

## **Journal Arizona - Nevada 2014**

Tuesday 18 March 2014. Tied up loose ends and headed off from Jaffrey around 9:30am. 7 degrees when I left. Drove to Nashua and left car and took bus to Logan. Checked in, then a nice lunch at Legal Seafoods. Scrod and steamed wonton. Not a single empty set on either flight. Changed planes in Dallas Ft Worth and grabbed a burger. Joy and Art were at the airport in Phoenix to meet me. Drove to their place. Had a couple of beers and some nuts and to bed with a sore right knee.

Wednesday 19 March 2014.

Beautiful morning. In the 70s. Coffee. E-mail. Off later in the morning to the end of the Light Rail line and parked and bought an all-day ticket: \$2. Got off at the Skytrain and took it out to the airport. Joy wanted to see a terrazzo floor designed by a friend of her's. Beautiful stations. Back to the Light Rail (METRO). Artwork at each stop and interesting structures to hold and protect plantings. Through Arizona State University. Got off in the center of downtown—a few older office buildings and lots of new schlock—and found Tom's Tavern where we had a very nice lunch. Got back onto the Metro and got off at the Heard Museum. Only went into the gift shop and had a coffee outside. Lovely buildings. Back onto the Metro and retraced our steps. Retrieved the car and headed back to Gold Canyon, arriving just after 5pm. Time for a drink. Later had a dinner of Greco. Watched TV to learn more about the Malaysian airliner down; they think they've found debris off Australia.

Thursday 20 March 2014. Another nice morning. Typing this up before breakfast. Headed off in Art's car to meet up with Shane Murphy at Taliesin West. Took the 2002 to the 101 and got off at Shaw, then to Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd. Missed the entrance to Taliesin and had to back-track, thus a little late. Shane was there and we went off in his truck with the Arizona flag hood to a nearby shopping center for lunch. Only choice was a Chinese buffet. A mistake as I've had the trots since. The 90 minute tour was quite good and interesting. A lot of visitors, one tour on the heels of the next. Headed back around 4:30. Lots of traffic so didn't get back to around 6 or so. That night we went to "Organ Stop," a pizza restaurant featuring a Wurlitzer organ as the highlight, up on a stage. Back to Art and Joy's and soon to bed.

Friday 21 March 2014. After breakfast, we loaded up including Whitney the dog, and headed south to Tucson. A pretty ride. Not too long. Arrived at Bruce and Sally's in Tucson at noon and soon after were enjoying a lovely lunch of curried chicken, asparagus, etc., and wine. Pleasant conversation. After a while, Joy and Art and Whitney headed back to Gold Canyon and I (and others) took a two-hour nap. Up around 5 and had a drink, then headed by car up the mountainside in the back to the clubhouse of the Skyline Cub to see the sunset over a drink and some nibbles. Panoramic view out over Tucson. Then to "Ginza," a Japanese sushi place and had some good sushi. Back to Bruce

and Sally's and watched the movie, "The 3:10 to Yuma." Very violent but we stuck it through to the end. Much of it was shot in Arizona. To bed.

Saturday 22 March 2014. Up around 7 and am now typing up these notes. After breakfast we headed off to the south with Kari in tow. Went nearly to the Mexican border through the grasslands. Arrived at a friend of the Larsens—Matilda Essig—who's an artist. Now doing a lot of quite nice scans of various grasses then printing them out on Arches paper. We had lunch there and then all, in two cars, to a ranch about  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour away where Matilda is ranch-sitting. We then drove on to Ft Huachuca where the Army intelligence school is. Dates back to around the civil war. Stayed in the guest quarters; very nice. Had drinks, then cooked up spaghetti. To bed.

Sunday 23 March 2014. Next morning we headed for Bisbee, with a detour up Ramsay Canyon, probably an hour or so away. This was a copper town; now a tourist location, arts center, hippie place. Very hilly compact town and quite picturesque. From Bisbee to Tombstone, another hour. Pretty much all tourism. Two or three block main street closed off to traffic. People dressed up in clothes of the late 19th century. Went with Sally to a dramatic representation of the Gunfight at the OK Corral (Wyatt Earp). Out to the edge of town to visit Boot Hill. Stopped at the Singing Wind Bookshop in Benson. Woman there had been to the Antarctic. Then back to Tucson, stopping at Whole Foods to buy groceries. Back to the Larsens. I took a nap. Later we had a nice dinner. Watched masterpiece theatre (Selfridges). Still have a bit of the trots from Thursday's Chinese lunch.

Monday 24 March 2014. Away about 8:30 or so headed for Las Vegas. Stopped in Wickenburg for lunch at the Horseshoe Café for a burger. On for another 100-200 miles, finally to Las Vegas around 5:30 or so. Staying at Harrah's in adjoining rooms. Had a drink, then arranged some shows at the hotel, then walked down the street to the Venetian. I left Bruce and Sally, who wanted to eat, and I wandered around a bit, stopping at Bauman's Rare Books and a magic shop. Then an ice cream cone. No dinner. Back to the hotel and to bed early.

Tuesday 25 March 2014. Seem pretty good shape this morning. Take a shower, then a few questions at the front desk, then to next-door McDonalds for breakfast and to check e-mail, where I'm now typing this up. Met up with Bruce and Sally after they finished up on their condo sales meeting, around 11:30. Made a booking for Mac King magician for 3pm, then walked south to Paris where we had lunch in a café. On the way back I went to the back of Ballys to buy tickets for the Big Bus to start tomorrow. Got back to Harrahs and met up with Bruce and Sally in the entrance line for the magic shoe. This was the same magician Joy and Art and I saw some years back. Excellent. Back to the room. Had a drink and around 6:30 or so we took the car a few blocks away to the Hofbrauhaus, a large, busy and noisy beer hall restaurant. Had a schnitzel. Back to Harrahs and then a bit of slot machine gambling. Ended up where I started with \$5.

Wednesday 26 March 2014. Up around 7:30. Went down to the first floor and got breakfast at Starbucks which I took back to the room. Now typing up these notes. We

walked to Ballys and met the BigBus. Bruce and I stayed for both routes though Sally left early. Quite a good tour and quite good guides. Got off in downtown LV and went to a brew pub casino and had lunch. I took it easy during most of the rest of the day. Did I go out that night?

Thursday 27 March 2014. After breakfast Bruce and I drove out to check out two Thai restaurants for tonight. Went out to the Weera Thai restaurant and had a good Pad Thai. Then drove to the Planet Hollywood and saw the Vegas Show, quite a good variety show focusing on the history of Las Vegas.

Friday 28 March 2014. Got up early and packed. Down to the buffet breakfast after checking e-mail at McDonalds. Breakfast not very good. We left Las Vegas around 9 or so and drove to Hoover Dam. Stopped at the visitor's center and then over the dam and parked to take some photos. The water level is very low. Next stop was in Kingman where we ate lunch at the Redneck's Southern Pit Barbecue. Paid a visit to the Route 66 Museum which was quite good, actually. Continued on with an ice cream stop in Wickenburg. Arrived at the Radisson near the airport where the Larsens are staying tonight. Had a drink then off to the Arizona Biltmore, the Frank Lloyd Wright hotel, where we had a nice dinner. Back to the hotel and I took the shuttle to the airport. Boarded flight back to Boston at 11:30pm or so and then had to get off because of mechanical issues. Fortunately another plane was available so we were off again with only an hour delay.

Saturday 29 March 2014. Arrived in Boston about 8am. Sunny and crisp. OJ and coffee from Dunkin' Donuts. Now waiting for bus to Nashua.