of Reitz to have such a big set up!

After Party At Reitz's Ranch



Third Flagstaff Trip

“Christmas Day” – Unloading The Wood Fired Kilns

(I have no good way to show these photos, so they are just here to look at!)



Third Flagstaff Trip

“Christmas Day” – Unloading The Wood Fired Kilns



*(I have no good way
to show these photos,
so they are just here
to look at!)*



Third Flagstaff Trip

“Christmas Day” – Unloading The Wood Fired Kilns

(I have no good way to show these photos, so they are just here to look at!)



Identifying My Pottery (As Best As I Can Remember!)

I carefully looked through these photos to find my pieces of pottery, but I had difficulty remembering what they looked like! (It's been 30 years after all!) Here are but a few that I for sure recognized as mine. I had more, but the rest of them just remain hidden in plain sight among the other overview photos.



Third Flagstaff Trip

Friday, July 26, 1996

I got up today and went to the Rec Center for a workout, then spent most of the afternoon taking care of last minute stuff and double checking stuff since most of the offices are not open on weekends. I came back to the room around 5:00 PM and rested until we left around 7:00 PM to go to the museum opening [at

the Museum of Northern Arizona]. While there, I paid for my membership and paid the rest of the money for my [silver] chain. We looked around, ate, and chatted. [*Typical museum opening stuff!*] Tomorrow, we will go to the Painted Desert [and] Petrified Forest [same park]. Then, I leave back to Phoenix on Sunday.

Saturday, July 27, 1996

Today we left around 8:00 AM and headed to the Painted Desert [and] Petrified Forest. We spent most of the day going through this park and seeing everything. We got back to the dorm around 4:30 PM. By 5:00 PM, I left to search for a banana

box, tape, and cord. I eventually found the last two. Then, I had dinner and came back to the dorm where I did laundry and started packing. Mr. Weatherell was nice enough to get a banana box for me. So I was set, and I packed everything for a few hours.

In these photos from the late 1990s and 2001 respectively, I am wearing the silver chain I bought from the Museum of Northern Arizona. Also, the photo below shows me wearing the silver bracelet I bought from the Art Barn.



Silver
Necklace



*This was my photo for my ID badge as a grad student studying Museum Science at Texas Tech University.
(Photo by David Dean, July 2001)*



I bought this bracelet from the Art Barn in 1996. In the last ten years, however, I sold during a time financial need.

Silver Bracelet

One of a series of photos taken by Dad, Robert A. de Stolfe.

Third Flagstaff Trip

Painted Desert



Tiponi Point of the Painted Desert (located north of I-40)

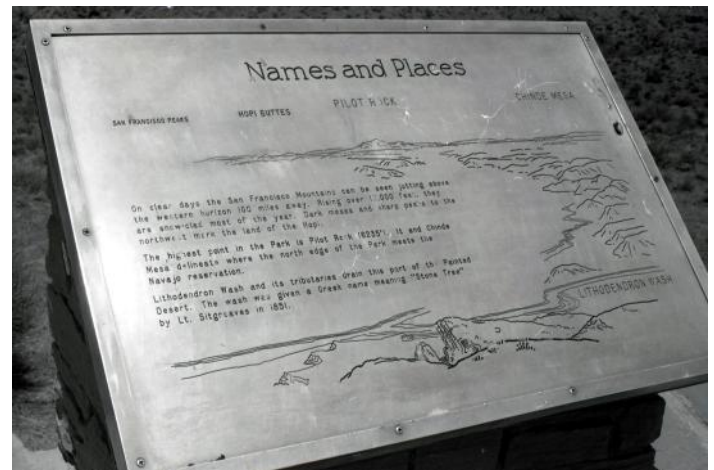


Another view of Tiponi Point of the Painted Desert

Third Flagstaff Trip

Painted Desert

I am not exactly sure which viewpoints these photos are from.



Third Flagstaff Trip

Petrified Forest National Park



At the completely other end of the park to the south is the other visitor's center.



Third Flagstaff Trip

Painted Desert



I could not find exactly where this viewpoint was, but it appears to be in the Petrified Forest part of the park.



Third Flagstaff Trip

Returning Train Trip, Flagstaff to Jacksonville, July 28-31, 1996

Sunday, July 28, 1996.

11:33 AM PST.

I am now on the Nava-Hopi bus to Phoenix. We are just leaving the station. This morning, I got up around 7:30-8:00 AM and finished packing and got cleaned up. I then went with Mr. Weatherell to the kiln site to hide my box of stuff until the fall. Then, we went to the post office, but it was closed. After, we rushed to the station and within a few minutes the bus arrived.

11:56 AM PST

Arrived at Munds Park stop.

12:10 PM PST

I see Sedona off in the distance and we are dropping elevation. After five minutes, I can see the red rocks of Sedona

beyond the one big mountain, and I can see the many hills and mountains that were once a volcano.

12:20 PM PST

We are now at an elevation of 4000 feet. We are out of any forests and in a hilly terrain of small trees and scrub and prickly pear cactus.

12:29 PM PST

We are now entering Verde Valley. I know it is the Verde Valley because of all of the green full trees around. That and we crossed the Verde River. *[I guess I needed to be abundantly clear about where we were!]*

12:35 PM PST

We arrived at the Camp Verde stop.

12:49 PM PST

We are climbing elevation, which I think will get us out of the Valley. We are back at 4000 feet after dropping probably 1000 feet in the Valley.

1:13 PM PST

We have been riding a while and should arrive at the airport in about an hour. The landscape is mostly low scrub with occasional ocotillos and very few small trees. Prickly pears are also still around. In the distances are many mountains and hills.

1:20 PM PST

Now the saguaros appear along with more prickly pears. I also see barrels and chollas.

1:47 PM PST

All along the hills saguaros were numerous. There were many, many other types of cactus as well. However, I am not familiar with most of them. I hope to [be more familiar with them] someday.

9:00 PM PST

I finally got to the train station where I waited until the shuttle from the motel arrived. After I got my room, I waited a while, then went to the Town and Country Mall again to watch a movie and have dinner. The movie I watched was Multiplicity. I came back to the motel and basically got things ready to get up early and ready for bed.

Here are the two films I watched in Phoenix before going to Flagstaff and after coming back from Flagstaff in July 1996.

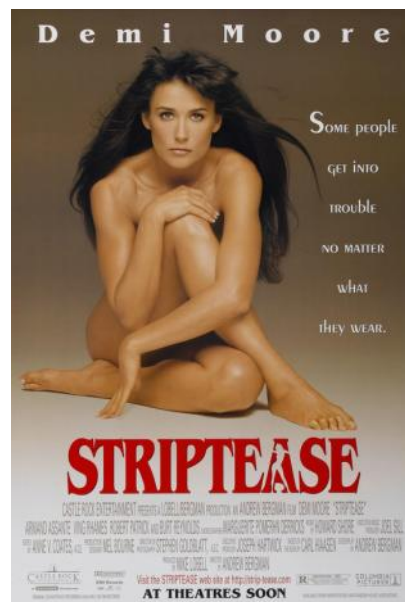
In the early days (early 1990s) of the de Stofle Journal, I used to include movie posters like the one shown below.



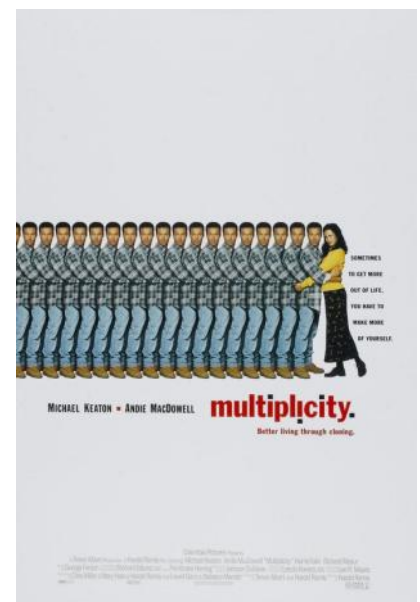
Doc Hollywood.
From #4 Summer-Fall
1992, Page 5.



