



In Search of Eldorado

Day 42

Friday

February 15th

Phoenix

Weather
70's and Sunny



Hello to Family & Friends

The Big Day !!

My Allstays app directed me to a U-Haul dealer that had an RV dump for only \$5. I pulled in and asked where it was, received directions, and when I asked him where to pay he told me to forget about it. Excellent. Some places, like RV camps and Truck stops charge up to \$20.

On to the Laundromat, just down the road. While the dryer was twirling I cleaned the RV and ate lunch. Across the street was a very large grocery store where I picked up a few items, then headed downtown to scope out a parking place for the evening.

Downtown Phoenix is pretty empty when compared to Milwaukee. Often I was the only vehicle on the street. I became frustrated for an RV parking space when the answer passed right in front of me – a metro train. Why not just find a park & ride and take the train in?

That's what I did. About 5 miles east I found what I needed, cleaned up, and grabbed the train. It was only \$4 for an all day pass, which I could have saved because concert ticket holders ride free. Of course I only found that out after boarding the train and reading the sign. Oh well.

It was only 4:00 so I had time to kill and decided to walk around downtown Phoenix. It was very nice. Most museums or other sites were already closed, so my first stop was St. Mary's Basilica.

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.

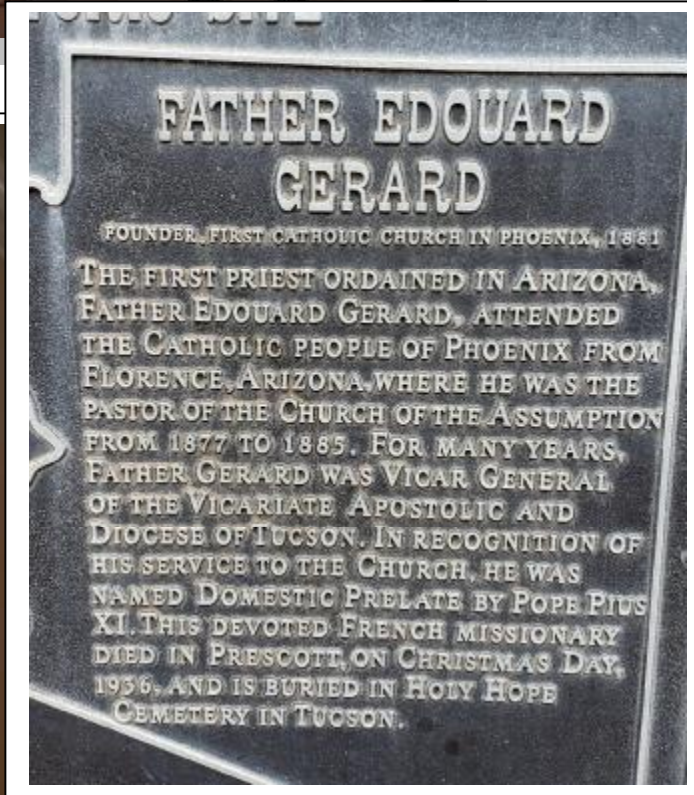
But he grew old—
This knight so bold—
And o'er his heart a shadow—
Fell as he found
No spot of ground
That looked like Eldorado.

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!'

