

Sunday, February 8 was a non-driving day. Bill arose at 5:30 AM and finished off number 6 of the travel journals and cut a CD for later uploading to the Internet. We had a city tour of Vera Cruz which started at 8:00 AM. The first stop was the Grande Café de Parroquia, a huge coffee shop. Their specialty is a Lechera which is a café con leche wherein the hot milk is served with a dramatically high pouring by the server after the customer bangs on the glass with a spoon. Bill had two large ones and was set up for the day. Breakfast was pretty ordinary, but it was an interesting place. The tour continued with a bit of browsing time along a row of kiosks which would not do any bargaining. Then we went to the town square (zócalo)

and wandered around for a while. We tried to make a couple of phone calls, but weren't successful in getting through. The next stop on the tour was the island fortress, San Juan de Ulua, which was built in the 16th century out of coral. This was not a good thing to do to the coral reef of Vera Cruz, but it made for a beautiful building. The fortress held some prisoners at times in its history and had its own version of the "bridge of sighs" (see our [Venice trip](#)). We found out that the concluding action sequence of the movie, "Romancing the Stone", was filmed at the fortress. We concluded the tour with a stop at a Walmart Supercenter which wasn't too far from our campground. Upon return, Cathy and Bill did some chores, ate

lunch in the camper, and then walked to an Internet Café. Bill uploaded number 6 of the travel journals and then upgraded the Computing Doc website so that there would be room for subsequent chapters. The whole group went to dinner at the same restaurant we went to the night before for a meal included in the tour. We all picked up laundry after dinner. We got to pay \$17 for ours and felt that the price was about twice what it should have been. We had paid \$20 earlier in the day for a thorough washing of our camper and car. Since the minimum wage in Mexico is \$4.20 per day, this group of entrepreneurs did very well for themselves in a day and a half. We did some organizing for tomorrow's

early departure before heading to bed.



Larry, Peg, Nancy, and Phil watch the long distance milk delivery system at the cafe in Vera Cruz.