

## JUN 09 - NESTUCCA RIVER NATIONAL BACK COUNTRY BYWAY

We thoroughly enjoyed our brief 1-night stop at Detroit State Park, but the coast is a'calling.

We drove along Detroit Lake to the dam that forms the lake. A second dam was further down the road.



The first half of our drive today was back to the Trappist Abbey in Lafayette, OR. Just had to stop and pick up some more of the monks' delicious Monastery fruit cake.

After gassing up in Lafayette, we asked directions to a scenic drive Jen suggested that would take us to the coast and Beaver, OR. Some confusing instructions later from the gas jockies, we managed to find the highway. Off we went, climbing through the trees over hill and dale, one curve after another after another. Hmmmm, the surroundings are getting a little more interesting. Are we on the right road? I'd programmed Maud, our intrepid GPS, for Beaver so things looked okay. About the time we crested the one major hill top, Maud suggested we should turn around!! Oh for Pete's sake! Jen was growing more concerned the further we drove.

Finally, after a couple of minutes, Maud found Beaver - straight ahead 25 miles. We saw a pickup parked at a pullout. I thought we should ask if this road did, in fact, go through to Beaver. By the time I thought of backing up, I saw an empty logging truck in our rear view mirrors. Oops, get out of his way and let him pass.

We took off after the truck, not trying to catch him, but with a renewed sense of relief that we must be on the right road. Then a short while later we saw a "Speed Zone" sign. Huh?

Gravel! The road surface is now gravel. After the flat tire we had at Betty and Frank's on their gravel driveway, I was none too happy but I was not about to turn around so we continued on. After about

4 miles we were back on pavement. We passed the first of four campgrounds/picnic sites that were shown on our map. What a relief!

We pulled into Beaver and turned north on Hwy 101. That had been quite the drive. Turns out, after further research, that we had just traversed the Nestucca River National Back Country Byway. Don't want to repeat that any time soon!

We stopped at the Blue Heron Cheese Factory in Tillamook to look around. We ended up enjoying some home-made chicken noodle soup for lunch followed by the obligatory ice cream cone.

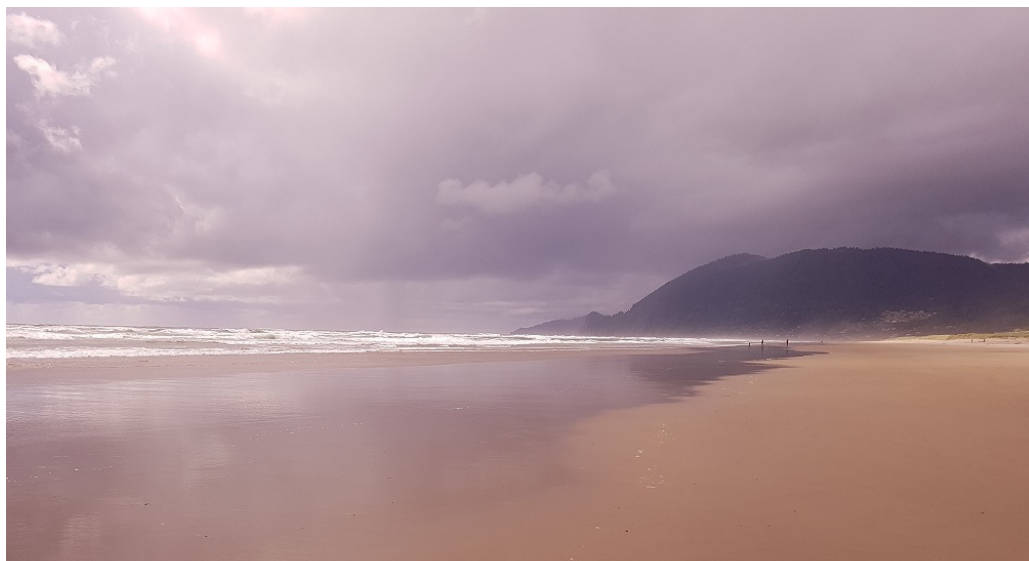
Our niece Sasha in NZ had her picture taken years ago wearing a hat similar to this one. I couldn't resist having Jen take my picture so we could send it to Sash.



We arrived at Nehalem Bay State Park around 3 pm. We'd reserved a site for 2 nights.

I took a walk to the beach. Boy, that is tough going, uphill in sand. Later, Jen did the same walk.





Tomorrow we are going to explore the area a little more. Join us then.