



In Search of Eldorado



Today's destination

Day 9

Sunday

January 13th

Las Vegas, Baby

Weather

Great today. 60's and sunny

Hello to Family & Friends

Ok, it has been awhile. Winnebago declined my warranty claim for the freeze damaged water heater. After several back and forth emails with them, they finally agreed to pay for a new water heater and shipping it to Camping World here in Vegas. I am responsible for the installation labor. Better than nothing.

Anyways, Cousin Al has been pretty much cooped up in the apartment taking care of his mom for several months, and I wanted to get him out of the house and go do something, anything, to let him see the outside world again.

We decided to rent a scooter for him and wander the Casinos and hotels of the Las Vegas strip. There are some I have not seen before, and those I have seen have changed since my last visit in 2003.

Almost forgot to mention, it took an additional 3 days to convince Winnebago to cover the part, and another 10 days to get it shipped to Camping World from Iowa. I could have driven there and picked it up myself in that amount of time.

So I have been hanging around with Al and Deb, visiting with my Aunt Joan every day, doing some hiking, riding my bike.

Eldorado

By Edgar Allen Poe

Gaily bedight,
A gallant knight,
In sunshine and in shadow,
Had journeyed long,
Singing a song,
In search of Eldorado.

But he grew old—
This knight so bold—
And o'er his heart a shadow—
Fell as he found
No spot of ground
That looked like Eldorado.

And, as his strength
Failed him at length,
He met a pilgrim shadow—
'Shadow,' said he,
'Where can it be—
This land of Eldorado?'

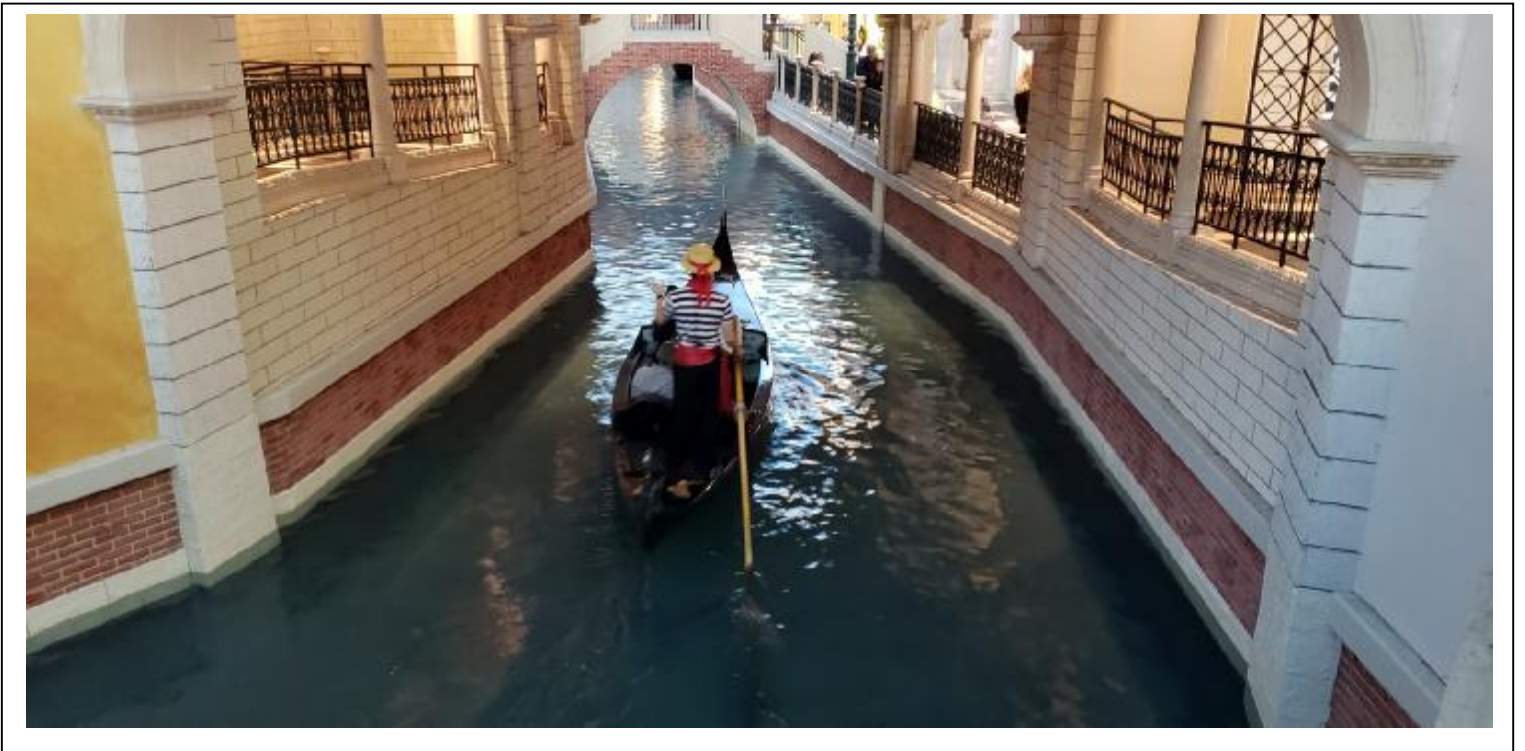
'Over the Mountains
Of the Moon,
Down the Valley of the Shadow,
Ride, boldly ride,'
The shade replied,—
'If you seek for Eldorado!'

