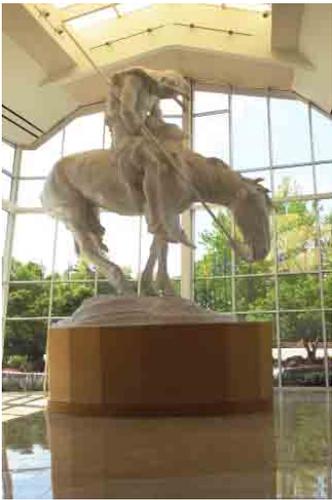


Earl's Diary - Sunday - May 12, 2013

Dear Loyal Readers,

We are still in Oklahoma City (day 2). The highlight of today was a visit to the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. Wow! What a place. We spent a good 2 1/2 hours here. There was SOOOO much to see. If we lived closer we could spend another day here.

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum features a superb collection of classic and contemporary western art, including works by Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell, as well as sculptor James Earle Fraser's magnificent work, *The End of the Trail*. The exhibition wing houses a turn-of-the-century town and interactive history galleries that focus on the American cowboy, rodeos, Native American culture, Victorian firearms, frontier military and western performers. Outside, beautifully landscaped gardens flank the Children's Cowboy Corral, and interactive children's space. As usual, I took too many pictures. Here are a few of the good ones.



A huge sculpture depicting "The End of the Trail"





Even Roy Rogers and Dale Evans
- no Trigger however.



How about Gunsmoke?



Saddles and more saddles along with displays of spurs, bridles, barb wire, chaps, hats, anything you can think of.



My six traveling companions: L-R Alan, Faith, Bob, Don, Jackie, Michele

We visited a village of 20 western town shops.

We saw full size models of western life



Earl in jail?



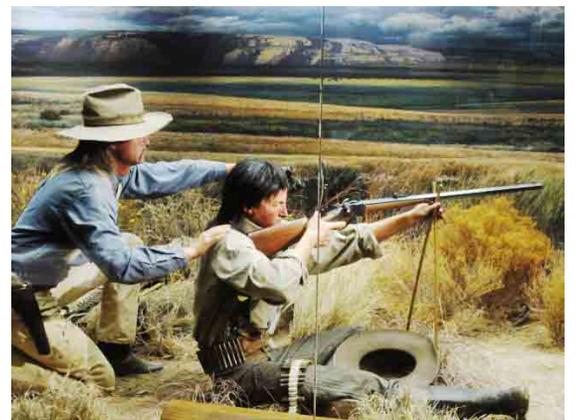
Chuckwagon



Bunkhouse



Choir Director?



School room



POPS occupies a space in the small town near Oklahoma City - Arcadia

Prickly Pear

We visited another oddity near downtown Oklahoma City - POPS
It's the effervescent essence of Route 66: colorful, free-wheeling, fun. POPS answers the call of the road: our unquenchable thirst for adventure.

This sculptural take on a soda bottle and straw soars 66 ft. into the sky. Like a rocketship from another realm, it's THE must-see Route 66 landmark, standing next to the space station with which it arrived.



Goody Blue



Ranch



Havana Banana



Cucumber Soda - Uggg!!!



Sweet Corn, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Buffalo Wing, Ranch Dressing, Bacon Soda



Peaches and Cream, Coffee, Cucumber, Peanut Butter



Michele was looking for something. I'm not sure what. Alan ended up with Havana Banana AND Bacon Soda. Bacon is reported to be just awful!



The **Arcadia Round Barn** is a landmark and tourist attraction on historic U.S. Route 66 in Oklahoma. It was built by local farmer William Harrison Odor in 1898 using native bur oak boards soaked while green and forced into the curves needed for the walls and roof rafters. A second level was incorporated for use as a community gathering place. The town of Arcadia developed and prospered with the arrival of the railroad and in the 1920s the newly-commissioned Route 66 was aligned through the town, passing next to the Round Barn. Over time, the barn became the most photographed landmark on Route 66.



With the reduction of traffic along Route 66 following the arrival of the Interstate, Arcadia and the barn likewise declined. In 1988 the 60 foot diameter roof collapsed. A team of volunteers worked to rebuild the structure, and restoration work was completed in 1992. Today the old barn is a tourist attraction.



After all that sightseeing, we were mighty hungry. We decided to let Earl's Rib Palace do the cooking. There are six locations for this popular eating facility in Oklahoma City. We decided to do the take out special and brought back enough grub for 10 people. We agreed that these ribs were mighty tasty and compared favorably with Tyler's Ribs in Amarillo. We met in the club house of the park where the seven of us were comfortable. The seven of ate as much as we could and still had enough for left overs tomorrow night after we arrive in Branson. Games of table tennis and billiards were in order following dinner.



The weather has been almost perfect for our visit to this part of the country (a little breezy at times). Tomorrow is a travel day as we head for (and arrive in) Branson, MO. My next report will come from there. Thanks for traveling along with me. Bye for now - - Earl