



Happy Trails

Notizen von Unterwegs

Canada Edition

June 2016 Vol. 20

ALASKA HIGHWAY PART I

BETWEEN WATSON LAKE AND WHITEHORSE

Finally we reached the famous Alaskan highway (ALCAN). This 1429 mile long street is the only fully paved road connecting Alaska with the rest of the United States of America. It was built in 1942 by the American military after Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese, due to the fact that an invasion up here was feared. Since its only 3106 miles separating Alaska and Japan. Through time (and after AK became the 49th state) parts of the road were paved piece by piece. Unfortunately on our first day we experienced the opposite, often the road was just dirt, rocks, potholes, etc. I mentioned in the last newsletter how the cars are suffer. We reached Watson Lake. This little town does not only have gas stations, supermarkets, campgrounds, and hotels, but it also is home to the

SIGNPOST FOREST

I can remember like it was yesterday or the day before that as a little child I was mesmerized by this “forest” as I looked upon it, in a Time Life Book from my dad. German city names all the way in Canada, how interesting. Now I am here. Of course, with a sign of my own, screws, a screwdriver (not the drink) and a ladder





My old TX license plate **GEFEKE** is now part of 90,000 plates (I counted them), which are decorating this part of the country since 1942. We are surprised of some of the sizes which are here. German town markers, Autobahn makers? They do not fit in a suitcase, so my question is, how in the world they ended up here? Well that's a mystery for another day, we are happy to be part of this "forest". By the way, we promise each person who finds our plate a 5 course dinner meal plus drinks. Of course we want prove in form of a picture with the signature of the local mayor, since we all know or know someone with Photoshop ;). So everybody of to Watson Lake and do not forget your own signs. On our way back from Alaska we shall attempt to find it our self.





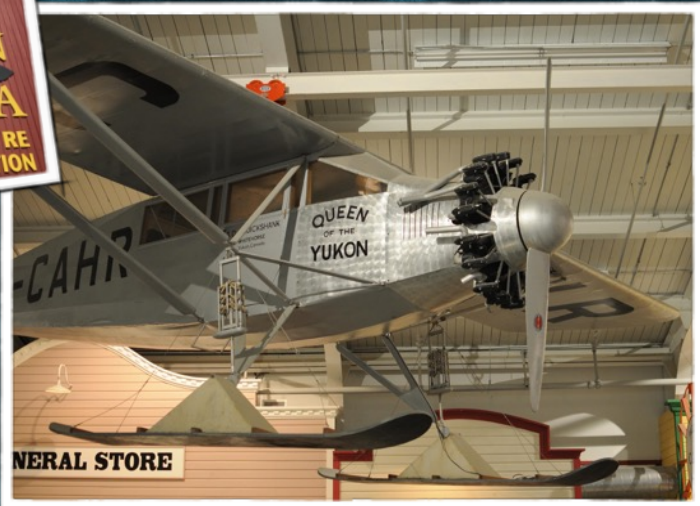
After three days did we explore all of this town and made our way west towards Whitehorse. Unfortunately is the road not better, the opposite is the case. Maybe we are to early up here, since many potholes and frost damages make the drive tedious and exhausting, but not impossible. We did it and so the Alfa!