The Naked Gun 2½.
From #4 Summer-Fall
1992, Page 9.



Movie poster for Striptease.



Movie poster for Multiplicity.

Third Flagstaff Trip

Returning Train Trip, Flagstaff to Jacksonville, July 28–31, 1996

Monday, July 29, 1996.

5:48 AM PST.

I am now on the bus on the way to Tucson. I got the 3:15 AM wake up call and my alarm clock, but somehow I didn't actually get up until 4:20 AM! As soon as I realize that, I knew I didn't have time for a bath. So, I packed everything back up and rushed to the cab that was waiting and rushed to the train station to catch the 4:55 AM bus to Tucson.

5:55 AM PST

We had a pretty nice sunrise, and the landscape is fairly flat and scrubby with hills and mountains in the distances. There are many planted and natural saguaros, but so far not as many as going down to Phoenix. *[Or rather to say between Phoenix and the Verde Valley]*

6:27 AM PST

We have reached an area that has a lot of saguaros on the hillside. We also just passed an ostrich Ranch.

8:07 AM PST

We arrived at the Tucson station, and I got on the train. I was going to check in my bags, but I decided not to and [instead] loaded them right on the car I'm on. *[And after the fiasco of losing a bag last year made me want the bags with me this time!]* The train left about 7:25 AM. The countryside is full of thick scrub trees, and still many cactus.

8:45 AM PST

Arrived in Benson, Arizona to the stop that is nothing more than a large bus bench.

9:36 AM PST

We have come to an area, a large stretch of land, that is nothing but sand. The sand is wet, so the color is probably darker than it would be dry, which is probably white or light colored.

[Looking at a map today, it appears that it was the Willcox Playa National Natural Landmark.]

9:50 AM PST

The landscape is scrubby, but green. A lot of Yuccas are around.

10:46 AM PST = 11:46 AM MST

We have gotten to a time change. The landscape has changed a bit, but now is scrubby but green again. Low hills with mountains in the background.

11:53 AM MST

We just arrived at the Lordsburg stop. This stop is also a large bus bench.

12:44 PM MST

Arrived at the Deming, New Mexico stop. *[This is also a bench stop!]*

2:45 PM MST

Arrived at the El Paso stop. We passed the shantytown at the Mexican border again. The Rio Grande is also very muddy.

3:56 PM MST

Well, we were at the El Paso station for a while, then we continued on.

We're passing a lot of fields of tomatoes and some sort of trees. *[I know, very specific!]* A little later, we went by some sunflower fields, then more [fields of] tomatoes.

4:30 PM MST

We're going through an area that resembles the painted desert, and that there are rain created mounds of many layers. The main difference is that there is no major color differences; all browns. The landscape is of rolling hills and flat land with mountains. The ground is covered with scrub and small bushes. The dirt is sort of a yellowish brown.

4:45 PM MST

Just a few minutes ago on the left, we passed a small steep gorge in the sand. It only continued for a mile or less and was only I'd say 20 to 30 feet wide and maybe 30 to 40 feet, probably less, deep. It made an unusual and neat land texture.



Amtrak stop in Benson, Arizona



Amtrak stop in Lordsburg, New Mexico



Amtrak stop in Deming, New Mexico

Third Flagstaff Trip

Returning Train Trip, Flagstaff to Jacksonville, July 28-31, 1996

I think this is the small steep gorge. After 30 years, it is hard to recall! In addition, I had great difficulty trying to find where this was, even using Google Maps!



*View from the very last car. They were sleeper cars.
A side track shows a still freight train.*

6:05 PM MST

The train just a minute ago started to quickly stop.

6:12 PM MST

The train is now moving again.

6:22 PM MST

I just came back from the very back of the train to get some pictures. While I was back there, I found out the reason we stopped. After we started moving again, I noticed that we passed a freight

train on a connecting track. That must be why we stopped. We must have trailed upon that other train.

7:02 PM MST = 8:02 PM CST

Arrived at the Alpine, Texas stop.

9:58 PM CST

I believe we arrived at the Sanderson, Texas stop. It is dark now.



*Modern Amtrak stop in Sanderson, Texas.
Google Street View*

Third Flagstaff Trip

Returning Train Trip, Flagstaff to Jacksonville, July 28-31, 1996

10:23 PM CST

The lights have been off in the car for a while, and I noticed that the full moon is so bright that I can actually see some of the landscape. I will soon try to sleep if I can, and I'll write in the morning.

Tuesday, July 30, 1996.

9:50 AM CST.

I have been awake now for two hours, and I decided to eat breakfast in the dining car despite the fact that it would cost more than getting something from the snack car. So, I figure I just won't buy anything for lunch. I'll save what money I have left for New Orleans if we get any time there. [*Apparently this time, I actually had some money left on my way back, unlike last year!*]

10:08 AM CST

Just saw some goats. Then sitting on a pipe, three turtles near a ditch.

10:55 AM CST

We arrived at the Houston, Texas stop.

11:18 AM CST

I counted 11 cars: two locomotives, a dining car, a snack car, and sleeper and coach cars. As of Houston, there were more cars, but I heard that they were taken off sometime during the night in San Antonio.

1:00 PM CST

Arrived at the Beaumont, Texas stop. We will be in Texas for only an hour or two more, then will be in Louisiana.

1:40 PM CST

We are going through the city of Orange, Texas. The landscape pretty much since mid morning has been lush of trees, pine and I think oak and cypresses. We are definitely not in the southwest anymore! We should be in Louisiana soon.

1:45 PM CST

We crossed a river and a minute later the conductor said we were in Louisiana. [*This would be the Sabine River that divides Texas and Louisiana.*]

2:21 PM CST

We are now passing through a swampy river area where egrets are

fishing and where there probably are gators.

2:23 PM CST

Arrived at the Lake Charles, Louisiana stop.

2:57 PM CST

It has been raining for a while. The land is flat basically and grassy with areas of trees. These grassy areas seem to be fields, some for cows.

3:50 PM CST

Arrived in the Lafayette, Louisiana stop. It is very cloudy and overcast.

4:20 PM CST

Arrived in the New Iberia, Louisiana stop.

4:35 PM CST

I see fields of sugarcane. Earlier, I saw hay bailers at work. We will be arriving at the Schriever, Louisiana stop soon.

5:18 PM CST

Just saw two fancy

riverboats on the river nearby with the fancy wood brackets and everything. We certainly cross a lot of rivers in Louisiana. [*And swamp land.*]

5:22 PM CST

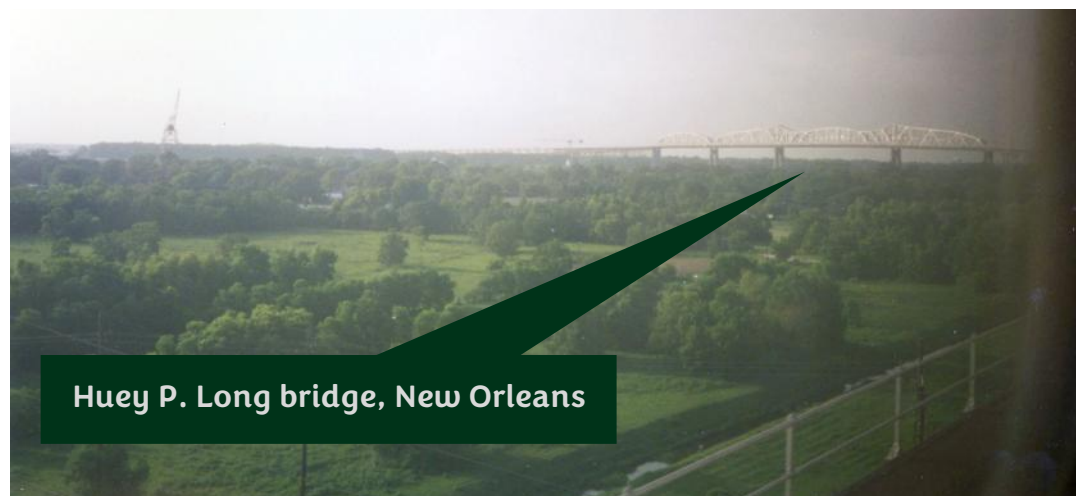
We are riding through some cypress swamps. It is interesting how they grow in the water like that. They seem to be building some sort of expressway through the swamp, much like how the train tracks might have been built. [*This was probably US Highway 90 through Louisiana.*] The sun is a hazy brightness.

