



In Search of Eldorado

Link to the Eldorado Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VczD1olutQ8>



Day 70

Thursday
March 12th

National
Monument

Weather
50's to 60's and rainy

Hello to Family & Friends

It was quiet and peaceful at the golf course throughout the night. I went in and thanked them before I left.

Now just a short ride to the Tuzigoot National Monument.

Tuzigoot had parking for RV's so I didn't have to wait until after 2:00 today.

It rained most of the night again and caused some fitful sleeping on my part.

The ranger at the desk asked for my Pass and then he recognized me from yesterday at Montezuma Castle.

With more rain on the way I decided to take the loop trail first and then go through the inside displays.

More rain drops on the plaques as you can see below.

Along this $\frac{1}{3}$ -mile (0.5 km) loop trail, you will find the remains of a 110-room pueblo, its oldest rooms built over 900 years ago. Many have wondered what it was like to dwell here. What happened in these rooms? Who lived here? Why did they leave, and how do we know?

In Search of Eldorado

By Edgar Allan 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.

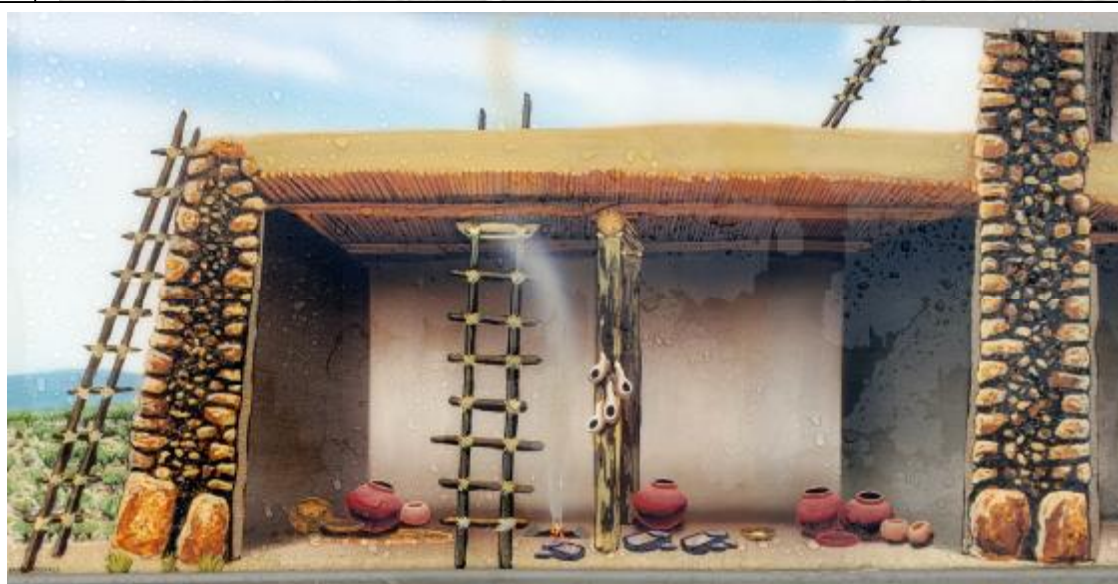
And, as his strength
Failed him at length,
He met a pilgrim shadow—
'Shadow,' said he,
'Where can it be—
This land of Eldorado?'

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

The Verde Valley proved an exceptional, bountiful place to live. By around 1300, at least 40 villages with dwellings and farmlands formed a complex settlement network.

