



In Search of Eldorado

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



Hello to Family & Friends

I decided to drive back over to Bass Pro Shop and check if the RV's I saw earlier were still there before I moved to the industrial park.

When I pulled into the parking lot I made it about an even dozen, this seems to be the place. And it was, no problems.

I almost missed my 11:30 tour at Taliesin. Not by my own fault but theirs. She couldn't get my credit card info right over the phone, told me I was on the list and that someone would call me back. No one ever called and at the tour desk they didn't have my name down. Luckily for me being only one, she put me on the tour I requested.



The outside of Frank Lloyd Wright's office

Day 71

Friday
March 12th

Taliesin
to
Tonto NM

Weather
50's to 60's and mixed

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.

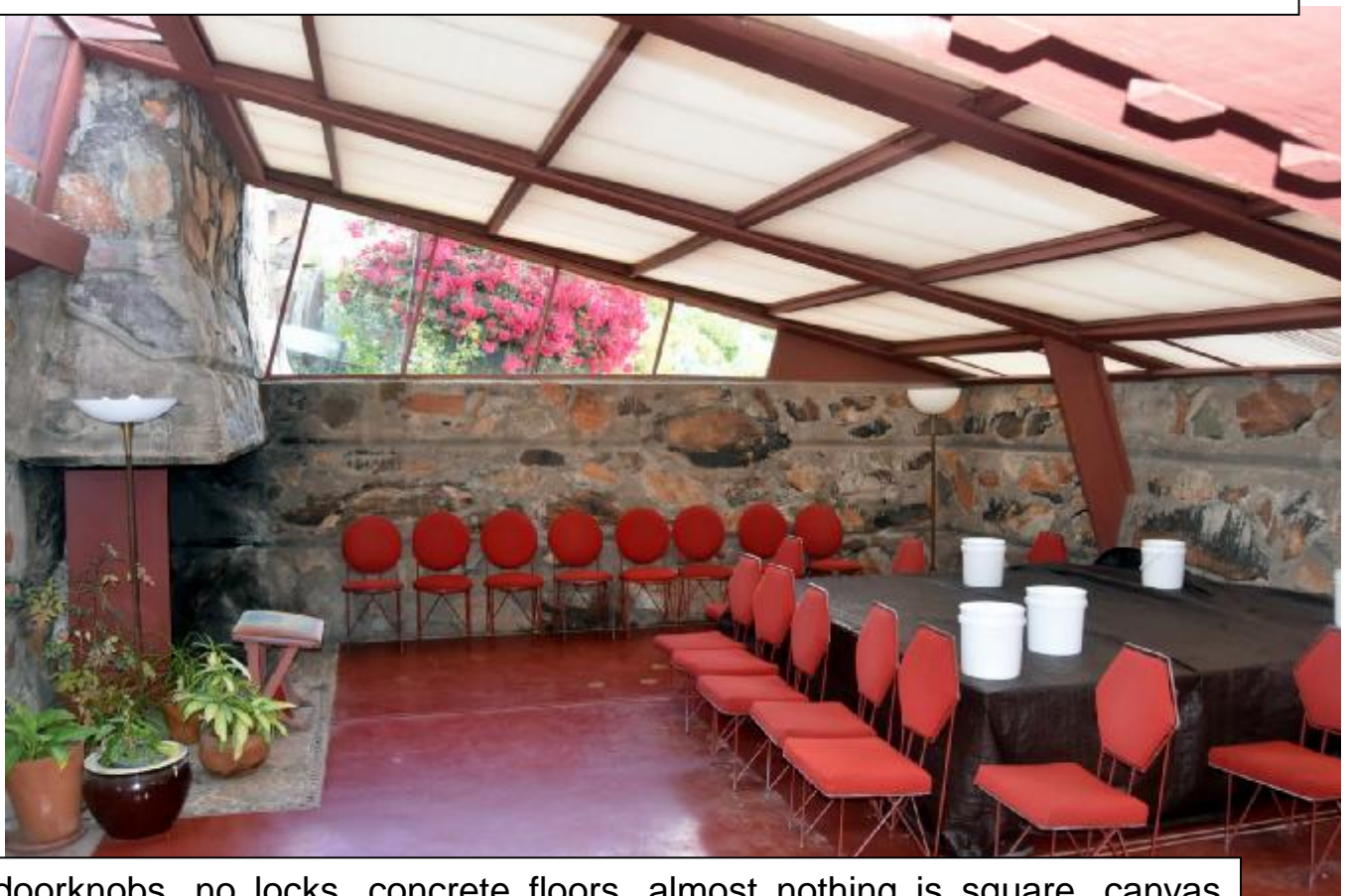
And, as his strength
Failed him at length,
He met a pilgrim shadow—
'Shadow,' said he,
'Where can it be—
This land of Eldorado?'

