

Sent:

Wednesday, May 7, 2008 10:58 PM

Subject:

Postcard

We started the day at 4-corners. In case there is one person who doesn't remember, 4-corners is the nexus of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona, and it is the only place in the country where four states connect at a single spot. People stand there and have pictures taken. We stood there and had pictures taken.



4-corners is on the reservation or I guess 2 reservations – Utes get Colorado, Navajos get everything else – they set up booths to sell stuff and we bought stuff. A real old Navajo guy sold us something made from juniper. He asked if we knew what juniper was. We nodded in assent. I don't think nodding translates into Navajo or maybe it's the signal for stupid. He said, well, it's the tree that you get the wood from to make Navajo cradle boards. No doubt now. We said ah, yes, oh that tree.

Sheila saw a booth that said "Navaho". I told her it was the Don Imus spelling.

We left New Mexico, Colorado and Utah and went to Arizona and across the Navajo rez to our destination. Along the way, coyote trickster ran in front of us so we stopped to take his picture. He actually turned and looked at us but then he ran away to find a sick lamb or a slow squirrel or something.



Today's adventure was Canyon de Chelly. This place is unique among National Parks as it belongs to the Navajo Nation and they pretty much run it to their liking.



Sheep



There's only one access trail to the canyon floor that doesn't require a paid Navajo guide. It goes to a ruin called White House. We took it.



Switchbacks & 2 tunnels



Bottom



Here there's more stuff to buy, on tables and blankets set up under trees. We bought some more stuff. That was smart, now we could carry it up to the rim.

Final note: The name *Chelly* is a Spanish borrowing of the Navajo word *Tséyi'*, meaning "canyon". So we have a national park named, in effect, Canyon of Canyon. Probably by order of Congress.

D&S