

Day 3 and 4 – Our California Trip [Sunday & Monday]

Sunday morning dawned beautiful and sunny so it didn't take us long to get ourselves out onto the patio for our first shot of java.

Eamon had spent the night up in the loft, so he joined us for "tea" and after our tanning sojourn we headed out for a late breakfast. We went to a diner type restaurant called Arthurs. The place was packed and there was a wait list to get in but it didn't really take very long.



After a very, very filling and delicious breakfast of bacon, eggs, and apple cinnamon waffles we waddled out of Arthurs into the sunshine. Another gorgeous day in California.

We decided to stop at the grocery store as I was going to make spaghetti for Wednesday night dinner and Sharon needed a few things for lunches and dinner tonight. We were having salmon for dinner so I could hardly

wait even though we were all stuffed to the gunnels.

Once we got back to the house, Jackie, Eamon's girlfriend had arrived and we spent the afternoon chatting with them until around 3 o'clock. We had planned on going to an arts and craft show but were having such an enjoyable afternoon with the kids that we kind of let the time slip by.



We had concert tickets for 4:00 to hear the Inland Master Chorale who performed the songs of the Underground Railway. There was a pre-concert talk by Dr. Ronald Kean who was the composer of "The Journey of

Harriet Tubman".

The chorale was composed of 79 singers, a piano accompanist (Sophie Tait) and the director (Dr. Joseph Modica). Following the intermission the assistant director (Anna De Leon) directed the chorale who

performed "Steal Away". It was a little different version than I had been used to, but it was beautifully done and so moving.

As the concert began the chorale all walked in and went around the hall and stood in various spots singing Down to the River to Prayer. Talk about something that brought tears to the eyes. Amazing.

The concert was over too soon, I felt like it had just started. The second half of the story was Harriet Tubman's journey and there was a PowerPoint presentation being shown at the same time depicting her journey of freedom and then her journey of bringing other black slaves to their freedom. History says that she never lost one person on these journeys. Also flashing on the screen were the profiles and photos of the black women who in various way had knocked down the boundaries for black Americans.

The group received 2 standing ovations and they did perform an encore. What a great afternoon. Came back to the house and pretty much vegged out for the rest of the night. We drank wine, had a great dinner, lots of laughs.



Sharon did give us a bit of a tour of downtown Redlands. I had seen a picture of an alley that had tons of umbrellas forming a canopy over the Orange Grove Alley. It was very pretty. 420 umbrellas in all. An art form, a way of bringing something whimsical to the downtown core. Loved it.

We also were able to get a little better view of the University of Redlands. Very reminiscent of Dalhousie. Big sprawling campus, most of the houses around are own by the University etc. Very impressive.



We did have a very funny happy hour. Annabelle had put out crackers and a wonderful dip that we had bought at COSTCO. She came in to get her wine and the dog climbed up on the top of the outdoor fire pit and ate most of the dip. She chased the dog off, came in with the dip, and as soon as her back was turned the dog got up and ate the crackers. I looked at Dobie and said "it will

serve you right if you are sick as a dog". That cracked us all up. Then, Sharon has this garbage can that

opens up when you put your hand near it, so Annabelle had the dip dish and opened the can, started pouring it in and the lid came down and all the dip went over the top of the garbage can. Another fit of laughter.



Sharon showed me Steve's pride and joy. This is something you will love Kevin. It was just like being on American Pickers.

This was Steve's father's car. It was the first one off the assembly line and even has a plaque on the inside with his Dad's name on it.

It is a 59! I knew that because of the rounded tail lights.

We sat drinking wine and

watched "A Star is Born". Annabelle had never seen it so I watched a bit and then cleaned up the kitchen from dinner. Sharon had to finish off her lesson plans for school tomorrow.

A great evening – going to bed with laughter on your brain was is such good medicine.

#### Day 4: [Monday]

Another relatively lazy day. Connor came to the house and he took us out for brunch at Carolyn's. We



only waited about 10 minutes for a table. So many people eat out here, Connor said if you want to open a business in the USA – go for a restaurant. The helpings are huge.

