

## THE LONG ROAD SOUTH

The weather has been trying to tell us to head south to warmer climes. The road back tends to be repetitive but there are still new things to see.

At Fort Nelson, Yukon they told us that they had been seeing the Northern Lights. The sky was clear to the North and at about 1:00 am I got up and sure enough there were strange things happening. This display seemed to look like a slow moving fog bank tinged with green color and changing shape. That was as good as it got. We may have slept through many spectacular displays already!



On Sept. 12 we pulled into Dawson City, BC. This is where the Alaska Highway begins. In 1941, at a cost of \$140 million, 7 months and thousands of workers, the road was finished, (very crudely), and stands today as the greatest engineering feat of the century.

The present road is mostly up to modern standards. It is still a long way to drive to Alaska, and there are stretches that we did not meet or see a car for an hour at a time.

We have crossed several different mountain ranges to get to Prince George. There were a couple of herds of Bison grazing alongside the road, and one day we passed a few caribou doing the same. A lonely elk stopped to pose for us, and we have seen 4 or 5 moose along the road. They scamper when they see a vehicle. The big trucks have a stout reinforcement bar system in front of their grills. When you hit a 1500 lb moose, some damage will happen!

British Columbia has miles and miles of wooded forestlands. From the roads you can see to the horizon or to the mountains, nothing but these beautiful vistas. Many areas have birch and sycamores that have leaves turning yellow for fall. The yellows and oranges interspersed with the evergreens, make for a spectacular panorama.

We have reached Prince George, BC and will stay here for 3 days, to restock our larders and to rest up a bit. We have had a bit of rain the last few days, and the temp is a bit frisky. I am writing this with the heater on, much to the envy of our people back home. I understand we missed the hottest summer since 1930 at home!

The plan is to be in Washington State in about 2 or 3 more days. We still have to kill about 3 weeks before entering California,

Dave & Bonnie  
9/13/02