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



Above – The inside of the office looking towards the main door

Below – The inside of the connected conference room



No doorknobs, no locks, concrete floors, almost nothing is square, canvas panels for the ceiling and 90% of all building materials came from the site.



Above – A regular photo of the majority of the campus

Below – A panoramic. The lawn is not really that pointed.





The Living Room. Every room has a fireplace; his design for the furniture of course; canvas ceiling panels; lots of windows and natural light. There are no lights turned on in this room.



Nothing was here in 1937 when Wright arrived. He paid about \$12 an acre for 300 acres. Scottsdale had a population of 300 (250K today). He brought his family, students and support staff. They lived in tents while the buildings were constructed. The students did most of the grunt work. They only stayed from October to May each year (snowbirds). It was seven years before glass was installed. When they put the glass in below there was a large piece of pottery and they asked Wright if they could move the pot. "Don't move the pot," he said. So they put the glass around it. Just an example of bringing the outdoors in.



A courtyard behind the building above

The students drafting room. The canvas panels are great for diffused lighting, but not for keeping the rain out. Most drafting tables are covered with plastic for protection.



A small theater and stage (behind the camera) where students would put on skits and recite poetry or other things they had written in order to gain confidence for dealing with clients. The acoustics are phenomenal in here.

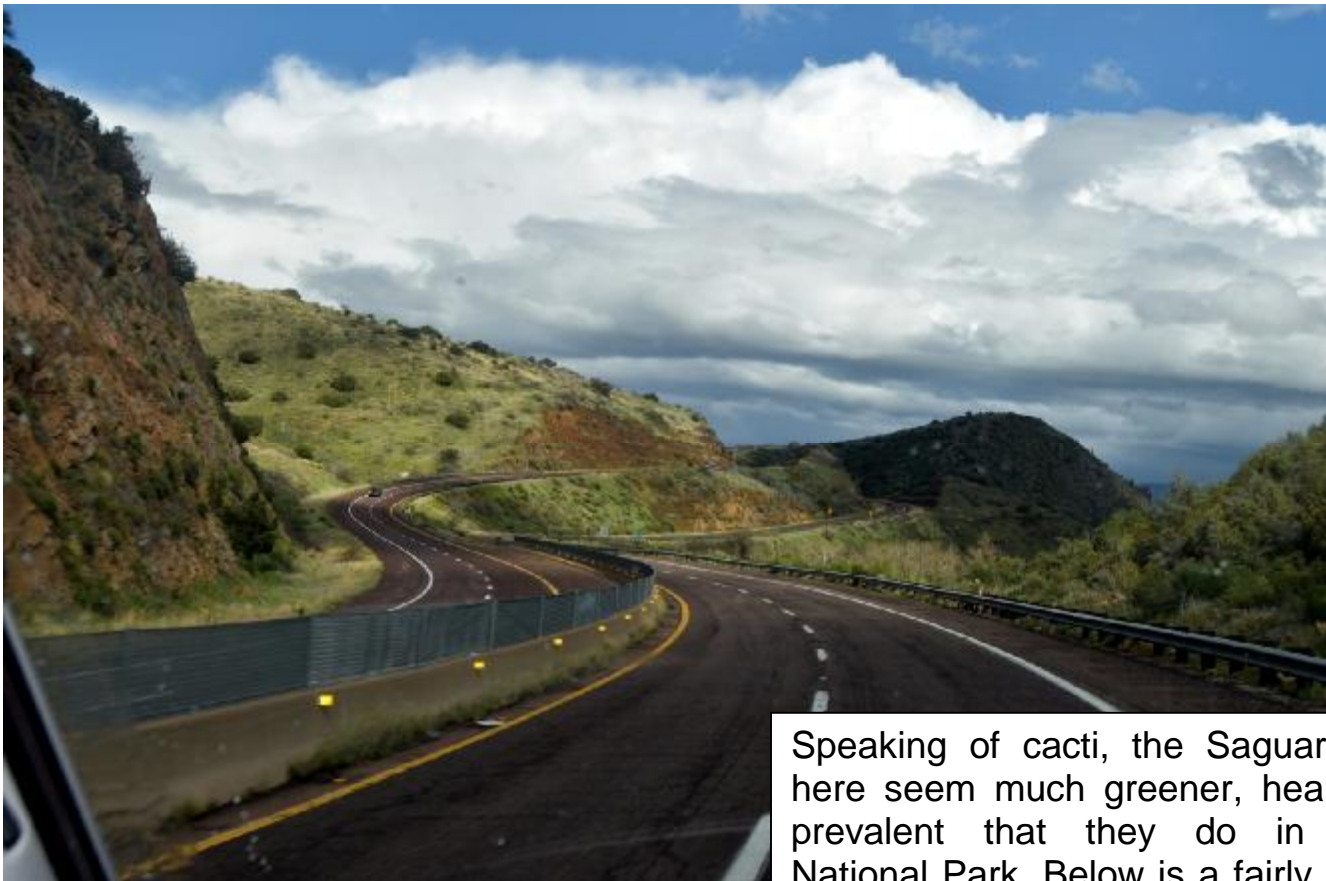
I allesin is an extremely interesting place. Just trying to get your head around how he decided to do things the way he did is a challenge. Very enjoyable.