Carolyn's is famous for it's coffee cake. When Carolyn sold the restaurant she sold the rights to the coffee cake recipe as well. Her and her son opened another restaurant called "Stricklands" and since she couldn't make the coffee cake, they made a signature muffin. Connor says it is so close to the coffee cake recipe.

Literally the first course, it comes hot out of the oven with a full ice cream scoop of butter on the top, melting into the hot cake as you ate it. A real artery clogger. For real, you get this before your main meal arrives. It is a meal in itself. Thank heaven Annabelle and I were sharing everything. Now I know why there are so many very large people in the USA. Food was extremely good. Even with sharing our

breakfast Annabelle had to take a “human” bag home. There is enough left over for us to have for breakfast in the morning.

After breakfast, Connor gave us a driving tour of Redlands. It truly is a lovely community. There was a fire in the canyon this morning so he took us to see that and then showed us where they lived when the family first moved down to California.



There was a fire in the gully that had broken out in the early morning and we could still see the helicopters dousing the area with water and fire repellent. So close.

You can just see the area where the fire repellent has been dropped in the photo to the right.

I had to go to a computer store because my phone and notebook were not charging. The long cord that I had purchased at Best Buy didn't have a strong enough charging base as I had mistakenly brought down the LG instead of the Samsung. What a pain in the butt that was. All is now well and things are charging fine.



It was a great morning and Connor was a good guide for us. The rest of the day was vegging out. Doing the blogs, editing the photos and resting up for whatever activities lie ahead for us. I made a triple batch of spaghetti sauce for Wednesday night's supper. The house smelled wonderful, but the kitchen was in a bit of a mess.

We did a few little chores to help Sharon out. Hope she can find things in her cupboards, then we just read, did laundry, tidied and basically stayed out of the sun as it was 90 degrees out

there. I will go out later this afternoon and get a few rays though. I refuse to go home looking white. This has been a good few days for me as I am truly relaxing.



When Sharon came home she made us both a delicious Negroni. As no one was hungry we decided to make a trip to Kohl's and BevMo. There was a lovely sunset for us to enjoy on our way. I actually thought it was a fire, but no, it was just a beautiful evening sky.

Kohl's was a great place to shop. Normally I would be buying lots of nice things, but I only picked up a beautiful sweater and a black t-shirt.

Annabelle found a long top that she liked and the black long sweater that she had been on the look out for. Sharon, got the 20% off coupons that we each were given. A win, win excursion.



Then we went to Bevmo – buy one bottle of wine and get the other for 5 cents. Granted it was on selected wines, but as Sharon and I said, “it can’t be that bad”. My idea is that we drink a good bottle first and then the cheaper ones.

I did however find one wine that I really liked a lot and it was only \$9.99 a bottle. Not sure if I can get it at home or not. A job for you Kev. Would you believe I found this at Costco. Might have to make a trip up every week or two to stock up. Oh right, Costco in Canada doesn't sell

wine. How uncivilized! Holy crap. In the BC Liquor store it is \$17.99 a bottle. Another reason for staying in California.

Also checked out a few whiskeys to show Kevin. They sure had a great selection. I liked these bottles, but I did send him a bunch of other nice photos and prices.



After we got home we enjoyed a lovely Cobb salad and no wine. Not sure what happened there. We won't let that happen again.

Connor had texted his mum and asked her to tape a "Live Rescue" program on the A&E. A fire had broken out in San Bernadino this afternoon which is not far from here. The entire fire fighting and rescue mission had been filmed. Four homes were lost and several people were sent to the hospital. One of the firefighters also had to go to the hospital, he fell.

When Connor came home we watch the show and it was something else. However, my one comment would be that I have never seen such dumb people. Your house is burning, the firefighters say get the hell out – YOU DON'T STAY! Connor just raised his hands when I asked if this was real. "My kind of people" he said.

Guess I would have to walk in their shoes, but I think I would be high tailing out of there real quickly.

Another couple of great days. I could get use to doing nothing for sure.

Take care to all

Judi