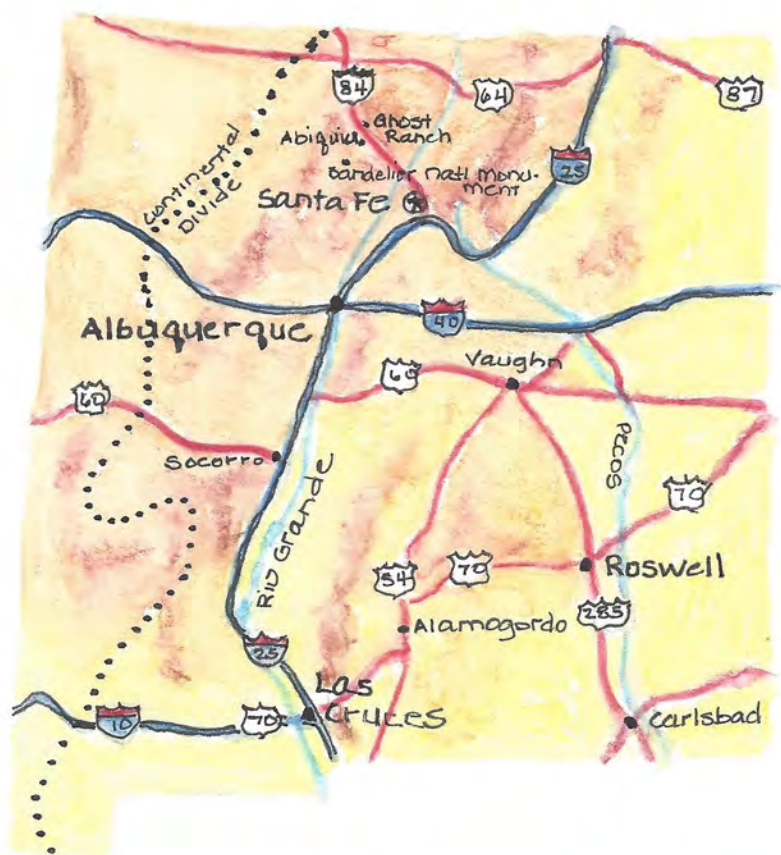


# Santa Fe, NM



September 17 - 24, 2016

# Saturday, Sept, 17

Sunny and beautiful in NH & NM.

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Clare dropped me off at "Manchester-Boston Regional Airport" at 10:30 for my 12:40 pm direct flight to Albuquerque with a stop in Baltimore. The TSA-ers in Manchester were actually nice - maybe they went to charm school, at taxpayers' expense, of course. I "won" the TSA pre-check on my boarding pass, which is always a good thing; Grace and Joe, the couple next to me on the second leg of the trip were very nice and, being from Santa Fe, told me about it.


met up with my car-rental mates at the airport: Grace, who was my next-door neighbor in Paduca, along with 2 other members of PVW, Florence & Elaine. It took a little over an hour to get to our hotel in Santa Fe, the Inn on the Alameda. It was a little after 7:30 pm and most of the rest of the group was leaving the restaurant, so it was hugs, hellos, and intros all around.

quick trips to our rooms and a call to Clare (yes, my fare works here!) and the 4 of us regrouped for an excellent dinner at the hotel.



# Sunday, Sept 18

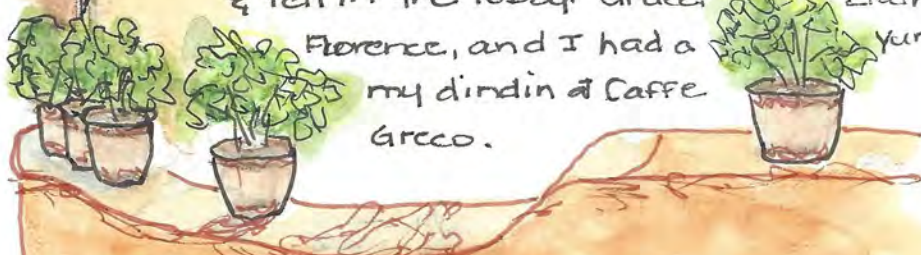
Beautiful sunny day; breezy.



