

Sacramento

August 2014



Bob and Molly Hillery

This was our second visit to Sacramento this year to visit Christopher, Cyndi and Samantha. We had seen them in July during our family vacation in Alaska so it was a special treat to be able to visit once again after only two months. It was also good to be there close to Christopher and Cyndi's 14th wedding anniversary (earlier in August) and we planned to have a belated anniversary dinner at some point during the weekend.

Other than that, our agenda was to spend as much time as possible with our family and simply enjoy their company. We did, however, learn of a last-minute addition to our schedule; that of an open house at Sammy's new school being completed for occupancy this fall.

As usual, we also caught up on presentations of slide shows from our most recent trips, this time including both Israel and Russia. Finally, some time in the pool was also on the agenda as it is with all summertime visits.

Sacramento, August 2014

Thursday August 21

We left home about 1pm and drove to Cincinnati airport for our flights to Minneapolis and on to Sacramento. Both flights were a little early and we were in a pleasantly mild and dry Sacramento by 10:30 pm local time. We picked up our rental car, drove to the hotel and went straight to bed.

Friday August 22

We were up before 8 and walked the ½ mile to Starbucks for breakfast. I then did a slightly longer walk before we left to pick up Samantha from her Lego Camp, which had been her recreation for the week.

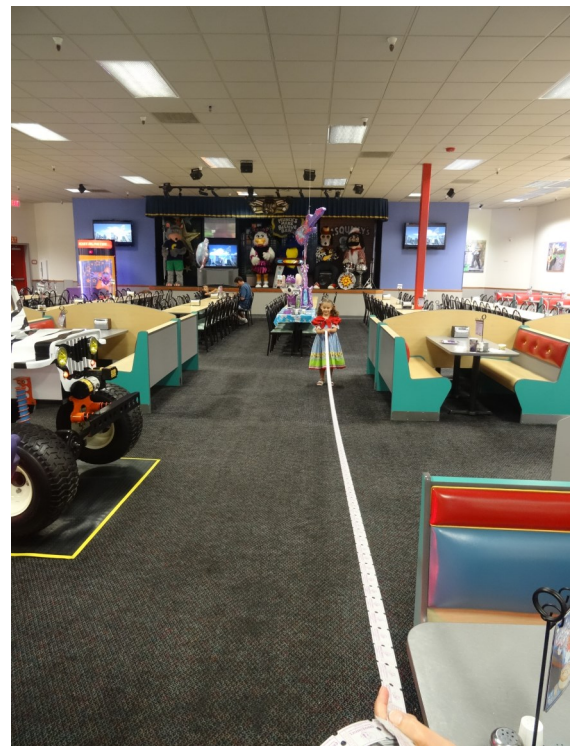


We went to Chuck E Cheese's for lunch and a rather lucrative session on the games

and rides so we left with a total of four prizes. We then went to our hotel room for a little while before taking Sammy to her karate class. Here we were joined by Cyn-di and Christopher and, following the class, we all went to dinner at On The Border.



A good haul!



Following that we had coffee and cake at Cyndi and Christopher's home and watched about half of our Israel slide show before leaving for the hotel.

Saturday August 23

Again we walked to Starbucks for breakfast and I followed that with another short walk before we left to meet Sammy, Christopher and Cyndi at the site of Sammy's new school. Bill and Shirl also joined us.



Artist's rendition (top left) - and the current status Opening in September???

The new school building is in the final phases of construction and this was the day chosen to provide tours of the facility for students and parents (and grandparents) as well as to provide a hot dog and hamburger picnic lunch.

The tour lasted perhaps 30 minutes and it was clear to see how much better that the previous school it will be when completed. However, it was also perfectly clear it was a very ambitious schedule to open school here as planned in just two weeks and the owner (who was our tour guide) had to hedge on almost every question regarding when students will be accepted and where exactly their classrooms might be. He was very enthusiastic, positive and clearly excited about the project – but I suspect most parents were more than a little apprehensive. However, it certainly will be a superb hi-tech facility and one that will provide a much friendlier and safer environment than the one that exists at the old

school.

We then had ice creams for dessert at a local parlor before watching the completion of the Israel slide show. We also gave Samantha a Russian outfit that we had purchased while on our trip there and of course she had to model it for us.

Molly and I returned to the hotel to freshen up before dinner and we all re-grouped at 7:15 to drive to an Italian restaurant downtown, where we enjoyed a very good meal.

Sunday August 24

Molly and I had a coffee at Starbucks and about 10:30 we left the hotel to do a little shopping (belated anniversary gifts for Cyndi and Christopher) before meeting everyone one at Farrell's for lunch. This is a sixties style ice cream parlor but they also have a fairly extensive meal menu so we were able to get a sandwich lunch and "enjoy" the noisy celebrations as others in the restaurant enjoyed birthdays, etc. Apparently this is a main feature of Farrell's – go for an ice cream sundae on the house, but prepare to be embarrassed by the staff!

In the afternoon we had a swim in the pool at Christopher and Cyndi's home and then watched our Russian slide show. Cyndi (and Christopher) then prepared a very nice meal – barbecued smoked sausages, beans and corn on



the cob (as only Cyndi can prepare it), followed by an orange cake prepared to some degree by Sammy. It was a lovely family meal and a great way to end another very pleasant weekend visit. We said our farewells about 9pm – with the promise to be back in just a month!

Monday August 25

We had another visit to Starbucks for coffee and then packed and prepared to leave for home. We left the hotel about 11 am and went first to iHop for brunch and then to the airport for our 1:45 pm flight to Salt Lake City and then on to Cincinnati. We were home before 11pm.