



*The partially restored ruins at Wupatki dominate the landscape. In its prime, this communal dwelling was four stories high, complete with ventilation system, amphitheater and ball court.*

of the situation. It was at this time, about 1100 AD, that Wupatki and many neighboring pueblos were built. They thrived for about 100 years, when a series of droughts turned the area into a dustbowl. By the mid 1200's, the area was probably completely abandoned.

These ruins were just as impressive as the Spanish Missions in New Mexico. Wupatki (the ruins have been partially restored) was four stories high, and was complete

with a ventilation system, amphitheater, and ball court. Many other villages were built on hilltops and offered commanding views of the surrounding country. The only visible intrusions of modern man are the road and foot paths, which are easily ignored or avoided. It's a very good

place to sit, think, dream, fantasize, imagine, or carry on any of the other spiritual activities of man.

Of course, I visited the Grand Canyon. It's simply beyond words. Period.

A lot of the highways in the Southwest are fenced, with few gates. This sometimes makes it hard to find a sleeping place when it's getting dark and cold. That particular night a culvert under Route 66 between Flagstaff and Kingman came to the rescue. It was dry, warm — but not too quiet!

Throughout the whole trip, the Honda had been performing flawlessly. Perhaps the part that made me proudest of her was crossing the Mojave desert. Through 115-degree heat, carrying her own weight, she just kept right on blurring along past all the boiled-over cars.

*The sturdy little Honda takes a well-deserved rest break on a cliff overlooking Big Sur, California.*

