

GOODBY SUMMER, HELLO FALL

September 22, 2004

Leaving La Conner, WA we drove a grand total of 42 miles to Lake Goodwin. There we experienced a wonderful three days with the Andersons camping group. About 25 people were in the group and we felt like we had known them all for a long time! Then we drove to the Andersons home and stayed for three more days.

The time has arrived for starting the trip south. We went down to Chehalis WA and stayed at the Thousand Trails Preserve.

While there, we ventured out about the countryside. Having been in Washington many times and never traveled to Mt. Rainier, we decided to do it.

As it turned out it became the highlight of the trip so far. We traveled the backcountry roads through rural areas where you could see the farms on land that had been wrested with great effort from Mother Natures densely forested hands.



The great mountain became more prominent in our vision, until its magnificence overwhelmed us at every turn in the road. The day of our trip was said to be a rarity for the cloudless sky, especially since it couldn't be seen for a few days prior.

Entering Rainier National Park and driving to the mountain makes one realize the wisdom of preserving these lands for all times to come. The lodge and visitor center are a mile high and still the mountain peak rises some nine thousand feet higher. Many deer and birds add to the serenity of the viewpoints.

The Indian name for this mountain was Tahoma. Rainier was chosen by some Portland dignitary to honor his new friend, Sir Lawrence Rainier! We head south on Saturday to find more Peter Toth Indian statues.

Dave and Bonnie

