

Is indeed another age entirely. Simpler in most respects but I believe they had a lot more fun in the best sense of the word fun.

It wasn't all fun and games of course. You did have your wars, feuds, plagues, the Inquisition, not exactly an enlightened period for the church, and a host of other social ills. But they knew how to have fun, make music, dance and socialize a lot better, I think, than many do today.

Every October, Las Vegas hosts the Age of Chivalry at Sunset Park. I have been attending 3 of the last 4 years. The one year I did not attend was due to lots of rain.

This year was the first time I went alone to the fair and I had a much better time than on previous outings with a friend.

Arriving just as the gates were opened, I purchased a 3-day senior pass for a mere \$10, same price as it was last year. It's the best deal going for the fair because it allows you to come and go all three days as you please.

I entered as many of the vendors were opening up for the day and wandered around, not aimlessly as one might, but with purpose. I was looking for the vendor who made my jewelry from last year.

I chanced upon Eye Scry where there was a tray of cameo necklaces set out, two of which immediately caught my eye.

Naturally I asked if they had matching earrings. No, they didn't but as you can see, they had earrings that could be co-ordinated with the necklaces and so went my first nearly \$60.

While I was waiting to make my purchase, the very person I was looking for showed up and turned out she did not have her own booth this year but was working at Eye Scry with her sister Cody.

I left the fair in the afternoon to visit my sister at rehab following knee replacement surgery and came back after the visit spending the remainder of the day wandering around, catching the various entertainments, belly dancing, jousting, sword play and music. I ended Friday, the 9th and first day of the fair, after the Uffington Horse program at Fiddler's Green. This is my favorite program and do not miss each performance where Alexander James Adams and his group combine story telling and Celtic music and the dance of Aurora, in a very entertaining program. This year I even got up to dance, albeit poorly, and had a thoroughly good time.

Most of the day I wandered around the park enjoying the sights, the dances and other entertainments and doing lots of 'window' shopping. I could easily have gone flat broke but decided to behave and not spend all my money.

As I wandered around the park over the next 3 days, I did get a few looks. Clearly I was read and I answered each such, mostly quizzical, look with my usual smile and laughter. I also enjoyed very intelligent conversations with many and even took some photos.

On Saturday, I arrived at the fair and again set out to enjoy any program I missed on Friday and also met and chatted with more people. Most people were very supportive or went about their business oblivious to my presence.

At one point, walking along the far side of the lake, I chanced across some young women with their boy friends. One girl very directly watched me as I approached. Seeing her watching me, as I approached her I smiled and waved. As I passed she turned to her boyfriend and said, "OMG he is dressed as a woman!" Instantly I broke out laughing as I heard her also say, "I hate when people do that to me." I think she referred to my smile and wave as I passed her. A couple walking near me engaged me in conversation and the man said, "Hello. This is Vegas and the Renaissance Fair and this is new to you?" All in all it was a delightfully refreshing experience to be at the fair on my own and thoroughly enjoying it all. In fact I was having such a grand time that I totally spaced out on the TUG Dress Barn outing for that evening. Ah well. I can get to a Dress Barn anytime I want but I can only get to the fair once a year.

I went home after the Uffington Horse concert which was the last performance for the day.

Sunday, the last day of the fair, I arrived early enough to see the merchants and entertainers opening up for the day and took numerous pictures.

As I wandered along the far side of the lake, I was greeted courteously by the matron of the Biggin's Family at their compound. We exchanged courtesies and she invited me to partake of their breakfast finger foods of boiled eggs, pickles and vegetables. I took more than a few pictures of their compound.

Seeing the preparations for the grand opening parade, I positioned myself to take pictures as they all filed past to the front of the park. Later, I returned to the Biggin's compound to ask if I might include pictures of them and theirs in our newsletter and was granted permission. In fact, several pictures of various people at the fair we herein used with permission to do so.

While at the fair, I met up with Tiffany's SO and shared some time, and a cold Italian Ice, with her as we talked about many things. Our short time together was an unexpected and delightful pleasure. After the Ice, I invited her to go along to the next performance of Uffington Horse at Fiddler's Green,

We parted company after the performance and I continued making my way around the park enjoying the other activities and entertainments.

All in all, I spent more money than I ought, as usual, met a wide variety of nice and very fun people, confounded more than a few being myself, and had a delightful time. It would have been nice to see more TUG people at the fair. Since there is an active link in the newsletter calendar page, you should be able to know when next year's event will be and make plans to attend as time permits. You will have a good time. I know I sure did and this year was more fun than last.