

Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, day three.

Prior to this trip NHshorty and I engaged in a new WDW planning technique I called “Critical WDW Thinking”. Because this trip was relatively spontaneous and relatively short, the normal planning techniques were thrown out the old window. So what we did was focus on very short term activities, like how do we get to the MK from the WL as quickly as possible? This yielded the “fib-to-security-and-park-at-the-Poly” strategy that completely eliminated the long drive from the WL to the MK parking lot, followed by the tram to the TTC, followed by the ferry or monorail to the MK. (the fact the Mrhub had this same idea only underscores the validity of “Critical WDW Thinking”).

So here’s what we did on our fly-home-day based upon “Critical WDW Thinking”. Since we both hate leaving WDW and we especially hate wasting the last day waiting to go to the airport by either hanging out at the pool or shopping at DTD, we decided to make it a park-day at EPCOT and when the time was right, we’d just leave and go to MCO. In fact this technique worked out perfectly.

So here’s how our last day went.

First we packed up and loaded the Blue Streak. Then I drove it up to the porte-cochere and parked while NHshorty went into the lobby to take care of bidness and I took some pictures.

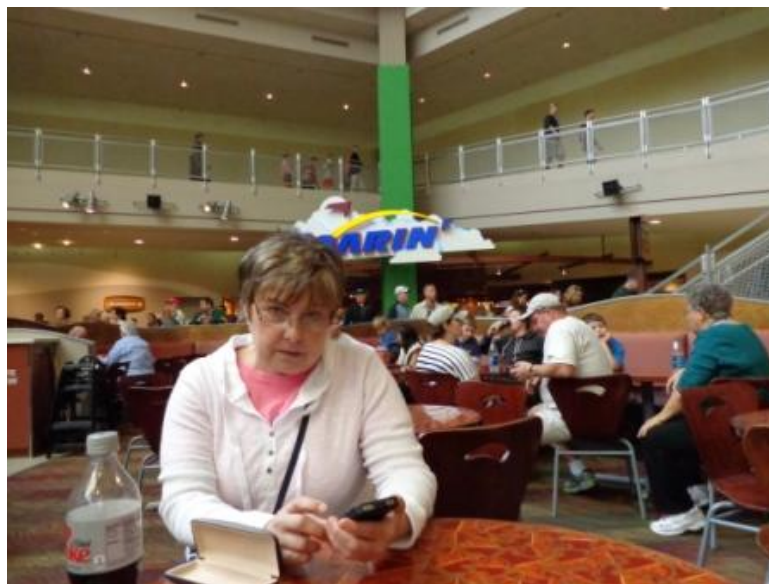


The above pictures are of the WL porte-cochere, NHshorty getting our boarding passes for the flight home, an artsy look at the WL lobby fireplace, an artsy look at one of the WL lobby totems, and a combination repeat homage to JeffC and a look at my potential next career move. I think I will look dashing in the Smokey the Bear Hat, but the tie may be problematic.

So with tears in our eyes we fired up the Blue Steak and set course for EPCOT. We were able to park close enough to the entrance that we didn't need the tram.



We had grabbed some breakfast snacks at the WL, but we needed to sit and do some more "Critical WDW Thinking". Here's NHshorty with her new iphone running the Disney app in support our "Critical WDW Thinking". The PowerPoint slides she generated were helpful as well.



A following plan evolved... Since the World Showcase was just opening, we would forgo Future World for now and hit a country neither of us had visited in years... Mexico, here we come.

On the way, we saw what might have been the last Segway Tours of EPCOT and NHshorty posed near Imagination.



Here's NHshorty at Mexico and you can see in the background how empty the promenade is.