That's right! The traffic on the right is coming towards you. This is on my way to the Tonto National Monument in the Tonto National Forest. For about six miles or so you get the feeling you're driving in England.

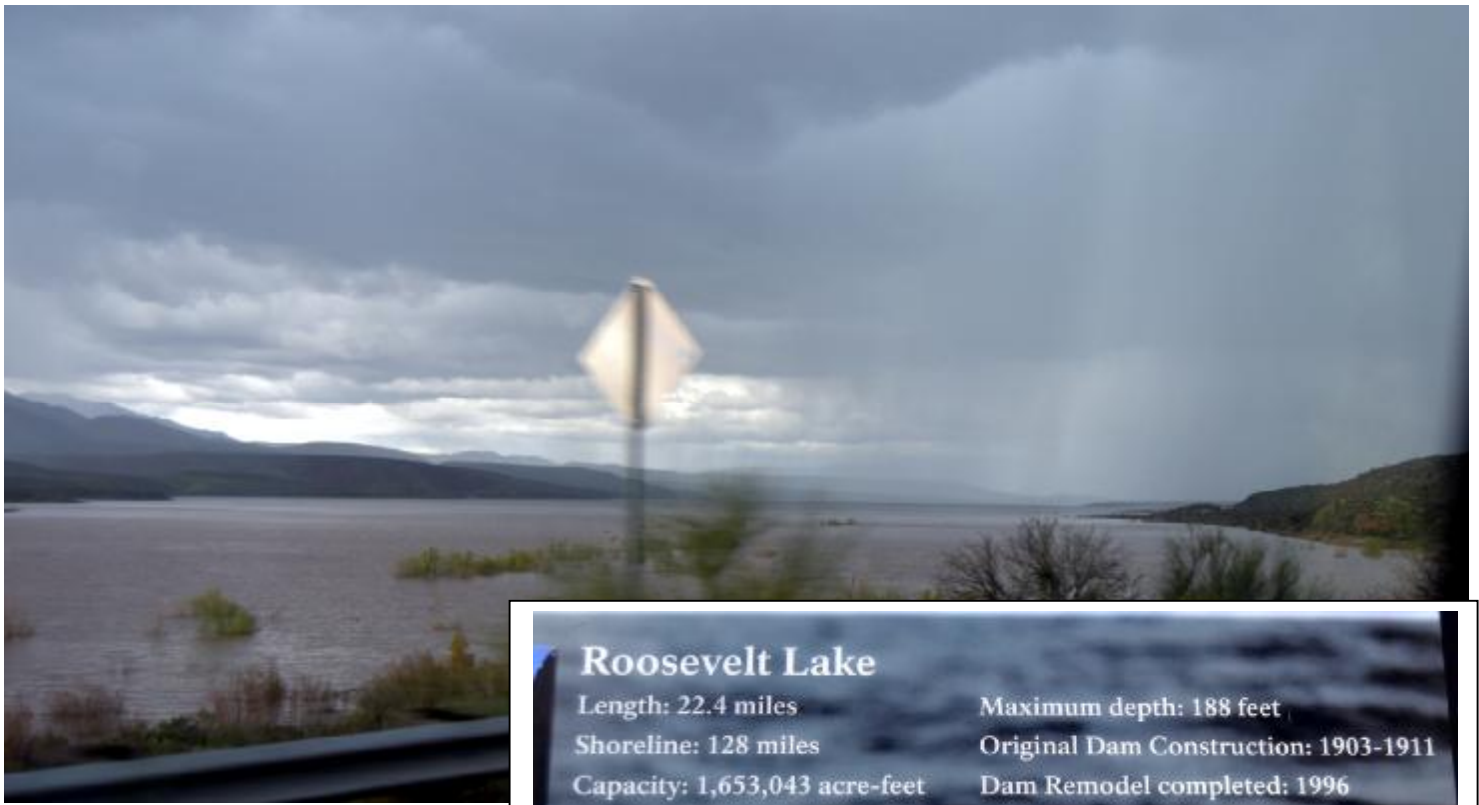


Several days of rain really brings out the colors of the mountains. Flowers start blooming, the cacti become really green, the browns much richer and deeper.



Speaking of cacti, the Saguaro around here seem much greener, healthier and prevalent that they do in Saguaro National Park. Below is a fairly deep and steep cut through the mountain.





Roosevelt Lake

Length: 22.4 miles

Maximum depth: 188 feet

Shoreline: 128 miles

Original Dam Construction: 1903-1911

Capacity: 1,653,043 acre-feet

Dam Remodel completed: 1996

As people moved west and settled in the Arizona Territory, a need for a reliable water source was evident. Theodore Roosevelt Dam was constructed at the confluence of the Salt River and Tonto Creek creating a reservoir that controls flooding and stores water for Arizona residents to this day.

