

# Vacation Trip to Alaska

Outline of a Trip Made By Two Falls City Ladies. Recently, Miss Maddox and Miss Allie Keeling.

On the second day of August a party of five ladies left Falls City, two, Mrs. Hoppe and Miss Tanner, whose destination was Salt Lake City, one Mrs. J. R. Wilhite, who was to visit her daughter, who had recently married and was living in Paonia, Gunnison county, Colorado, and the remaining two, Miss May W. Maddox and Miss Allie Keeling, whose ultimate destination was Alaska.

No stops were made until Salt Lake City was reached, though at Denver the party was met by Mrs. Custer and Mrs. Clegg and right happy, too, were the travelers to see them.

At Colorado Springs, Mrs. Etta Schoenheit and I et al met them and surely the meeting was one of mutual pleasure.

On reaching Salt Lake City, the party was met by Mrs. Rowley, a former Falls City lady, and were delightfully entertained at dinner, after which they all went out to Salt-air for the evening.

The next morning, Thursday, Miss Maddox and Miss Keeling went to the station and there found Louie Hahn, a former Burlington agent in this city. Mrs. Hahn joined the ladies at twelve o'clock on a sight seeing trip around the city, which included among other interesting things, a musical at the Mormon temple, where the world famous pipe organ was heard.

There was probably not an old friend or acquaintance in Falls City that Mr. and Mrs. Hahn did not inquire about, for Falls City seems still to hold a prominent place in their memory, and a warm spot in their hearts.

Leaving Salt Lake at six o'clock in the evening after the farewells to the Falls City friends, the next point to be made was Portland, but owing to several hours delay in arrival at Portland, the stop could not be made, as the ladies were due in Tacoma Saturday afternoon.

In Tacoma the ladies were entertained by Rev. J. W. Miller, a nephew of Mrs. Margaret Maddox, and well known to many Falls City people. Sunday was a quiet, restful day, such as could well be enjoyed after six days almost constant travel. Except when attending Rev. Miller's church, the day was passed in feasting the eyes upon the beautiful views surrounding Tacoma.

Monday and part of Tuesday was spent on the Exposition grounds. But little need be said of the Fair; they are all alike and when one has seen one, they have seen all, with perhaps a few variations.

Tuesday evening the ladies went to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Timmerman. Mrs. Timmerman was formerly Miss Nellie Gandy of Humboldt, and has many friends in this city, who keep for her a cherished place in their hearts.

The hospitality of these friends was purely a personal matter, and suffice to say they were royally entertained, until they took their boat on the eleventh of August, for Alaska. On the afternoon of August 11th, they left the wharf at Seattle, on the "Cottage City," an excursion boat plying between Seattle and Skagway. There were a hundred and twenty-five passengers aboard, from almost every state in the Union, and many different countries. Charming people they were, indeed. It would be hard to imagine a more congenial boat family. Artists, musicians, lawyers, doctors, truly people of culture and refinement, all on pleasure bent, with but one object—to enjoy themselves and help others to do the same.

The first port the "Cottage City" made was Prince Rupert, an English port of about eighteen hundred inhabitants and the only English port entered on the trip. They arrived here about 11:00 o'clock a.m. Friday, August 13.

About two years ago the town was platted and laid out into town lots, but were not sold until last May, when they were auctioned off, the most of them bringing \$2,500. Prince Rupert will be the terminal of the Canadian Grand Trunk Line, though it will be two years before it is completed.

The next stop was Ketchikan, which was reached about five o'clock Saturday morning, the 14th. Here was seen the first genuine Indian totem pole. St. John's Mission is located here, but it was found to be too early an hour to get into the mission, so the ladies with a party of boat friends walked down the street to the Indian village and up into the park above the city to see the falls. This was a beautiful fall and one could see salmon by the thousand, so plentiful that one could catch them by the handful. But catching was not holding—all.

Most of the villages—or ports—are built along the shore and some extend up the mountains. Naturally

the streets are very uneven and full of mud holes. To overcome this they are paved—if one may apply the term—with thick planks set on piles or trestles high enough to level the streets. These are open to and equal to all modes of travel, even automobiles, which are not uncommon in these northern ports. It might be added, too, that their electric light service is unquestionably fine and excels many moderate-sized cities in the States.

But now for the next port. From Ketchikan the boat went to Wrangle, a town about the size of Prince Rupert. Here the travelers had home-grown strawberries and red raspberries, the size of which would test the credulity of the reader if told. They seem to be far superior to any produced in this country. At the furrier's were found some exceptionally fine specimens of skins, the marten attracting particular attention.