Woke up at 7:30 and was at brekkie shortly after 8:00. Grace, Florence, and I went for a walk to scope out the area and, of course, take photos. We all purchased "trinkets" from a lovely woman at the Native American market at the Palace of Governors. Also went to an outdoor art show and did all those things I complain about when doing one of these shows - pawing over the goods asking the artists how they do things, etc.

Florence left us to paint. Grace and I enjoyed a yummy lunch at Le Café des Artistes.

Came back to my room, called Clare, did my postcards, and sat in the sun on my patio working on my sketchbook. Wine & cheese with show & tell in the lobby. Grace, Elaine, Florence, and I had a yum- my dindin at Caffe Grcco.



View from my patio

# Monday, Sept 14

Beautiful warm, sunny day

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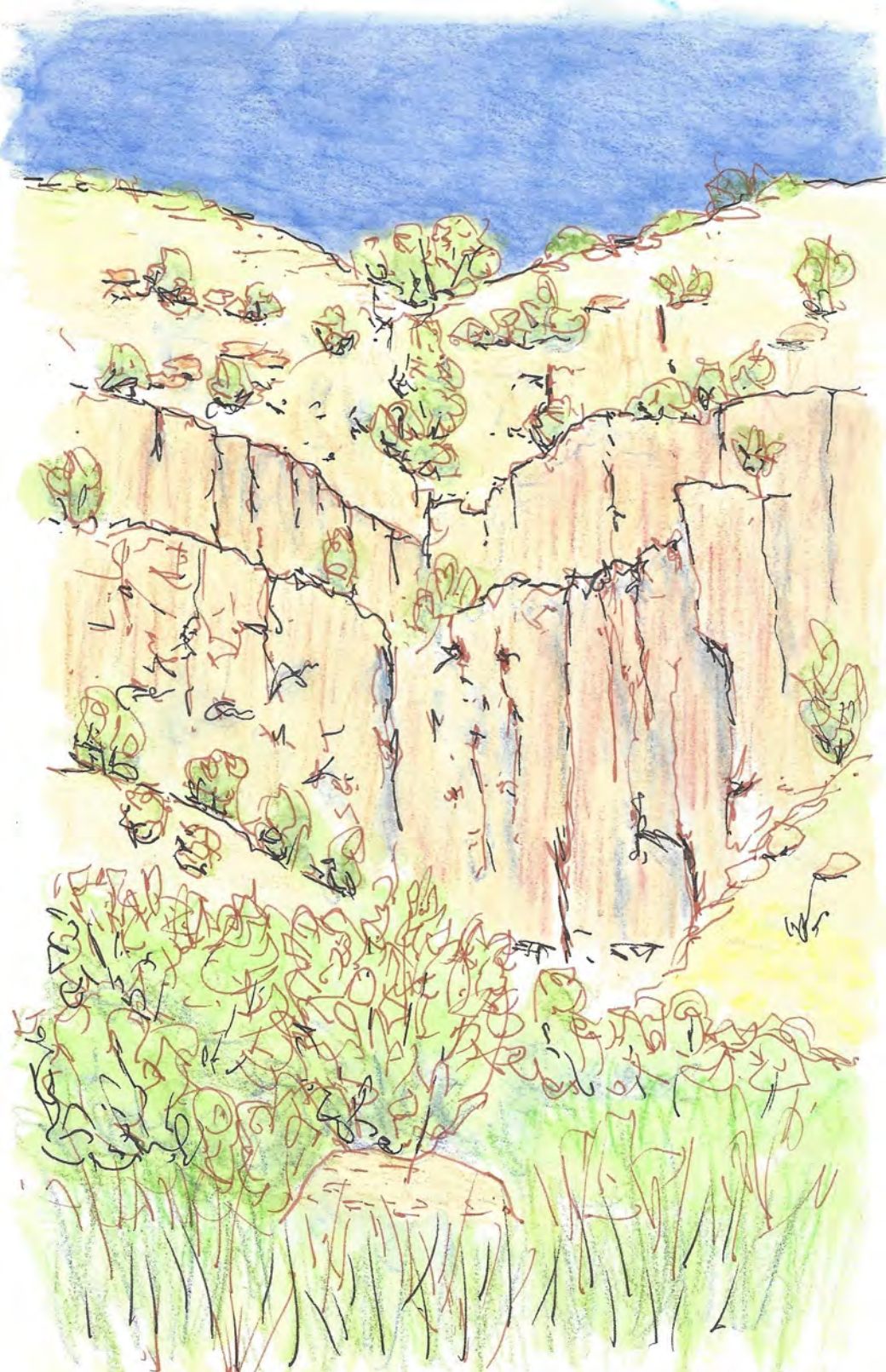
Another yummy breakfast. Since a lot of our travel is by car, that's about the only time I see the "3 m's," martha, mary, and margitta.