5:39 PM CST

Arrived in the Schriever, Louisiana stop.

6:36 PM CST

We are about to cross the Huey P. Long bridge. I can see downtown New Orleans on the horizon. At this point, I know I don't



Huey P. Long bridge, New Orleans

Third Flagstaff Trip

Returning Train Trip, Flagstaff to Jacksonville, July 28–31, 1996

have too much longer until I'm home.

6:40 PM CST

We just crossed the Mississippi River by way of the bridge, which is 4.4 miles long! [*Had look that one up... not sure that is right! It does appear to be at least a good mile long!*]

8:10 PM CST

I am now back on the train, and I managed to be able to get a sub from Subway for dinner, which is great since I only have a few dollars left.

9:00 PM CST

We finally left the station. We are now on our way.

10:20 PM CST

Arrived in the Bay St. Louis, Mississippi stop.

10:56 PM CST

Arrived in the Biloxi, Mississippi stop.

11:20 PM CST

Arrived in Pascagoula, Mississippi stop.

Wednesday, July 31, 1996. 12:00 AM CST.
Arrived in the Mobile, Alabama stop.

5:55 AM CST

I am waking up and seeing the sky as a golden color in the distance. The flat areas between the trees are covered with a layer of fog. As I look around, all I can think of is Old Florida. The fog is always thick in West Florida.

7:53 AM CST = 8:53 AM EST

Arrived in the Tallahassee Florida stop.

9:26 AM EST

(I was going to write something, but couldn't think of anything.)

10:03 AM EST

The landscape of North Florida is full of trees. The types [they are] I can't tell because of them whizzing by! Occasionally, a wet or swampy area appears, but nothing like in the Louisiana bayous.

10:09 AM EST

Arrived in Madison, Florida stop. This stop is a covered gazebo. We are now going backwards for some reason.

10:30 AM EST

I just saw some pigs, a big one and a bunch of small ones running in a field. In another field, there were some cows. In still other fields, crops are growing, I think corn. Pine trees are all over the place.

10:38 AM EST

I think we crossed over the [Suwannee] River because it was somewhat deep and blackish in color.

11:10 AM EST

Arrived in Lake City, Florida stop. At this point, we are an hour and 40 minutes late since this is what time we were supposed to be in Jacksonville.

12:07 PM EST

We are now in Jacksonville, and we will be in the station in a few minutes. [*The train must have made up some of the time.*]



Amtrak stop in Madison, Florida. NOT in middle of town.



Train tracks going over the dark Suwannee River.

Third Flagstaff Trip

Returning Train Trip, Flagstaff to Jacksonville, July 28–31, 1996

**Wednesday, July 31,
1996. 4:38 PM EST.**

About 15 minutes later, we arrived at the Jacksonville station. Mom was already there and helped get my bags to the car. We left the station and went to Cross Creek Barbecue for lunch. *[I liked Cross Creek and ate there occasionally at that time.]* After I got home, I basically went through my mail and things like that and took a shower! *[Recall how I did not have time to get a shower at the motel in Phoenix three days earlier!]* Now, for the next two weeks, I will be packing and finalizing things for the fall until I move out there.

[Unlike in 1995, I did not lose any of my bags!]



Modern Google Street View image of Cross Creek, considered to be Florida BBQ.

Animals Seen On Trip

Alligators
"Camel"back Road
Cows
Deer
Dragonflies
Egrets
"Flamingo"
Goats
"Greyhound"
Horses
Ostriches
"Other Birds"
Pigs
Sheep
Skunks
Turtles



Modern view of the Amtrak station in Jacksonville, Florida.

Third Flagstaff Trip

Traveler's Checks Expenditures and Financial Notes

Even though it was 1996 and the use of credit cards was generally increasing, they were still not commonplace. Mom suggested that I once again take some traveler's checks, along with some cash like I did in 1994 and 1995. I bought the American Express Traveler's Cheques again from AAA on July 8, 1996. They were in denominations of \$20, and I had gotten \$300 in traveler's checks for the trip, besides whatever cash I took. This was the money I had tried to build up through the year from whatever I did to get it. (Part of it was obviously from my campus job at FCCJ during the winter term.)

Here is a summary of how I used the traveler's checks, in no specific order. This is just a summary with any change given in cash.

- \$99.12, two nights at the Holiday Inn in Phoenix
- \$21.50, one way ticket on the Nava-Hopi bus, Phoenix to Flagstaff in July
- \$60.00, dorm rent for the two weeks in Flagstaff (besides the deposit)
- \$21.50, one way ticket on the Nava-Hopi bus, Phoenix to Flagstaff in August (move)
- \$80.00, NAU Flexi food options with the ID card
- \$20.00, dinner in Phoenix

NAU offered two options for eating on campus. They had something called a meal plan, which was something like a cafeteria, but was only usable at the dining halls during specific meal periods. It was like a ticket to get in and eat whatever you wanted. This was definitely a good option for "poor" college students to pay a fixed price for whatever they want to eat, but it came with limitations. The other food option was Flexi. It was basically like a debit card, dollar for dollar, to buy food individually at campus restaurants and campus grocery stores (similar to gas station convenience stores). The university had various places around campus for the Flexi option with long hours. I think it was a much newer option at the time, at least for NAU, but I think also generally. Their food service at the time was through Marriot.

Here are some other expenses with cash or leftover traveler's checks money. These prices are certainly much lower than what it would cost for the same things today! This list is in no particular order, but does sort of follow a date order.

- \$30.00, bus tour of New Orleans with lunch
- \$15.25, steak dinner on the train dining car
- \$4.35, lunch on train, probably snack car
- \$5.44, lunch in Phoenix
- \$4.00, admission to Heard Museum
- \$13.70, Heard Museum gift shop
- \$4.37, Trader Joe's in Phoenix
- \$4.91, dinner at Togo's in Phoenix
- \$5.75, movie ticket, Strip Tease, in Phoenix
- \$14.88, Bookstar in Phoenix
- \$4.00, luxury car ride from hotel to airport in Phoenix
- \$4.00, taxi in Flagstaff to campus
- \$8.00, dinner at Ruby Tuesday, Flagstaff
- \$4.07, Swenson's, Flagstaff
- \$7.00, breakfast at Oaxaca in Sedona
- \$2.00, park fee while touring Jerome and the museum
- \$15.96, Oakley sunglasses (would wear over the next several years)
- \$9.77, pizza at Roma's Pizza
- \$25.00, down payment on silver bracelet at Art Barn*
- \$14.86, leather belt from Gene's Shoe Hospital**
- \$3.00, admission fee for the Museum of Northern Arizona
- \$27.20, books, bookstore, Museum of Northern Arizona

- \$25.00, membership for the Museum of Northern Arizona
- \$14.00, down payment for a Navajo silver chain, Museum of Northern Arizona***
- \$4.33, dinner at Kentucky Fried Chicken
- \$10.00, t-shirt somewhere
- \$3.09, new horseshoes
- \$4.25, suede cord for the horseshoes
- \$31.20, books from Painted Desert gift shop
- \$2.64, piece of petrified wood from Petrified Forest (same gift shop?)
- \$4.33, dinner at Kentucky Fried Chicken (probably the same food, another visit)
- \$6.04, dinner at Togo's in Phoenix (on the way back)
- \$3.00, movie ticket, Multiplicity, in Phoenix
- \$8.00, taxi from hotel to bus station (Amtrak connection to Tucson)
- \$4.75, lunch on train
- \$3.75, dinner on train (obviously not steak!)
- \$5.00, breakfast on train
- \$1.75, lunch on train
- \$1.00, soda on train
- \$2.00, breakfast on train (these train meals were likely from the snack car)

Third Flagstaff Trip

Traveler's Checks Expenditures and Financial Notes

Besides these particular noted expenses, I had various other miscellaneous expenses that would include candy, water, drinks, phone calls (back when we still used payphones), stamps, newspapers, postcards, packaging supplies (to pack up my pottery for storage), trail guides, laundry, and various other "this and that" type items. (I think the old term for this was "bric-a-brac"!)