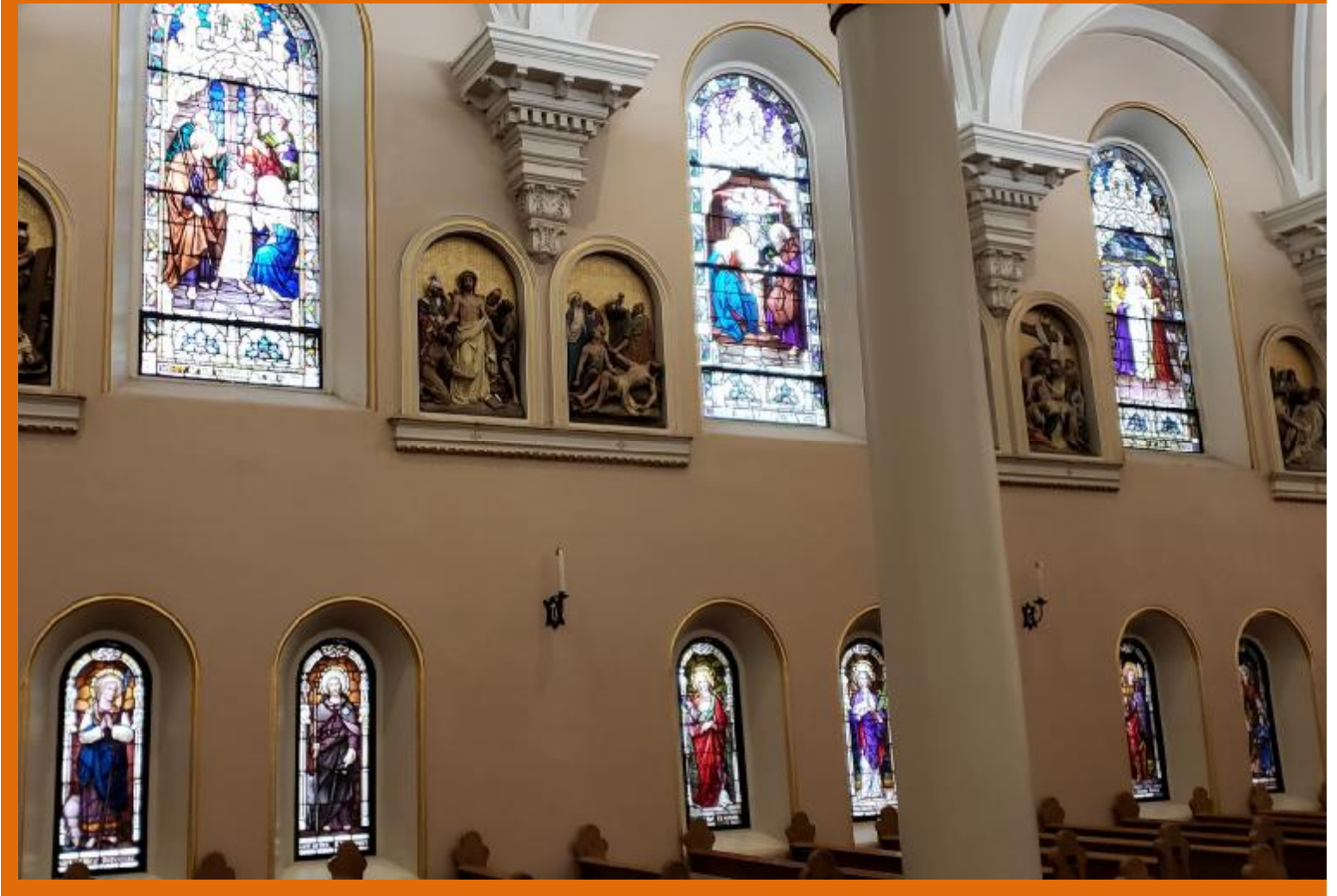


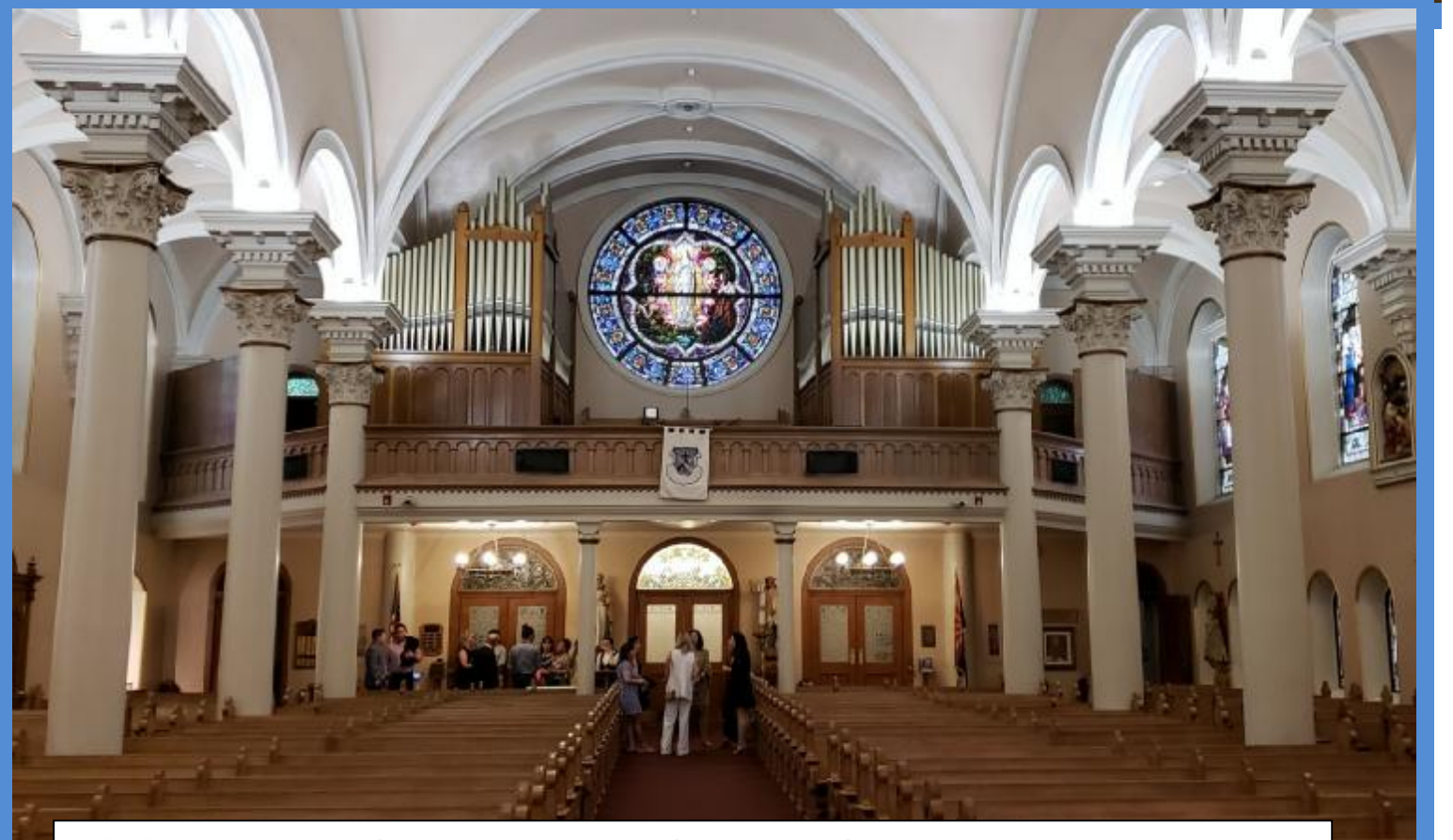
The door was open so I took a gander inside.



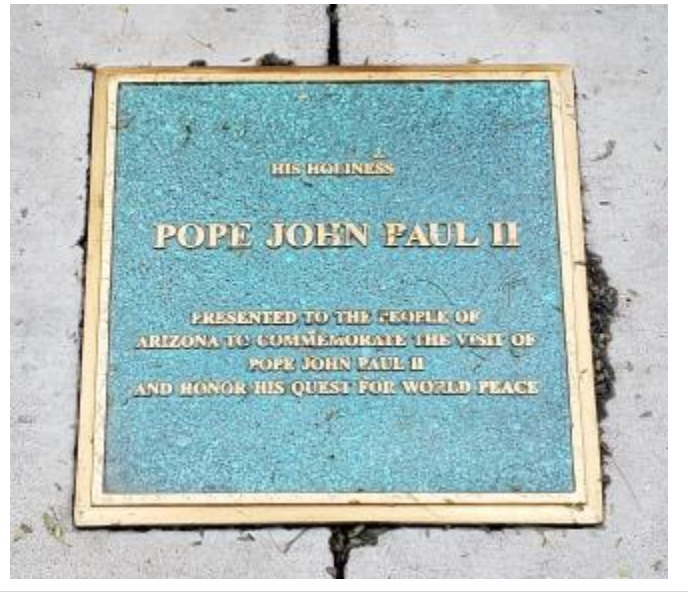
There were a lot of beautiful stained glass windows throughout



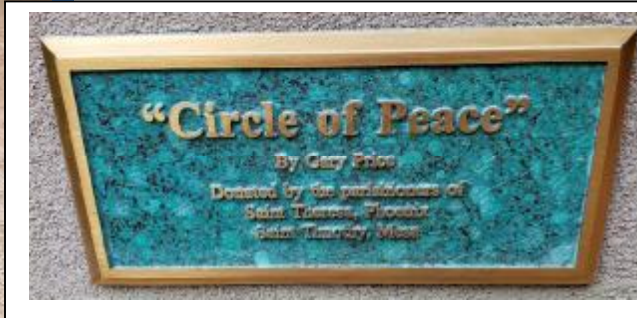




I think a couple had just gotten married. It seemed like a fairly private ceremony, unless it was just a rehearsal. But the bride wore white and carried a bouquet, so it was either a full dress rehearsal or the real thing.



