

Hi, Fred Nelson for Community Comment,

On Father's Day I had occasion to drive my sister-in-law to Portland, Oregon to be with her husband a patient in a Portland hospital. Although the situation was serious, I scheduled myself for what I thought was a reasonable driving time, about eight hours. It was not to be. The first stop was for a late breakfast. I will not name restaurants or the people involved as I am not out to 'get' anyone. Three of us sat down and were ignored for a number of minutes. At the end of the meal, I had to track down the waitress for the bill. I would say that about fifteen minutes was lost. Later, in the afternoon, we stopped for lunch and went through the same routine as breakfast, ignored then track down the waitress for the tab. Another fifteen to twenty minutes lost. Just south of Salem, Oregon the northbound traffic slowed down to a crawl due to multiple rear end collisions in the southbound lane. Everyone in the northbound lane had to slow down to gawk. Another ten minutes lost. Just as we were leaving Salem my GPS warned me to take the next off ramp because of multiple accidents on I-5. That took me to old highway 99 where I drove for thirty miles before being allowed back on I-5. Speeds on the old highway ranged from thirty five to fifty five. I must say that the drivers on the detour were very good. All seemed to maintain the posted speed with no pushy people with lead feet. Even though we lost twenty more minutes, I felt good about my fellow drivers. By the time we reached our destination, the travel time was pushing ten hours. Why am I talking about this trip? Just a warning to those of you planning a trip this summer that I witnessed exceptionally heavy traffic on both highways 199 and I-5. I would also like to advise those of you in the food service business that it is nice to stop and stretch and have a leisurely meal but most travelers do have a destination. My son and I made the return trip to Eureka over a two day period. We had dinner on the second evening at a seafood restaurant that was exceptional, a very sharp waitress and our food was cooked to perfection. On the third day, we stopped at another seafood restaurant with a very nice view and very bad service. I had to track down the server as the food was way overdue. The fresh caught wild salmon was poorly prepared as was the fresh Petrale Sole. Then I had to go find the server so I could pay my bill. Now I have some good news: Over the past five months, I have been eating out here in Eureka at various restaurants and I have received excellent service and good food wherever I have gone. Congratulations Eureka!

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