Our first stop was the Venetian. They have free parking and a busy bell desk for dropping off the scooter when not staying there.

Gpops, Morgan and Kali should remember staying here in 2003.



St. Mark's Square above and the gondola rides below. Morgan, Gpops and I did a gondola ride last time.





The Palazzo, not there in 2003, is an addition of shops to the Venetian. The display above was in the Palazzo,



From the Venetian we crossed Las Vegas Blvd and entered Treasure Island. Not much to see there except the pirate ships, and I guess they don't fire the cannons anymore.

Down the strip to the Mirage which was nothing special inside and on to Caesar's Palace and The Forum Shops where I saw the sculpture above. The next item for your house Steve & Marcie?

While at The Forum we found a seat at a table and took in the Atlantis Water Show. These are animatronics characters that argue about who is going to be the next ruler of Atlantis. Hard to understand the dialogue but the special effects were pretty neat.

We shared the table with a couple guys who had just arrived from England and had a good conversation with them. We also saw a young lady exit the bar with a 4' tall drink. She said it had 10 shots of vodka in it. I check later and that one drink probably cost her \$50.

On to the Bellagio and 2019 "The Year of the ???". I will let you figure it out by the pix below.





Have you figured it out yet? 2019 is the Year of the Pig.

The Chinese celebrate their New Year based on their Zodiac calendar. Each of the 12 signs has a representative animal. 2019 is the pig. 2020 will be the Rat. Can't wait to see that one.

We passed on the Cosmopolitan and the Aria, walked through City Center and the Park MGM on our way to New York New York. I remember being here in 2003 because we took the roller coaster which runs through and outside of the hotel. It was fun. Not sure what we paid back then, but it is \$25 for a ride now.



However, I do not remember walking through the interior of the casino which is designed like the streets of New York Greenwich Village, a kosher deli, cobblestone streets, Times Square fantastic. Reminded me of The Streets of Old Milwaukee at the Museum which is my favorite part of the museum.

We ate at the Burger Bar & Grill above. Food was ok, we both agreed that the burgers really had no flavor. We checked out the Nine Fine Irishmen (a bar) and Stupidiotic. If you get a chance to check this shop out online, some of the stuff they sell is hilarious. I debated buying a can of evaporated water – “Just add water”. On to Hershey World, Chocolate Heaven!! A walk outside to see the Statue of Liberty and the Brooklyn Bridge.



We took a tram to Mandalay Bay where they have Michael Jackson ONE by Cirque du Soleil - \$90 – and the displays you can see here. The music lured me in, but the cost turned me away. I think it would be a good show to see when time is available.



then we took an elevator to the skyfall lounge on the 64 floor of the Delano for the views below of the Las Vegas Strip at night





We found this classic Ford while trying to find our way to the tram and the Luxor Hotel. It's almost as old as Gpops.



Still looking for the tram we ran across this Irish Pub and the Gentleman to the right.