**After I moved to Flagstaff for school, a friend I met who lived in the same dorm took me over to the Art Barn in late August or early September to pay for the rest of the bracelet, about another \$50.00 for a total of about \$75.00. The Art Barn sold Indian jewelry, and the bracelet I*

bought was supposedly made in the 1960s, but it did not have a maker's mark to prove authenticity. I wore it nearly everyday until late 2014 when I sold it during extreme financial hardship while living in Colorado Springs.

***Gene's Shoe Hospital, later called Gene's Western Wear, opened in the late 1940s, but had to close in early 2013. After moving to Flagstaff, I shopped there many times buying various western wear items, boots, and other non clothes. They used to have a boot repair shop in the back, but by the late 1990s, they were having trouble having someone around to repair boots and eventually stopped doing boot repair.*

They were a little expensive, but that was typical for western wear, even in the 1990s.

****About a week later after the down payment, I paid for the rest of the chain, an additional \$54.40, for a total of \$68.40 to the Museum of Northern Arizona. I still have the chain, but it did lose one of the turquoise stones over the years. This chain was made by a Navajo silversmith from Albuquerque, but I have since long lost his name.*

Here are some other major expenses for the extended studies trip and for school in the fall.

-\$22.00, Amtrak round-trip ticket for trip in July
-\$unknown amount for Amtrak one-way train ticket in August for move
-\$149.20, spring & cross term classes for FCCJ (May-August)
-\$75.00, dorm deposit, NAU, summer weeks in July
-\$413.00, corresponding summer class at NAU in July
-\$49.47, spring term books for FCCJ
-\$132.40, summer term class at FCCJ
-\$35.00, application fee for Northern Arizona University (separate from the extended studies admission)
-\$150.00, dorm deposit for the fall term at NAU
-\$187.76, total food spent between July 9 and July 31 while in Flagstaff, probably also includes the money put on Flexi



Gene's Shoe Hospital / Gene's Western Wear, Flagstaff



Roma's Pizza, Flagstaff (April 2009 photo)

Flagstaff Move For School

Third Train Trip, Jacksonville to Flagstaff, August 16-19, 1996

Thursday, August 8, 1996

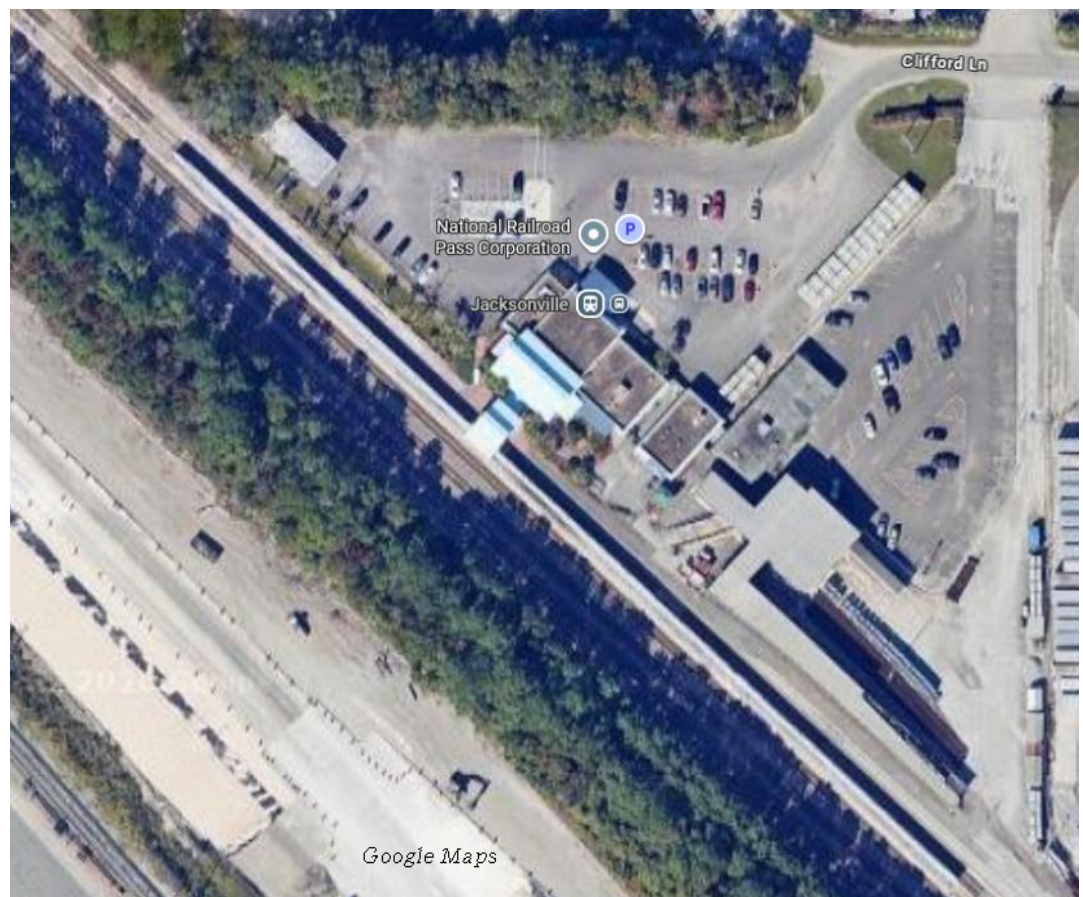
Well, by this point, I have my train ticket and my motel reservation to go back to Flagstaff. I am almost packed and ready to go. I have gotten a few more school stuff done. I also now know who my roommate will be. I called him, but I haven't heard from him yet. I don't think I probably will until I get there. I leave the night of August 16, 1996. The train, motel, and bus are the same as before. Once I get to the dorm, I'll have a week before classes start. *[As for the roommate, the originally assigned guy apparently did something else and was never there. Also, even though this was the mid 1990s, cold contacting a future roommate was probably not a wise thing to do as it would potentially make things weird or strange as in "why is this person calling me?!" Perhaps that was something people did decades earlier or maybe even not a thing people did at all! Before classes started, I did get a roommate. More about that later in the issue.]*

Friday, August 16, 1996. 9:40 PM EST.

Well, I just checked in, and I am on the train. We are scheduled to leave in ten minutes. This basically starts the ride to my new school "career". *[I should note here, even if an embarrassment perhaps to me, that when I was in the train station waiting to board, the relationship between me and Mom was basically nonexistent, completely*

shattered (at least from my viewpoint) for the prior number of years, especially after my grandmother, Mom's mom, died. I just could no longer bear the way Mom acted and even treated me much of the time about various things we dealt with, particularly post death. Mom apparently had great difficulty in handling it all, but hid it from me. At any rate, just as I was about to leave

when they called to board, I simply grabbed my bag (if I had one, I don't remember) and said bye. As I was about to leave, Mom, perhaps even desperately, grabbed me and hugged me before I left. On my part, I was too angry, cold, and bitter to even receive it. To be honest and thinking about it all of these years later, I would not be surprised if she left the train station bawling. :-[]



Modern overhead view of the Amtrak station in Jacksonville, Florida where I left to go back to Flagstaff for school.

