



In Search of Eldorado



Back on the Mother Road

Day 5
Sunday
January 27th
Kingman, AZ
to
Laughlin, NV

Weather
Great today. 60's and sunny

Hello to Family & Friends

I was camped only 4 miles from Kingman, AZ last night, so it was a short drive into town and a visit to the visitor's center in the old Power House building.

In case you're wondering, Andy Devine was born here in Kingman. He made a lot of westerns including STAGECOACH with John Wayne.



The nail above the arrow is the point of 3,333.33' above sea level.



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!'

They had a very good Route 66 Museum here. I got in free because I showed up yesterday only 30 minutes before closing time, and the door was already closed. While I was watching a video nearby the patron came up and gave me a free pass for today.



These two life-size dioramas were exceptionally detailed. Unfortunately, the railings and the short backdrops made a great picture, so-so. They also had two excellent documentaries showing.







Across the street was this retired 4-8-4 steam locomotive. It took awhile to get the pics since a load of far-east tourists had just been dropped off. You would think they never saw a train before.



This looks like a very practical use of a train truck, or at least half a truck. A truck for trains is the double set of wheels under freight and passenger cars.



I made my way down Route 66, taking the walking tour of downtown Kingman. There were a few interesting shots along the way.

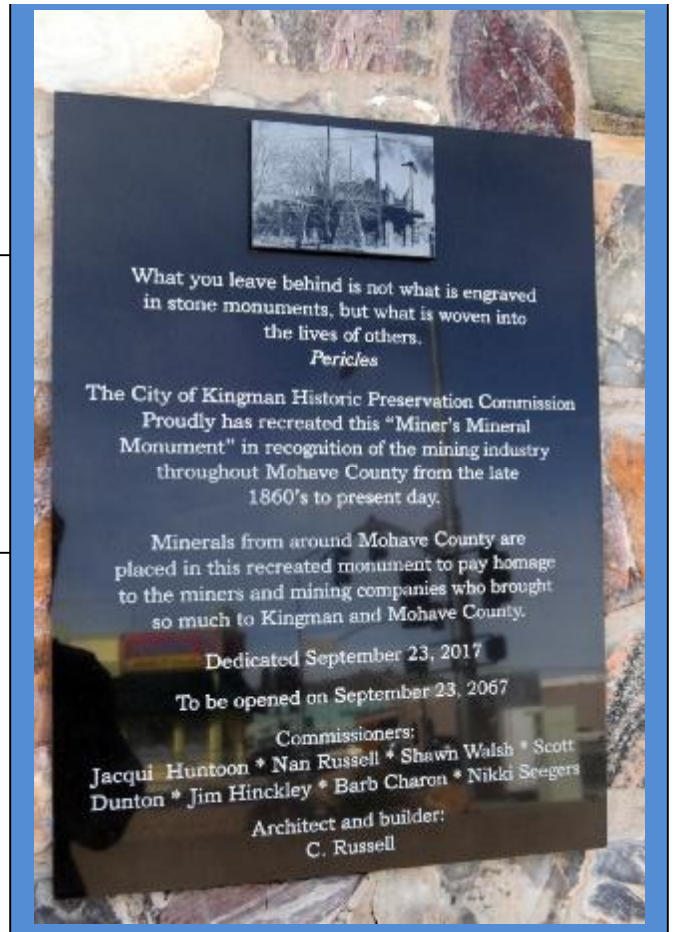


I remember seeing OK Used Car Dealerships around Milwaukee when I was a kid.

Only 4 of the 10 auto makes listed are still in production.



This time capsule was outside the Train Museum. Yup, I said Train Museum.



They have HO scale, O scale and N scale layouts within, along with lots of other memorabilia.



These shots are from the HO layout, my favorite. Hard to tell in a photograph, but the train is entering the tunnel.



"She'll be comin' round the mountain when she comes. ToOT ToOT"

The volunteer is originally from Cleveland. We spent a good time talking trains, model and real, like the Durango/Silverton I helped rob in 2017.





My walking tour of downtown Kingman, AZ. A real hoppin' place on a Sunday afternoon in January.

I did feel the Courthouse below was worth a photo.



Needless to say I cut my walk short and headed back to Route 66 for lunch. The best building representing the original look of Route 66 was Mr. D's. It was pretty crowded considering how empty the streets were. I had French Toast and Sausage. 6 slices of French Toast. I had to leave 2 of them on my plate.



Better look out, the old man is taking distillery tours and sampling the product.

The distilling room.





