



In Search of Eldorado



Day 34
Thursday

February 7th

In and around
Tucson, Arizona

Weather
50's and sunny

Hello to Family & Friends

First stop? Need you ask...the visitor center. After sleeping a little later than usual I ate breakfast and then spent several hours creating yesterday's newsletter. As I was nearing the end there was



a knock on my door. A gentleman named Jim Doss introduced himself, and told me that he was retired from Greenfield, WI, and that he also has a Navion RV, albeit a 2013 issue. We talked a little and he told me about a yahoo site for Navion owners, a facebook group for Navion owners, a rally in Quartzite (the one I just thankfully missed out on) that had over 900 Navion owners and a rally in Grand Marais, MN every summer (north of Lake Superior). He gave me his card and advised me to keep in touch and to visit the sites mentioned for any problem solving that I may need answers for. Nice guy, his wife Toni stayed in the car. He also mentioned that he loses only about 2 miles per gallon towing a car behind him.

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!'

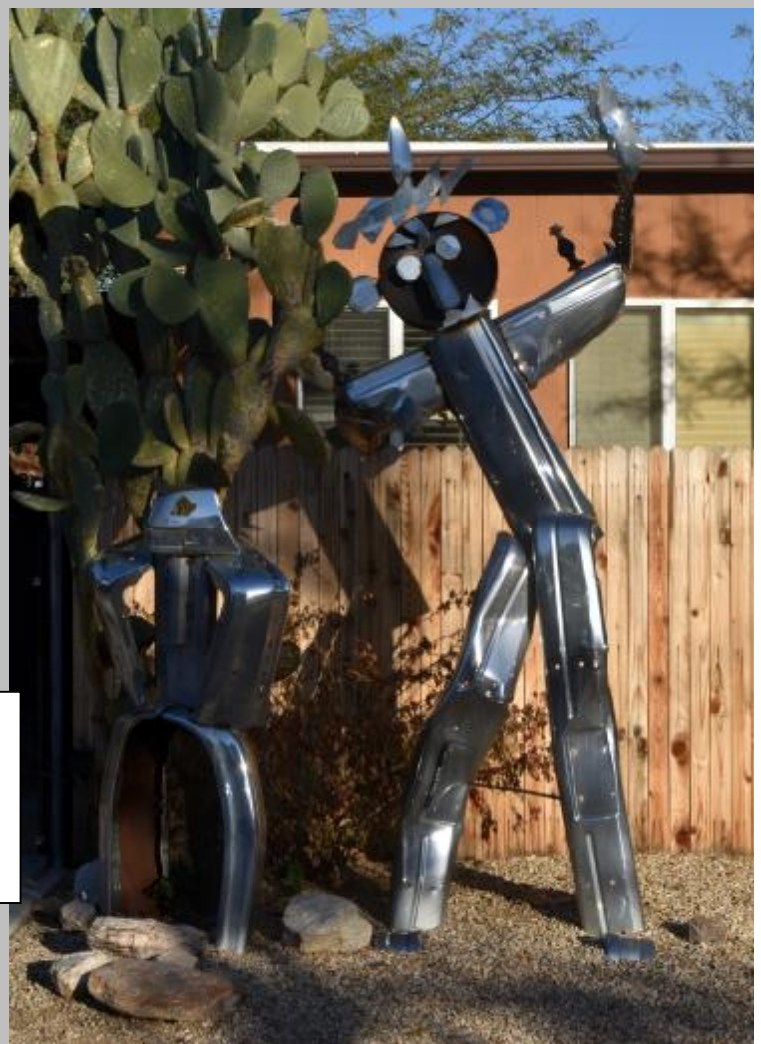
The Neon Cactus above lets you know I am in Tucson. Even though it was the last picture of the day that I took, I had to include it as an intro piece. Gotta like those neon sign photos.

As mentioned, find the visitor center. I had the camera on a new setting when I took the top photo while driving by. I will not be using that setting again. After gathering up several brochures I sat in the RV for an hour or so marking all the sites I wanted to visit on the map so that I could plan which ones to drive to, which ones to bike to, and which ones to walk to.

Since it was now nearing 4 p.m. I decided to drive to some of the outlying Roadside America sights, so many of the descriptions are from that site, just jumbled around a little and put into my own words.



It's another muffler man!! This one is at Don's Hot Rod Shop. According to S Winston "This muffler man has been here since 1964, when he was erected by Leo Toia, whose family still runs the Hot Rod Shop. At times he's been dressed as Santa, and once as a member of ZZ Top." That would be interesting to see.



The Junk Sculpture Garden "Discarded metal was the medium for artist Jerry Hall, filling his yard with scrappy characters.



Hall passed away in 2010, and only a few sculptures still remain."



"The traffic circles along the street still have butterflies, but they are deteriorating. Neighbors purchased some of the pieces at an auction in 2012 and you may see them scattered here and there throughout neighborhood."

Can you separate the metal can cactus from the real one?



This is the driveway

The 35 foot tall Chianti bottle arrived at the site in 1974 as part of the design for an Italian Restaurant known as Peasant Villa. Concrete artist Michael Kautza was commissioned by William and Georgann Muniz to create the bottle for \$3500. The bottle is hollow and there is a door, but the storage area is no longer used.



HOLY FIBERGLAS BATMAN, IT'S ANOTHER MUFFLER MAN!! Sorry. That may have been prompted by the fact that twice today I have seen a representation of the Bat Signal. Once on a spare tire cover, and once on a license plate.

Originally, Big Ed, held a pickaxe as Stamper Miner in Rapid City, SD. Big Ed moved to Tucson just before Christmas 2015 and was completely refurbished. The picture below was on the web.



Best I could do for scenery today. I just happened to turn north and catch a view of the setting sun on the mountains on my way to the Neon Cactus.



Worth another look, don't you think?



After the Neon cactus I needed a haircut. Sorry Jane, but I was starting to look like Einstein again. Then I found a parking spot at the TTT Truck stop. It's a lot noisier than it sounded when I first pulled in, maybe the RV diesel had something to do with that. But it has quieted some while I worked on this newsletter.

There is a lot to see here in Tucson, more than I anticipated, so I will be here for a few days. I will try to include some of the more unusual sights along with the usual so as to keep your interest.

I will be checking out a graveyard tomorrow, looking in the mirror and possibly flying around. Stay tuned.

Until next time.....