

Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2008 9:32 PM

Subject: Postcard

We don't ride the Durango Silverton railroad. No. Nein. Nyet. Instead we drive up US 550 to Silverton in about an hour. We do Silverton in half an hour and go on to Ouray. In Ouray we see the shops and eat lunch. We take the loop around Telluride to Dolores and stop at the Anasazi Heritage Center. CO 184 takes us back through Mancos to Durango. We sit on the balcony and look at pictures and talk until dinner time. We get in our car, drive into town and get stopped by the train. Yep. The train back from Silverton. Took 'em all day.

Up 550



There's still snow along the road, but the road is dry. A snowplow is driving back and forth on 550. What the heck? Featherbedding? Joy plowing? Then we got stopped by a flagman. Up ahead a crew was clearing rocks off the road. Ah! The light bulb lights. Not a snowplow – a rockplow!



We had to pass five little red Subarus today. It was spooky. Every time someone slowed us down it was

a little red Subaru. Do do do do, do do do do (Twilight Zone music).



Somewhere in the San Juan range, the D&S RR locomotive is chugging up a beautiful slope. Must be nice.

Silverton



Nestled in a little valley, the quaint village awaits with open cash registers. It's actually a lot nicer than six years ago – some of the crummier joints are gone. We felt a pang of nostalgia about Mad Mama's (empty and for rent) though, she did make us sandwiches once upon a time, and was real nice.



On to Ouray. The liquor store/pharmacy is now just a liquor store, but the good restaurants are all closed like we remembered. Still, we found a local coffee shop that served a great turkey sandwich on a bagel. The coffee wasn't quite up to Peruvian Forest standards, but it was good.

The magpies are everywhere this week. If you grew up watching Heckle and Jeckle, you won't recognize it, but it is one.



So there were some rocks on the road, but our only avalanche was a Chocolate Avalanche. It followed our Ciopino at Mahogany Grille. Marscapone crème under the first brownie to hold it on the plate. Marscapone crème on top of the first one to hold the second one. The second brownie supported the chocolate ice cream, which held the whipped cream which kept the white chocolate slivers from falling on the plate into the strawberries and chocolate sauce.

Good night. D&S