

Monday, October 30th - Friday, November 4th

Dinosaurs! Mormon inspired sculpture parks! Hikes in canyons and up summits! Clippy the Bartender! My second week in Salt Lake City was filled with a more low key, but still random assortment of activities.



Gilgal!

"I'm going to go visit some Mormon inspired sculpture garden. Gilgal?"

"I have no idea what you're talking about."

(conversation between my host and I)

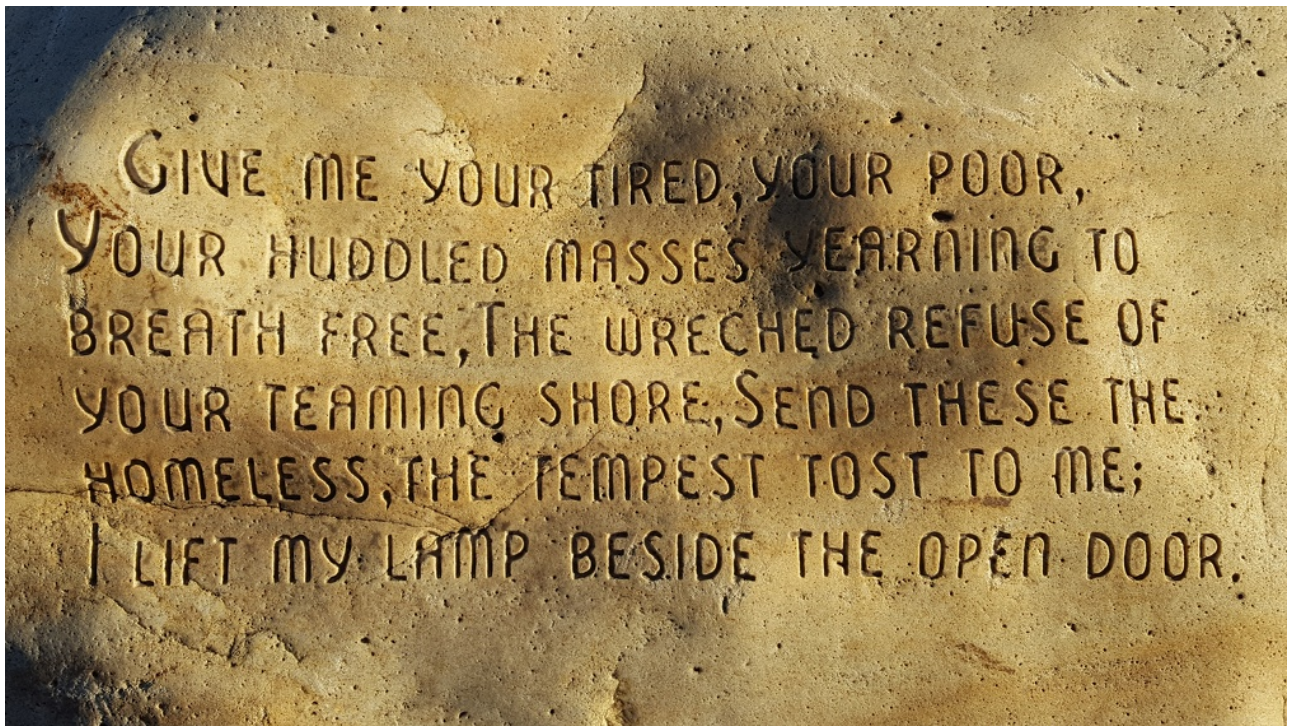
Right. The Gilgal Sculpture Garden.



"Captain of the Lord's Host"



A photo of a photo of a sculpture.



"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breath free, the wretched refuse of your teaming shore, send these the homeless, the tempest tost to me; I lift my lamp beside the

open door.” Seems a long forgotten sentiment.



“The Sphinx” and “The Altar”.



"The Monument to Trade"



"Daniel II: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream"