By the time Theodore Roosevelt left office in 1909, he had created 55 national bird sanctuaries and wildlife refuges, 150 national forests, 18 national monuments, and 5 national parks.

In all, he protected approximately 230,000,000 acres of public land. By visiting your public lands, Theodore Roosevelt's vision continues to inspire new generations.

Thanks Teddy!!

Theodore Roosevelt



Library of Congress Photo



All of the above photos were taken at 64 mph, including this one. It's a very nice bridge for out here in the middle of nowhere. You get a shot of my windshield wiper also.



As I parked at the VC the sun came out, and so did the rainbow, a really bright one.



You can just barely see a second rainbow to the left of the first one.



Trail to Lower Ruin

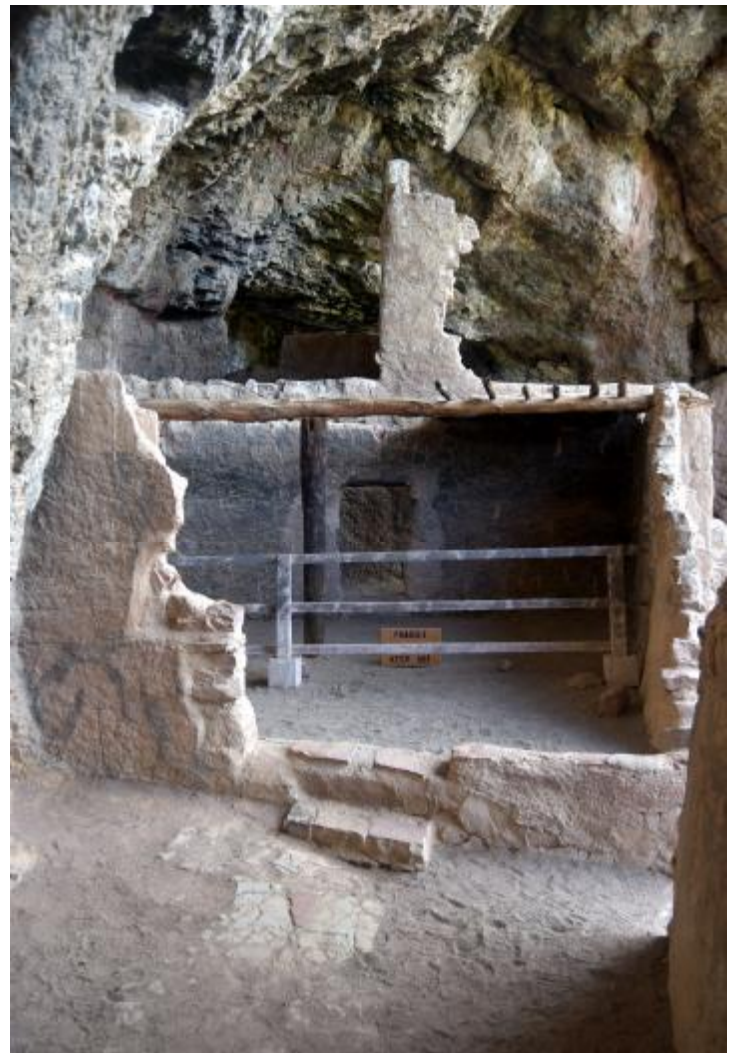
Welcome to Tonto National Monument. This half-mile trail climbs 350 vertical feet through the Sonoran Desert to reach the cliff dwelling you see above you. Brutal heat in summer, hard frosts in winter, strong shriveling winds in spring, and always erratic rainfall combine to make the desert a sometimes harsh environment. Know your own limitations and exercise caution when walking this trail.

