

# The Summer of 2008

11-01-08

We started writing this story as we were getting ready to fly to Thailand last month. We have been thinking a lot about our summer. It was a wonderful summer for Daeng and me. We returned to the USA from Thailand on June 26<sup>th</sup> after spending almost a year getting Daeng a visa so she could join us here in California. It defiantly tough me more patience and tolerance than I wanted to learn. I also want to thank Holly and the Law offices of Holmes and Lolly for their help in obtaining Daeng's Visa to the USA.

After getting settled at home in Fountain Valley we got legal things in order and made a little trip to get married in Las Vegas. As we stood in front of the plastic security shield in the marriage license office we decided not to marry in Vegas.

We stayed at the Golden Nugget.



The pool was great!



Daeng did like the Fremont Street Experience.



And we ate a lot, of course.



She liked the “One Armed Bandits”, too. She did not put much money in the machines.

Daeng is very frugal so she



The reason we made the decision not to marry in Vegas was we were told that it would take ten working days to get the paperwork mailed to us in California to prove we were legally married. Now in order for Daeng to stay in the USA more than ninety days we had to file for an Adjustment of Status with immigrations.

For her to leave the USA and return she also needed a Travel Permit which takes sixty to ninety days to receive. Since we wanted to return to Thailand again for two months in the fall we had to move along with the process. It was now the middle of July. You do the math.

We returned to Orange County the next day, July 16<sup>th</sup>. We went onto the internet from home. In the Orange County Clerk’s Office website we filled out all the paperwork to marry. We made an appointment for the next day at 9:15 AM. When we arrived at the beautiful, original court house in Santa Ana we sat with a gracious lady at her desk in nice leather chairs. She verified the questions we answered on the website application. The experience was a world apart from standing behind the plastic security glass in Las Vegas



She then put on a black gown and in a nice little chapel there in the Clerk’s Office, she married us with a double ring ceremony. I think it was more dignified than any of the Vegas weddings I’ve been to except no Elvis. At the end of the ceremony she gave us the paperwork needed for immigrations and off we went to a life of married bliss.

During the summer we traveled to some of the tourist attraction, like Bakersfield, to see 50,000 cows.



Yep, 50,000 Cows!



We were on the way to Disneyland during the earthquake and when we arrived all the rides were closed when we got inside the park.



They were very nice and gave us passes to return another day.



We tried to visit my Mom at Flagship Care Center in Newport Beach everyday. Mom is doing pretty good emotionally and mentally but can not stand up even for a second due to her knees. Unfortunately, she is not a candidate for knee replacement due to



others health issues.

To celebrate her age 87, Mom did have two fun birthday parties, one at my sister Diane's home and one at Flagship Health Care Center in Newport Beach where she is staying.



Getting old is a bitch! The only thing nice about getting old is we do it together.

We visited the beach in California but Daeng does not like the big waves as they remind her of the tsunami that hit Thailand's west coast.



The east coast of Thailand is very calm and at low tide you can walk out into the ocean half a mile and still be only in waist deep water. The water is very warm, too.

Another fun thing we did was go to the circus.



Daeng met all the family on the west coast.



That was pretty scary for her.

She also met my buddy Sam, Robin and their family.



Along with our friends Michael and Charlotte, we took a little trip to the river.



Daeng helped me fix a few air conditioning systems, too.



She bowled for the first time.

We even did things like visit the Korean Bell in San Pedro, California.



To cut this story short, we just want to wish everyone the very best and we will keep in touch more from the "Land of Smiles".



We also want to thank everyone that gave us money to help with the children's shelter in northern Thailand.

We will send you the story and pictures of that project in another email.  
Love,  
Terry & Daeng

*Please remember I'm a plumber and be forgiving regarding my spelling and punctuation.. [Terry@FunnyPlumber.com](mailto:Terry@FunnyPlumber.com) 11/01/2008*