

Ursula's column **Grand Coulee Dam** *continued from page 6*

In comparison, the base of the Grand Coulee Dam is almost four times as large as the Great Pyramid built by the Pharaoh Khufu (Cheops). The dam stands 550 feet in height, from the bed rock to the black top! Like the Pyramid, the Grand Coulee Dam has its galleries. They serve for gate inspections and grand control, drainage, rerouting, cooling, and other purposes.

There are more than eight and a half miles of corridors throughout the Grand Coulee Dam. In size, it is the first structure created by man to exceed that of the Great Pyramids.

Some will point out the Great Wall of China is larger. Construction on the wall began around 700 B.C.E (before common era) and was completed in the late 16th century to its approximate 4,000 mile length and varies between 18 and 30 feet in height. It was an on and off again project which was built in various stages spanning almost 900 years and as a whole, is larger than the Grand Coulee Dam.

Consequently, the Grand Coulee Dam's completion in late 1942, which tops the Great Pyramid, had a peak workforce of 7,700 and took a little more than nine years to complete. Grand Coulee Dam is truly the eighth wonder of world.

The Grand Coulee Dam sits deep in the Columbia River Gorge of central Washington. It is located about 90 miles west of Spokane 175 miles south of Canada's border and about 250 miles east of Seattle.

When we went through the dam it was rather interesting. Our tour guide told us about the turbine which generates the water through the dam, and took us all the way to the bottom

of the dam in a elevator. I did not like that. As we were going you could see straight down. Once we got down there, after learning more about the different parts to the turbine, we walked further down a corridor and saw the turbine at work. They never turn it off except for repair, otherwise it takes too long to get it going. Then we got back onto the elevator and shot straight back up. Well not quite that fast.

The best part of the tour was the laser light show that we saw that night after dark. They turned up the waterfalls and then from inside the visitor center they put on a show by computer with laser lights, and background music.

After that we went to our hotel for the night in Grand Coulee city, the lodge was okay. Most of the rooms had two bedrooms. Mine was overlooking the back alley and some dumpsters. I just shut the curtains. I was tired and we had a long day with two tours at the Hutterites and the Grand Coulee Dam.

The people were nice that ran the lodge and the rooms were clean. They also had some rooms with a little living room area and full kitchen. They have a gift shop in the office, and the continental breakfast was good. In case some of you don't know what that is, it's a free breakfast at the lodge or wherever you stay.

The fourth and final part will be in February's issue, about our tour through the Smokejumper Base, Winthrop and the Sun Mountain lodge that we spent the night at.

Until then hope you all have a wonderful Christmas with your families and a

Happy New Year.