I took a walk across the Basilica Plaza and found Pope John Paul II and a bunch of kids running in a circle.





This was another neat plaza with lots of restaurants and a theater complex

I startled a frog from his lily pad as I sauntered through the park



I have always wanted to try dinner at a Tilted Kilt Restaurant, and this was my chance. It was kitty-corner from the arena.

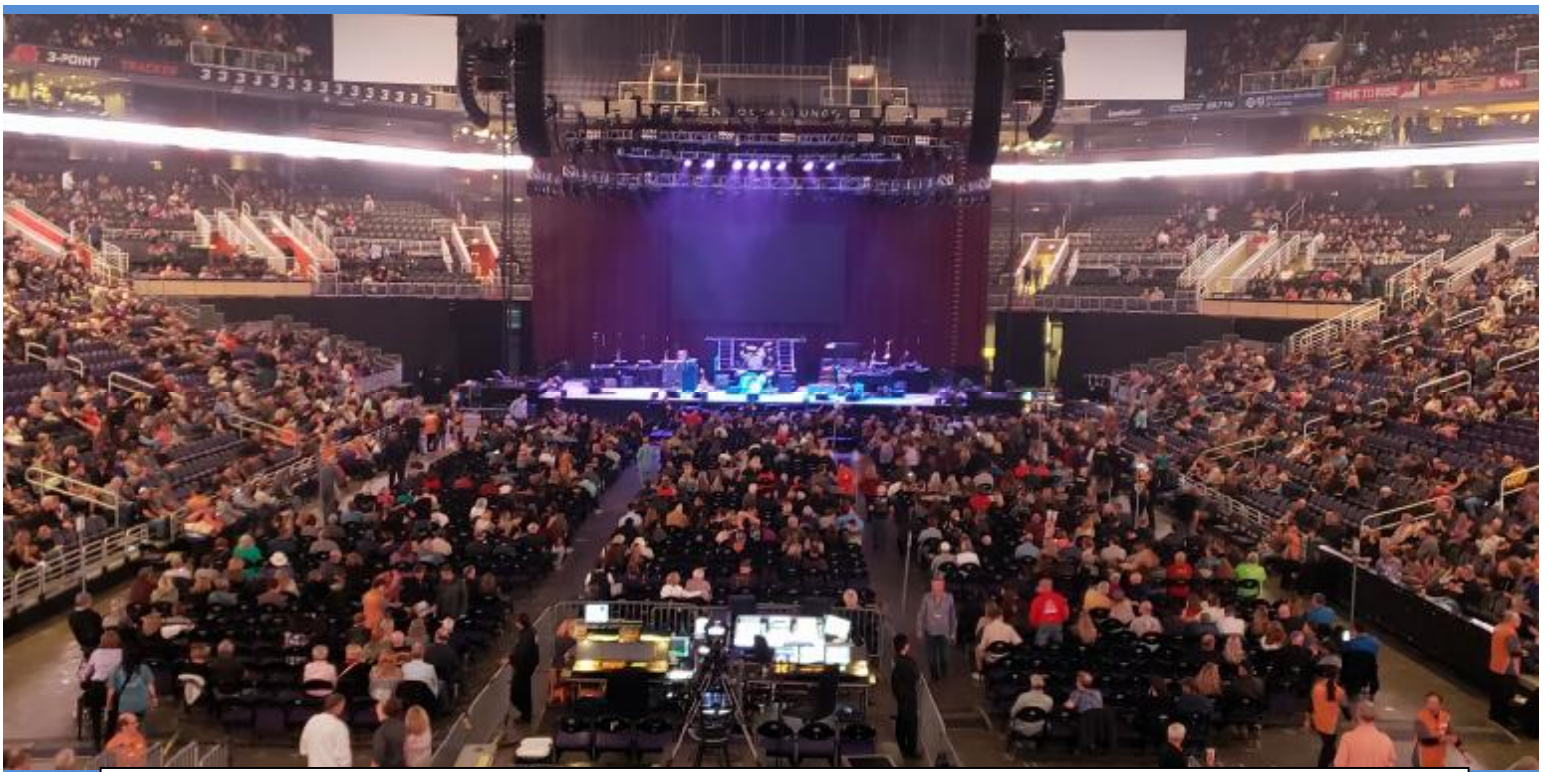
The Tilted Kilt is sure a heck of a lot better than Hooters, and the food is better also.