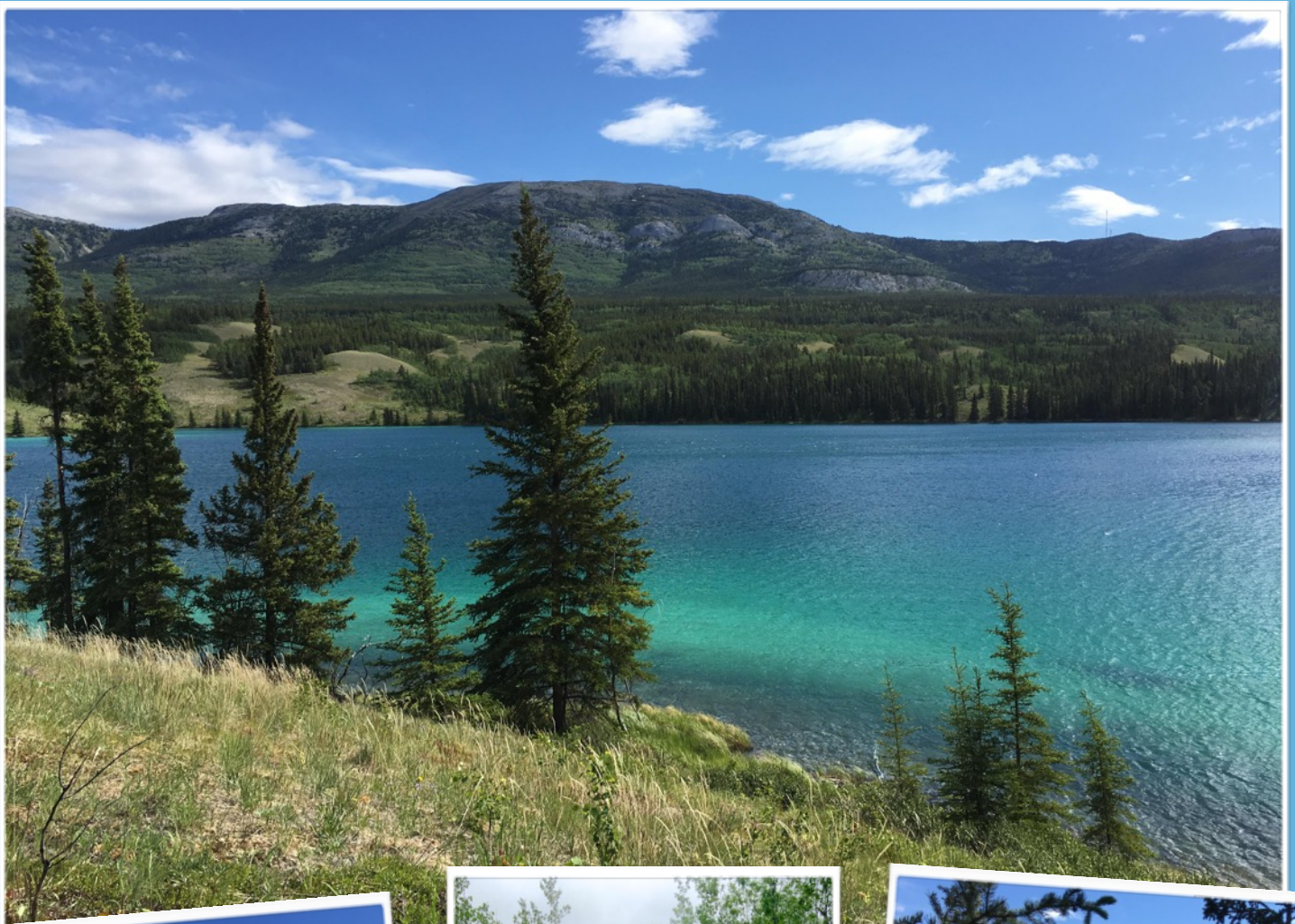


The great weather and the many attractions up here in the most westward city of Canada make it worth it though for the day of cleaning. Whitehorse was a central point for the Yukon gold rush in 1898 and we discover many leftovers from that time on our hikes in the countryside. Here we have amazing hiking trails which are mapped greatly, over 10 museums, the imposing Yukon river, mountains, forests, beaver homes, and important to us: the last big supermarkets for the next few weeks.





Once again we learn a lot of new things about the colonization of North America during the last ice age (Beate told me the movies are not correct). Also we learned more about the construction of the Alaskan highways in 1942 and other ways, material and people were transported up here into the wilderness. Interesting museums up here. Just awesome !!!



Hiking in and around Whitehorse is so beautiful. Untouched nature; we find material in the forest, which was left behind or old railroad tracks, which are not used anymore.



Or we visit car shows. The kind of cars, people up here have so far from civilization, is amazing



Our first bear. And of course it was a grizzly. Only 16 feet from us at the side of the road, eating his dandelion unbothered, very interesting. And the same afternoon a short encounter with a black bear. Besides the many teeth, a bear smells worse than a teenager after sport. Thousands of flies and mosquitos fly around them. That does not really invites to run up to them and hug and snuggle with them.





SKAGWAY ALASKA





The way to Skagway is a dream, which will be stuck in our memories for a long time. Left and right of this great road, we can see snowcapped mountains and glaciers, lakes which are perfectly still, so it looks like a mirror, rivers and waterfalls. A paradise for travelers. Skagway itself is in Alaska at the end of a fjord and was already, during the gold rush in 1898 in Yukon, the port for the gold diggers. Today cruise ships make a day stop here. We encountered 10,215 people not from only one, not two but from four cruise ships. They had 12 hours off ship, in a town of only 300 people. I do not have to say how busy the streets were with pedestrians. If you spoke German or Chinese you had no problems. On top of that: everything is organized beautiful. Busses bring groups to the mountains, helicopters start flight to the glaciers every few minutes, lots of mainly younger people rent a BMX or kayak, or you partake in a gorgeous train ride towards the Yukon.

