

8/10/2007

## FAIRBANKS FUN

Looking for ways to relieve us of our money, Fairbanks accommodated our wishes. We took a fabulous journey on the stern wheeler Discovery III. It cruised down the Chena River past beautiful riverfront homes with all their toys, airplanes, boats, etc. We stopped in front of Susan Butcher's home and her family introduced us to their winning Iditarod dog team and lots of new pups. She died from leukemia last year.



We stopped halfway at an Indian Village and toured as several groups, to learn about the Athabasca culture and ways. It was a very well organized and enjoyable trip.

We also went to a working gold mine, the Eldorado. Here we were put on a little train and traveled around the mine property to observe set ups of the hard rock mining of the past, all explained by people doing that particular process.

We then watched their riffle mining procedure and were given a "poke" of the actual ore. Went into an area where everybody had a gold pan and a seat in front of a tank filled with warm water. Doing the panning swishing operation, Bonnie and I collected 8.6 grains of gold which we put into little plastic containers. We went inside the gift shop where they weighed the hoard, and it was worth \$17.50!

Some people even found small nuggets, worth more. We got to keep our find.

We went to an interesting museum at the University of Alaska, shopped the old Fairbanks town, had dinner at the Historic Pump House restaurant on the banks of the Chena River, and then back to the RV to prepare to leave for Denali Park.

Dave & Bonnie

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