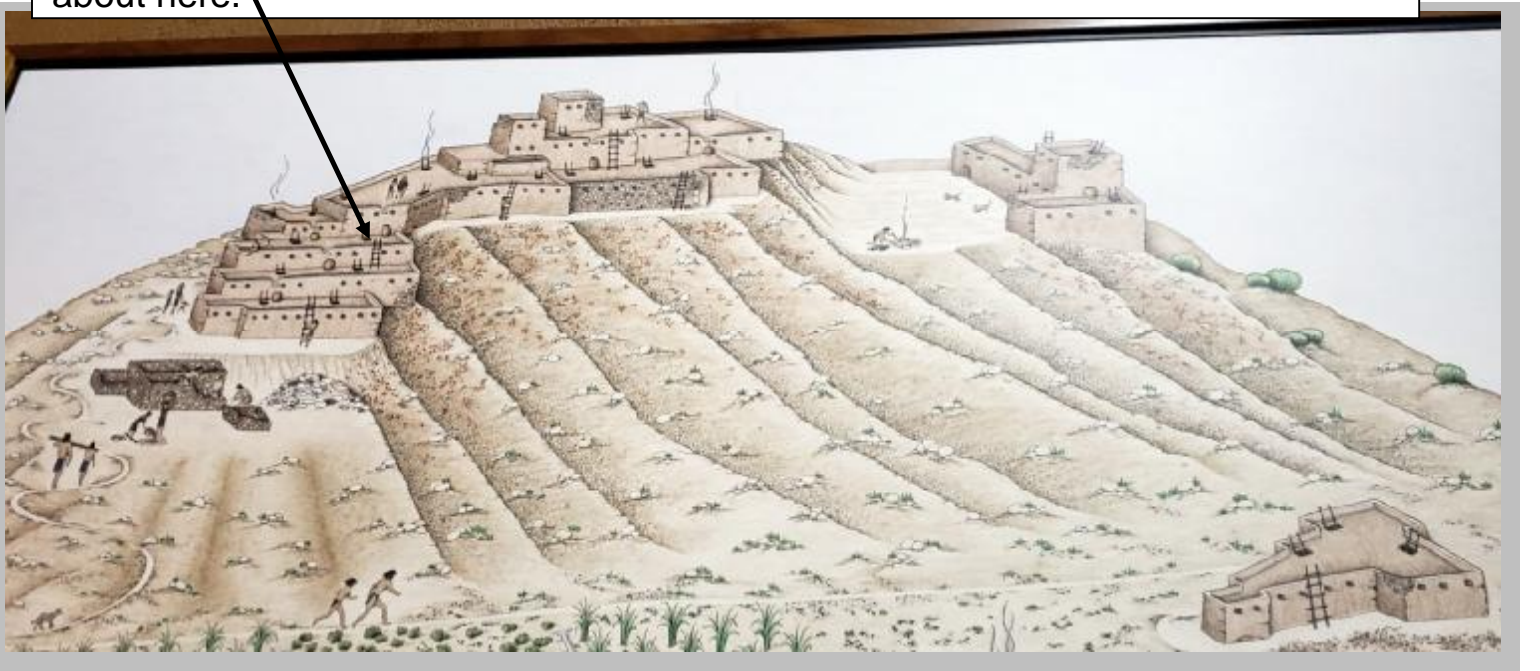
Some settlements were large pueblos like Tuzigoot. Others were cliff dwellings, such as Montezuma Castle. The community at Montezuma Well had both kinds of structures, as well as pit houses—semi-subterranean homes from an earlier age.

In this room, excavators discovered a partial wall underneath the floor—people had built a new room on top of an older one. Look for the remnant near the front wall. Note also the use of large boulders for the foundation of walls and the large load-bearing wall at the back, which likely supported another story.





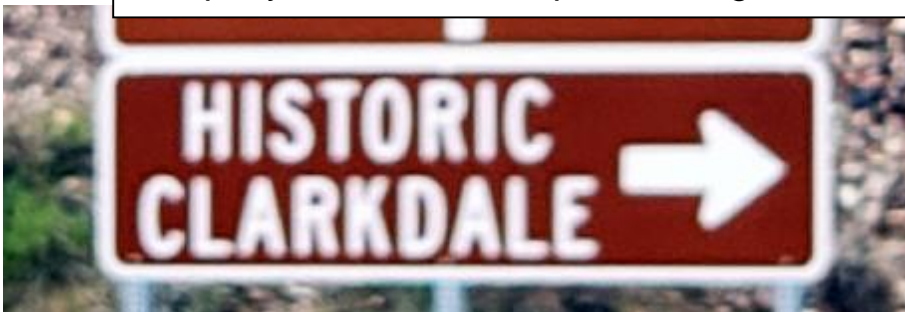
I was hoping to get a better shot of the entire village, but the path is always lower, so the sketch below will have to do. The picture above would have been from about here.



