



Where in the world...are Craig & Di?

"Going to the mountains is going home"

John Muir

This quote resonates with the Nez Perce people, who ancestral lands included the Bitterroot and Sawtooth Mountains where we traveled.

For 35 days in late July and most of August, we followed the routes and adventures of the early Vikings...and other explorers and settlers...from Norway, Europe and Ireland as they journeyed to Iceland, Greenland and then on to North America. It was a trip of many layers...learning history, meeting people, photographing...and having fun adventures on the ocean.

Then...just six days after disembarking the ship in Boston...our next adventure began. This one was also about following in the footsteps of early explorers...especially Lewis and Clark...as well as deeper learning about the early history of native Americans.

However, in this case we have traded our comfortable ship for two Porsche sports cars....Di in her Boxster GTS and Craig in his 911 T...both in the rare Ruby Star (pink) color. Di and I have joined a 6-day, 6-state, 2100 mile driving tour along with 20 other members of the Porsche Club of America (the largest car club in the world with 167,000 members...celebrating it's 70th anniversary this month). Lead and organized by former PCA Las Vegas region President, Reid Smith, the group assembled in Nevada, and made nightly stops in Idaho, Oregon, passed through Washington State before a night in Montana and then again in Idaho before returning home to Utah. It was meticulously planned to maximize the scenic roads, minimize any freeway driving...and focus on the history and cultures of the area. Because we were in sports cars, the curvy mountain roads lent themselves to lots of fun Fall frisky driving, too.

Our second night was in Joseph Oregon..named after Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce (pronounced Nez Purse). Over several days we learned much about him and his tribe. The sadness of the story is 1

best summarized by Chief Joseph's final speech at the time of his surrender...

I am tired of fighting. Our chiefs are killed. Looking Glass is dead. Toohulhulsote is dead. The old men are all dead. It is the young men who say yes or no. He who led the young men is dead. It is cold and we have no blankets. The little children are freezing to death. My people, some of them, have run away to the hills and have no blankets, no food. No one knows where they are, perhaps freezing to death. I want to have time to look for my children and see how many I can find. Maybe I shall find them among the dead. Hear me, my chiefs. I am tired. My heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more, forever.

After the surrender, Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce were banished from the area. Today many monuments and dedications are set up in this area in remembrance of the Nez Perce tribe and the final battle. In 1880, the town nearest to the site of this final battle, Lake Wallowa, was named Joseph in his honor. The war is remembered by historians as one of the last wars the U.S. forces had with Native Americans. This is just an example of the many stories we heard during this last week...much of it along the Lewis and Clark Trail.

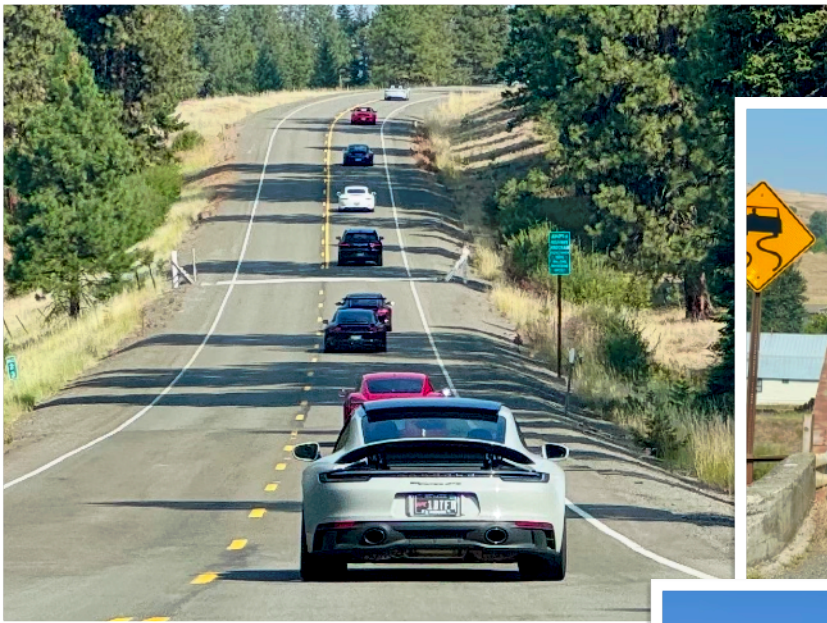
In addition to absorbing so much history and culture this week, we met some incredible people in our traveling group. (Three symphony musicians, several pilots and a gold medalist motorcycle champion were among the very interesting group). A few tips...for finding scenic roads, a great resource are the Butler G1 maps...one per state...originally designed for motorcycle touring they are beautiful with great details to help you find those less traveled scenic routes as you travel. Roads are rated according to their scenery and curvaceousness. We also experienced the benefits of traveling during the shoulder season (Pre-Memorial Day or Post-Labor Day). We had almost no traffic and the weather was spectacular. Two specific recommendations...*Elevation 486*, an exceptional restaurant overlooking the dramatic canyon in Twin Falls, Idaho (so named because it is 486 feet from the edge of the cliff to the Salmon River below). The *Best Western River's Edge Lodge* in Orofino, Idaho was new and had a spectacular location right on the river. Their service was exceptional and they had a beautiful large rear patio on the banks of the Clearwater river.

With another adventure complete, it leaves us with new memories, close friendships and a realization that travel is our passion.

The adventures continue...

September 10, 2025

Chief Joseph



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