

TRIP TO WASHINGTON, PHOENIX & LAS VEGAS 30 NOVEMBER- 7 DECEMBER 2001

Friday 30 November. Drove to Manchester Airport and took US Airways flight to Baltimore. Shuttle to railroad station and took train to Union Station, DC. Walked to Wilkes' plaque near the Capitol, west of Delaware Avenue near a round fountain over an underground garage. From there to Capitol City Brewing Company for a burger and a beer. This is in the old GPO building. Quite nice. After lunch went into the Postal Museum in the same building looking for Antarctic items. Nothing there. From there back to Union Station and the Metro station. Took train to Dupont Circle then walked to the Fawcetts on R Street who were there. That evening they hosted a dinner and reception for attendees to a Jewish film festival. I helped out mostly in the kitchen.

Saturday 1 December. Up around 9. After breakfast and reading the paper, Chip, Myrna and I headed out on a walk, up Connecticut Avenue past their new apartment building and then to Adams-Morgen where we had lunch in a Turkish restaurant. Walked on to the Meridian Center where there was an exhibit featuring Alan Campbell's Antarctic paintings. From there we worked our way back to the Fawcett's house. Very mild weather. Took a nap and changed clothes. Walked with the Fawcetts to the Cosmos Club where we met up with Karen Ronne Tupek, Jackie Ronne, Brenda Clough, David Wilson. Also there: Ruth Siple, Paul Dalrymple, Kristin Larson, Joe Bugayer, Abel Shafer. Good talk by David. Stopped for a nightcap and dessert at a bar with singing waiters. Back to R Street.

Sunday 2 December. Read the papers. Brenda Clough, David Wilson, Jackie Ronne and Karen Ronne Tupek showed up at noon. We plus Myrna went off with Brenda driving and did an Antarctic tour: Naval Memorial, Wilkes' plaque, Air and Space Museum, Arlington Cemetery. Navy Museum was closed. Back to R Street for snacks. Chip, Myrna and I sent back to the restaurant with the singing waiters for a birthday party for Jackie, a political friend of the Fawcetts. About 12 people there. Back to R Street and bed.

Monday 3 December. Up at 4am, picked up at 5am by Super Shuttle for trip to Baltimore Washington Airport. Flight to Laganardia then Manchester. Waited 2 hours at Laganardia, then 2 hours at Manchester, then 2 hours at Pittsburgh—a lot of waiting. Arrived in Phoenix around 9pm. Joy and Art were there to meet me. To their house about an hour away to the east. Nice house. Had a beer, then to bed.

Tuesday 4 December. Started raining in the night and until late morning—unusual apparently. No view because of the rain. Had breakfast then took off at about 10am, stopping in Scottsdale at ca. 11am at Shane and Jane Murphy's (Shane is a Shackleton authority). Had a coffee and chatted for maybe an hour, then off to Las Vegas. Weather improves. Stop for lunch in a café in Wickenburg? BLT and milk. On across flat desert country. Hills in the distance. Few houses or towns. Gradually climbing, more mountainous. Near dusk we went over Hoover Dam. In Las Vegas around 7pm. Stayed at Harrah's in the mid strip. The place has changed a lot since I was first there many years ago. After a glass of wine in Art and Joy's room, we headed out walking and by bus to downtown to see the new "Fremont Experience," a sound and laser presentation involving a barrel-vaulted structure over Fremont Street for several blocks. Had dinner at the Golden Nugget's buffet. Too much food and not good at that. Bus back to Harrah's. I walked through Caesars Palace to see if I could find a shop where Karen Ronne bought her penguin purse. Apparently no longer there. Back to Harrah's and bed.

Wednesday 5 December. Up around 9 or so and went with Joy and Art to a restaurant in the hotel for a large hearty breakfast. We then parted ways and I started to walk up the Strip (going south) on the east side as far as the Mandalay Bay hotel, then north on the west side. Across the street and to the Venetian which is by far the most interesting of the casino complexes. Met Joy and Art at 2:30 in Harrah's and went to the free Mac Davis magic/comedy show at the hotel. Actually very good. Back to the room. Later, changed and met Joy and Art in the lobby and took taxi to the Mandalay Bay to see a big production show called 'Storm' (\$68). Impressive effects but otherwise pretty lousy. Back by cab to the hotel. Art and I spent about an hour at a roulette table. Enjoyable. I ended up waling away with \$19 including my original \$10 investment. To bed.

Thursday 6 December. Headed back to Phoenix about 10. Stopped in Las Vegas away from the strip at a nice family restaurant for an excellent breakfast (french toast & bacon). Then drove south via Lake Mead and Hoover Dam. Weather cool but sunny. At Kingman headed east to Flagstaff, then south through Oak Creek Canyon. Got to Sedona where we stopped around 5:30 for dinner at a Mexican restaurant for a nice meal. On the road again arriving at Art and Joy's at about 9:30. Watched a movie and then to bed.

Friday 7 December. Pearl Harbor Day. Up at 7:30. Breakfast. At 9am a shuttle van picked me up and I was at the airport by 10am. Flight was at noon to Charlotte, NC, and then on to Manchester NH. Picked up car and was home by 9:30 or so,