

JOURNAL – US, New Zealand, Australia, April-June 2010

30 April 2010. Up and finished getting ready. Shut down house; to Post Office and Mill for last time. Bill Driscoll and John Enman picked me up at 10:30 and drove me to Manchester Airport. There with plenty of time. Had lunch and read. Problem: Flight to Duller postponed so shifted to Delta leaving at 4:10 for Detroit. Called Toph and Molly who got me seats on flights. Looked like the second flight was going to be a problem but came in a little early and we were off to Detroit. Two hour flight and had 20 minutes for the connection which I easily made. We were about to head out when we had to go back to the gate to get a window shade unstuck! Added an hour to the flight. Got into Sacramento at about 10:20pm. Met up with Toph and waited for my bag that was there. Got back to their house and had some heated-up dinner and a beer. Very nice renovated bungalow, 1920s or so. Soon after—about 3am my time—I was in bed.

1 May 2010. Up at about 7am. Breakfast of pancakes. Met Larkin (again) and Phin (for the first time). Nice kids. Toph, the kids and I had a walk around the neighborhood, which is very nice. Small houses, many bungalows, lots of rehabs, lovely trees—palms and sycamores. Went to the local park and tossed a frisbee around.

A little later that morning we headed out in the car through downtown, past the Capitol, to the Railroad Museum in Old Town. Excellent museum. Then took a 40 minute ride in a train along the river. After that we went to an “In and Out” for a burger, then back to the house by around 2 or so.

Took a nap and am now writing this up in the very nice small backyard.

That night we ate in the backyard—salmon, etc. Not long after went to bed.

2 May 2010. Another lovely day. Phin came into my rook and woke me up at 7:15 to have me read to him his Whale and his Dinosaur books. After breakfast we all set off on bikes, first to the artwork that I remembered from years ago in front of the paint store. 81 vertical pipes in a square painted different colors. The paint store is now a blood bank. We then biked to Sutter’s Fort which was interesting. A tour, shooting off a cannon, muskets, etc. Had a picnic snack. Then to the Capitol for an outdoor concern. Got tired of waiting for it to start so back to the house. Oh, had some very good frozen yogurt just before going to the Capitol.

Once back at the house, took a nap. Later, walked with Toph and the kids to a nearby Mexican restaurant and got take-out food which we brought back to the house and ate in the backyard. Hung out a bit, wrote up these notes and eventually to bed.

3 May 2010. Yet again a lovely day. Up about 7am, shower and pack. Said goodbye to Larking as she headed to school. Emily and Phin drove me to the rail station and dropped me off. Very easy. Through the station (early architecture) and there was the train waiting. Perhaps 20% full, if that. Lovely ride. About 8-10 stops. Right on time. Got off in Oakland—Jack London Square—and soon after Karen Carlson was there to meet me. We walked around the area including the