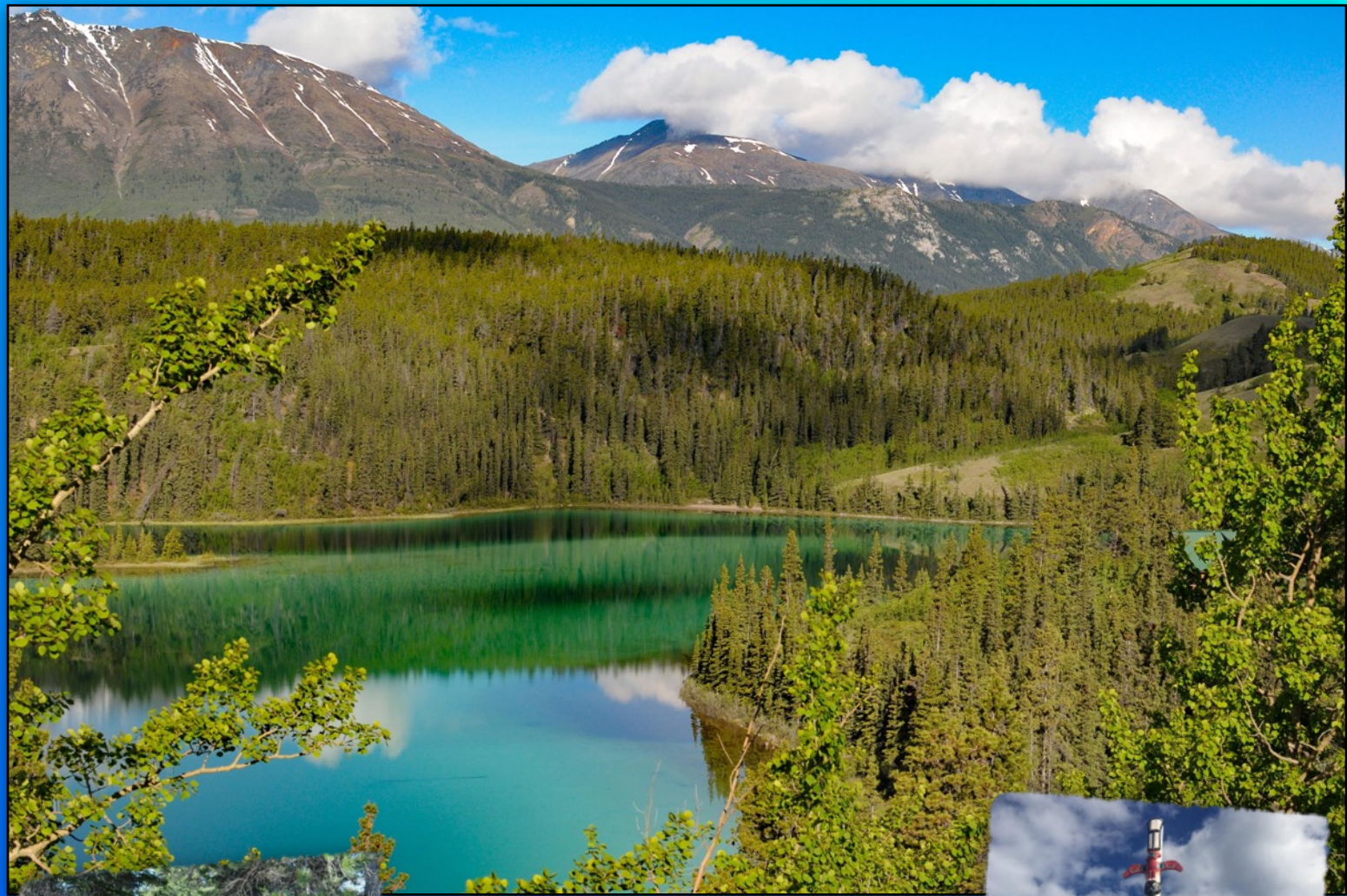






I would have loved to do the train ride through this stunning landscape, but dogs are not allowed and we cannot leave Noah alone for 10+ hours. Plus they only start to use steam engine locomotives in July. Maybe next time Hihhi







BOTTLES: 12 PACK \$25.75 24 PACK \$44.95 CANS: 6 PACK \$13.55 12 PACK \$24.40 24 PACK \$44.00 CHILKOOT Lager	Included in THIRST AID KIT! BOTTLES: 6 PACK \$16.00 CANS: 6 PACK \$15.90 12 PACK \$29.00 24 PACK \$56.00 ICE FOG India Pale Ale	BOTTLES: 6 PACK \$16.00 DEADMAN CREEK Cranberry Wheat Ale	Included in THIRST AID KIT! BOTTLES: 6 PACK \$15.40 12 PACK \$28.00 24 PACK \$54.00 YUKON GOLD English Pale Ale
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It is hard to decide what to write about and what to leave out, since I do not want to write books. But a vacation over a few weeks in Whitehorse: I would recommend to everybody I know. Even though the price for beer is high, we are looking forward to make a stop here once again, after we finished our Alaska stay.

The salmon will be here then, and Whitehorse has the tallest/longest wooden salmon ladder in the world, and this will give us a great opportunity to see these big fish relatively close. I will tell you about it in a couple of weeks!



LOST AND FOUND: WAS SONST UNS SO BESCHÄFTIGTE

Once again we found something: All over Whitehorse there are boxes you can lock. They have different colors, have numbers, they look like oversized lockers. But what are they for?



If you got it ==> you will receive a
postcard from Alaska!

you can reach us
gefeke@freenet.de

(915) 667 - 0501 or (915) 667 - 0595

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SO, THATS FOR TODAY. WE ARE 324
DAYS ON THE ROAD.

GREETINGS

Your 3 Gefeke's

