

Pembina Gorge

Sweetie Bev and I spent last week in Walhalla, ND. I relaxed, did some computer work, read three books and met some interesting people. Bev was a volunteer at an archaeological dig at the Pembina Gorge. Two of the other volunteers were interesting because of their Veteran stories. Bob, entered the Navy in 1956 and served for two and half years. He completed a degree in Accounting and entered as an officer. Wanting to be a pilot, he did ground school in Florida and then decided it was not for him, so asked for a transfer. He was transferred to a school learning about how to plan for surviving a nuclear attack. Since this was during the cold war, most people were afraid of a nuclear attack. Bob was assigned to Subic Bay in the Philippines. We talked about the sometimes confusing assignments made in the military. He, for instance, had an accounting degree and was assigned to a school that really needed a strong science background.

The second person I met and spent time with was Jim. Although Jim did not serve in the military, he is a Sons of the Legion and a Legion Rider. Jim's father, however was a soldier during WWII, was in the Philippines when Japan attacked. He was captured and spent much of the war in a POW camp. He was not on the Bataan Death March, because he had been injured. According to Jim, his father served with one of the first Medal of Honor recipients and was at the ceremony when his friend was honored. A few years ago, while doing some research on his friend, he found a photo of the ceremony from the Medal of Honor family. One member of the ceremony was listed as unknown, his father. The two families connected. Pretty cool. Jim spent his career as a policeman. Since retirement, he has been a constant volunteer at archaeological digs. Bev, Jim and I had a couple drinks and shared stories each evening.

The archaeological dig was sponsored by the ND Geological Survey and ND Parks and Recreation. One of the things I noticed was the great cooperation of the two departments and local organizations. The Pembina Gorge Foundation provided breakfast and lunch for all volunteers. Since I was Sweeties' chauffeur, I was invited to join them. As I've seen in other smaller communities, many organizations work together for the good of their community. Bev found a couple neck bones from a 'monster of the sea' Mosasaur. The Mosasaur was the ruler of the oceans in a similar way that the T Rex ruled the land. Bev is the first name on the list for next year, so I guess we'll be going back!

Remember that the Key Ceremony for Eric Marts will be held on Saturday. Eric and family will receive the keys to their new home sponsored by Homes for Our Troops.