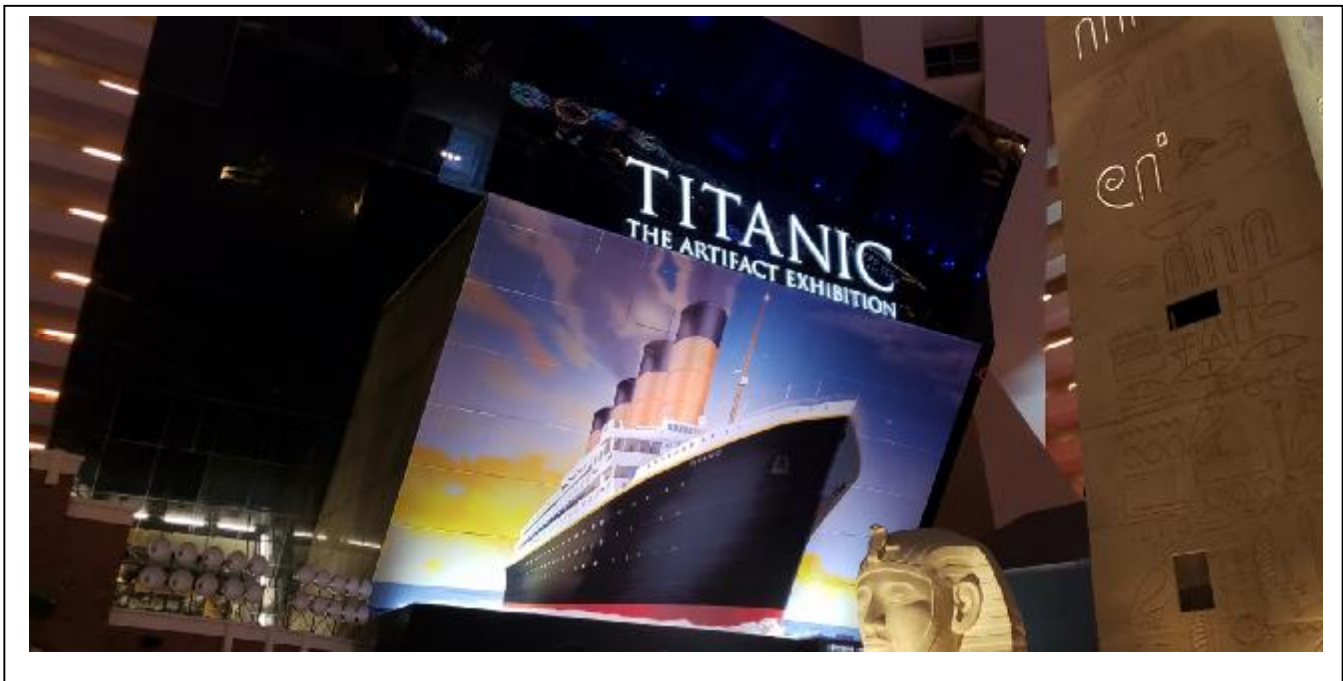
Found the Luxor



The shot above is actually very cool. This is the exterior. The Sphinx is looking up; the beam from the peak of the pyramid is perfectly centered; and the palm trees and clouds add character.

The interior reminds me of The Contemporary at Disney World





The interior of The Luxor is pretty neat. On the 2nd floor they have the Titanic Exhibition, with 250 artifacts from the Titanic; The Blue Man Group; Carrot Top; and Bodies...The Exhibition which shows how the bones and muscles work while riding a bike and other activities.



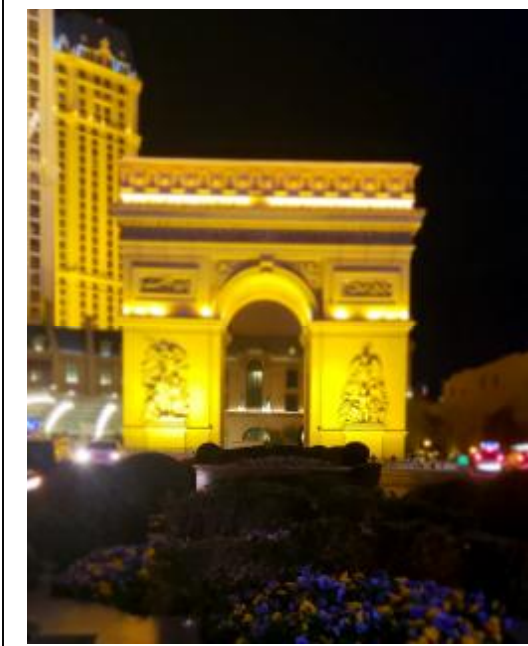
From The Luxor we visited Excalibur. This place could be so much cooler than it is. If they changed the interior to be more like the streets of Camelot with stone facades, cobblestone streets and small shops, it could be as good as New York New York. But, alas, it was rather boring. So we crossed the Strip to the M&M Store. Four floors, that's right, 4 floors, of M&M's and merchandise. Below is the Chocolate Wall. 125 tubes of M&M's.



