

First Week Back

As is my pattern when I return from China, I spend my first day working in the sunshine on 18 acres (more than 7 hectares) of future open space parkland near my home. I push a lawnmower, cutting six weeks of grass and weed growth, for about five or six hours. That way I “kill” my jet-lag in just one day. I have been the volunteer manager of this property for a decade, cleaning it up and documenting the plants and animals found on it (see www.EdHolroyd.info/Prospect/). It took several more days to finish mowing the roadways and trails. The following photos are from Saturday, overlooking the property from a high area on its southwest corner.



These overlapping photos look eastward. There is a large pond behind the trees at the right. The property extends to the far background trees in the left photo. There is a narrow pathway in the foreground of the left photo. The next photos were taken from where the path enters the sunny area.



These overlapping photos look northward over the lowlands. The property includes all of the grassy areas as far as the dense line of background trees. While taking these photos I noticed a mother Mule Deer and two young deer enjoying the property in the lowlands. I did not have my long



camera lens with me at the time and so I could only get this photo of the deer. I greatly enjoy taking care of this large property, being alone on it with the wildlife for many hours at a time.

On Thursdays I do volunteer work at the large warehouse of Project C.U.R.E. (www.projectcure.org), which receives donated medical supplies and equipment and ships them to more than 130 needy countries around the world. The medical things are free to the receiving hospitals and clinics, but someone needs to pay the shipping costs. For a standard 40-foot shipping container packed with more than \$400,000 worth of medical equipment and supplies the shipping costs are about \$20,000. That means a 20-to-1 benefit-to-cost ratio for an investment.



This is where I spend 5 to 6 hours every Thursday. I make sure that boxes of supplies are correctly located on the floor level using product code numbers. When there are too many boxes and they extend out into the aisle, as on the right side, I stack the newer boxes onto a wooden pallet and wrap the bundle in plastic. Someone else uses a forklift to place the pallets of boxes on the upper levels of the stacks. I use that yellow pallet jack to move heavy

pallets, some of which can exceed a thousand kilograms. At the far right the aisle is loaded with boxes for earthquake relief in Nepal. The wheelchairs and crutches will also be shipped there on Monday.





In 1877 Arthur Lakes discovered large dinosaur bones along the ridge shown in the left photo, west of Denver, Colorado. The area is now called Dinosaur Ridge and extends for several kilometers south of this road cut. This is where the first discoveries of the bones of Stegosaurus and Apatosaurus were found, now illustrated in the full size models in the middle photo at the Water Park in Tianjin, China. On the west side of Dinosaur Ridge the public can place their hands on real dinosaur bones shown as dark parts in the right photos.



I have been a volunteer guide at Dinosaur Ridge since 1990. This past Saturday I was there again with my usual display at the plant fossil site. I have two tables with plant fossil samples. I give myself shelter from the sun and light rain sprinkles with the canopy suspended from ropes. During the day I may speak to about a thousand people who visit the ridge. Other volunteers speak where there are dinosaur bones and footprints and important geologic features. Twenty years ago I wrote a fifty page booklet about the features of Dinosaur Ridge which I continue to make available to the public.

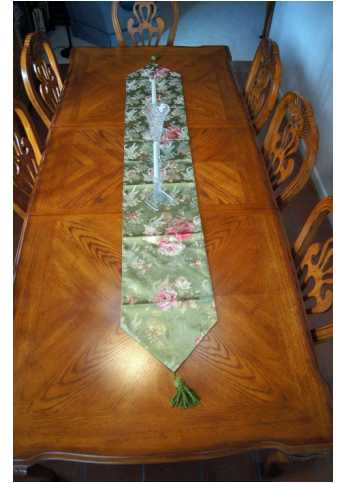


On Thursday, on my way home from Project C.U.R.E., I stopped at the home of my son Micah Holroyd and daughter-in-law Paige Holroyd to see the new twin grandchildren who were born July 11 while I was in Anshan, China. At the left is granddaughter Arden Sydney Holroyd. In the center is grandson Thomas Becket Holroyd. At the right are their mother Paige Holroyd and her mother Becky Vittitoe. Arden is Paige's middle name. The basket being used by Arden is one we bought in Sydney Australia in 1974 when our son was born there. Thomas's hair is reddish, apparently from my wife's (Gail) father. Becky is visiting Denver from Louisville, Kentucky, through the end of August to help care for her grandchildren.

Sunday afternoon my second brother, Graham Holroyd, his wife, Karen, and sons Aaron and Tyler visited us, coming from near Rochester, New York. Tyler is an engineering student at the nearby Colorado School of

Mines, where I was once a student and where I make friends with international students, especially from China. Micah brought his family and Becky. Later our younger daughter, Maren Nadvornik, brought her husband Dan and our grandsons Luka and Bodey Nadvornik. Our older daughter, Michelle Williamson, her husband Gehrig, and grandson Hans Williamson and granddaughter Elin Williamson had visited us in June and remained in northwestern Wisconsin this time. Michelle and Gehrig are both family practice medical doctors in their small town of Amery, at or near which are many of Gehrig's relatives.

I will use some of the remaining space for home photos. At the right is a new covering for our dining room table that should be recognized by Annie, one of my teacher/trainees in Anshan, China. The last photo is of our vegetable garden (and cat's playground). The garden is totally enclosed with a thin wire mesh (about 2.5 cm holes) suspended on plastic pipes 2.1 meters above ground and lining all sides to 30 cm underground. That is to keep out squirrels and dogs (including wild coyotes) and large birds. In the first row are Swiss chard and beets. In the second row are a few carrots and broccoli. Next are yellow and green beans and peas. Beyond that are various squashes and repeats of beans, carrots, beets, and Swiss chard. Tall sunflowers are growing from seeds dropped by the birds. The garden is 12.2 meters long, 7.6 meters wide at this near end and 4.6 meters wide at the far end. Shade from nearby trees limits plant growth in the foreground.



Dr. Ed Holroyd
9 August 2015