



"North to Alaska!!!"

Hello everyone, just wanted you to know that this newsletter was delayed because of the disruptive presence of a lady named 'Florence'! We will talk more about her in next months' newsletter.

Well Sunday 9/1 Bob & I arrived home following a wonderful Alaskan Land Tour and Cruise!! This was our second Alaskan cruise but first Land Cruise under the management of Princess Cruise Line. Even the weather cooperated. We flew from home to Fairbanks on August 17th, where we started our Land Tour, and stayed 2 nights at the Princess Riverside Lodge. The picture to the right is of the Fairbanks Airport. I wish I could show you all our pictures on this trip, but that is not possible without turning this newsletter into a book!! One of the first things we got to see was the TransAlaska pipeline with a presentation on history and operation. I am standing under it. The lady in yellow is our fantastic Tour Leader, Jill. Gold Dredge 8 is a National Historical Monument, which we toured and then....of course, planned for gold...yes I have my authentic Alaskan gold! After this we returned to the narrow gauge Tanana Valley Railroad. We also traveled the Chena and Tanana rivers on the only remaining Alaskan stern-wheeler. This river trip was fantastic which included the old Chena Indian Village with a glimpse into Alaskan life, a sled dog demonstration and watched a bush pilot perform a take off and landing on the river. The sled dog demo is what really caught my attention. We learned much about Alaskan sled dogs through out this trip. Below is where Alaskan natives are cooking salmon in the smoke house..yum!!

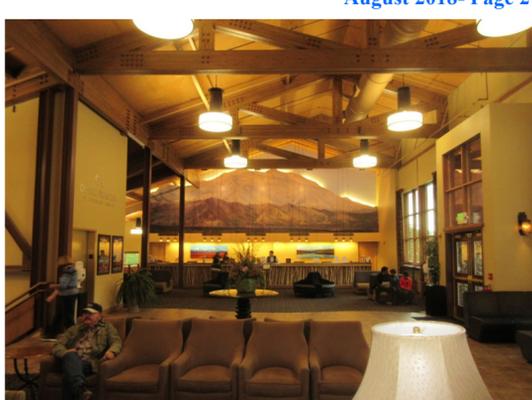


Gold Dredge 8



Denali National Park

Day 3 we arrived at the Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge by train, where we stayed 2 nights. The picture on the right is the registration desk area. The Princess Lodges were lovely, comfortable with very good food, including fresh salmon, of course!!! To the right are a couple of scenic pictures, that came out really well. The river is Toklut, a 'braded' Glacial River. We saw a lot of this type of river, which is wide with low streams running down it in an irregular pattern. While in Denali we toured by bus, stopping for rest stops and to view the beautiful scenes. While touring by bus we also visited an RV Park, which also doubled as a rest stop. They had a small engine airplane under a hanger...that kind of makes you wonder about the RVs getting in there? Then we traveled from Denali to Talkeetna by train. See picture below of Bob & I seated with the fellow members of our tour group. Great sightseeing train!! The train had dining facilities and we had lunch on board. We then transferred from Talkeetna to McKinley, where we stayed one night. The next morning we traveled by coach from McKinley to Kenai where we stayed 3 nights. Below that assorted wild life pictures.



Kenai

On our way to the Kenai Princess Wilderness Lodge, we came through Anchorage where the Iditarod Dog Sled Race starts every year on the first Saturday of March. There is a museum there with memorials to the event. While on the cruise part of our journey, we listened to an interview with Libby Riddles who was the first woman to win this race in 1985. Amazing!! We also visited the city of Seward, on Resurrection Bay which was important during WWII. We also learned about the Alaskan salmon and got to see them in the river. See pictures on the bottom of page 2. When we docked in Ketchikan during the cruise, we also visited the Macaulay Salmon Hatchery. We visited the *Exit Glacier* and really enjoyed our stay at the Kenai Wilderness Lodge, a beautiful spot. We finally boarded our ship in Whittier, which was another interesting experience as we had to travel through the 2.5 mile Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel to get there. You have to wait your turn to travel through this tunnel, which is used by trains and automobiles. Yes, that is correct, you have to wait your turn. This was built during WWII, as part of the war effort. Look it up on the web, interesting. The only way in or out of this city was by water or tunnel because of the mountains. Page 4 will have some pictures of our cruise. Since this is our second Alaskan cruise but our first land tour, I gave more space to the land tour.



Princess Alaskan Cruise

Well, I think this will be the last page. We boarded the ship in Whittier, with stops at Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan and finally Vancouver. I picked some highlights along the way to show you. Below is the advancing Hubbard Glacier. Too bad the clouds are so low in this picture. Below that is a picture of the interview on board the ship with Libby Riddles. She describes her amazing experience in the Iditarod Race of 1985. While in Ketchikan we took a boat ride to view to-tam pollts of Native Alaskans. A couple of pictures on the right, with a crew member demonstrating his singing talent. Below these pictures is the Salmon hatchery in Skagway, also very impressive. Then I utilized the space below for some extras, which speak for themselves. The pup is a sled dog pup, one of three brought on board for people to see. They were well behaved and even fell asleep. The seagulls are having some salmon lunch outside the hatchery.



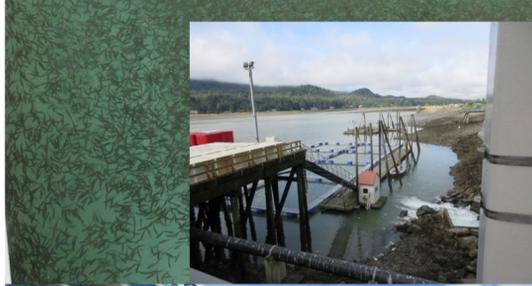
Hubbard Glacier



Jill Whelan Interviewed on Board



Tank of hatched Salmon



Ketchikan

