

Earl's Diary - Tuesday - February 19, 2013

Dear Loyal Readers, One and All;

It's been a week from my last report. Sorry about that. I have been busy just visiting. I do have several observations to report on.

Last Monday, February 11, I left Quartzsite, headed for Yuma. You may remember from my last diary page I had arrived in Yuma.

Wednesday I took Caroline to a doctor's appointment. Following the appointment I took both of us to Appleby's for a late lunch. (Actually it turned into an early dinner.) I made an interesting discovery! ALL the diners were "old" people. I mused, how could that be? The answer: Of course, this is snowbird season! But where are all the young people? I guess they must have to w--- for a living. (Notice I didn't write the "w" word.)

Thursday, Caroline and I headed for Algodones, Mexico. Now THAT is an experience To get there, we had to travel briefly back into California. (Yuma backs right up to the California border. There's no place to expand on the west. I guess that's why it expanded to the east. Caroline's home is almost 13 miles from the Yuma city center.)

The Quechen Indian tribe has a reservation that starts at I-8 and butts right against the U.S./Mexican border. It's about 1 1/2 miles from I-8 to the border. As we travel south we pass a brand new casino/hotel complex, a trailer park, and a huge paved parking lot. All the "rich Americans" who want to walk across the border, pay \$5 to park in the lot. It's like a whole stream of humanity shuffling to the border. A person can also drive across (which we did). Caroline has a hard time walking. When we get to the Baja farmacia, a person escorts us to an available parking space right in front of the place. This part of Algodones is full of small pharmacies, and each is calling for your business. Caroline has been doing business with this one pharmacy for years and they know her personally so they take extra special care with her.

During my visit, I also picked up my year's supply of generic meds (without a prescription, I might add!). My question: Is that why those Americans swarm across the border for meds, doctor, and dental care? There is lots of other merchandise available also, with merchants calling for your attention. Fortunately, for this trip, my impulse buying filter was engaged, and all I bought was \$40 worth of meds. Sometimes, getting back across the border can be a long, painstaking process. A couple times, in years past, it took 2 or 3 hours. This time there were only about a dozen cars ahead of us so it only took 20 minutes. One caution is to remember to take your pass port. I wonder what would happen is a person either forgot theirs or didn't even have one.



The Peanut parked at Caroline's in Yuma.



Beautiful mountains surround Yuma. The dancing shadows on the mountains create many different color patterns.

Friday night we had a wind storm come up. Wow! What a night in The Peanut! It was shake, rattle and roll! Things kept going “bump” in the night. By morning time the wind had subsided and was at a tolerable level. I was then headed for Sun City. The trailer is staying behind in Yuma until my return this coming Saturday.

Saturday, February 16, 2013 - - I arrived at the home of Glenn and Carolyn ----- about 12:00. (Carolyn ----- is the sister of Patricia.) Carolyn, with her busy schedule of activities had a previous engagement to attend to. While she was busy with that, Glenn and I attended an organ concert at their church. Unfortunately the concert was not well attended. Their church has a beautiful Rogers organ and the 3 organists presented a one hour program of music from classical and popular realms.



Royal Oaks



This is their view of Sun City from the third floor balcony



Glenn and Carolyn live on the third floor



Royal Oaks is a 3 story facility

Sunday afternoon, we attended a concert by the Sun City Chamber Music Society. This is an all volunteer organization, and at times displayed its volunteer qualities. They presented a couple of truly chamber music selections but then switched to what I call "pop" concert favorites. These pop favorites are so much more listenable (in my humble opinion) than some very serious chamber selections. We did come away from the hour long concert musically satisfied.

Alas, we had GREAT misfortune Monday afternoon. All three of us dearly, and greatly enjoy our serve yourself yogurt shops. Last year we had stopped at one nearby to indulge in our favorite activity. Alas, we drove over there expectantly, and enthusiastically tasting our favorite treat. Oh no! The place was closed and had gone out of business!! Oh whoa is us! Instead, we came back to their apartment and made homemade root beer floats. That seemed to have satisfied our sweet tooth (teeth?).

Later in the afternoon, Carolyn and I went to the movies. Carolyn said she hadn't been to a theater in years. That makes us even because I haven't been to the theater in a long time either! She happened to mention wanting to see the movie *Lincoln*. That film was also on my want to see list. So - - - we went. It was a very interesting, well made film (in my humble opinion). The 2 1/2 hour length went by very fast. If any of you readers haven't seen it, I can recommend it.

This morning Carolyn and I went to a day care facility to entertain the "troops". Carolyn plays the piano for the people at least once a week. She does this much the same as I do for the residents at Ashley Place back home in Lodi. As always, the people really seem to enjoy the attention.

This afternoon, Carolyn and I are going to the movie theater ONCE AGAIN! Sunday evening, while watching the TV program *60 Minutes*, we saw an interview with Maggie Smith - she of *Downton Abbey* fame. She is starring in a new movie called *Quartet*. It looked interesting, so off we go! I'll let you know about it when we return. We have returned from the theater and both agree that *Quartet* is a delightful film. Of course the film is about senior citizens living in a retirement home for retired musicians. That would be right up our alley. The audience was made up mainly of "old" people. (We two are NOT old.)

That's about it for now. Thanks for coming along with me. - - Earl



Orange soldiers, all in a row. The trees loaded with fruit is not edible because of their sour nature. The oranges are all falling on the ground. They would be good for marmalade, but who needs 3000 gallons of marmalade? Why would anyone plant something like this?