

2011 Séjour à Paris.

Sunday, February 27. “Escape” from the snow, no heat, no power, no phone, no internet.



Drove to Dixon. Best Western Motel. Had a pizza and caught the last hour of the Academy Awards.

Monday, February 28. Drove to El Rancho in Millbrae. On the way there stopped in Emeryville and watched Niam Leeson in “Unknown” Ate in the Terrace Café at the Motel. Scallops with Risotto. Gambas and fettuccine. Side of Spinach. Later (in the bar) we had white wine and chicken egg rolls.

Tuesday, March 1. “Snack” breakfast at the Terrace Café. Shuttle to International Terminal. Checked our 3 bags. United flight to Frankfurt left on time, arrived a bit early. It was a 10+ hour flight. On the plane saw “The King’s Speech” again; also True Grit. OD saw most of Megamind, slept a little.

Wednesday, March 2. Change to plane for Paris. We “entered” Europe there in Frankfurt. It was interesting that when we arrived in Paris we didn’t have to go through customs. So our bags from the U.S. came out on the carousel and were already in France. There were some problems at the airport – the driver arranged by the rental agent didn’t show; the two weary travelers had a spat; Ernie had neglected to recharge his Bouygues account (although he changed the SIM card already in San Francisco) so finally had to find a pay phone. We learned from the rental agent that there was an accident on the autoroute from Paris to the airport and the driver was hopelessly blocked. So we found another taxi. And we saw the “blocage” as we rode into Paris. There were 3 lanes of completely stopped traffic that was at least 20 km long!!

The rental agent, Gérald, was at the apartment. He showed us around and left and we unpacked. A scary incident when he tried to be helpful and carry Ernie’s computer up the stairs and it fell out of the case but fortunately nothing broke. A few problems: the main ones being the phone doesn’t work and the wireless doesn’t work. Gérald had bought orange juice, milk, coffee, water, and flowers for us. A nice

welcome. We had a wonderful dinner at Le Bouledogue, 20, rue Rambuteau. Marrow and toast, red wine, veal chop in sauce, shared a bowl of big fries. Coffee.



Thursday, March 3 - We had some orange juice and then went to the Café Manfred for our first taste of croissants in Paris. Then we retrieved our things from our stockage. We took a metro there but a taxi back to the apartment.

After making a list of minor things wrong in the apartment, mostly small, we communicated with Gérald. He will come over and go through stuff with us. He is most cooperative. Ate lunch Café 43. Ernie had a salad Oceane (salad with seafood) and Olivia a club sandwich Norwegian (smoked salmon, tomatoes sauce with dill), bubbly Water and 1664 beer.

That evening after walking around and exploring the neighborhood, we had dinner of individual pizzas. I had a Reine, Ernie an anchois pizza and a bottle of red Chateau Neuf de Pape, Cognac, Grand Marnier at Café Paris BeauBourg. It was a very lively place near the Pompidou center. They were playing an album of 100 soul hits. A customer whose name was David asked the waiter who the singer was but the waiter didn't know. So after a while Olivia walked over to him and in my broken French told him the singer he asked about was Etta James. Later he came to our table and introduced himself as Xavier. He is originally from Martinique.

Friday, March 4. We need to stop eating out every meal! Found the nearest BNP Bank on Rue Bretagne just past the Square du Temple to withdraw some cash. Then continued on to the Marche des Enfants Rouges, the oldest permanent outdoor market in Paris, recommended by Barbara. Not really a street market like we had in the 6th and 7th. But there are probably some around here. Anyway they have great take out foods – one can buy and eat right there. We bought Lebanese for lunch and Moroccan for dinner. Then we shopped at the FranPrix on Rue Bretagne.

We were in bed by 10:30 but then remembered that we had the idea to call Bob Bogart and see if he could get our computers working with wireless. He plunged in using TeamViewer (where Bob took control of our computers in Paris from California) and at the same time talking with him on SKYPE – so when he was working on Ernie's computer we had SKYPE contact with him on Olivia's. He was successful so we were able on Saturday morning to take away the Ethernet cables that we had used before then to be on the internet. OD spent the afternoon cleaning the kitchen and putting away extra sets of dishes, selected a bright table service of parrots and tropical fruit design and became acquainted with the kitchen. It is very functional with lots of pots and pans. There are a few missing tools, no oven or broiler. The funny thing is that there were at least four complete sets of dishes. I removed about 150 dishes and extra glasses to high shelves in the walk in closet in the living room, one of two large storage closets. There are several burned out bulbs.

I contacted Mme Milone and arranged a cello lesson for next Friday, March 11.