

How Sweet!

Yesterday (Friday) we got a small amount of snow in the lowlands at our home, after an abundance of rain. This morning the nearby foothills were white with snow, but the bright sun melted it all by the time of the following photos at noon. From a hilltop restaurant where a bunch of people from our church had lunch, the high mountains were still covered with snow.



This first view is towards the west-southwest. Mount Evans is the tall white mountain just to the left of the middle. Below it is a flat-topped tall hill (called North Table Mountain) made visible by the dark nearly horizontal line. Behind that hill is the town of Golden which is the home of Colorado School of Mines. Our home is a few kilometers this side of that hill. The light line near the base of the hills to the right of the middle results from open-pit mining operations.



This next scene is towards the west-northwest in the direction of the city of Boulder, home of one of the campuses of the University of Colorado. At the far left are white towers supporting wind-powered generators that are being tested. Most of the white behind the nearby mountains is from clouds, but brighter white patches of snow can also be seen.



This scene is towards the northwest and overlaps the previous scene. The tall white mountain to

the left of the middle is Long's Peak. To the far right are more distant snow-capped mountains. The foreground is near the center of the city of Westminster, a northwestern suburb of Denver. Some of the trees are starting to turn color.



Our church fellowship group visited this Hammond's Candy Factory during the late morning. It has operated here and in several previous Denver locations since 1920. Many different types of candy are made and packed by hand. Tours are given six days per week throughout the day. They also have a store to sell some of their products, though most are distributed around the country.



After viewing a video about the history of the company we went to two main viewing areas. In addition to watching through windows, large TV screens showed close vertical views of the workers. The orange sign below proclaims that the candy mixtures of sugar (from beets), syrup (from corn), and water, are cooked at a hot 324 degrees F (162 deg. C). The first video image shows a worker with three colored piles of soft candy that are still cooling. The enlarged video shows a team making tree-like cones of twisted rope-like candy. The dark-and-light object at the top center is a large blob of candy that is being slowly twisted by a machine. The rear person in black is pulling from it a rope-like sample, cutting it to a specified length. The next workers roll the candy rope to a uniform diameter. The foreground worker twirls it onto cones.

We were told that it takes the workers three years to learn how to make all of the different types of candy. At any particular time there are several types being made, and over time the workers participate in all stages of the operations. So they have daily variety in their work.



The first photo above shows workers pouring a fresh batch of candy onto a cooling table. A dark red slab of soft candy is on the table at the lower left. A white slab of candy is to its left. The second photo shows the workers folding up candy that has sufficiently cooled.



The next photo shows a machine with three white spindles that rotate around each other. That folds and refolds the blob of soft candy, mixing air into it, enlarging its volume and making it softer. The added air also makes the candy whiter. The man in gray is folding a batch of candy. He prepared an exterior of two panels of dark red and two panels of white. The center is a light pink fluffed up with lots of air. Later this will be pulled and twisted into small candy-canes.



We also watched the candy being packaged by hand by the workers. We received a free sample

of broken candy at the end of the tour. The hand-cranked machine at the left of this photo folds ribbons of candy. The right machine appears to make small balls of candy.



Both before and after the tour we were encouraged to visit the store and, of course, buy lots of candy. This view shows only half of the store. In the lower left the floor tiles have candy designs. It was an enjoyable and informative tour.



Ed Holroyd
5 October 2013