Ellis Point in Pillars Bay was the next stop. Here they were shown the salmon cannery of the Pillars Bay Packing Co. The work is mostly done by hand and by the native Indians, there being only eight white people in the town.

Treadwell was the next port. Here are located the largest gold mines and mills in the world. The ore only pays \$2.87 per ton, which in most mining districts would be considered worthless; but it is mined in such vast quantities it is a world-famous mining station. The stamp mills are the largest in the world. There are 240 stamps.

Dugless is only about half a mile from Treadwell, a pretty little mountain town, and almost a part of the mill center. From here the channel was crossed to Juneau, the capital of Alaska, and was reached about nine p. m. Little could be said of the beauty of the Government building. It is a large, square, frame building, approached from the street by about sixty plank steps. The plank paving was conspicuous by its absence in Juneau, for here there is more gravel and the streets resemble macadamized streets. There are few buildings in the Northland built of anything but lumber. There seems to be plenty of stone, but poor facilities for quarrying it.

A few days without sight of a candy store had created a longing for fresh candy and our travelers were finally directed to a shop where home made candy was sold. This one they missed, but found one where

"Ice Cream Soda" placards were conspicuously displayed. This was too much like home to be passed by. What seems U. S. necessities nowadays, are evidently still luxuries in Alaska, for when thirty cents per glass had been deposited all around by the party, they felt they had made a pretty good first installment on the ice-plant and the cow.

From Juneau the boat returned to Treadwell and although it was almost midnight the party was shown through the stamp mills, where they saw the ore crushed, washed and the concentrate prepared to send to the assayer's office. One disappointment was, being unable to go down into the mines because of the lateness of the hour.

About eleven a. m. Monday, Haines Landing was reached and here the ladies purchased the finest flavored and largest home-grown strawberries ever seen or eaten by them. Here, too, is located a Presbyterian Mission, and the pansies and nasturtiums from the mission garden are wonderful for size and coloring.

Fort Seward, named for Secretary W. H. Seward, who negotiated the Alaska purchase, is only a half mile from Haines Landing and is a delightful walk. Morning drill was in order when the ladies reached the fort and the soldiers, for some reason were on dress parade. To travelers it was surely a treat to hear the good old American airs, by a fine military band.

From Juneau on, the boat was in the glacier region and the beauties of the scenery must be seen, for what words can adequately describe those mountains of ice glistening in the sunlight like millions of diamonds, the colorings so gorgeous they were dazzling, and the wonderful reflection in the sea, with the icebergs floating around—it was wonderful, beautiful, grand; not an unpleasant sight for two Nebraska girls, and just think of it, during those days the thermometer registering 97 to 100 degrees in the shade at home.

Skagway was reached about one o'clock p. m., Monday, August 16, several hours late. A special train was made up to take thirty passengers to the Summit of White Pass, which is perhaps one of the most interesting and beautiful mountain trips one can take. Grand!—It is the only word that will describe the view. After the return to the city the party climbed A. B. Mountain, to a distance of 1200 feet, to Kerns Castle, a large, roomy, frame buildings of four stories with glass enclosed porches. Here light refreshments were served.

At one time during the gold fever, Skagway was a city of about 10,000 inhabitants, as it was the basis of supplies for the interior up the Yu-

kon River. But the railroad marred Skagway, instead of making it, for now supplies from the States and Canada can be sent by rail, without being unloaded at Skagway. Consequently as trade fell off, the inhabitants decreased.

About eight o'clock, on the evening of the 16th, the "Cottage City" left Skagway and at six p. m. anchored at Killisnoo, where a party was shown through an immense herring cannery. Sitka was reached at two p. m. and to Miss Maddox and Miss Keeling was possibly the most interesting and picturesque of any one point on the route. At one time it was a city of more than 10,000 population; but after the removal of the capital to Juneau, the population fell off. Last spring new and extensive mines were discovered near Sitka and the old population is being rapidly built up.

At Sitka is located the only Russian church in Alaska, and it was there ages before Alaska became U. S. territory. It now has over six hundred members. Many of the paintings in it are by the old masters and several hundred years old. The chancel furnishings are of hammered brass and bronze of exquisite workmanship. The robes of the bishop and priest were made of cloth-of-gold and cloth-of-silver, heavily embroidered and jeweled and are worth a king's ransom.

At the museum was seen one of the oldest pipe organs in Alaska. It was made in 1790 and taken to Alaska in 1826. A Finnish contractor was compelled to build a church for laborers he had imported from Finland and this organ, which is still in a fair state of preservation, was placed in it. It is operated by the old-fashioned hand pump.