There were stairs up near the top which would normally go through the uppermost citadel, but a recent cave-in caused it to be closed for repairs. I took the shots below from the top of the stairs. Very nice view from up here.



Tuzigoot is just on the outskirts of Clarkdale. Clarkdale was an exceptionally large producer of copper. The entire field below is tailings from the copper mines. When the orange dust storms became too much to handle, the ore company covered them up and revegetated them.



Senator Clark discovered and mined the copper here and in Jerome. Because of the mines he was one of the richest men in America. After he died, his three sons also died within another ten years or so. This left the entire company to the female heirs who sold it in the 30's for \$20.8 million, about \$378 million in today's dollars. At the peak the mine made a profit of \$100,000.00 per day.



There isn't a whole lot of 'historic' to see in 'Historic Clarkdale'. An old Catholic church, a train museum with a \$110 four hour train ride, and the high school above, which is now the Copper Art Museum, but I didn't feel like walking in the rain. Clarkdale was built entirely as a company town by Mr. Clark. When the population breached 2000 they built the high school. After the population dropped to 500 in the early 60's the students were sent to Jerome.

How would you like to have that kitchen to the left?



The museum was very nicely laid out, each room had similar items/artwork, a lot of artwork and even more artwork. I was impressed by the nugget below and the kitchen above.



From Clarkdale I followed the curves of Historic 89A to Jerome, another mining town. After their population dropped from 5000+ to just 50, the remaining citizens remade it into an artist's haven. There are narrow, hilly streets, buildings at street level on one side and stilts on the other as they hang above the valley, a lot of shops, a lot of art studios and a lot of restaurants. It has become quite a tourist attraction.

It took me two loops to find a parking space with the RV (no problem Todd) and then I took to the streets. Just like everywhere else I didn't buy anything, but I sometimes enjoy window shopping. One store had a bunch of John Wayne books. I had lunch at the Flatiron, very filling, so filling in fact (don't faint now) I bypassed the ice cream shop. I can hear the gasps from here.

The sun had just started to come out so I set my wheels back towards Phoenix and hit the road (through Cottonwood Todd).



Speaking of Cottonwood, there are seven roundabouts, or traffic circles as Goggle refers to them, along that ten mile stretch from Cottonwood to I-17, with a 55 mph speed limit in-between each one. Crazy. Like trying to drive through Oshkosh.

I hit heavy rain on the freeway, off and on and it's rained a couple times here tonight already.

Here is, I think, right between Mesa and Tempe, the southeast side of Phoenix.

Since Taliesin West is open until 6:30 p.m. I decided I had time to make it there and visit before closing time. It was still open, I didn't screw that up, but they had already stopped giving tours, and you can't see it without a tour guide.

I didn't reserve a spot, I'll do that tomorrow morning, but I sat in the parking lot for quite awhile planning and scheming my next moves. Tonto National Monument and find a campsite on the way? Visit that horseback riding buddy and park in his driveway? Do the old industrial park routine for the night?

Since my low fuel light had recently lit up and I read a review where the Bass Pro Shop allowed overnights, I headed their direction. The WalMarts and such in the area don't allow overnights and Sam's Club's in the opposite direction. Kinda feel like I'm back in So Cal.

Bad – Bass Pro Shop doesn't own the parking lot and couldn't give me permission (I saw about 6-8 RV's in the lot next to them). Good – I found diesel for only \$2.29, forty cents less than everyone else. Did I really just say that? I wonder what's wrong with it.

Along the way we found out spring training games have been suspended and the NCAA tournament canceled. As Bob told me, the media says the best way to avoid the virus is to keep away from people. What better way to do that than to play golf.

Until next time.....