Flagstaff Move For School

Third Train Trip, Jacksonville to Flagstaff, August 16-19, 1996

9:55 PM EST

We are now moving and on our way. Tuesday, I came to the station and dropped off some boxes to be shipped by Amtrak Express. They figured that it would arrive in Flagstaff on Saturday and they will hold it free over the weekend. I will pick them up once I arrive Monday afternoon. [*The Amtrak route to Flagstaff is completely different from I one I took. The packages probably took several train routes by way of Chicago.*] This route of course is the same as before, the Sunset Limited. The info I write

will probably be a repeat of earlier in this journal.

10:54 PM EST

Arrived in Lake City, Florida stop.

11:45 PM EST

Arrived in Madison, Florida stop.

6:25 AM CST

Arrived at the Atmore, Alabama stop. As before, the fog was thick in the fields. The Atmore town was interesting. It looks like one of those typical small towns you see from the train all across the south and part of the southwest.

[*I know this description is so vague. It doesn't really say anything! But, it does harken to many decades earlier, if not a different century.*]

7:30 AM CST

Arrived at the Mobile, Alabama stop.

8:11 AM CST

Arrived at the Pascagoula, Mississippi stop.

8:35 AM CST

Arrived at the Biloxi, Mississippi stop.

8:50 AM CST

Arrived at the Gulfport, Mississippi stop.

9:11 AM CST

Arrived at the Bay St. Louis, Mississippi stop.

10:28 AM CST

We are just about at the station in New Orleans. We must be an hour early or something because we weren't scheduled to be in until 11:30, unless my watch is wrong. If we are actually early, that's more time to see things. We will leave New Orleans at 3:15 PM.



Train station in Lake City, Florida.



Train station in Atmore, Alabama.



Train stop in Mobile, Alabama.



Train station in Pascagoula, Mississippi.



Train stop in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Third Flagstaff Trip

Roaming Around New Orleans



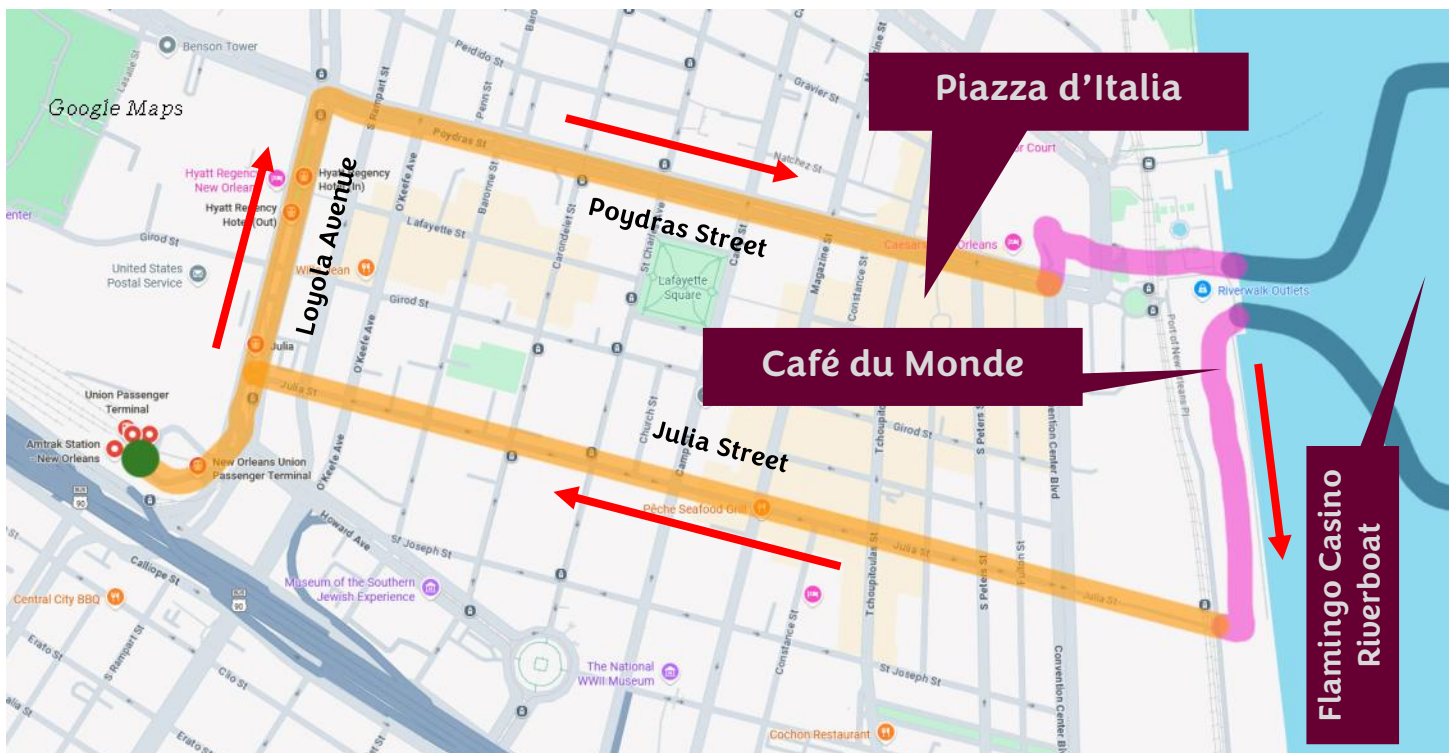
Train station in New Orleans, Louisiana. This is also the station for the Greyhound busses. We stopped here in 1994 when we went to Arizona by Greyhound bus.



Slot machine token, \$1.00, Flamingo Casino, New Orleans.



Gaming chip, \$1.00, Flamingo Casino, New Orleans.



Map of downtown New Orleans showing the approximate route I took on my visit on Saturday, August 17, 1996.

Third Flagstaff Trip

Roaming Around New Orleans



This was a sculpture garden along Poydras Street. Hurricane Katrina, less than a decade later, likely heavily damaged this as it does not exist there now..



Third Flagstaff Trip

Roaming Around New Orleans



*View from the train of the **Greenwood Cemetery** in New Orleans, August 17, 1996.*

Google Street View of the same spot of the Greenwood Cemetery, December 2025.



Third Flagstaff Trip

Roaming Around New Orleans



Because New Orleans is right on the Gulf, the high humidity takes its toll on the structures. Also, with much of the city under sea level, the tombs need to be above ground in these mausoleums. As you can see, they were not in great shape as of the mid 1990s! Later hurricanes likely made them worse.



This photo was at the end of a roll!



Flagstaff Move For School

Third Train Trip, Jacksonville to Flagstaff, August 16-19, 1996

3:12 PM CST

I am back on the train, and we will be leaving soon. Once I got off the train, I grabbed a magazine ([called] Where) and started towards the river. I went down Loyola Avenue to Poydras. While down Poydras, I saw the Piazza d'Italia about two thirds the way. This plaza was neat but was rundown since it was built in 1979. I then went to the Flamingo Casino and went on the riverboat. There were four levels, with the top the high rollers. I decided to stay on while it was cruising. *[It was originally docked for a while, but then embarked for a while before redocking.]* I only spent four dollars but played for a while. I was on the boat for about two hours. After that, I walked down the Riverwalk and looked at all of the shops and such.

By this point, I tried to find someplace to eat at the Riverwalk, then down Julia Street on my way back to the station. I went down several streets but didn't find anything. So, I settled with the red beans and rice from the station. *[Understand that New Orleans had plenty of food options! I just didn't know where any of them were!]* Oh, I did have beignets at Café du Monde, not the original café but at the place in the mall. Overall, I got to see quite a bit, but the next time I come, I'll for sure go to the French Quarter.

5:45 PM CST

Well, the last two hours were unusual. I was in my seat looking through my magazines, and this one guy sort of staggered to the empty seat across the path. He was lying down, so I thought he was tired.