The visit to the Indian graveyard was also interesting. Most of the graves of the warriors are marked by totem poles, which signifies prominence, and some emblem is carved in the wood for each deed of valor.

The ladies called upon the wife of Bishop Rowe while in Sitka. The bishop was in the interior, but Mrs. Rowe gave them a splendid talk upon the work done by the missionaries in the interior. The mission work seems to have been done mostly by Episcopalian and Presbyterian churches. A bouquet of pansies was given the ladies from the garden of the parish house. In size and color they were simply remarkable.

The stores, too, were very, very good—better than had been expected.

Funter Bay was the first stop after leaving Sitka. Here is located the largest salmon cannery in Alaska. All the work is done by machinery and seventy-three cans per minute are turned out. The average throughout

the year exceeds 30,000 cans per day.

From Funter Bay the boat went to the mouth of Taku River and up the river for a short distance that all might have a better view of the splendid glaciers, Morrison and Taku. Morrison is what is known as a dead glacier. That is, it seems covered with dust and dirt and the snow and rain neither stick to it nor clean it off. Taku is grand and gorgeous in the sunlight, beyond all description. From this monster glacier most of the icebergs of this region break off and float out to sea.

They reached Juneau, on the return trip by coming down a different channel, at about three p. m. The U. S. court convened that day. Here on the return the ladies met the rector, Rev. Jenkins, and his wife, and enjoyed a short visit with them. They visited some of the stores and found them exceptionally good; they would do credit to a good sized western city.

Ketchikan was also a stop on the return trip, but was reached at midnight and in a heavy rain, which continued with occasional snow flurries most of the next day.

Prince Rupert was the next and last stop before reaching Seattle. Several men who had contemplated buying lots there, and considered the matter on the trip up north, got off to buy on the homeward way, but found the prices so far advanced in the ten days that the idea was given up. Prince Rupert is bound to be the metropolis of western Canada. The terminus of the Grand Trunk R. R., the most important British port on the western coast by point of location, its delightful climate, the wealth that is continually pouring into it will make it the Canadian San Francisco. When lots sell from \$1,500 to \$3,500 it may well be reckoned as a place of more than nominal importance.

Seattle was reached Sunday, after twelve days continuous travel and sight-seeing, and for three days Miss Maddox and Miss Keeling were again the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Timmerman, during which time they visited the navy yards and took several side trips. Sunday night they attended St. Marks and after service had the pleasure of a visit with Dr. Llwyd, who several years ago, held a very successful mission in our city. In speaking of that occurrence, he remarked that he held that week, with its memory of Falls City and her people, as one of the brightest in his memory and in his heart would always cherish a warm and kindly feeling for our people and the friends he made here.

On their return to Tacoma, Rev. Miller took them on many pleasant excursions, through the immense lumber mills, to Cosmopolis club and

on several excursion trips, the time being completely filled until the afternoon of Saturday the 26th, at 3:30 o'clock, when they boarded the train for Falls City—home. They were accompanied by Miss Ruth Miller.

The trip from the coast was not particularly eventful, though a pleasant one; the scenery perhaps not so fine as the trip through Colorado, but interesting at all times.

The ladies arrived in Falls City the 31st of August, after a month of unalloyed pleasure and sight seeing; a pleasure such as had not come to them before.

In speaking of the natural resources and beauties of the country much might be written that must remain untold. It must be seen to be appreciated. Is it not hard to realize and understand the beauties of an evening when one may sit on the deck of the boat, or in one's home, if on land and read without artificial light until half past ten o'clock at night?

The climate, too, is wonderful. Most of the time upon the boat a wrap was necessary but when the boat parties were ashore wraps could be dispensed with and the air was found to be mild and certainly invigorating. The snows will begin almost any time through September and continue until late in April. The best and most advantageous time to make such a journey is from the middle of June until the first of August. This fact is becoming generally known and all during the summer travelers from almost all parts of the world are found on the excursion boats between Seattle and Skagway.

The Indians, too, have learned the tourist season and all during the long winter they are at work preparing the baskets, bags, slippers and all sorts of ornaments to tempt the tourists. Nor have they remained ignorant as to the tricks of trade and it might seem that the seed of graft is already sprouting. For instance: the native women are lined up for each boat that comes along and should an article attract a traveler he is immediately informed that it is native berry, or native herb dyes and made by one long experienced; the price may seem high and moving on the traveler strikes a bargain for less money or a trade with another woman, whereupon the rival promptly informs him it is "workie girl—diamond dye" which means a girl just learning the art has made the article, the coloring done with diamond dyes and not with the work necessary to securing the native berries for stain.

Few of the Indians are to be seen in native dress. Their clothing for the most part is good and up-to-date.

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