

## Washington Trip, May 2008

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We left Burbank Saturday May 24. It was raining in SoCal – it almost never rains that late in the spring! And Seattle was hot, sunny and clear that day. Go figure. We had arranged our flights so that my Mom would arrive at SeaTac just a bit after we did. Our plane was early but came to the opposite end of the airport from Mom's, so before getting our bags we walked perhaps 15 min to meet Mom at her gate. Her flight was early too. She was chatting with a lady with ties to the UK and North Carolina. We then picked up our bags, got our car – “the beast”, a Ford Excursion with seating for 8 people – and went to the B&B, Villa Heidelberg. We forgot that we were a bit early, and there was a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (or something) party going on when we arrived, so just dropped off our bags.

We were all hungry so after dropping our things off we walked a couple blocks east to a business area we'd driven past to get some food. We discovered on this first day a deli called Husky's, that had superb sandwiches and is a local icon. (We heard later that a competing ice cream chain moved in but wasn't around very long... and here even with going back 2 more times we never managed to try their ice cream!) After some actual settling in at the B&B and phone calls to Aunt Joan and Uncle Bill we then went over to their place. I showed them the slideshow of our Keswick trip on the laptop, we had some hors d'oeuvres and then went to eat proper at a place called Salty's. I swear we'd been there before but it doesn't sound like we were on the 2002 (?) trip I'd made out there with Mom. Anyway the food was great at Salty's. Uncle Bill capped it off with a drive down the very busy waterfront, quite the hangout in evenings.

Sunday plans included picking up Pete's parents at SeaTac at 3:30 pm and heading over to son Bill's on Vashon island. Mom was going over earlier with Joan and Bill, who came by after our lovely breakfast at the B&B (blueberry pancakes and sausage). Then Pete & I went to a park about halfway to Aunt Joan and Uncle Bill's and next to the Fauntleroy Ferry doc, called Lincoln Park. We spent an hour and a half walking around, first on the ridge then on the beach. Quite a popular park, well taken care of too. Lots of trees and bushes, rhododendrons (I think) were blooming profusely. We picked up another sandwich and chips to share from Husky's and drove to the airport. While waiting we ate our lunch, finally seeing Pete's parents come up the escalator. We went back to the B&B for bag drop and freshen up then headed to Vashon. Cousin Bill's place is amazing even more now that they've cut back some brush and have a really nice deck with seating, chiminea and spa. Super view and very peaceful. We enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and drinks out there, leaving just before dusk (Aunt Joan and Uncle Bill insisted we see an alternate drive back). When we got back Pete was still hungry but it was pretty late so all we could find that didn't have karaoke or country music was a 7-11, where he got 2 candy bars while I had a banana.

Monday we toured Seattle, 7 of us in The Beast. But first, Pete and I took a nice walk in the morning before breakfast, just around town. We tried to get to the water, but were thwarted a few times by streets that didn't exist, but finally did make it. Only for a block or so though and then headed back up, at least making it a loop. We had to walk pretty fast as I thought we might be late for breakfast. We made it though. Today was eggs, meat and as always some delicious fresh fruit. Then the 5 of us headed to Aunt Joan and Uncle Bill's where we picked them up and toured Seattle. I drove, in part for worry about getting motion sick but also I strangely had the courage to willfully drive around this unfamiliar city in this huge car. Uncle Bill was my co-pilot in the front passenger street giving directions. Aside from some multiple stressful moments at Pike's Place Market, and probably I was a bit mousy for Uncle Bill, I

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think I did okay. We had lunch at Ivar's at the market. Parking downtown there was tricky and expensive. But definitely a place to see in Seattle. Other places we went... Volunteer Park (awesome greenhouse and we took lots of photos here), Gasworks Park (neat and pretty), the Troll, the Space Needle (great 360-degree views). Next time we are in the area there is a Science museum next to the Needle that looked interesting – it had posters of Alien etc out front. We were all somewhat tired at the end of the day, went back to Aunt Joan and Uncle Bill's, where Joan served up some desert and wine (boy that was good after the day of driving). Mom was staying there this night and heading back the next day, so the 4 of us went back to the B&B. Once again Pete did not get a proper dinner...

Tuesday morning Pete and I again went for a walk, this time in the opposite direction, and had to fight some traffic. Hadn't realized it so much but yesterday was pretty quiet on the streets due to the Memorial Day holiday, but today was a different story. We made it to a park that Boy Scouts are involved with – Camp Long – and back. We did find some pathways where streets did not continue but which we could traverse – reminded us a bit of the UK. Anyway – our last breakfast at the B&B, again really great food (if I hadn't put off continuing this until July 28 I would remember what it was – I think bran muffins, fruit and something else like French toast). Then we drove up north past Seattle and took the Edmonds-Kingston ferry to Kingston and then drove over the Olympic Peninsula to Hurricane Ridge, where we drove up and were in snow, had lunch there (Husky's that we brought with us), and went back down. Before ascending we bought some books etc at a Visitor center for the parks, so we were better equipped for the next few days. We drove over to the Sol Duc Hot Springs, stopping for a waterfall along the way, and to gaze over Crescent Lake for a few minutes. We had dinner at the resort, then Pete & I took a quick dip in the springs. The cabin we had had 70's or earlier décor, kind of shabby but it was nice to have our own bathroom. There was a swing outside that was nice to just sit on and gaze at the fog rolling over the hills.

Wednesday morning we tried to hike up to a lake but passed the snow line and the trail became un-navigable and treacherous, we finally cut our losses and headed back. The green and moss and moisture were really nice for Pete & I to experience, probably not as much for Gwen and David, but maybe the abundance of trees compensated. We followed up the morning's hike with another one in the opposite direction to the waterfall. We had a hard time finding the trail there, so many trees had fallen. Finally we made it. The falls were great. There was a loop we decided not to do as we were tired of tree-hopping. And we could have actually gotten there another way, by the road... we went back that way so in a way it was a loop. We went past some campsites, it looked pretty nice to camp there, very damp of course but you are surrounded by greenery. There was also a deer with a bum leg, which we were able to get quite close to to take its photo. Another night's dinner at the resort, a dip in the springs, which were pretty sulfur-smelling, and that ended this day.

Thursday we headed back to SeaTac and home. We wished we'd had more time in the Olympic Peninsula, it would have been good to go over to the coast and the proper rain forest is over there. It sure seemed like a rain forest at Sol Duc so I was satisfied at least in that respect. Crescent Lake was also quite beautiful, reminded me a bit of Scotland. I was disappointed we didn't see any banana slugs anywhere, and almost wished it had rained some more. Oh well, maybe it is just as well it didn't.