M&M's to the right of us...



M&M's to the left of us...



We didn't even have to board a plane to find ourselves in Paris.

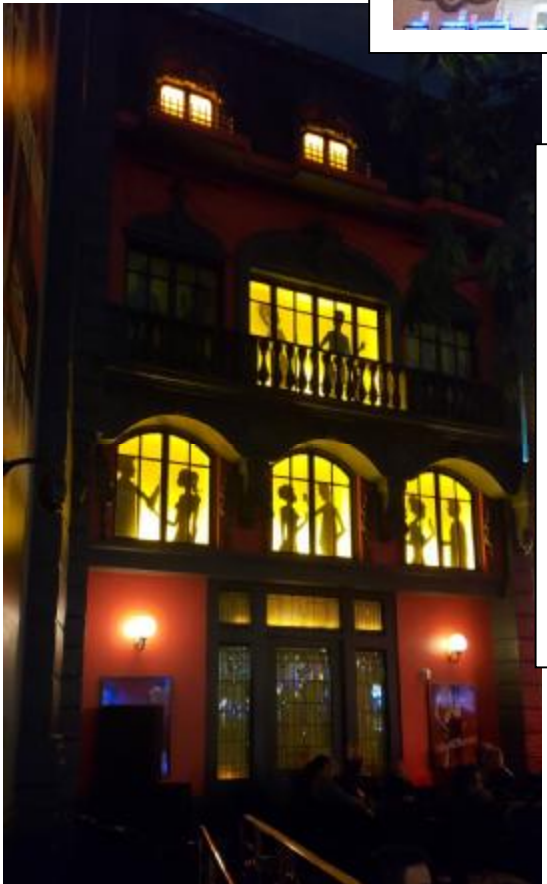
The Arc de Triomphe

The Eiffel Tower

The Champs Elysees

This interior was great also, really makes you feel like you are in Paris.

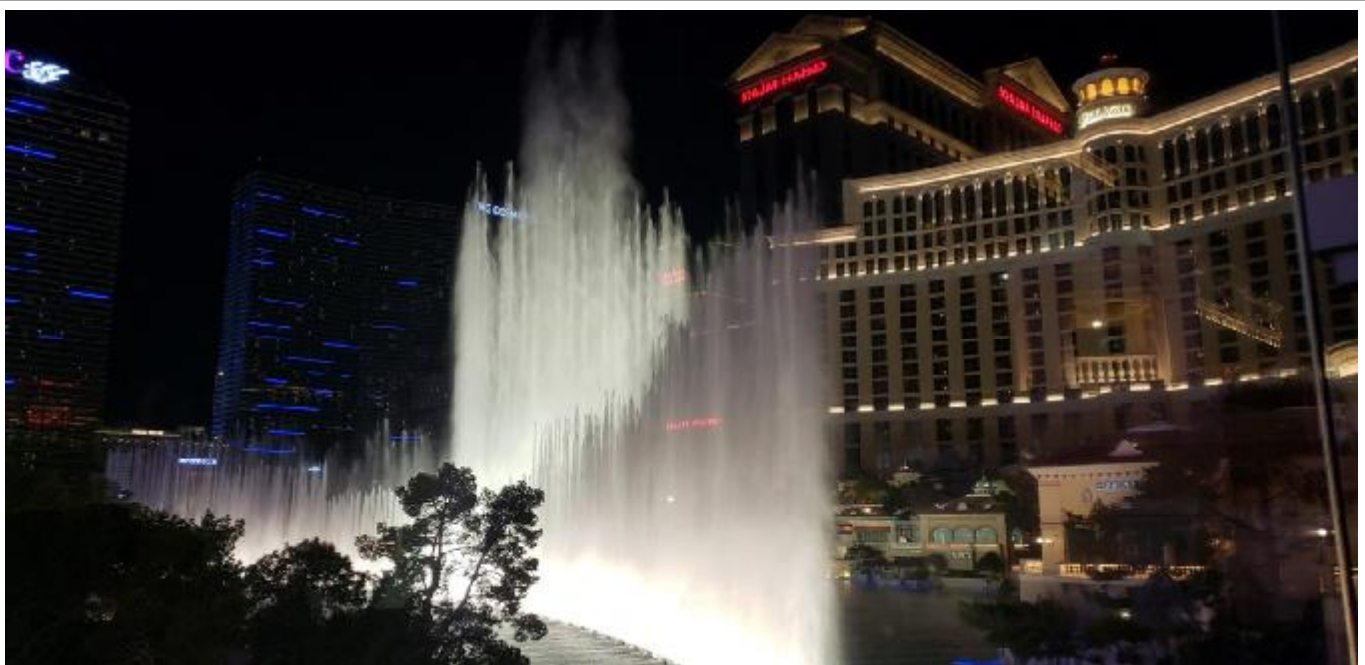
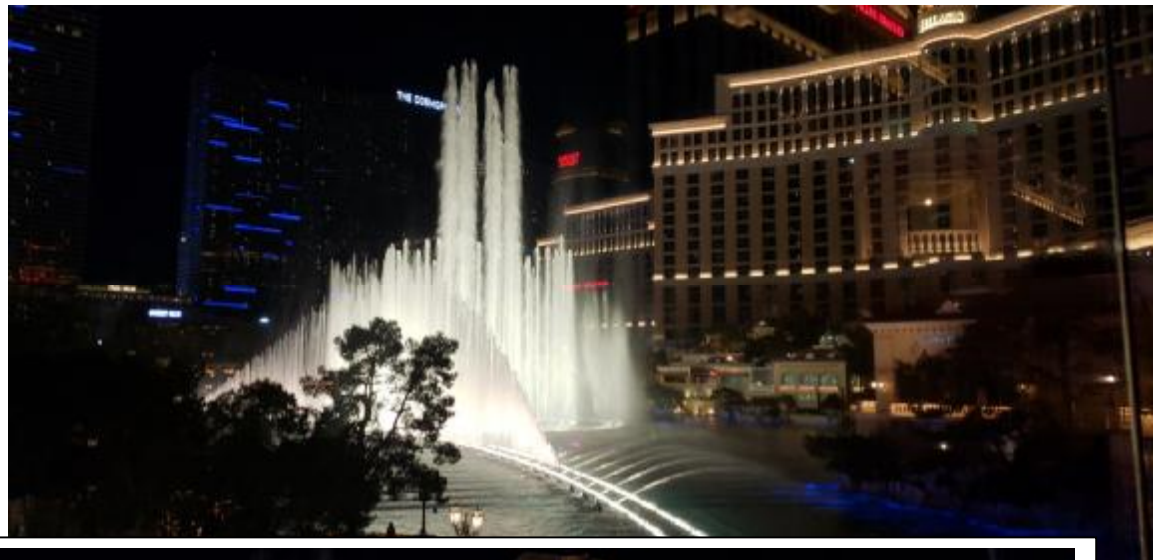






