

Sacramento

March 2016



Bob and Molly Hillery

Sacramento, March 2016

Thursday March 10

We had stayed at the airport Marriott overnight, after dinner at the local Bonefish Grill, so we had an easy trip to catch our flight via the hotel shuttle. We were checked in and through security with over an hour before our 9:30 flight time, despite the airport appearing to be busier than normal.

The flight left on time and we had a good breakfast on board. It was pretty bouncy much of the way but it was clear over the Rockies so we had some great views of the snow covered mountains.



We arrived in Los Angeles on time and had plenty of time to make our connection to Sacramento and even had some time in the Lounge.

When we arrived in Sacramento it was raining (although quite mild) so we picked up the car, stopped for coffee at Starbucks and then went to the Spring Hill Suites. We contacted Christopher and arrange to meet for dinner at 6:45.

It was raining heavily as we drove to dinner at Chili's on Truxel Road. However we had a very

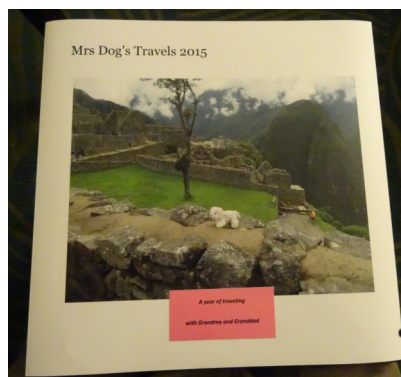
pleasant 1 1/2 hours with Sammy and family before returning to the hotel about 8:30. We retired almost immediately.

Friday March 11

We slept reasonably well but were awake early on yet another rainy day. Apparently this part of California has had a lot of rain recently - badly needed as they have been in a drought for several years - and the weekend forecast promised more of the same.

We decided against walking to Starbucks and drove to iHop instead for breakfast. We then did a little shopping - getting very wet dashing into stores - before returning to the hotel. We stayed in the room or the lobby until about 1pm when we went for coffee.

About 3:30 it dried up so I went for a short (2 miles) walk before we left to pick up Sammy from school. She wanted to visit our hotel so we spent about 2 hours in the room, looking at the latest Mrs Dog book and building fortresses with the sofa cushions. Sammy seemed a little tired and remained lethargy through dinner with the rest of the family at Tuk Tuk. This was highly unusual so we were a little concerned that she was coming down with a cold or similar. It was about 9:30 when we got back to the hotel and we went to bed right away.



Saturday March 12

I woke early and, as it was dry for the first time since we arrived, I got up and went for a walk. I did 4.7 miles and was still back in the room by 7:30. We then drove to Starbucks and afterwards to Walgreens before returning to the hotel to await instructions for lunch and the rest of the day.

We got a call from Christopher saying that Cyndi had taken Sammy to the doctor and that a strep throat was suspected and antibiotics were prescribed. So, could we meet for lunch at California Pizza Kitchen which was close to the doctor's office. We met there, had a very nice lunch and Sammy was her usual chirpy self again.

After lunch we went to Christopher and Cyndi's home for a birthday (Cyndi and Christopher) gift exchange and a viewing of our New Zealand and Indonesia slides shows.



This took us until about 5:30 when we returned to the hotel for an hour plus before being picked up for dinner. Tonight we ate at Pooja Indian Grill in West Sacramento. We have eaten there on several previous occasions and have always enjoyed the food; tonight was no exception.

Sunday March 13

We woke to another rainy morning and drove to the Starbucks on Arena Boulevard for a change. We had a light breakfast and then returned to the hotel for the morning - hoping there might be a break in the weather to allow a short walk. No break came in the morning but Christopher called to say that Sammy was still sick and that she didn't have strep throat. They were trying to get her fever down with other medication. Meanwhile she (and Cyndi) were confined to home so Christopher met us for lunch at Panera.

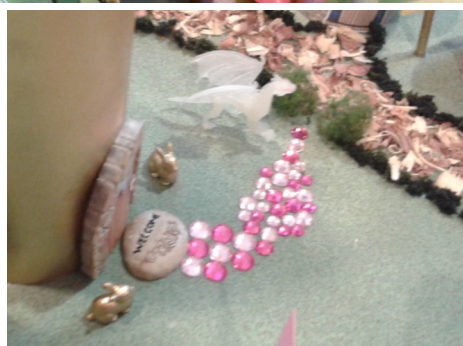
We had a good conversation over a long lunch and then returned to the hotel at which point there was some let up in the rain so I finally got to take my walk. By the time I got back around 3:30 it had started to rain again and it continued wet and windy for the rest of the day.

The good news, however, was that Sammy began to feel better so we were invited to go to their house around six and then go to dinner at Malabar. Bill and Shirl planned to join us but Bill's arthritis medication makes him very susceptible to any virus or bacteria so they could chose not to come. As it turned out, Sammy felt much better around 4pm so we were invited to go to their home around six to spend a little time before our 7pm dinner reservation.



On arrival, Molly was presented with her birthday gift (a handmade brooch from Russia) and contains the birthstones of her children, her children-in-law and her grandchildren.

We also took time to view Sammy's "City" project. This was a two feet square base filled with items necessary to a city: roads, homes, animals, stores, etc. It was all handmade from common household items and had a distinctly Disney feel to it.



***Sammy's
City Project***



Bill and Shirl did join us at Malabar for dinner and we had a very interesting and at times animated discussion on the current political scene as well as other less controversial subjects. Once again it was after nine before we said our good-byes for this trip and returned to our hotel.

Monday March 14

We were up around 7:30 on the first dry and sunny morning of this trip. We went to iHop for breakfast; this has become our usual pre-departure routine in Sacramento but this time we were eating about 8am - well before our norm.

Afterwards I went for a four mile walk and then did my packing and final e-mail check before we left. We arrived at the airport about noon and were soon checked in and through security in plenty of time for our 1:35 flight to Salt Lake City. This left about 20 minutes late but we arrived in SLC (cloudy but no rain or snow) in time for an quick transfer to our onward flight to Cincinnati.

The flight to Cincinnati left on time and was smooth most of the way. We arrived to a balmy 60F, got our bags and took the shuttle to retrieve our car at the Marriott. We were home soon after 11pm after another very nice trip to see our California family.



