

# Sacramento



May 2015

*Bob and Molly Hillery*

*This trip was prompted by the fact that Samantha was to appear in a school function and Grandma and Granddad wanted to be in the audience. It also coincided with Memorial Day weekend so we were able to combine the two and make a full five day visit.*

*It turned out to be a rather “cultural” and entertaining visit as we not only saw Sammy perform live but we were able to view two earlier performances captured on film. We also heard a solo piano performance as well as a piano duet with her daddy.*

*On Memorial Day itself we had a cookout together with Cyndi’s parents and another family so the entire five days were filled with activities and made for another enjoyable visit.*

# ***Sacramento, May 2015***

## **Wednesday May 20**

We left home after our afternoon coffee and went to the airport for our 5:20 flight to Minneapolis and then on to Sacramento. The second flight was delayed a little but made up most of the lost time so we were in Sacramento before 10:30 and at the hotel by 11:30.

## **Thursday May 21**

We were up soon after 8 and walked to Starbucks for breakfast. Since we were staying this time at the Courtyard in Natomas, the walk was the best part of a mile each way so we felt justified taking in all the calories. I added another 1 1/2 miles to that after we had returned to the hotel.

We then spent almost two hours in the hotel lobby making reservations for our planned trip to New Zealand in October. We already had the flight arrangements but needed car, a local flight, ferry and hotel reservations. We made a good start which we should conclude this weekend.

We then had another visit to Starbucks (by car!) and spent the rest of the afternoon in the hotel room—until it was time to leave for the evening's festivities.

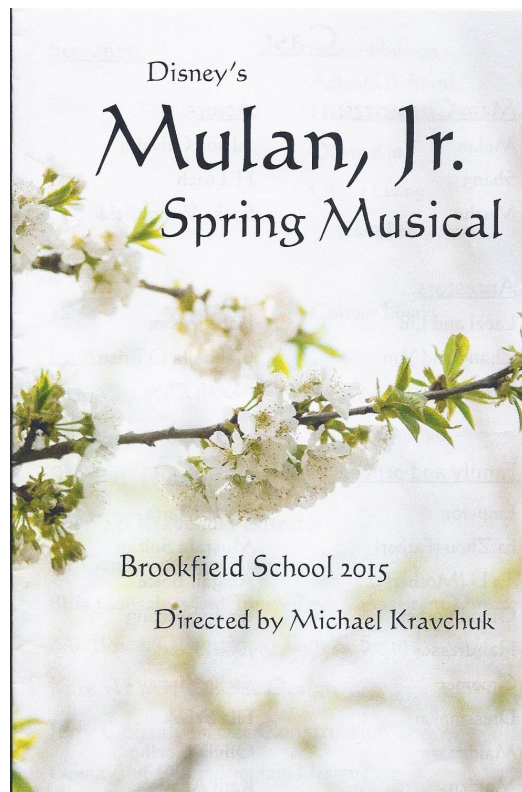
Christopher picked us up at the hotel and drove us to the school where dozens of kids in Oriental costumes were running around on the (Astroturf) lawn. We visited one of the classrooms briefly where art work done by the children was on display and then we had a taco dinner sitting outside in the pleasant sunshine.



A large tent was the theater where Pre-1st, 1st and 2nd Grade classes performed one song each (Sammy appearing in the middle performance of a Korean Folk Song) before the main

***Enthusiasm is not an issue!***

production of “Mulan, Jr” began. This latter was a full one hour musical performed by kids aged between eight and twelve. They put on a very enthusiastic and, at times, amusing show and much credit must go to the hard work of both them and, perhaps especially, the teaching staff.



At 7:30 we left the school and returned to the hotel where we soon retired and were asleep before 9pm.

### **Friday May 22**

We were up a little later this morning so we drove for coffee at Starbucks before I had a short walk. We met Christopher for lunch at Panera, spent the afternoon working on our New Zealand trip and then were picked up by Cyndi, Christopher and Sammy around 6:45.

We had a very enjoyable dinner at Claim Jumper (a Gold Rush theme restaurant) and it was after 9:30 before we left downtown.

### **Saturday May 23**

We walked to Starbucks this morning and I extended the walk by another mile before spending the balance of the morning putting together a slide show of our visit to Peru.