But shortly later, he was coughing and throwing up blood, and it wasn't motion sickness. The crew and a few other people soon came and helped until the train was able to stop somewhere where the ambulance could get to the train. Then after we started moving again, the seats were cleaned up, and everything was taken care of. The guy was Japanese, as were the two others that traveled with him, but none of them spoke any considerable English, which, of course made it difficult to be certain what the problem was.

[I also remember, but didn't write it down, that the conductor of the train, I'm thinking the head conductor, thanked and invited the three ladies for a free meal in the dining car for their help with the man who was sick.]

6:01 PM CST

Since leaving New Orleans, off and on park rangers were giving facts and interesting information about New Orleans and the [surrounding] swamps and marshes we were going through. *[I recall that they did this before this summer as well as last summer when I took the train.]*

6:18 PM CST

Arrived at the New Iberia, Louisiana stop.

6:41 PM CST

Arrived at the Lafayette, Louisiana stop.

7:35 PM CST

I'm looking at the sun, and it is not bright at all, but is a rich rose color.



Train station in New Iberia, Louisiana.



Train station in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Flagstaff Move For School

Third Train Trip, Jacksonville to Flagstaff, August 16-19, 1996

8:13 PM CST

Arrived at the Lake Charles, Louisiana stop.

9:40 PM CST

Arrived at the Beaumont, Texas stop. It has been dark now probably since 8:00 PM. Tomorrow during the day is the most scenic part of the trip literally.

August 18, 1996. 4:55 AM CST.

Arrived in the San Antonio, Texas stop.

5:45 AM CST

Left the San Antonio stop.

7:15 AM CST

The sun is a bright

orange, and the landscape is the typical Texas landscape of flat land and scrub and "dry" trees. We are going through the city of Hondo.

7:23 AM CST

We have been going past crop fields. I can't tell what the crops are (and were).

7:37 AM CST

Once again, prickly pears appear.

9:42 AM CST

Arrived at the Del Rio, Texas stop.

10:10 AM CST

We crossed over the Rio

Grande the water it was said to be 50 feet below. It's normal level.

[We actually crossed over the Amistad Reservoir that is part of the Rio Grande. If we actually crossed the Rio Grande, we would be in Mexico! (At least until we pass El Paso when the river turns more north.)]

12:35 PM CST

Arrived at the Sanderson, Texas stop.

1:51 PM CST

I just finished my lunch in the diner *[I think this was the snack car, not the dining car]* where I had chicken enchiladas. I

didn't get a chance to write about some of the things I heard and saw earlier, since I was in the snack car. I saw these purple flowers on a lot of bushes, which I found out was purple sage. Also, we went over the Pecos river, which was in a nice little canyon or ravine. The purple sage was nice to see since it was not in bloom a few weeks ago.

2:17 PM CST

Arrived in the Alpine, Texas stop.

3:40 PM CST = 2:40 PM MST

Time change



Train station in Lake Charles, Louisiana.



Train station in Del Rio, Texas.

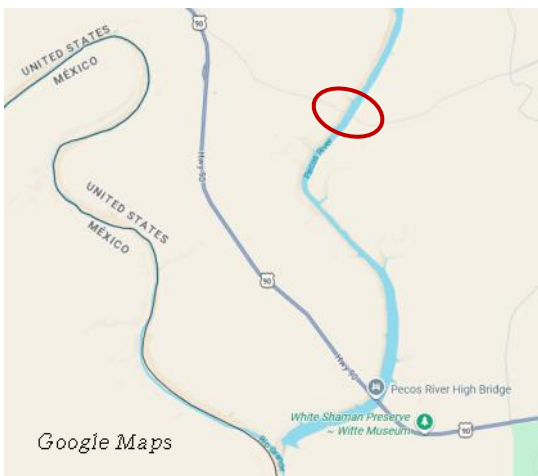
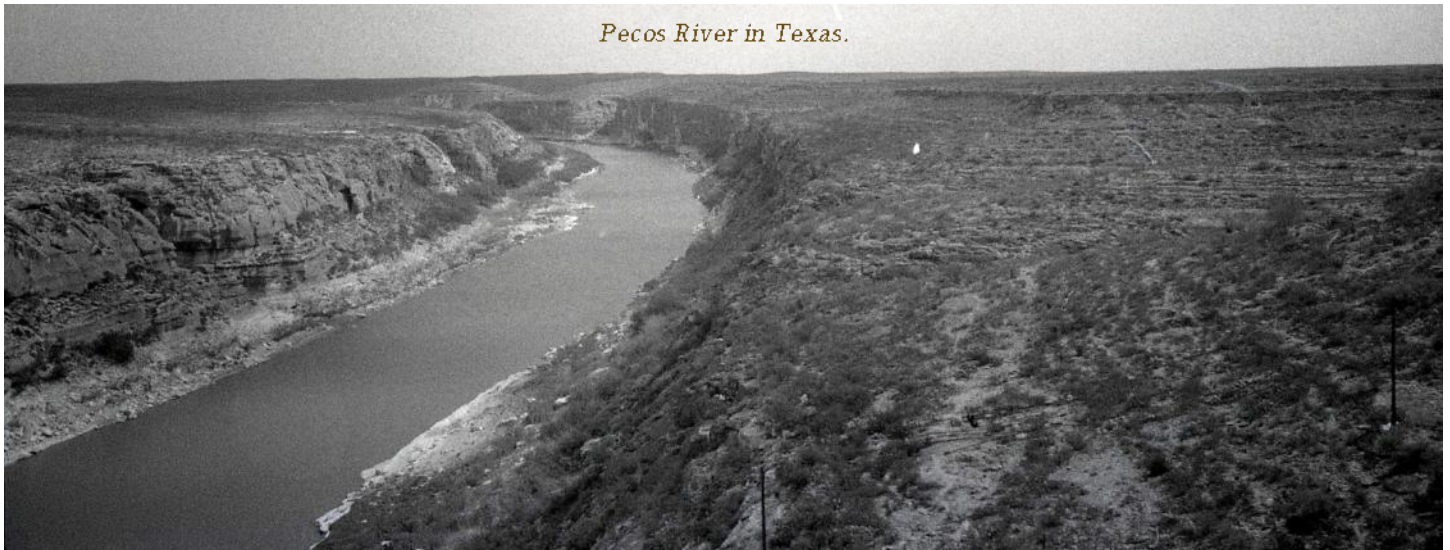


Train station in Beaumont, Texas.



Train station in Alpine, Texas.

Flagstaff Move For School



Flagstaff Move For School

Third Train Trip, Jacksonville to Flagstaff, August 16-19, 1996

5:47 PM MST

Arrived at the El Paso, Texas station.

7:28 PM MST

Arrived at the Deming, New Mexico stop. *[This was the other stop that was simply a bench.]*

7:38 PM MST

The sun has long set, but there is still light and lots of clouds and rain in the distance. At this point, the train is an hour behind and probably won't gain much time before Tucson. So instead of getting into Tucson around 9:00 PM, we will get there around 10:00 PM already accounting time change. Frankly, I'll be glad once I get to the dorm with all of my boxes and bags. Then, I'll be able to unpack and settle. If all goes well, that will be in 24 hours. Tomorrow will be simple. I'll just get cleaned up, go to the airport to catch the bus, and once in Flagstaff, get all of my bags to my room in the dorm. I'll figure what to do for the rest of the day later that day once in the room.

8:00 PM MST

The sun is setting and although I can't see the sun specifically, the colors where it is setting is the same rose/red color as this morning. It is starting to get pretty dark everywhere else. I would say that in half an hour, the sky will be completely dark.

8:19 PM MST

Arrived at the stop that is nothing but a bus bench, Lordsburg, New Mexico. It is completely dark now, but I can see a burnt sienna with a little orange for a sky where the sun sets (or orange with a little burnt sienna) very subdued.

10:00 PM MST = 9:00 PM PST

No announcement made, just arbitrarily changed watch back.