This is the LOWER ruin, 350 foot rise in a half mile. It was steep. I can't imagine what the UPPER ruin trail must be like. It's closed right now.



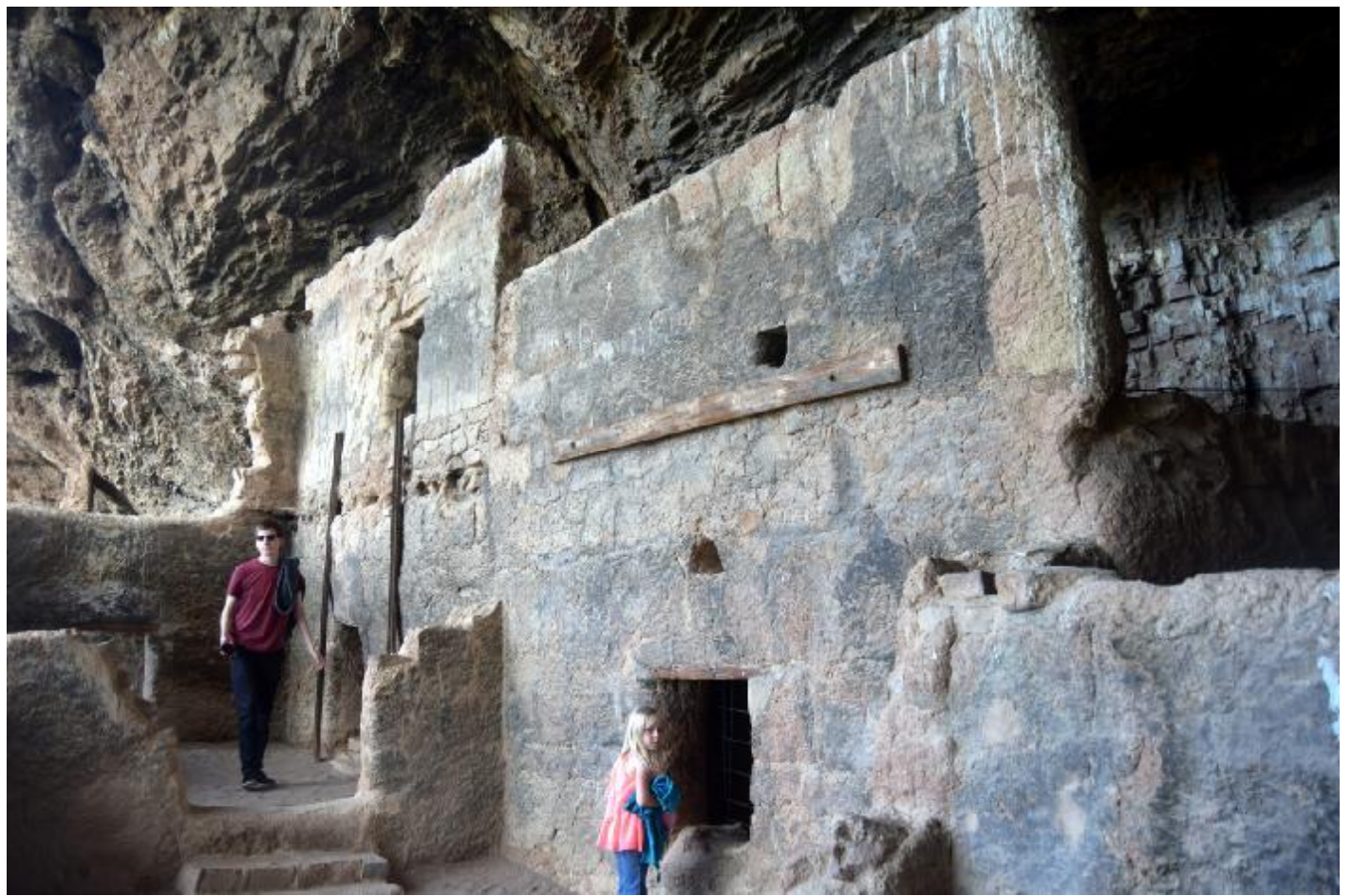
