

Useful Weekend

For more than a decade I have been a volunteer for Project C.U.R.E. (www.projectcure.org) which collects donated medical supplies and equipment and sends them to more than 130 needy countries. Normally I keep the boxes of medical supplies in order in the main warehouse in Centennial, Colorado, a suburb of Denver, working there on Thursdays. On Friday, 6 November, I helped load a container destined for the province of Equator in northwestern Democratic Republic of Congo. The shipment is sponsored by the Congo agricultural company Feronia (<http://www.feronia.com/>) which operates palm oil plantations for domestic consumption. Part of the shipment will go to their hospital at Yaligimba (N 2 deg 13' 29", E 22 deg 55' 51") which is north of the Congo River and 60 km east of the city of Bumba. The other part will go to their hospital at Boteka (S 0 deg 23' 41", E 19 deg 5' 40") which is 110 km east southeast of the city of Mbandaka. Feronia wants to provide good care for their employees and the communities that support their business.



The container we loaded for Congo



After loading the Yaligimba items



The remainder of Boteka boxes



Final boxes

Normally we try to tightly pack the container so that there is no room for anything to move. That limits damage during shipment. This shipment to Congo has some empty space.



All ready to go to Congo



Example of fully loaded container

In the first half of December I will be visiting Lubumbashi, the capital of the province of Katanga, at the southeastern extremity of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Late Saturday afternoon we went to the annual International Day activities of Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado. There are 750 students from other countries there. Many of them provided sample foods representative of their countries. In the evening many of them presented talent and fashion shows for the audience. The first two photos show some food booths before crowds came.



The right photo is of the Chinese tables.





Brazil - left; Malaysia - center; guests enjoying the foods and fellowship.



Indonesian students presented an excellently choreographed demonstration.

Chinese students did a fashion show of different eras and regions of China.



Two others showed their musical talents. A team from Bolivia did a cultural dance that mocked former Spanish colonial powers.



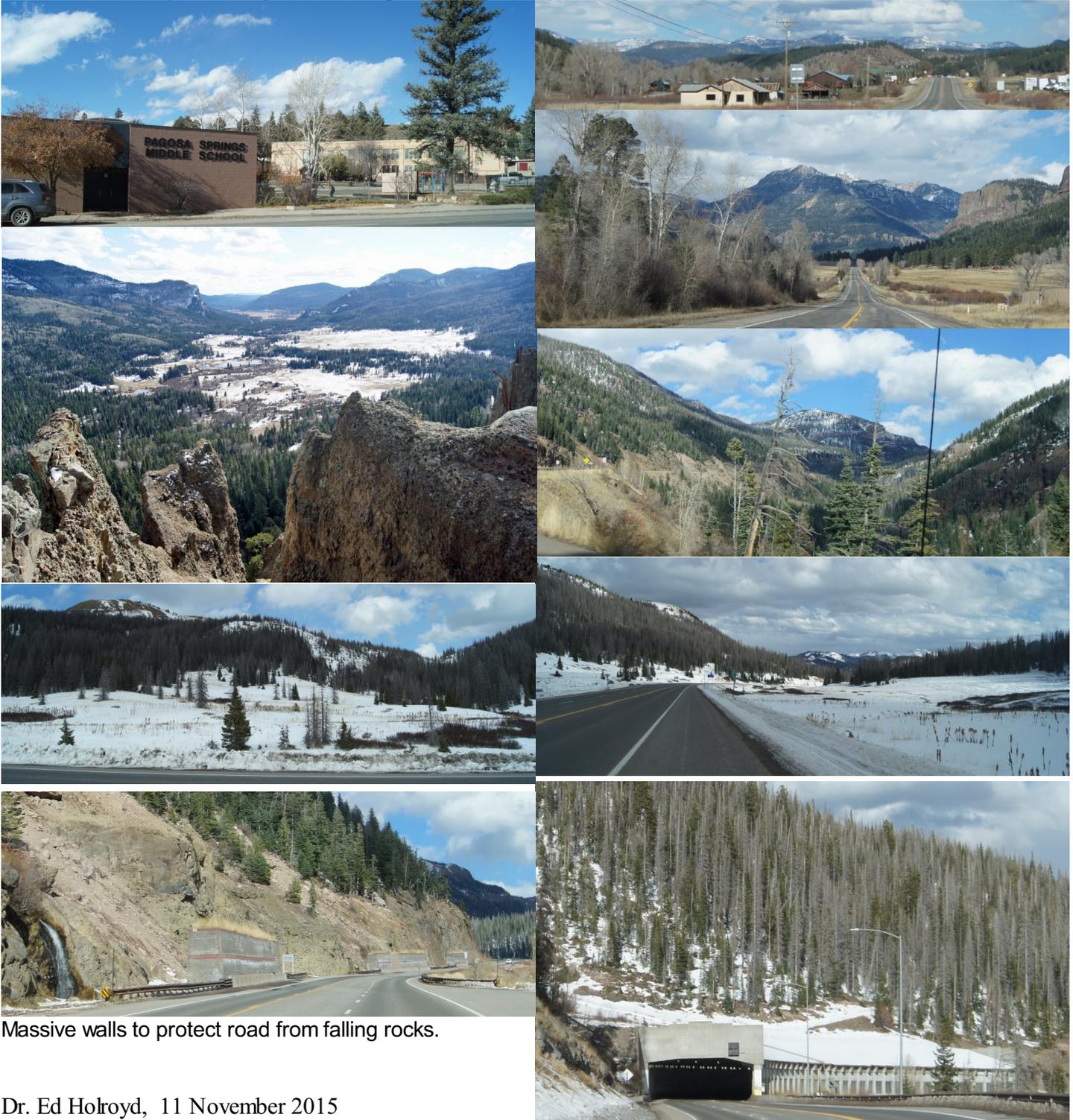
In the next row, Malaysia showed three fashion styles according to ethnic groups.

Two women from Rwanda and Burundi in central Africa did a dance related to wedding plans.

Other student's countries were represented but not included in my photos.



On Monday and Tuesday I crossed over the San Juan Mountains in southern Colorado to visit a Junior Middle School in Pagosa Springs. I performed my “instant snowstorm” demonstration for four eighth grade classes and several other students and teachers. (See the instructions at www.EdHolroyd.info/snowstorm.) For most snow showers in the classroom I had to change from the bubble wrap triggering to using tiny fragments of dry ice (solid carbon dioxide). The host teacher posted some photos on the school’s Facebook page. My photos show some of the scenery in that region. It was a pleasant trip, though driving took about six hours each way.



Massive walls to protect road from falling rocks.

Dr. Ed Holroyd, 11 November 2015

Snow avalanches flow over this snow shed built to protect the highway.