9:15 PM PST

Announcement made about the time change. *[Well, if I had just waited a little longer...!]*

9:41 PM PST

Arrived in Benson, Arizona, the other stop that is nothing more than a bus bench.

10:30 PM PST

I think we're nearing the Tucson, Arizona station.

August 19, 1996. 2:03 AM PST.

I am now at the motel. We arrived at the two stone station shortly after writing the above comment. I got off and got on the bus. We finally left around 10:55 PM. It took about two hours before we got to the Phoenix station. Fourty five minutes later, I was picked up and went to the motel. I think I'll go straight to bed and shower tomorrow (later today).

This is an old semaphore at the old train station in Tucson, Arizona. This building is the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum a few buildings down from the Amtrak stop.



Overhead view of the old train station in Tucson, Arizona. I could not find a good view of the station from the ground level. Most of this building and the nearby buildings seem to be private businesses.

Flagstaff Move For School

Third Train Trip, Jacksonville to Flagstaff, August 16-19, 1996

August 19, 1996 11:00 AM PST

I am on the Nava-Hopi bus now, and we will be on our way shortly. I slept until about 8:00 AM, then got cleaned up and had breakfast around 10:00 AM where shortly later, I got the ride to the airport.

11:29 AM PST

We just left the Hampton Inn stop and are heading up to Flagstaff. [*This was not the motel I stayed at. It was just a scheduled stop for the bus.*]

11:58 AM PST

We are going through a dense area of saguaros. There are also a lot of gulches and creeks and washes, not to mention that it is very hilly.

1:00 PM PST

We are at an elevation of 4000 feet. We are just passing Sedona.

1:11 PM PST

We are at an elevation of 6000 feet.

1:25 PM PST

Just left Munds Park stop. We should be in Flagstaff within a half hour.

This is from the de Stolfe Journal-30 Years Second Arizona Trip-1995 issue that came out in 2024. The Nava-Hopi bus line ceased operations not long after the attacks on September 11, 2001.



Navi-Hopi Tours

This is the Navi-Hopi bus station. This was the only photo I could find as the company shut down after the 2001 terrorist attacks citing that they financially could not continue. They were a tour bus company since the 1950s that did tours to different places, but they also had excursions as a bus link to various places. The link I did here was between Phoenix and Flagstaff.

This bus line would be important for me in 1995, 1996, and 1997. Not only did I take this bus between Phoenix and Flagstaff several times, I also did their bus tours and excursions.

*Source: Arizona Daily Sun
From article:
Nava-Hopi Bus Tours shuts down
By Jeff Tucker
October 25, 2001*

Article: https://azdailysun.com/nava-hopi-bus-tours-shuts-down/article_9f9d6183-18e3-5ecf-8065-09c24d054925.html



Flagstaff Move For School

First Week In Flagstaff and Beyond

My first week after having moved to Flagstaff was interesting and even a little scary considering that I had just moved many states away and knew almost no one. Here is what I can vaguely remember—especially after thirty years with no notes or journal logs!—with what I did after getting back to Flagstaff in late August. I am having to really reach way back to pull out this information!

The Nava-Hopi bus station was in downtown Flagstaff, and I think I got a taxi to get to my dorm like I did a few weeks earlier. It was too far to walk to the dorm with all of my bags. My recollection is that I went straight to my dorm, called Tinsley Hall, to check in. I timed it to arrive in Flagstaff just after the dorms opened for students to move in. I don't remember what I did to check in, but once I got my keys, I went to my room located on the second floor. My room faced inside with a quad view. (The quad is simply the inner courtyard of the dorm, which had two of them. All rooms had windows to the outside.) The room was completely empty, meaning not occupied, and only had moveable bunk beds and a whole lot of built-ins with chairs and a sink with a mirror. It was an older dorm, but the bunk beds

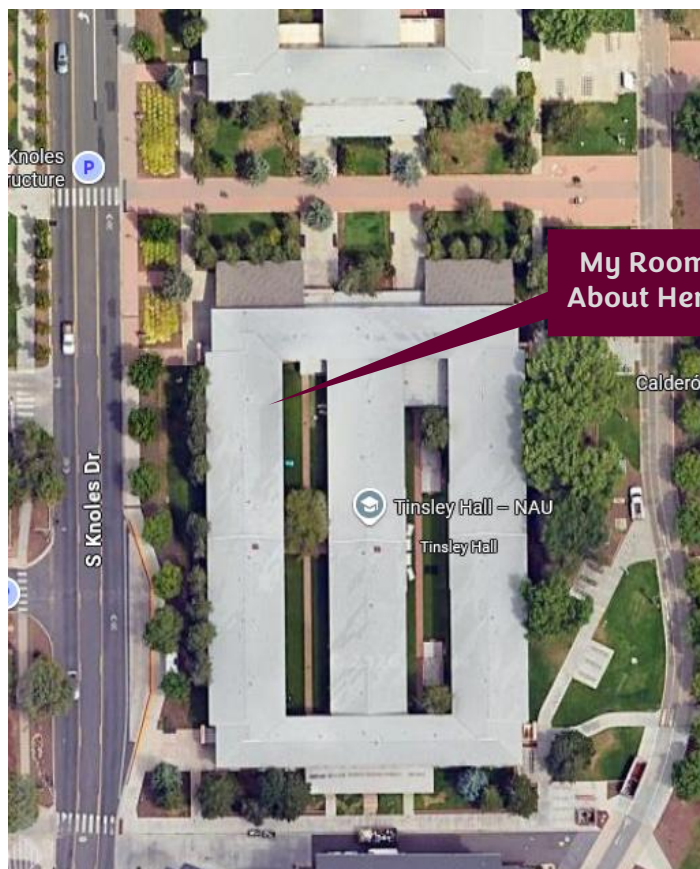
were new that term as the whole dorm was redone during the summer to go from a mens dorm to a coed dorm that fall. I was supposed to have an assigned roommate, but things can change and he must have done something else. I did not have a roommate for the first several days I was there, and probably not even until classes started. Each main wing of the dorm had central bathrooms/showers in the middle of the halls, mens for the men's wings and womens for the women's wings, which was roughly half and half the occupation of Tinsley Hall. Most of the time, there were no issues with that arrangement as most of the residence halls by the late 1990s were coed.



My ID card photo for the 1996-1997 school year.

At some point on that Monday, I either went to the Amtrak station to get my packages or maybe they delivered them, I don't remember. By the way, the Amtrak line that went to Flagstaff was a whole different route from the route I took. It would not have made any sense to take that other route as I would have had to go from Florida to Chicago to catch a different route that then went to Flagstaff,

which would have also added another day or two of travel. I want to say that I had four boxes of stuff that I packed from Jacksonville that I wanted to have in my dorm room. (And THAT is how to use THAT a whole bunch of times! ;-)) I knew I would have to provide most of my own things if I was going to have anything at all. I had the usual things of bedsheets, pillowcases, towels, basic school



This is Tinsley Hall, the dorm I lived in from the fall term 1996 to the spring term 2000, same room most of the time. The first term I was there, it had just turned coed. It has three floors and three main wings. The sister hall is right next to it to the north called Cowden Hall.

Flagstaff Move For School

First Week In Flagstaff and Beyond

supplies, clothes, toiletries, and anything else to make a small box of a dorm room feel like home!

For the first few days before classes started, I had very little money left and not much to do, at least until I got my leftover financial aid. I did not know anyone, and I have never been an outward person. I bought a coffee pot, and I do remember that I drank coffee a bunch and kind of slept a lot initially. (Which also affected me somewhat by not having solid food. Most of the food options on campus were not yet open.)