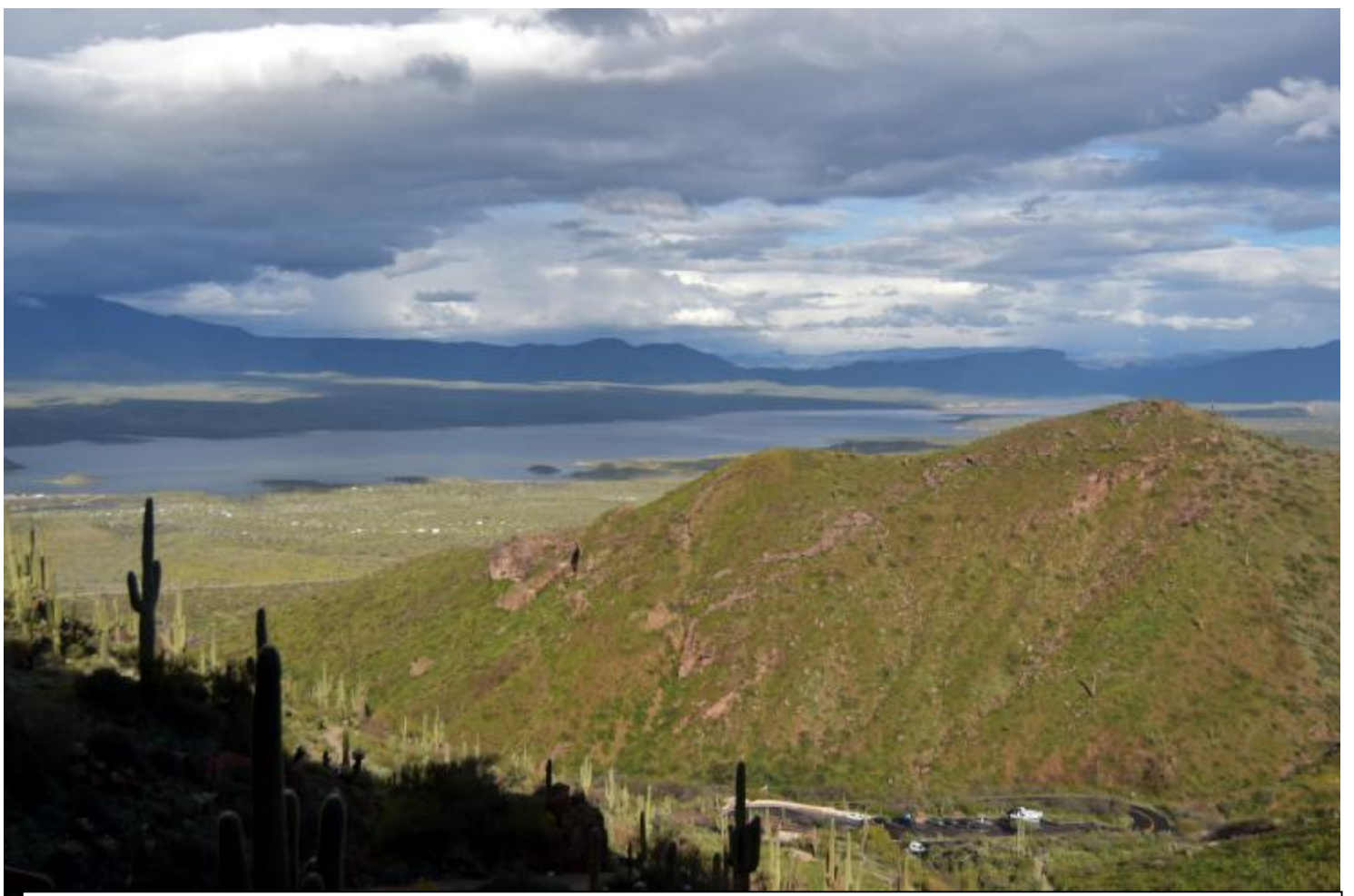


I forgot to ask, but I don't think this is original. More likely built by rangers or the CCC to allow access.