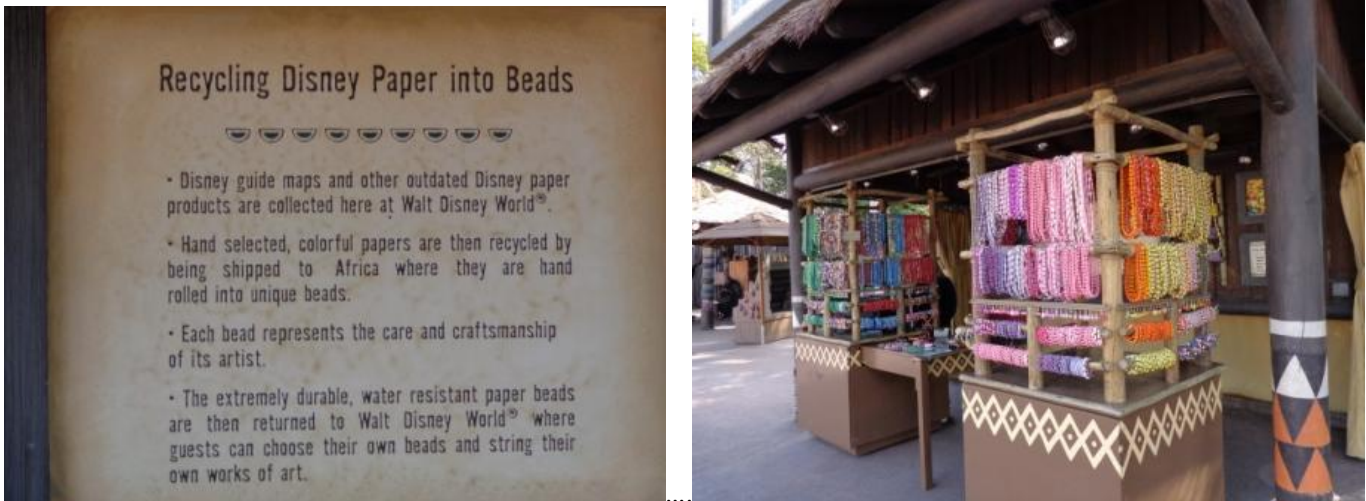


We took the boat tour and wandered around the marketplace and restaurant area. As we exited, neither of us felt like dropping everything and heading off to the real Mexico. This place may have been great once, but it just doesn't do Mexico justice.

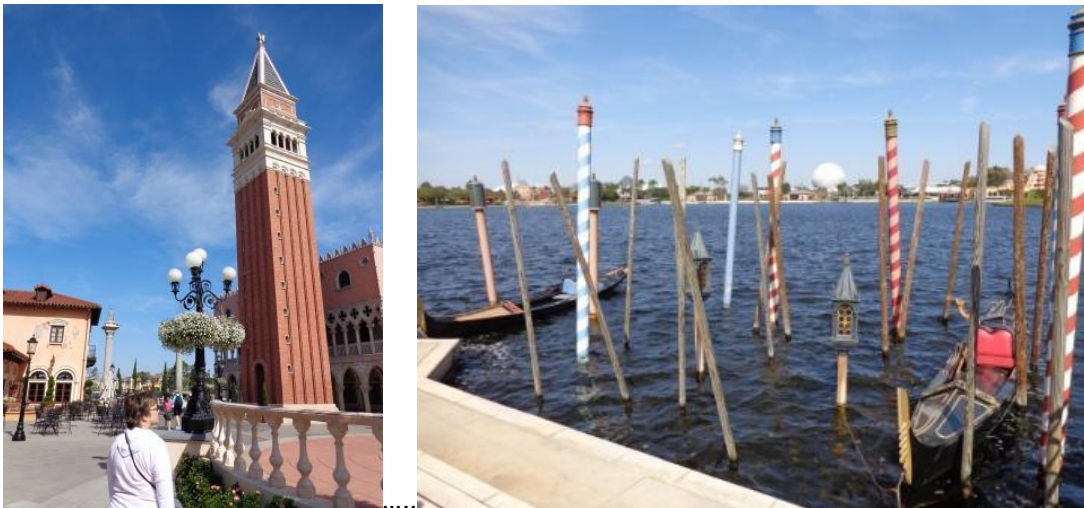


We continued our stroll around the world showcase with occasional stops for pictures. As I look at my pictures now, I don't see anything we all haven't seen before, so I won't bore you.

You know that blank spot where the Africa pavilion was going to be before they decided to build the AK? Well there was a booth selling beads made from recycled WDW paper. The actually send the paper to some unnamed place in Africa where they are hand rolled into beads. Well, that's at least what the sign says. It's an interesting use of waste paper.



We did stop and wander around in Italy and Germany and NHshorty bought a cookie from the German caramel place.



We witnessed a disturbing and troubling display of PDA in broad daylight by a couple right outside of the German pavilion. It was shocking. I suspect it was the result of all the drinking that goes on at the German pavilion and EPCOT in general. Something should be done. Of course I took a picture to share with the forum.



We next visited the American pavilion and took in the movie that gives a much sanitized version of our United States history. I suspect the film will have to be edited soon; Lance Armstrong is shown as one of America's new heroes.

Here are a couple of artsy pictures of the interior. Along with a picture of a painting that depicts the first shuttle launch. My fourth and fifth favorite astronauts, John Young and Robert Crippen, are shown in the painting.







After leaving the American pavilion, we wandered through Japan and France. Here's my customary picture of a picture being painted by an artist who has apparently fallen into the water.



By this time we were parched and in need of sustenance, so we stopped at the UK pavilion for a bite and beverage.



I also made a couple of calls to the phone booths while we were there. Nothing really noteworthy happened, but I did tell one guy who answered that they were giving away free samples of British beer in the pub. He hung up quickly.

Here are some additional photos of the outdoor seating area adjacent to the pub.





With full tummies, we proceeded back to Future World and walked right on to Mission Space (Orange or Intense Side). There were no unfortunate biological events. Test track was packed and the lines were excessive, so our next stop was Mouse Gears to get stuff for the children I left behind.

Our last stop at EPCOT was Spaceship Earth.



Of course we took pictures of ourselves at the end of the ride.



Again, with tears in our eyes we bid a fond farewell to WDW. Following an uneventful ride in the Blue Streak back to MCO, we were comfortably ensconced in a Boeing 737-800 and whisked back to the snow and cold in NH.

Next trip is 5 days at the end of April 2013 and we can't wait.