I enjoyed the sign below





Site of the Bob Seger concert

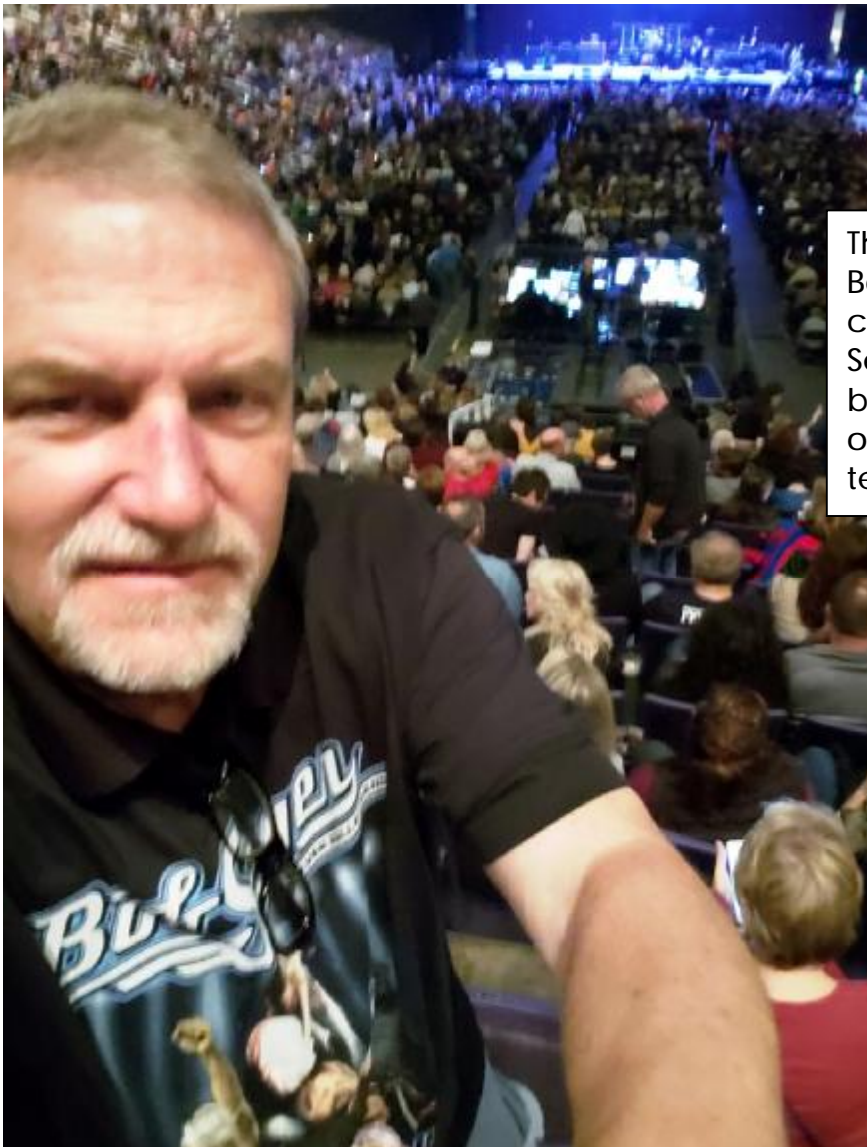


This is the view from my seat. Section 108, row 19, seat 10. A great seat. I don't have to worry about standing for the entire concert because one person down in front does not want to sit down. I think seat 11 next to me was dead center.



This is the warm-up band, The Record Company. I couldn't really hear the lyrics but the music was pretty good. This band is significant since the lead singer, Chris Vos, was born on a dairy farm near Burlington, WI. A very talented guy with a lot of energy. They have been nominated for a grammy.