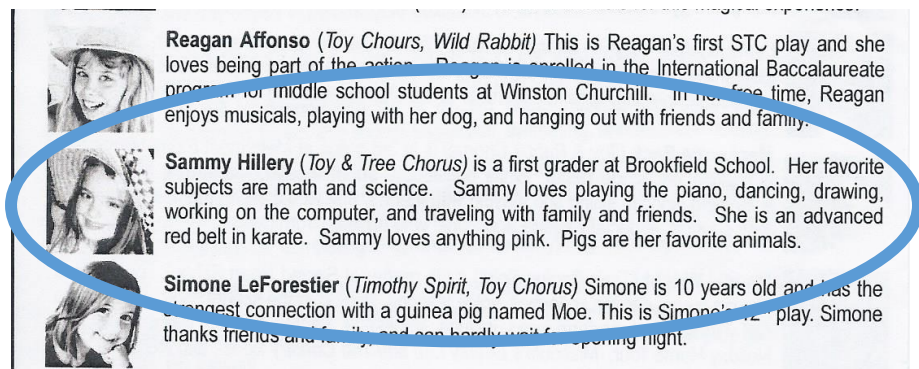
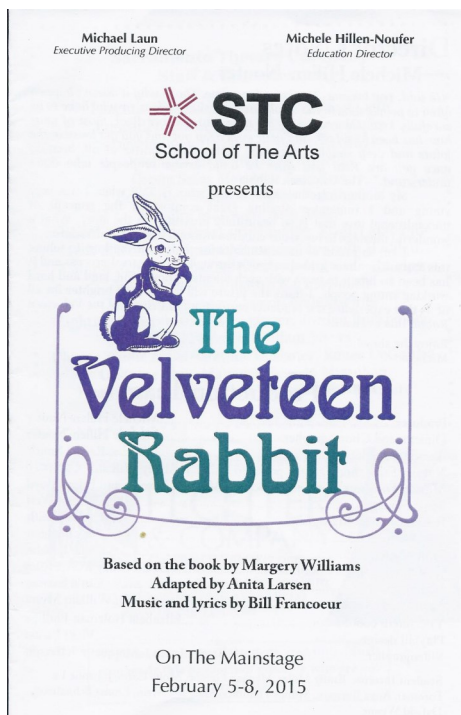
At 1pm we met for brunch at iHop and then went to Christopher and Cyndi's home for the afternoon. There we reviewed a good deal of Sammy's school work (very advanced, we felt), had a short piano recital and then watched two performances in which Sammy had a role.





The first was a Sacramento Theater production of *The Velveteen Rabbit* given by kids in grades 1 through about 7.

It was a very polished performance and, despite relatively poor sound quality on the DVD, was a very enjoyable one hour show. Sammy had two roles—one as a toy and one as a tree in choruses supporting the main characters. She too was very poised and carried off her parts very well.



We then watched a DVD that Christopher had made of a more recent school play in which Sammy performed the part of Professor Participle in a production of “Grammarsaurus” The video and sound quality were much better on this DVD and we thoroughly enjoyed the whole show, especially the duet that Sammy starred in.

We must also admit that we were amused (far more so than her mother) by Sammy’s antics when she wasn’t “center stage” but which were caught by her father with the camera.

So, after an afternoon of theatre and scholarship we left for the hotel to clean up and get ready for another family dinner at The Melting Pot in downtown Sacramento. As

usual, this was an excellent meal in very pleasant surroundings and once again it was after 9:30 before we left and headed back to the hotel. During dinner, Molly was presented with Mother's Day gifts, including a canvas collage of photographs of Molly (as a child), Elizabeth and Cyndi and Hayley and Samantha. Three generations of the female side of her family—a wonderful gift.



### **Sunday May 24**

We again walked to Starbucks for coffee and then I went for an additional 2 miles walk. At 11:45 we met Christopher, Cyndi and Sammy at the Round Table for lunch and then spent the afternoon viewing our slide show of Peru and their visit to a Butterfly Festival some weeks ago.

We returned to the hotel for an hour before meeting up again for dinner at Casablanca, a Moroccan restaurant that we had enjoyed several years ago.— before Sammy was born. So, this was her first experience of sitting on cushions while we ate. It was also her first experience (as far as we know) of belly dancing but, with a little encouragement from the dancer, Sammy joined in with obvious enthusiasm. In fact, she enjoyed



it so much that we were obliged to stay for the late show and it was after ten before we left after a very nice meal and pleasant evening.

### **Monday May 25 (Memorial Day)**

We had our usual visit to Starbucks, I took a 4 1/2 mile walk and then we drove to

Christopher and Cyndi's home for a Holiday cookout. Bill and Shirl and another family were also there and we all enjoyed hot dogs, hamburgers , sweet corn and a variety of other drinks and snacks—not to mention a selection of desserts prepared by Shirl.

Although this was to be the weekend for the "official" opening of the swimming pool, the cool weather earlier in the month had put this in some doubt. The hot tub was open for business, however, and several guests enjoyed a soak. Sammy and her young friend also ventured into the rather cool main pool and seemed to enjoy it.

The party ended soon after five and we returned to the hotel for an hour before meeting for dinner at Mimi's. We all had eaten very well at lunchtime so appetizers and soups or salads were popular this evening but it was nice to spend a final hour or more together as a family for this trip.

### **Tuesday May 26**

We were up before 7:30 and had checked out, returned the rental car and got through Security at the airport by shortly after 8:30. We had a 10am flight to Los Angeles, about an hour layover there and then a three hour flight with lunch to Minneapolis.

We had less than an hour to connect to our final leg to Cincinnati but made it (thanks to a convenient pickup by one of the airport golf carts) and were back at CVG before 10:30pm. We picked up the car and were home before 11:30 after a very pleasant six night stay in Sacramento. It was really nice to spend the extra time with our California family and we seemed to pack quite a lot into the available time.