At one point, I went over to the Target that was really close to the dorm (you could see it from the dorm) and decided to apply for a Target credit card. Surprisingly, I got approved and had a limit of \$200! For the mid 1990s, you could actually get quite a lot with \$200! I knew that once I got my leftover financial aid, I could pay off whatever charges I made, which you could do in the store. I bought a 19" TV, a small table to put the TV on, a VCR, a couple of tower bookshelves, and a desk

lamp. I don't think I got all of these items on the same day, but over several days. Of course, it was interesting trying to carry that clunky TV from the Target over to the dorm! I didn't have a vehicle, of course, and I might have used a cart, as others did too. I kept most of that stuff for a decade or longer and still have the bookshelves and the lamp. I'm sure I spent at least one day exploring and walking around the campus and the downtown area, which was maybe a mile from the dorm. I did those walks before during the previous three summers. I know I went over to Hastings (for VHS rentals) and Bookman's (for used books, not textbooks) near the Target.

As for the leftover financial aid, I vaguely recall that once the checks were ready, I had to go to the financial aid office to get the check. After that, I needed to cash the check. I had a credit union account in Florida, but it was useless in Arizona. So, I opened an account at the Arizona State Credit Union, which was located near the campus. I had that bank account from

1996 through 2001 and probably into 2002. (I had already moved to Lubbock by that point and eventually closed it. The credit union still exists today, but by a different name.) In any case, after cashing the check, I was able to buy my textbooks and other supplies I needed for my classes and to put money on my Flexi account.

Eventually, the Resident Assistant (RA) of my wing (there is one for every wing of the dorm) assigned someone to my room, mainly because the guy was actually in his room temporarily. RAs were also students, and they got to have their own room as a benefit of the position. They were trained for the job and went through an application process. Every other room in the dorm had two students. My new roommate was half German and half Thai. He was an interesting guy, but we didn't always quite get along because of cultural differences, social differences, and a few other things. He was clean at least. He and his family were from Santa Barbara. His family moved to Flagstaff at some point later, and I met them a

couple of different times, Thai father, German mother, him, and a sister. He stayed maybe a month or two before deciding to change rooms, something you could easily do within the dorms. You could also change dorms, but that was a little more of a process. I was by myself for a little while, and then I got another roommate who was pretty cool. The three of us would often hang out or go somewhere. After getting back from Christmas, he got really bummed out and depressed because of an injury he had over the holidays and ended up dropping out of college. Not too long later, I got another roommate who I had for the rest of that spring term. This guy was a Tlingit Indian from Alaska. We basically got along fine. He acted more "white" and urban than he did as a "traditional Indian", but he was also a lot more loose in his ideas.

I have a lot more I can say about my first few weeks and months after moving to Flagstaff, but that is out of the scope of this special issue about the summer trip! Perhaps, those will be stories to tell in future issues of the journal!

Flagstaff, Arizona

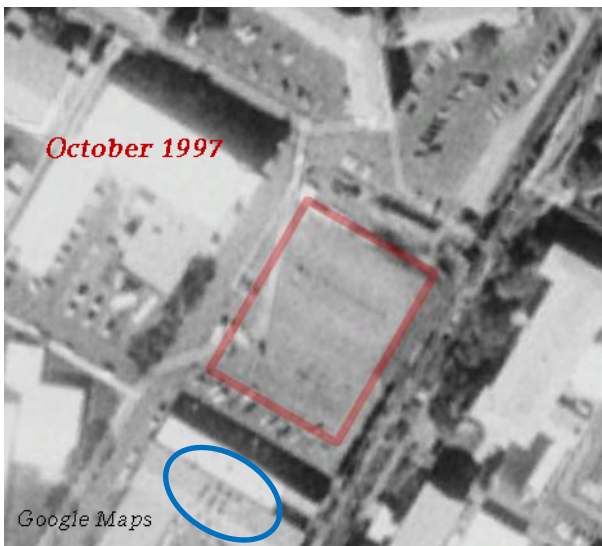
Old Lumberjack Gym



As these photos show, the demo of the old gym was methodical and complete.



The machine worked so hard that it needed to rest its head!

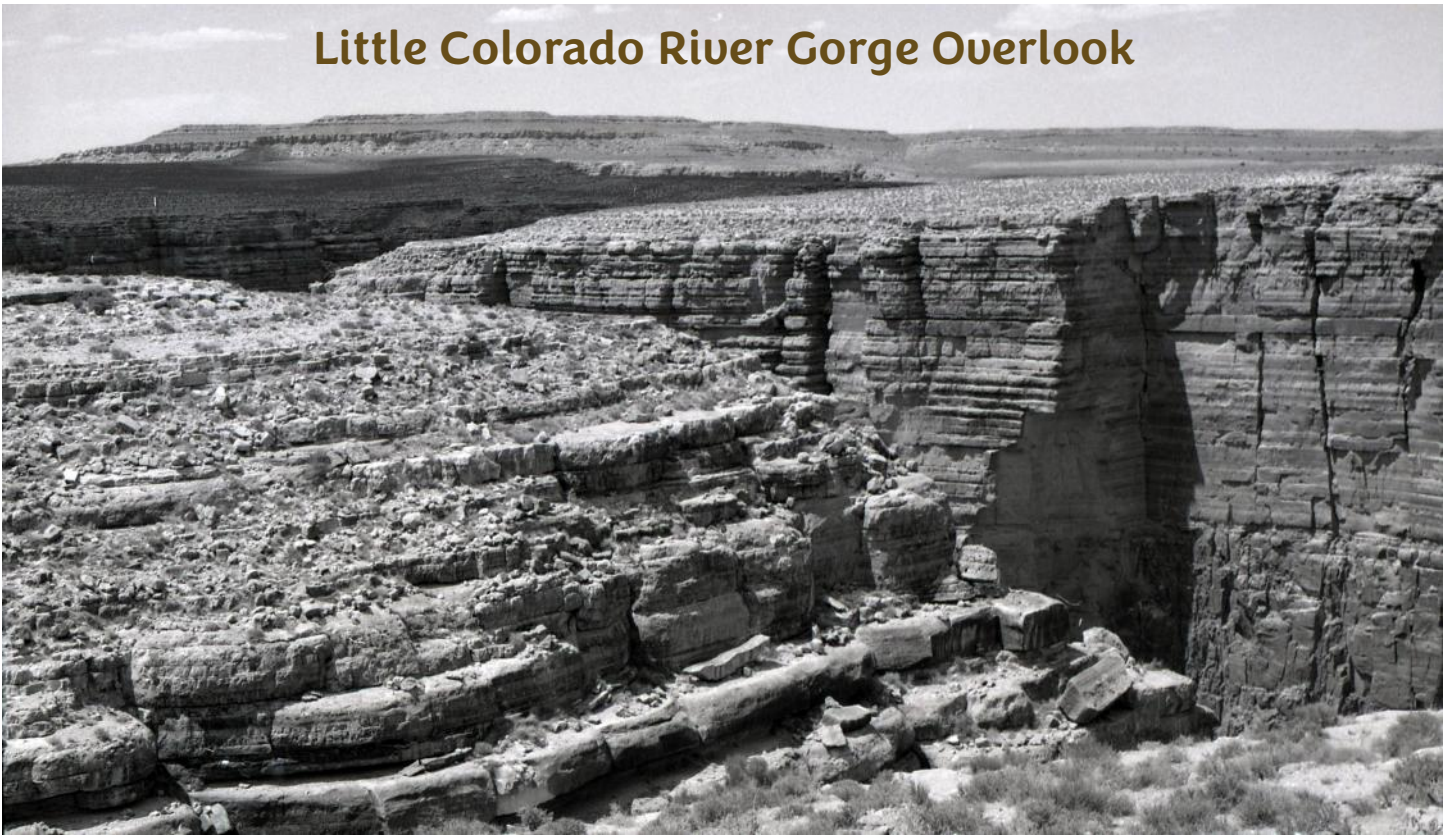


These two overhead views of where the old gym was shows the spot turned into a parking lot, while a more recent view shows a different building on the spot. The blue circle shows the triple smoke stacks for reference.



de Stolfe Journal

Little Colorado River Gorge Overlook



Robert-George de Stolfe
PO Box 31 ■ Granbury, Texas 76048
806.470.5867 ■ rgdestolfe@yahoo.com

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