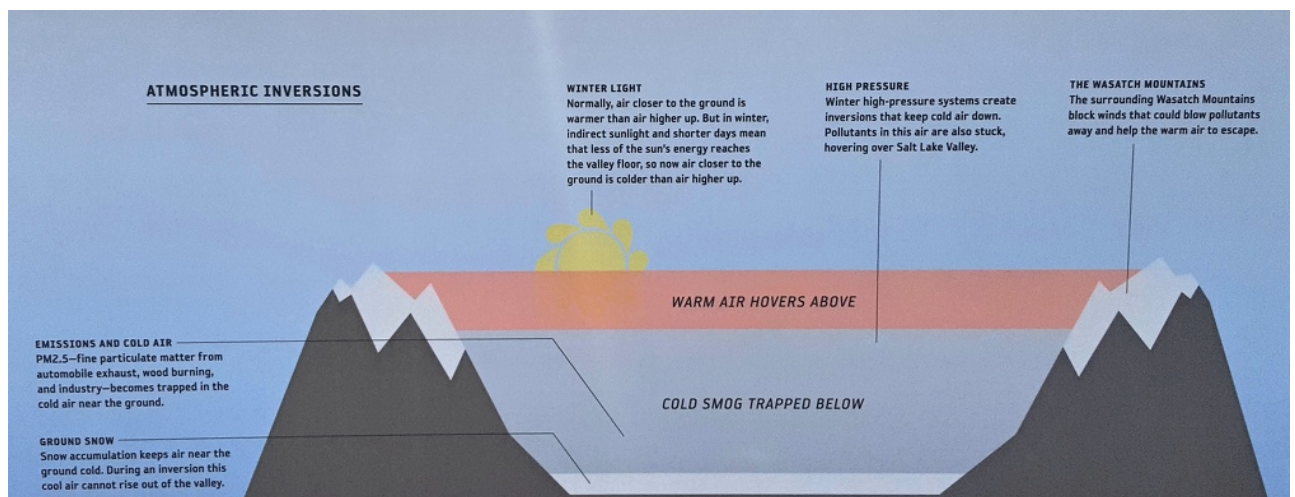
The sculpture garden was mostly empty of visitors, save a teenage couple in full gothy Halloween costumes. I had no costume, despite it being Halloween, but later that evening continued my tour of cocktail bars at Bar X. It was fun, the bartender was dressed as Clippy, the old MS Office 95 "helpful" paperclip. You could totally tell the age of the clientele by who figured it out and who had no idea what we were talking about. It was a fun evening seeing the costumes and as the night wore on it became clear there was a costume pub-crawl going on. I wandered back home before too late, walking up wide, empty streets and by moonlight churches.

The obvious follow up to this, of course, was the Natural History Museum.



Natural History Museum of Utah (panorama)

The museum is pretty cool; it's built around a tall, several story open space with the museum wrapped around it. The top talks about weather and atmosphere, going down through various exhibits on genetics, geology and lots of dinosaur skeletons.



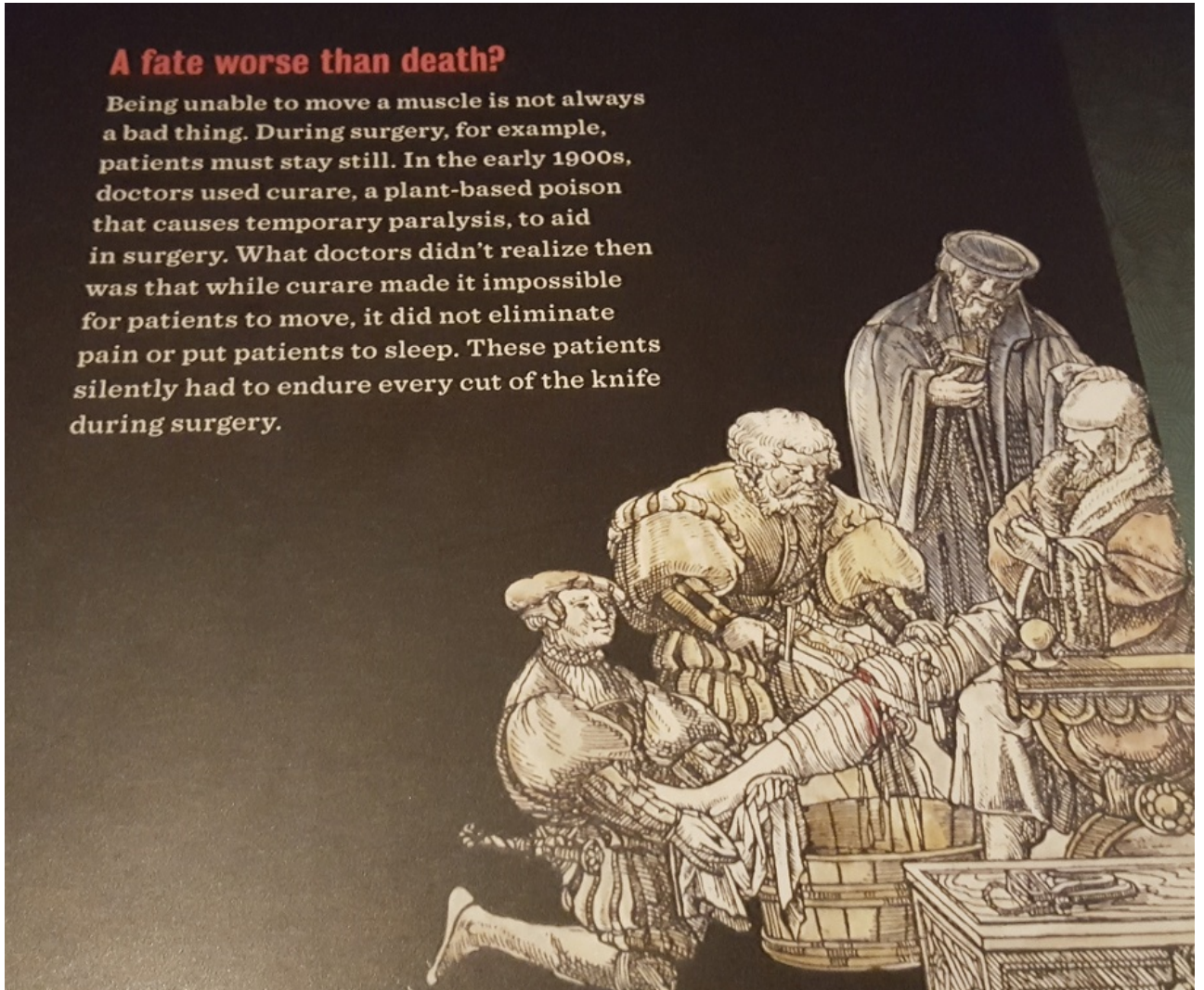
A the top: an exhibit on Inversion! I keep hearing about this as the main negative to Salt Lake City. Not so good for air quality.



