

Day 13–At Sea – Mickey Finn – Black and White Formal Night - 8 Oct 09: The weather continued good today with bright sunshine and calm sea. We worked on the blog covering our visit yesterday in Nuku Hiva.

Mickey Finn: Barbara went to an interview of Mickey Finn and his wife Cathy in the Explorers Lounge. They mainly talked about what they have been doing in their musical careers over the last 10 years. They, along with all the other entertainers and Explorer Series speakers will be leaving the ship tomorrow in Tahiti.



Black and White Formal Night: Tonight the dress was formal for dinner. It was actually a special formal night because the theme was Black and White. In other words, it was



recommended that the formal wear display only black and white. The steward at the entrance to the dining room was dressed in a glitzy black and white jacket and Barbara hammed it up with him as shown on the left.

The dining room had huge black and white balloons suspended from the ceiling in the central part of the room, as shown in the photograph on the right.



Our waiter took this picture of our table showing George, Judy, Barbara, Orlin and Sandy dressed up for the big occasion. We didn't get pictures of Wanda, Karen or Valerie in their finery so we will have to make up for this shortfall at the next formal night.



The menus on formal nights are always just a touch more elaborate than the usual fare. Tonight Barbara ordered her



favorite which is the "Surf and Turf" selection of lobster tail and steak. When the dish came the lobster seemed bigger than usual and we got this picture of it for the record. Our table mate, Karen, substituted a second lobster for the steak so she could really satisfy the lobster urge. Barbara is planning the same switch-out routine to double her lobster portion next time she has the opportunity.

After dinner we were walking toward the Queen's Lounge when we met Dick and Ann, our friends from prior cruises. They are always fun to talk to so we chatted for quite a while. They had just finished watching the early show of entertainment and were getting ready for the main seating in the dining room. The entertainment tonight was a variety show featuring the comedian Joe Yannetty and the singer / impressionist Jeff Trachta. They had given performances on prior nights and this would be their last performance before leaving the ship in Tahiti tomorrow.



When we got back to the room tonight we had a nice surprise pillow gift. We got a small digital alarm clock for travel. It even came with a battery. Thanks HAL.

This was a typical relaxing day at sea with not a lot of things to talk about. Tomorrow we arrive in Tahiti and the town of Papeete which is the capital of French Polynesia. We will dock and will be able to leave the ship about 10am but we don't have any formal tours scheduled. We plan to just walk around and enjoy the atmosphere of Papeete.