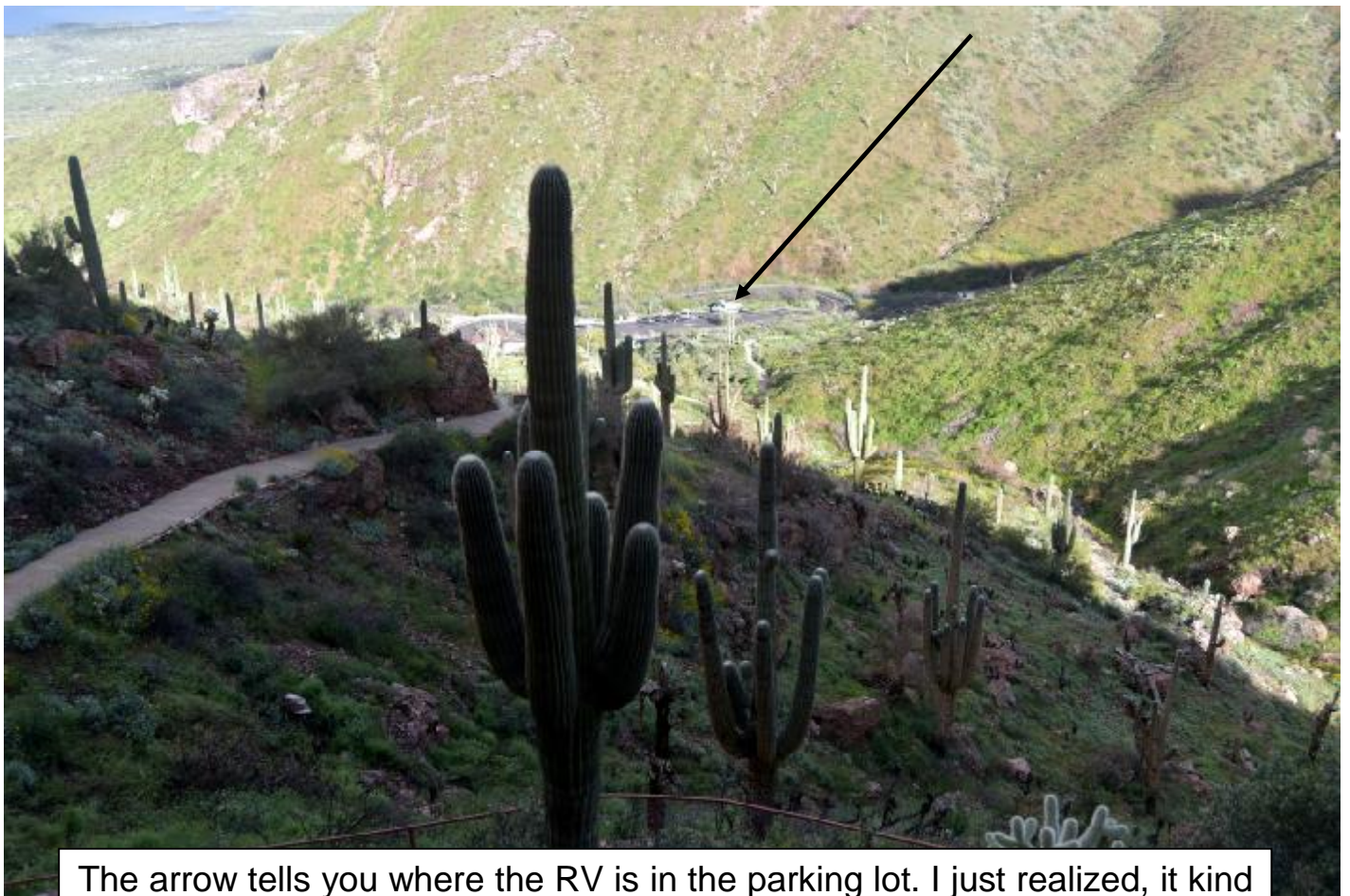


If I remember correctly there were 12 or 14 rooms visible and there would have been another 4 to 6 on top of these. Above is a family unit and left is a community room.

Below – they sure picked some homesites with beautiful views. Of course the reservoir wasn't there in the 1400's.