Skull Wall.

A fate worse than death?

Being unable to move a muscle is not always a bad thing. During surgery, for example, patients must stay still. In the early 1900s, doctors used curare, a plant-based poison that causes temporary paralysis, to aid in surgery. What doctors didn't realize then was that while curare made it impossible for patients to move, it did not eliminate pain or put patients to sleep. These patients silently had to endure every cut of the knife during surgery.



They hosted a traveling exhibit on poisons which was pretty great.



Are dinosaur busts a thing in Utah?



*One of my favorite parts where was you could stuff donations down the gullet of a dinosaur.
That's pretty genius.*

The next day it was time to climb Ensign Peak!



Salt Lake City

Ensign Point Park is one of a pair (at least) of parks north of the city. This one is a short, steep hike to a neat view and it appears to link to other trails. The next day I walked the canyon north through Memorial Park.

THE SUMMIT

Before he left Nauvoo, Brigham Young said that Joseph Smith, the deceased prophet, had appeared to him in a vision and had shown him a place where the banner of liberty should wave. When he viewed this peak as he entered the Salt Lake Valley on July 24, 1847, Brigham reportedly said, "This is the place," adding "I want to go there." Two days later, still weak from mountain fever, he insisted on climbing to the summit. Eight others made the hike with him where

they spent several hours in prayer and counsel. They gazed over the valley and made plans for the new city. They wanted their new home to become the "ensign for the nations" of which Isaiah had prophesied in the Bible, hence the name Ensign Peak. No ensign, or flag, was flown on that occasion, but perhaps a yellow bandanna, tied to a cane, was waved as a symbolic gesture. Within a few weeks, an American flag was hoisted on the summit.



Elevation 5,416 Feet

The elevation of Ensign Peak is 5,416 feet. This is 1,085 feet above the southeast corner of the temple block where the Salt Lake Baseline and Meridian were established on August 2, 1847 while Orson Pratt was laying out the city. At that point, the city is 4,331 feet above sea level.



A sign explaining the park. A weakened Brigham Young is cheerfully declaring the future.



Salt Lake City (panorama)



The capitol building sits below Ensign Park and above Memorial Park.

So the next afternoon it was time to explore the park and a small part of the long canyon trail. I walked through Memorial Park, a combination of dog park and memorial for dead soldiers. The Mormons are a surprisingly militant bunch, although as someone who grew up being taught that Christianity is akin to seeking peace I'm always startled at the overlap of Christian sects and the military.



Canyon walk.

It was a beautiful walk, although I didn't get many photos. I had a great stay in Salt Lake City; it definitely felt like there was a huge amount of hiking and nature to explore in the surrounding area. The city has definitely gone its own way, something I approve of even if it makes me unsure if I'd want to live there. The love of industry, the swarms of homeless people, people talking about how they look forward to winter because skiing is so close, the crazy wide streets, bartenders behind sheets even when it's not Halloween, and all the 4% beer you could ever want; Salt Lake City is definitely worth checking out.