

## MAY 5 - VIRGINIA CITY, DAYTON, & SILVER CITY, NV

Today is a rest day - we don't really have to go anywhere so we enjoyed a leisurely morning at the RV park.

Around 11 a.m., we drove into Virginia City to have a look around - easier for Jen if we have her w/chair close by, if needed. We parked Alfie on a side street and walked up a short hill to the main drag. And what did we find?! Stink-e and his sweetheart, Adeline. Quite the pair!



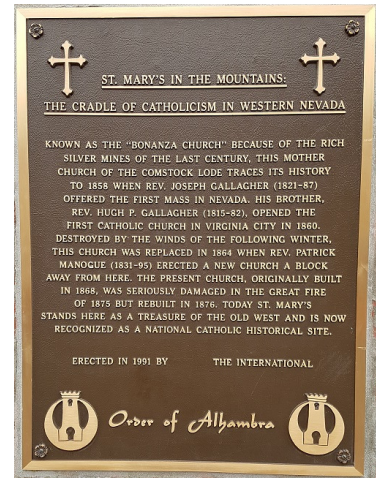
We strolled up and down the boardwalks and soon found ourselves outside of The Roasting House, a coffee shop. Good idea; time for a coffee!

With all due respect to Virginia City, it does appear today to be mostly a tourist trap. Sure there is a lot of history in the hills around the town but now tourist wander the boardwalks. We wondered what it must be like here in the height of summer.

At the end of a small, side "alley" was the Virginia City jail. After getting out of jail, as we walked to the main street, I noticed this sign. How true!



Here is a monument to the Comstock Lode. Be sure to zoom in and read the inscription.



We then visited Saint Mary's in the Mountains. Afterwards, I told Jen that I wanted to find the V&T (Virginia & Truckee) train station - a short drive around the corner from the church as it turned out.



Not much happening at this time of the year at the train station - tourist season is still a ways off. On our way back to the RV park, we saw wild horses.

I suggested to Jen that we drive through 6-Mile Canyon which heads almost due east from Virginia City. This was the way I wanted to leave but a local suggested that recent work on the road had left it in pretty rough shape, especially for an RV. Okay, no trailer in tow today, let's give it a try.

Well a short time later we were on the desert floor - the highway was in great shape. So that's the way we'll leave tomorrow.



We drove into Dayton, 6 miles from the junction and got some cheap gas - \$2.53/gal. I programmed Maud for Virginia City and we headed back. Maud decided to take us the "usual" Hwy 341 route so I obliged. Part way up the hill, the "truck route" diverges to avoid the 15% grade through Silver City. Why not, eh? 15% with no trailer is easy so up we went.

Silver City has seen better days, but we couldn't help thinking what this area was like 150 years ago.



A couple of miles further and we were back to Virginia City



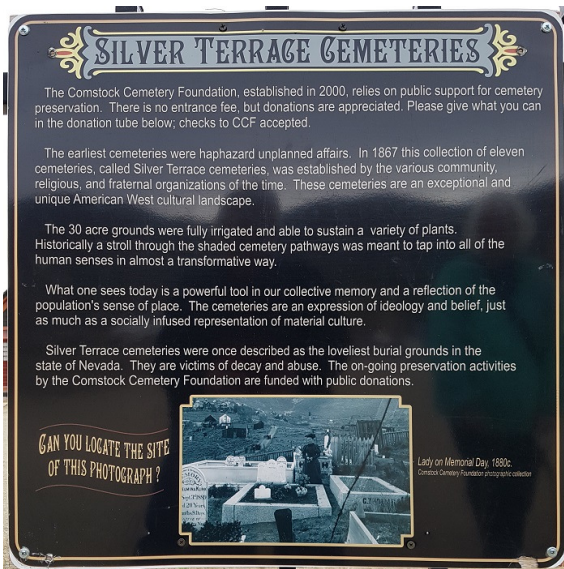
Interestingly, the Fourth Ward School, referred to as "The Last One Standing," is the only four-story wooden structure of its type

We were relaxing in the rig a short while later when I heard what I thought was a steam engine whistle. Gotta go check this out. I drove to the V&T station but couldn't see anything. So I continued along the road at stopped at an overlook of the maintenance yard for the railroad. I heard the whistle again and noticed crossing signals in the distance flashing red. Then I saw a short train moving up the

line. Back in Alfie I headed back to the station. The V&T crew were moving an old wooden parlour car into the station with a 44 ton diesel locomotive. Apparently there is something happening Saturday. What, I don't know.



I returned to the RV park and Jen and I walked over to the cemetery to have a look around. As the literature stated, no one "famous" is buried here, just miners, workers, and local folk, but they came from all over the world.



Zoom in to see where this gentleman hailed from.



Here's a look back at Virginia City. We're camped in the red circle, behind the vegetation.



Tomorrow's forecast is for rain, so we're only going to go down the hill and see if we can get into Dayton State Park. See you there.