

Sacramento, August 2023



Bob and Molly Hillery

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Thursday August 17

We left home about 4:30pm anticipating a slow drive to the airport but, apart from a couple of slow spots the traffic kept moving. As a result, we had over an hour in the lounge before our 7:45 departure to Salt Lake City. We had a few bouncy spots after takeoff and some more on the approach to SLC but otherwise a smooth ride, on which we were fed dinner.

The layover in Salt Lake was just over an hour and the onward flight to Sacramento was on time and again smooth except for climb and descent. We arrived in Sacramento at 11pm local time but, as usual for SMF, baggage was very slow in arriving. We also had a wait for the rental car shuttle and then there was major construction leaving the airport which resulted in us taking a significant detour. Consequently, it was almost 1am (4am at home) before we were settled in the hotel in Natomas. We had decided to stay close to the airport on our arrival night and we were certainly glad that we didn't have to make the drive to Rocklin at that time of night.

Friday August 18

We were up about 8:30 and went to the local iHop for breakfast. We were pleased to see that it is still open and doing well – unlike the two local ones near home. Later in the morning, I went for a 4-mile walk in Natomas and we checked out of the hotel soon after 1pm. We drove to the Courtyard in Roseville, I went for another short walk (in 92F sun) and then we relaxed until dinner with Christopher, Cyndi and Sammy at Casa del Lago about 20 minutes from the hotel. We had a very good meal and a good time catching up.

Saturday August 19

We got up about 7:30 and went for coffee at Starbucks. We each took walks from the hotel before it got too warm and then stayed in the hotel until lunch at a local iHop with Christopher, Cyndi and Sammy. We followed lunch with ice cream and then returned to the hotel for the afternoon. I went for a very short walk but the temperature was close to 100F so I didn't stay out too long.

Tonight, we met Christopher and Cyndi (Sammy had a skating event) for a very nice Italian meal close to our hotel.

Sunday August 20

We were up about 8:30 and went to Starbucks for coffee before we both took walks again. It was quite overcast, and the temperature had moderated some but the humidity was relatively high. We met the family for lunch at MOD Pizza and then returned to the hotel as Cyndi and Sammy had errands and homework to take care of. We met everyone again at Yardhouse for our evening meal. This restaurant is a little noisy but has a wide selection of food and drinks – including very good fish and chips!

We then said our farewells for this trip and looked forward to seeing them all again in December in Sacramento and in Birmingham.

Monday August 21

We got up before 8:30 and went to the Window Box Café for breakfast. We returned to the hotel, finished packing and then set off for the airport. Returning the car went smoothly and the flights via Minneapolis were on time and relatively smooth. The only hitch on the return was that the car wouldn't start when we got back to Cincinnati. For some reason, the booster didn't help so we got a jump from a very kind man returning to his car. We were home about 12:30 and, despite the dead battery, had a lovely time visiting our California family.

