

Earl's Diary - Saturday - May 18, 2013

Dear Loyal Readers, One and All;

Today is Saturday and will be the last full day with our traveling companions - the families - Don and Faith, Bob and Jackie.

Tomorrow they will be heading south to visit relatives in Memphis, Tennessee; Hot Springs, Arkansas; Dallas, Texas. We will be heading north to St. Louis and Hannibal, MO, and Springfield, IL.

In honor of the occasion, Faith served homemade waffles to our group of seven. Bob fixed his usual good scrambled eggs with cheese, mushrooms and red bell peppers. The thick cut crispy bacon was also extra tasty. Following breakfast, everyone went their separate ways. The plan was to meet in the evening for dinner here at the park. (More about that later).



My afternoon was filled with the amazing sight of the one hour backstage tour of the *Joseph* production. When I arrived we were divided into small groups of 20 people (there were four groups altogether.) Each group was led by 2 actors from the show. Joseph had 12 brothers. Our group was led by actors who portrayed 2 of the brothers. We were led onto the HUGE stage and got closeup to those massive sets. (One set towered 40 feet above our heads.) The sets are made of styrofoam and are pushed around on wheels. A scene within pharaoh's palace had two large columns. In front of those columns stood two large figures (40 feet high). After walking around these columns, we discovered another set of figures on the other side. When turned around they could be used in another scene. One set = two uses!

All those HUGE sets are stored on stage, each set parked in its own space. We also discovered that since there are two Sight and Sound theaters (in Branson, and Pennsylvania), each theater has its own sets and they are not transported back and forth between cities. Behind the stage is another huge workshop that contains all the sets from previous productions. Some of those sets are equally huge and reach 30 feet to the top of the building. WOW! That blows my mind!

We got to see the actors dressing rooms where they apply their own make-up. One of our guides had already applied his face make-up because there wouldn't be time between our tour and the 3:30 start of the show. We were able to see the holding pens for the live animals in the show. (Some of the animals are animatronics).

It was a truly fascinating tour. I was glad I had seen the production BEFORE taking the backstage visit.

In the evening it was very humid so we seven decided to eat at a restaurant called McFarlaine's - Authentic Ozark's cuisine. I introduced several of our party to fried green tomatoes. I was disappointed to not see fried okra on the menu. When I mentioned it to the server, she said they were going to introduce it when new menus were printed. They did have some in the kitchen and would be glad to serve it. SO I also introduced deep fried okra to the group as well.

That was my day. The weather has been warm AND humid during the day. It's nice to stay in under the a/c. Thanks for coming along with me. Bye for now - - Earl