

Pacific Northwest Edition The Meyer Flyer

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<http://www.themeyerflyer.info/>

Two-Sided Letter

2024 was the first year in which we did so much that we've had to forgo Dan's rule of one-sided letters or a postcard. Here's hoping this doesn't get too boring!

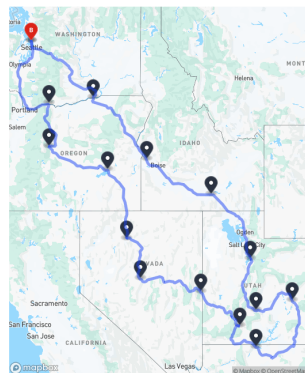
Celebrating 70 in Maui

Dan turned 70 in December 2023 and Eileen surprised him with a week in Maui to enjoy the sun and warmth. We had visited Maui the same week of February 2020, only to come home to a pandemic. This time, no such "luck"!

Our visit included driving "The Road to Hana", feeding the goats at the Surfing Goats Dairy, tasting the rum and gin at Ocean Vodka Organic Farm and Distillery, whale watching and dining during sunset with the Pacific Whale Foundation, and hiking on the Hoapili Trail.

Utah's "Mighty 5" National Parks

After Dan "retired" for the second time, we packed up the Fifth Wheel in April and headed to Utah to visit the "Mighty 5" national parks: Capital Reef, Arches, Canyonlands, Bryce Canyon, and Zion. Because we'd visited Zion in 2019, we decided to skip that park and visit Nevada's Great Basin NP. The trip of 2932 miles, not counting excursions, spanned 4 weeks.



Many people asked which park was our favorite and we both agreed that it was Capital Reef, where we hiked the Old Wagon Trail. MANY photos were taken!



While in Torrey, UT, we spent a day driving scenic UT 12 over the Boulder Mountains to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. We couldn't help but stop MANY times to take in the views.

We spent a couple days in Moab visiting Arches. We "hiked" to a couple of the main "attractions", Double O Arch and

Landscape Arch. We also spent a few hours at the Islands in the Sky district in Canyonlands and marveled at the views.



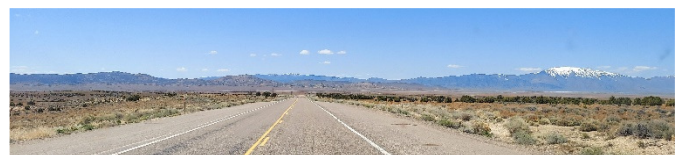
Then it was on to Page, AZ and Antelope Canyon, passing through Monument Valley on the way. Friends from Northwest Mix recommended a kayak tour on Lake Powell to the Lower Antelope Canyon. It was a highlight of the trip!



From Page, AZ it was up to Bryce Canyon. We had been there in 2019 when we visited Zion, but this time there was no snow! One cannot take enough photos of the Hoodoos!



After a couple days at Great Basin where we toured the Lehman Cave and hiked along the Osceola Ditch, we headed home on "The Loneliest Road in America" (US-50).



To avoid a nasty wind and snow storm near Lake Tahoe, we did overnight stops in Winnemucca NV, Burns OR, Sisters & Bend OR, and White Salmon WA on the way home.

Photos in <http://www.themeyerflyer.info/2024ChristmasLetter.pdf> have links to more information
There's also a link at [TheMeyerFlyer.info](http://www.themeyerflyer.info) to our "Gallery" of 2024 Trip Photos

A Few Weeks Back East

In the spring, Dan's *Vocal Vintage* quartet, had signed up to participate in a new Comedy Quartet festival at the BHS International Convention in Cleveland. While he was gone, Eileen traveled to Philadelphia to visit her ill mother. While she was there, Mary passed away so Dan joined her in Philly for the funeral.

Egypt and the Eternal Nile

In 2023, when Dan's cousin Ann asked if we'd be interested in travelling to Egypt to see the pyramids and float down the Nile, it only took a second for Eileen to say "YES!!!" Seeing the pyramids was a bucket list item for her!

The trip was a 16-day adventure for 16 travelers with Overseas Adventure Travel. It started in Cairo with visits to the Egyptian Museum and the Pyramids of Giza where we took the opportunity to ride on camels!



From Cairo we flew to Aswan and stayed at the Old Cataract Hotel, on the bank of the Nile. Agatha Christi stayed there while she wrote "Death on the Nile". Scenes from the movie were filmed there, too.



While in Aswan, we toured the Botanical Garden with the "Birdman of Aswan", had a wonderful dinner with a local family, and did some shopping (we bought Eileen a cartouche with her name spelled in hieroglyphics).

From Aswan we traveled by bus to Abu Simbel to tour the temples that had been carved out of the mountainside during the reign of Pharaoh Ramesses II. They were relocated to avoid being submerged when the Aswan dam was built.



We returned to Aswan where we boarded the "Dahabeya Aton Sun" to spend five days "floating" down the Nile. Each evening before dinner we would tie-up along the river bank.



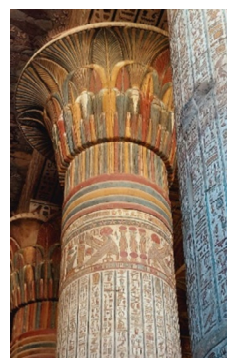
Along the way we stopped at the small villages of Edfu, Dewar, Faris, and Besar to visit and dine with local families, and to tour more temples. In Faris we watched a man make baskets, <https://youtu.be/MoJewR-sUiU>. We agreed that the family visits were the best part of the "adventure".



The Nile "cruise" ended in Esna. From there we took a bus to Luxor where we stayed at the Winter Palace, visited the Valley of the Kings (and Tutankhamun's mummy), toured the Karnak and Luxor Temples, and enjoyed a café where Dan "smoked" a sheesha. In Luxor we had the opportunity to take a hot air balloon ride at sunrise over countryside.



From Luxor we flew back to Cairo for one night before a 25 hour "day" flying home through London's Heathrow Airport - we left Cairo at 8:10am on Sept 19 and arrived in Seattle at 5:45pm on Sept 19!



We hope you enjoyed this year's travelogue. With much love and in the spirit of the season, our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Joyous and Prosperous New Year!

Dan *Eileen*

PS: For more photos, visit our Trip Gallery at <https://themeyerflyer.info>.