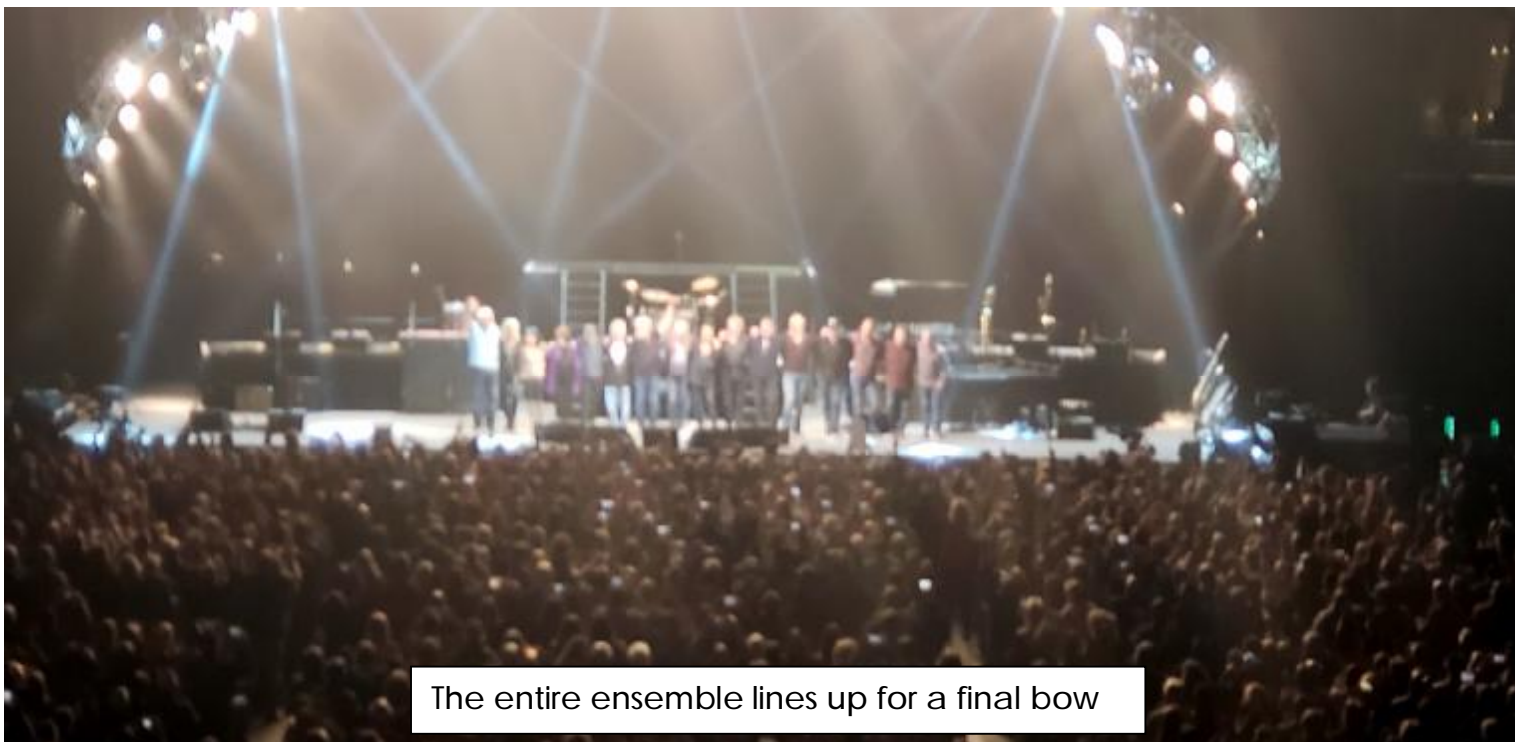


The stage is set, and here I am in my new Bob Seger T-shirt with the stage in back. Of course I was wearing my Memphis Bob Seger shirt when I fell into the desert thorns back in Palm Canyon, so I needed a new one anyways. (if you look closely, you can tell I trimmed my beard today also)

I did not waste a lot of film on pictures since the stage was a good distance away, only my favorites.



Down on Main Street





The end of the last song,
Rock & Roll Never Forgets,
after two encores

It was a fantastic, unforgettable evening.

Even though Seger is 73 he still sounds great. So many artists lose their voice with age. Seger does a little, but not much.

Afterwards I took the train to the park & ride and drove the RV back to the casino for the night.

I will admit, this was a very emotional evening for me. I relate to Bob Seger music and lyrics. They stir memories in me I will never forget. Just like this evening, I will never forget this experience, one of the best of my life and a fantastic Christmas present.

Thanks Ladies

Until next time.....