First, the sandwich debacle at Travel Bug. We went to order food to take with us. 45 minutes later, martha got hers, and they informed us hers was the last order. NOT! I got my money back, since we had planned to leave at 9:00, and I KNEW it would be at least another 10 minutes if I waited.

many of us went to Bandelier National monument in Los Alamos, which was home to the Ancestral Pueblo people from approximately 1150 to 1550. they built homes carved from the volcanic tuff, which looks similar to sandstone and was made into blocks. dwellings were also carved into the soft rock cliffs. Grace, Elaine, Florence, and I walked the 1/4-mile main loop and then did some painting and sketching. (A man stopped me when we got off the shuttle and said my painting was beautiful ;)

After wine & cheese / show & tell, the four of us went to Mucho Gusto, where we had a wonderful Mexican dinner.





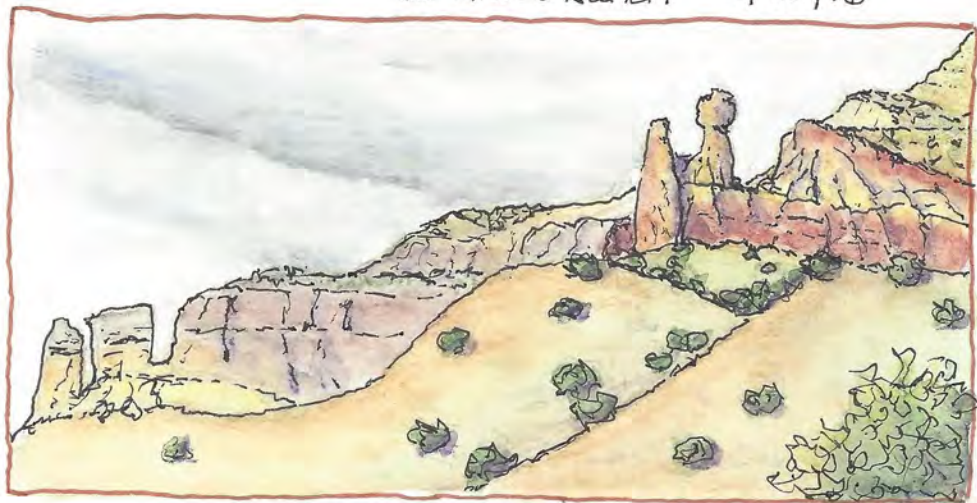
at Gardiner National Monument 9/19/16

# Tuesday, Sept 20

mix of sun and clouds

Today was THE DAY - our tour of Abiquiú, Georgia O'Keeffe's home. Bright and early, at 8:30, we climbed into our respective cars for the hour or so journey to the Abiquiú Inn, where we met our excellent tour guide, Frank, an artist and retired teacher, who taught art for many years. We took a bus up to the house, where we had a most informative tour of Georgia O'Keeffe's garden, house, and studio. She was even more of a minimalist than yours truly. She had a number of dogs over the years - chows - that she called her "Little People." The "Beware of the Dog" sign is still on the gate. My 3 car mates and I lunched at the inn, on the patio at the cafe Abiquiú and then headed the "white place," although we're not sure we found the "real" white place where Georgia O'Keeffe went to camp

at Ghost Ranch 9/20/16





at Ghost Ranch 9/20/16

out and paint. Then it was onward to the Ghost Ranch and spent the afternoon painting while ants frolicked on our paper and flies buzzed around our heads.

