

Sacramento

December 2018



Bob and Molly Hillery

Sacramento, December 2018

This was our fifth trip of the year to visit our California family and this one was specifically to celebrate Samantha's tenth birthday and to take her on a shopping expedition with her birthday money from us. This has been a tradition with all our grandchildren and we have been doing it with Sammy for several years now. The only restriction we place on purchases is that the gift is not "alive" (at least, without prior parental consent) - otherwise, it's "buy what you want".

Friday November 30

We had stayed at the airport Marriott after dining at the rotating restaurant on the river front on our way from home last night, so all we had to do before our morning flight was check out and take the hotel shuttle bus.

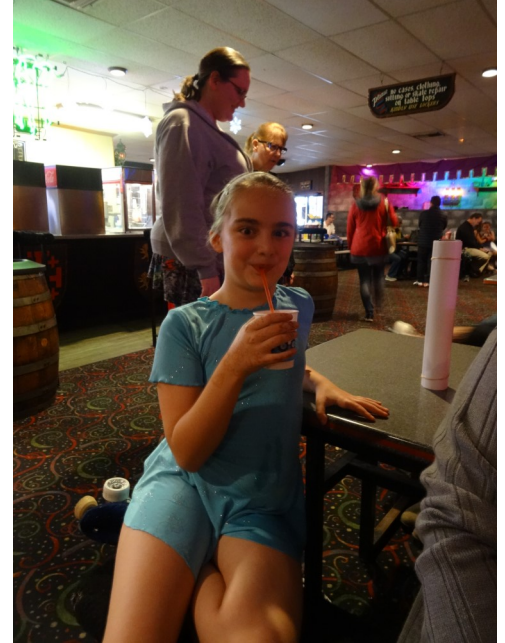
Our flight to Salt lake City left on time at 8am and arrived early into SLC. We had a very easy gate connection and were soon on our way to Sacramento, arriving at noon. We picked up the rental car, checked in at the Spring Hill Suites, told Christopher we were here – and took a nap!

We met Cyndi, Christopher and Sammy at the High School in Natomas where a fund-raising "carnival" was taking place. It was billed as International, so many of the younger kids were in dress of another country – including Sammy, who was making more use out of her Harry Potter outfit. We spent two hours at the fair (indoors, fortunately) as Cyndi was a volunteer on the basketball throw and left about 8pm. Just before leaving we watched a performance by a troupe of dancers in the costumes and fancy headdresses of the Aztec. Although a little repetitive, we could appreciate the athleticism and skills of the dancers.

We then had dinner at On the Border before saying goodnight shortly before 10pm.

Saturday December 1

Molly and I went for an early breakfast at iHOP and, about 10am, left to watch Sammy during her roller skating practice.



After the practice time, the five of us went for lunch at Chili's and then Molly and I took Sammy on her birthday shopping trip. We visited McDonald's, See's Candies and Barnes and Noble before the \$100 was fully spent (!) and then we went back to the hotel for a couple of hours. We re-convened at Christopher and Cyndi's home for a pizza dinner.

Sunday December 2

We were up at eight and went to iHOP for breakfast again. We then stayed in our room until a little before noon when we left for Cyndi and Christopher's home. Here we picked up Sammy and a friend and drove to the birthday celebration .



Here they were to paint ceramic figures and leave them for firing. This was to take the best part of two hours so Molly and I were quite relieved to find that there was a Starbucks in the same plaza as the "Color Me Mine" so we spent about one half of that time enjoying a coffee and pastry. We re-joined the group of six kids and two supervising adults as they were in various stages of painting their selected figure. It was interesting to listen to and observe a group of ten year olds (five girls and one boy) as they

painted and joked (generally more of the latter) until time was called.



We then walked a few feet to a yogurt café where each guest chose a tub of yogurt or ice cream with the toppings of their choice before we all said our goodbyes and started the journey home.



10th Birthday Celebrations

Molly and I spent a little time back at the hotel before we re-convened for a showing of our South Africa slide show. The evening (and the weekend) concluded with dinner at Anthony's (a small but very good Italian restaurant) with the five of us plus Cyndi's cousin Tim. We all left a little before nine and concluded another very pleasant weekend with our California family.

The two flights home via Los Angeles were on time and uneventful.

