

Earl's Diary - Thursday - February 23, 2012

Today we had another fascinating excursion! In fact, I might add, THAT'S AMAZING!, to quote Huell Howser. (To all you out-of-state readers: Huell Howser is a California PBS personality). My sister-in-law, Carolyn, and I visited the Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) in Scottsdale.

We arrived at the MIM at 11:30 after a 25 minute ride from Sun City to Scottsdale. For the next 1 1/2 we toured the United States gallery. After that time our poor feet (and perhaps the rest of our bodies) needed a little rest and nourishment. We stopped by the restaurant (in the museum) for a bowl of soup. It was then time to head back upstairs to visit the European gallery. By 2:45 we couldn't walk and watch anymore, so headed back to Sun City.

Another THAT's AMAZING! What is this place? The Musical Instrument Museum has permanent collection galleries, galleries for special exhibitions and hands-on experiences, a performance auditorium, an open conservation laboratory on view to museum visitors, a recording studio, a library, a restaurant, and a gift shop with music and music-related items.

The MIM is the biggest museum in the world of its type. It has a collection of over 15,000 musical instruments. It includes instruments from nearly 200 countries and territories in the world. Some larger displays such as India, China, Russia, the United States and Congo have multiple displays with subsections for different types of ethnic, folk, and tribal music.

The museum is divided into 5 geographical regions - United States, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America (which included South America and Oceania). As we approached each display, (with our headphones on) we could hear what an instrument sounds like, while viewing a clip of it being played. The displays are expertly assembled so we got to see, hear and experience the music and catch a glimpse of its place in the culture of that region. The video clips were shown on small flat screen TV's in each exhibit.

This museum is so new (opened in April, 2010) that many displays are still being installed. There's enough to see and experience that we completely wore out from our 2 1/2 hour visit. There's still more to see on my next visit to Sun City. You bet! That will be on my agenda for next time! Thanks for coming along with me on this trip.

Bye for now - - Earl

These pictures will give you the flavor of the museum. Note that I did not take these pictures. They are so much better than I could take.