We actually left Paris and realized the scooter battery was getting really low. So back to Paris and sitting for an hour at this dueling pianos bar while the scooter charged enough to finish out our evening. Hopefully.

After charging up, spilling a coke, paying \$20 for a soda and a 7&7, a dilemma with Mom (Al and I are now both Bums because it is 1 a.m.) we hit the Bellagio Fountain Show, which only lasted about 2 minutes.





From the Bellagio Fountains, we realized that 45 minute scooter charge was just a respite from a dead battery, so we hoofed it past The Flamingo, Harrah's and Casino Royale to the Venetian, got lost at the Venetian, had to push and pull the scooter over the driveway, scout out the best path to the bell station while Al turned off the key and conserved the battery, but finally got where we wanted to go.

Back in the car we said goodbye to the Las Vegas Strip.



Al then drove us up to Downtown Las Vegas, Fremont Street, basically a little tour of Las Vegas at night. We arrived home around 3:30 a.m. BUMS!!!

It was a great day. Al Had a great time, even saw some things he had not seen before. We visited some art galleries inside the casinos, enjoyed the architecture of New York New York, Caesar's Palace, The Luxor, The Venetian and Paris, ate dinner in New York, watched dueling pianos in Paris, ate M&M's. Overall a very enjoyable day. I'm glad I could give my cousin a day out and even gladder that we both enjoyed it immensely. And we did not gamble a penny.

A big thanks to Deb for giving her day off to Al so we could spend it "Bumming Around".

My water heater is scheduled to arrive at Camping World on the 22nd. In fact I am sitting in the waiting room there as I assembled this newsletter. We have a couple more projects to complete for Aunt Joan and I am expecting a delivery at Al's tomorrow. I should be back on the road again Thursday morning to start my winter tour of Arizona. Hopefully the newsletters will be daily from that point on.

As the Irish say...

"May the road rise to meet me,
may the wind be ever at my back.
May the sun shine warm upon my face"

Ok, ok, so I modified it a little bit.