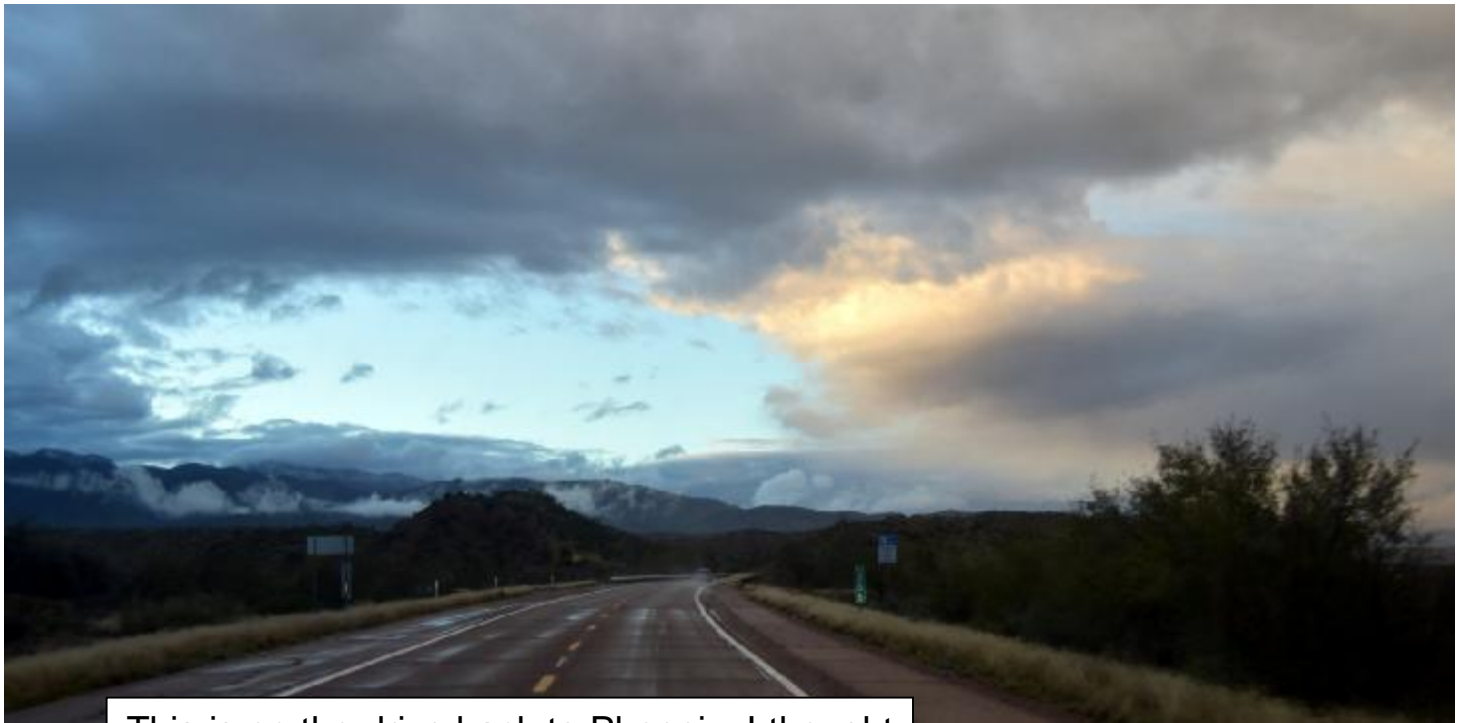
It was a pleasure to be able to walk right among the ruins and realize the size of doorways and the kind of area a family had to live in. There might have been as many as twenty families living here. You can tell below where the next level would have been.



The arrow tells you where the RV is in the parking lot. I just realized, it kind of looks like this cactus is flipping me off.



Even without the sun lighting it up, the colors are still pretty vibrant.



This is on the drive back to Phoenix. I thought I might make it to the other side of the mountains to get a good sunset photo, but the road was too long.

I parked at the Bass Pro Shop again, still several campers here.

This may be my last newsletter for this trip. No need to bore you with my golf scores over the next eight days, and after that I head to Houston for a short visit with Morgan & Matt before heading home about April 1st.

I did get in touch with my horseback riding buddy, and tomorrow morning I'll go see him compete in a fast draw competition. I've never seen one so it should be fun. If I take pictures and have time I'll send another newsletter tomorrow.

But if I don't, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support, positive feedback, your own stories of visiting some of the same sights and suggestions of things to look for if I get the chance. Its great having you all here with me every day and enjoying the trip together.

Until next time.....