

HOMER,...NOT THE ILLIAD ONE

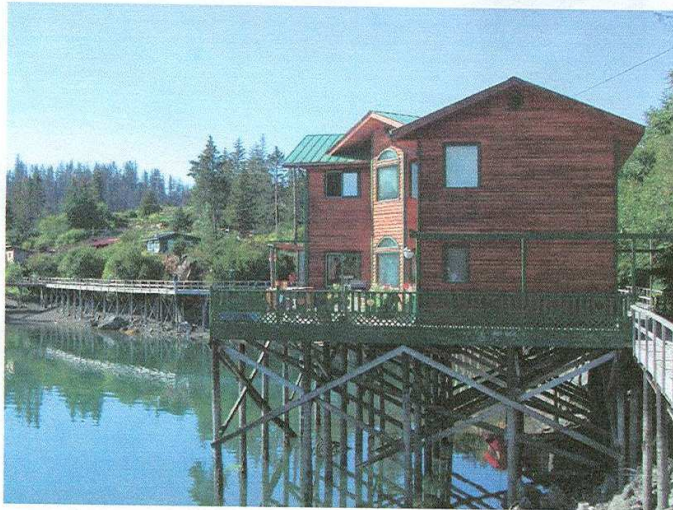
The Labor Day weekend brought a crowd of Alaskans to Seward. Most every space was taken. We were beginning to wonder if we made a bad choice to leave for Homer in the middle of the weekend. Our fears were naught, as we found out that Homer was farther and most people did not want to drive that far.

We camped on the Homer Spit. It is the center of tourist activity, the center of fishing charters, and the seaport for deep-water ships.

It started to rain regularly with the promise of clearing and sun for Labor Day and later. We adjusted our schedule to miss the return to work traffic and will stay until Tuesday.

After seeing all the city, we went to the Pratt Museum and filled our heads with information about the natives and the wildlife and the Exxon oil spill. It appears that the media has downplayed the damages and there are far reaching bad effects still existent.

Went fishing today at the local processor and bought some beautiful Halibut for \$7.50/lb. This beats a \$150 charter boat and getting seasick. The whole process took about 5 minutes!



There has been rain off and on since we arrived on the 31st of Aug. Labor Day had absolutely gorgeous sunshine so we took the boat over to an artist colony named Halibut Cove. About 150 people live there and it is a sight to see! No cars, no streets, just boardwalks to go from house to house. About an hour from Homer across the water, it is only accessible by boat or plane. A good restaurant is located there, and that is all!

We have seen several Golden Eagles in this area, and quite a few Puffins. They are a funny bird. They come to shore to breed and hatch their chicks and then they leave them after a couple of weeks, to fend for themselves. After a while when they get hungry, instinct tells them to go to sea. Not knowing how to fly yet, they launch themselves off the cliff edge! If they don't hit anything on the way down to the water, they do fine and live on the water until it is their turn to make young-uns!

The day after Labor Day all the RV parks are almost empty and many of the stores are closing for the season end. The locals and Alaskans from Anchorage areas are still doing the charter fishing, now that the tourists are gone. We can count 20 or 30 charters leaving dock and passing in front of the motor home on the way to the fishing grounds.

Dave & Bonnie
9/3/02