The aging room. I then had a taste of white rum, vodka, 3 ½ year old dark rum, 5 year old dark rum and a sweet, agave, dark rum. Since I am not a sipper of alcohol (I leave that to Kevin and Jack), I was not impressed with the taste of straight spirits. But it was a fun time. (He says as he staggers back to his 11,000 pound RV)



White Cliffs Wagon Trail is part of an old wagon route used in the late 1800s to bring ore from the Stockton Hill Mines to the railroad. The wagon tracks have been cut deep into the stone and there are depressions along both sides of the roadbed, which were used for stubbing posts and ropes to help get the heavy wagons up and down the grade.

As seen from above

As seen from below



As I neared the trailhead I could hear voices from the rocks above me. I finally turned to take a look. The alcove the teens were sitting in acted like the half dome of an amphitheater. I could hear them clearly when one said "we should get him to take our picture", but I had to yell up to them and say, "I can do that" to be heard. So I did.



I was going to make a first use of my Boondockers Welcome! membership, I even contacted them for tonight. But then I decided that since I had seen everything I wanted to see in Kingman, I would push on to Laughlin, NV. I did get a response later that I was welcome to spend the night, But I had to decline.



decided to camp out at the Riverside Casino in Laughlin. There must be almost 100 RV's here in the lot. In the same vein as our Las Vegas Casino tour, I have 10 casinos here to get a look at. It does not seem like any have a "theme" like Paris or The Venetian, but you never know. First on the list is, of course, The Riverside and Don Laughlin's antique car collection.



This one is for you Max



Ok, I know I don't read newspapers much, but how could I have never heard of this guy or his feat?

The Emilio Scotto story was published in hundreds of newspapers and magazines around the world, such as Los Angeles Times, Daily News, La Opinion, Geomundo, L'Equipe, Hombre, Motociclismo, Miami Herald, Motorrad, Variety... Here's, some journalist comments:

The greatest journey of all time. Never content with seeing the facts, Emilio Scotto involves himself in each dilemma as it develops: borders, politics, racism, war and even food and sex. Born as a Christian he had talked with the Pope, became a Jew in the land of Moses, a Muslim in Mecca and a Buddhist in far Asia. A journey of adventures few of us could even imagine, far less survive. Adventures from which there can be no return and the exaltation of the noblest sentiments in the face of a situation where everything and everybody is trying to break your spirit and make you give up.

If you believe in reincarnation or past lives, then Emilio Scotto is Christopher Columbus, or Marco Polo, or Livingstone. His adventure was as frightening and as dangerous as any accomplished by those men of legend.

EVERYTHING was there: Faraway countries, unknown cities, strange customs, dangerous animals, espionage, impenetrable jungles, infested swamps, hideous deserts, dangerous mountain paths, the vastness of the open sea and the smallness of a man, and in the tradition of the great explorers, Emilio Scotto has tested it all!

This is an astonishing demonstration of what really is to travel and discover. The determination to face everything in life without evasion, and to accept everything without reservation.

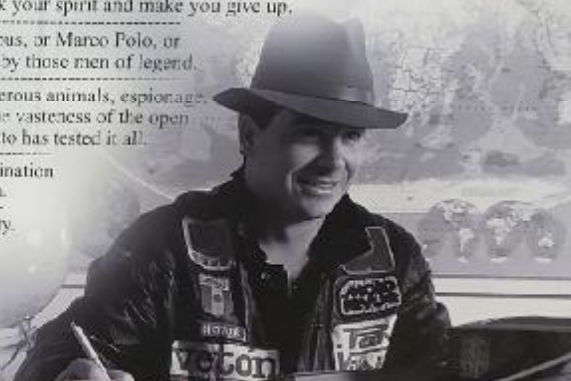
A tribute in gold to man's spirit, to his will to discover, learn, survive, and attain dignity.

Emilio Scotto is the impossible combination of Forest Gump and Indiana Jones, and about all a candid, ruthlessly honest storyteller, and a genius photographer.

A triumph of a human kind over his limits. A journey amazingly true and real.

Emilio survives where others die, because he had a sense of mind on rage.

A magnificent vagabond who would live his way, or not at all.





This one is for you, Morgan

I passed through Aquarius, Regency and Edgewater, all just casinos and hotels.

The Colorado Belle below however was.....



...other than the exterior construction, the same as the others. Bedtime.

I have a few more things to check out here in Laughlin and Bullhead City just across the Colorado River. Almost forgot, I took the Riverwalk along the Colorado to get to most of the hotels. It was very nice, and well lit.

Until tomorrow....