

# *Sacramento*

*February 2013*



## ***Sacramento, February 2013***

### **Thursday February 28**

We left home about 1pm to drive to the airport for our 4:30 flight to Atlanta. It was cold and there were a few flurries but the roads were clear so we had plenty of time not only for a Starbucks lunch at the airport but also for a drink in the Crown Room. The flight to Atlanta was on time and it was an easy connection to our onward flight to Sacramento.

We had dinner shortly after take-off (actually a very good meal) and then both of us fell asleep rather quickly. Consequently the flight seemed very short (it was actually early arriving) despite a very bumpy section somewhere en route.

We picked up our car in Sacramento and were soon at the Spring Hill Suites and in bed by 10:30.

### **Friday March 1**

We were up before 7:30 and walked the one third mile to Starbucks for a light breakfast. The temperature was in the forties but it felt quite pleasant on a clear blue sky morning. Later, as I went for a walk in the local area, it actually felt quite warm and by noon the temperature was well into the sixties.

We met Christopher for lunch at 11:30 at a local Panera and then returned to the hotel to relax for the afternoon. Just before 4pm we left to watch Samantha's karate lesson and then had an early dinner as Christopher and Cyndi and Bill and Shirl (who



***Karate Lesson and a visit to Sammy's school***



joined us for dinner) had play tickets for this evening. As a result we were back in the hotel by 7:30 for a very early night, which wasn't at all unwelcome as we were still a little jet-lagged.

### Saturday March 2

We were up by 7:30 (having slept the clock round!) and walked to Starbucks for breakfast. I then went for another 3+ mile walk while Molly stayed in the room and read. The morning had started out slightly warmer than yesterday and by the time I was half way round my walk it was getting well into the sixties and I was sweating wearing only my tee shirt.

Just before eleven we drove to Target to buy a bicycle pump as Christopher and Cyndi had recently picked up two bikes that a neighbor was throwing away and I thought we might at least have to blow up the tires. I had also been asked to bring some tools on this trip as there might be more extensive adjustment and/or repair needed to make either bike road-worthy for Sammy.

We met Christopher and Cyndi and Sammy at Mimi's for lunch and then we each did a little shopping in the same plaza before returning to their home for the afternoon. Sammy went for her nap about 3pm and then we just sat and talked for three



hours while she slept. We did take a look at the bikes but concluded that they were a little heavy for Sammy and probably needed quite a bit of work, so we settled on a visit to WalMart on Sunday to see what they had to offer.

About 7pm we left to go for dinner at "On the Border" and, although the service was rather slow, we had another pleasant evening chatting and watching Sammy. She really is a remarkable child.

Molly and I returned to the hotel around 9pm.

### Sunday March 3

Again we walked to Starbucks for a light breakfast on another, even warmer morning – already 54F when we set out. Since we were planning to go bicycle shopping before lunch (meeting the others at WalMart at 10:30) I didn't have time for a walk. Actually, my feet were glad to have a rest for a day.



We spent about 1 ½ hours in WalMart trying several bicycles, found one that seemed to fit most criteria but wasn't pink. However, Toys 'R Us, about ten miles

away, claimed to have one that sounded just right so we drove over there, stopping at Fresh Choice for a salad and soup lunch.

The bike of our dreams was indeed in the store but only the floor model. Consequently Daddy chose to inform the Easter Bunny that the bike could be purchased on line and it would be OK to deliver it at Easter. At least, that worked quite well after a little expression of disappointment by Sammy!

Once back at “home”, Sammy gave us a short recital in her newly-decorated bedroom and we then spent the afternoon watching photos and videos of the trip that Christopher, Cyndi and Samantha had made to Europe last fall. Actually we had seen about half of the pictures during their visit to Ohio in December but it was fun to see the rest of the trip from Ilkley to Auntie Fran’s and then on to London. They certainly packed a lot into their visit and have some wonderful photographs to prompt their memories.

Molly and I returned to the hotel for an hour and then we were picked up to go to the Melting Pot downtown for Cyndi’s belated birthday dinner. We were at the restaurant over three hours during which we had an excellent meal with great service – and throughout which Samantha ate and played quite happily.



## ***Dinner at The Melting Pot***

We were driven back to our hotel and said our farewells for this trip.

**Monday March 4**

It was after eight before we got up but we were in no rush as our flight to Salt Lake City didn't leave until 12:30. We packed, checked out of the hotel, and filled the car with gas before going to IHOP for breakfast, which seems to have become a tradition for our pre-departure in Sacramento.

We had checked in the car and ourselves by 11am so had an hour in the gate area before boarding our first flight.

The flight was delayed about 30 minutes but we were in no danger of missing our connection in Salt Lake. In fact we had over an hour to get between gates before our 5pm flight to Cincinnati. This was the first and only leg in which we did not make it to First Class but we did get an aisle and window seat (no-one between us) in Economy Comfort, which afforded a little more legroom and – apart from the fact that we had to “buy” our drinks and food (with Delta coupons) – was not far from First Class in comfort.

We arrived in Cincinnati virtually on time at 10:30 and were home at 11:30 after a lovely weekend with our children and grandchild.