We arrived back at the hotel a little after 6:00 pm. A quick trip to our rooms, and it was off in search of dindin. We had been told the shed required reservations and that the first available rezzie was Monday evening (!). We went anyway and were able to get a table; during the wait we fortified ourselves with margaritas and checked out the shops that opened onto their courtyard. P.S. The meal was worth the wait!

# Wednesday, Sept 21

Sunny and warm; puffy clouds; breezy.

Slept 'til 7:30, taking advantage of it being a "free" day with no set agenda.

Mary, Martha, and I spent the day together stopping at the cathedral Basilica of St. Francis and its Stations of the Cross Prayer Garden; the native American market at the Palace of Governors, where I saw Sylvia, the lady who sold me my "trinket"; and then headed to the Plaza for our pique-nique lunch and some sketching. In the afternoon we "did" the New Mexico Art Museum and the Loretto Chapel, home of the circular staircase that has no nails or visible means of support.

After "show & tell" and wine & cheese, Grace and I went off to take photos at the farmers' market, but there wasn't much happening. Back at the hotel, there was a message from Clare that Julia got the booties. After chatting with Clare, I viewed the new vlog. Cool! my "car mates" and I had a wonderful evening repast at Harry's Roadside, a few miles away.



at the Plaza  
9/21/16



# Thursday, Sept 22

mix of sun & clouds; cool & breezy; brief shower

Some of the folks in our group went off to Taos today; most of the rest of us toddled off to the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, about a 15-minute walk from our hotel.

The museum's collection includes a wide array of her work encompassing her many periods and styles, not to mention the variety of media she worked in - oil, pastel, graphite, pen. How amazing to finally see her actual work after seeing so many prints of her work over the years.

Grace, Elaine, and I found a spot near the New Mexico Art Museum to ply our paint brushes.

Grace was still working on her painting



near the Plaza 9/22/16

When Elaine and I went to a new painting spot in the Plaza. We no sooner got started when there was a brief cloudburst, quickly followed by sun and an almost cloudless blue sky, so we were able to finish our pieces.

The remainder of the day featured quickly cycling downpours, sun and blue skies, and thunderstorms. The weather changes even faster than at home.

Sally took Elaine and me to the Bell Tower at La Fonda (hotel - very posh) to see a marvelous view of the city. Elaine and I met up with Grace on the way back to the hotel.

The Taos group didn't make it back for W & C / S & T, so we went ahead without them. Florence was still full from lunch, but Grace, Elaine, and I had a lovely meal at chez mamou.

got caught up on Julia D.



native American market  
Palace of Governors 9/22/16

# Friday, Sept 23

Sunny with a cool breeze.

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Hauled my lazy butt outta bed at about 7:00. Breakfast was leisurely, as most of us opted for an easy day, sketching nearby in da 'hood, doing a few last-minute things, and getting ready to go home. A nice woman at the front desk printed my boarding passes for the "flying cattle cars," so that is out of the way. ☺

Feeling a need for a walk, I went around the block and then down to Canyon Road, which I walked up a short way, before heading back to the hotel. For the past hour or so, I have been here in the garden working on my sketchbook. It's now 11:20, and I am quite content just hanging out here, although I probably "should" be off doing something more productive. The sun is warm, the breeze is cool....

Walked down to the Plaza, ran into Grace and joined her for an ice cream lunch. Stopped at the San Miguel Church, and the oldest house in the USA. Am now relaxing on my patio.

Group dinner at mucho Gusto tonight.

in the garden  
at our hotel  
9/23/16

