

GER Ron and First Lady Nancy's Nebraska to Seattle Adventure

The early morning Sunday flight from Kearney, Nebraska to Denver, Colorado, included an unexpected diversion to the North Platte, Nebraska airport, because of a cancelled flight. The airport employees at this small one gate airport assured all passengers that we should still make our connections with no problem. Once in North Platte, we were delayed further because of heavy smoke from the forest fires in Colorado, Utah and Washington State. We eventually made it to Denver where we rushed from one end of the airport to the other end (of course) to make our connecting flight to Seattle. Nancy looked like "OJ" as we scrambled through the airport, making our flight with only a few seconds to spare as they closed the door shortly after we boarded.



Ron, Julie Wilson and Mike Kennedy in the Tacoma Lodge.

In Seattle, we were met by PGER Roger True, Grand Lodge Trustee Mike Luhr and his wife Barb, and the Washington State President Dennis Ramsey and his wife Huey. After stopping at the hotel to drop off our luggage, we were off for a quick tour of the Seattle and Tacoma areas, led by PDD and Grand Lodge Advisor, Mike Kennedy and his wife, Patti.

During the tour we stopped by Tacoma Elks Lodge 174 where we were greeted with a welcome message on the Lodge entrance sign. Once at the Lodge, we received a warm welcome from ER Julie Wilson, and most of the Lodge Officers and their spouses. Julie and



Tacoma Lodge 174 ER Julie Wilson and Ron.



One of two Tablets of Love and Memory brought from the old Elks Lodge in downtown Tacoma.



Ron in front of the Tacoma Lodge sign.



Ron and a couple of the Tacoma Lodge members in a pick-up game of pool.

including a golf course, racket ball courts, a billiard room, a fitness center and a very nice restaurant with fine dining. (Ron was able to resist the urge to “pump a little iron” as we walked through the fitness center, but could not resist shooting a game of pool!) Before we left, on behalf of the Lodge, Julie presented Ron and Nancy each with a windbreaker for the trip to Alaska with their names on them and a pillow Julie made and embroidered with the Lodge name and number on one side and on the other side “Elks Care – Elks Share.”

Dinner was at the nearby Tacoma Yacht Club, where Mike Kennedy is a member. It is located on Puget Bay, a quite lovely area with many older homes and waterfront property. Also located in this downtown Tacoma area is the original Tacoma Lodge (1890), still standing with its Elks markings. The old building, which was sold by the Lodge many years ago, is slated for renovation into an upscale restaurant and hotel.

Monday morning meant “North to Alaska”!!! We left the hotel by shuttle for the SeaTac airport, at 6:00 a.m. After many days of rain throughout Alaska, this day was unusually warm and sunny, with the sun just peeping out from behind the clouds as we landed at our first stop on our six day tour of Alaska in the quaint town of Wrangell, Alaska.

Submitted by Ron and Nancy Hicks

Send comments to webmaster@virginiaelks.org

Mike gave us a tour of the beautiful, three year old facility, adorned with local woodwork, statues and other accessories. The Lodge has 1,200 members and offers many amenities to its membership,



Remnants of the old Elks Lodge in downtown Tacoma.