

2020 Columbia & Snake River Cruise Journal # 3



**Port of Kennewick**

We moored at the Clover Island Marina before our exploration up the Snake River.

At the informative sculpture garden area at the marina, we found a historical tribute to the native tribes that inhabited this region for millennia.

It showed a mother and daughter gathering tule, a large reed that was eaten as well as used to make baskets, cord, sandals, clothing, and roof coverings (*photo*).

**Snake River** We motored up the Snake River locking though

the Ice Harbor Dam with another 100' elevation gain. For the first time, we shared a lock with other vessels as we were joined by four small recreational boats (*photo*).

Their presence further emphasized the dramatic size of these river locks whose size is 86' x 673'. The typical load is a towboat pushing four large barges designed to clear each side by 1' and totaling almost the full length of the lock.

We learned from the lockmaster that it was common for pleasure craft to cruise in Lake Sacajawea that is formed by the dam because the



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water temperature is more conducive for water sports.

There was a pleasant and peaceful anchorage area up the lake where we enjoyed another lingering sunset. We took advantage of the lovely evening to kayak, exploring the coastline filled with the tulle reeds portrayed in the above mentioned sculpture (*photo*).

**Keeping in Virtual Contact** In the past four months of the pandemic, we have been meeting every Sunday via Zoom with our children and grandchildren who are

in the U.S., Israel and the Netherlands.

The challenge this week was that we were in the midst of our first lock lowering during our scheduled meeting time. Carl spent most of the gathering running in and out of the pilothouse to check on the locking process, but Joann was able to fully participate in the call (*photo*).

On one computer monitor you can see the chart showing the *Inside Passage* in the locks while the other screen shows the family participants.



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**Four Days Over 100°** We returned to the Clover Island Marina where we sweltered in the afternoon heat on our last day with the Edelheits before they returned to Mercer Island. Even a quick visit to the nearby ice cream food truck didn't help very much. Even more challenging was the hoard of young adults who filled the adjoining basin with competing noise/music where each boat seemed to have a more powerful subwoofer (*photo*).

When we built the *Inside Passage* 29 years ago, we chose to omit air-conditioning since the boat was intended for cruising Alaska. We never anticipated we would be onboard and passing through the high desert of eastern Washington in July.

**Columbia River Gorge**

We next began the downstream passage as we retraced our route back to Portland. The majestic cliffs along the shoreline in this next area are a part of the massive outpouring of basalt lava up to 4,000 feet deep that occurred ten million years ago.

The canyon stretches for over eighty miles as the river winds westward



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through the Cascade Range.

Wallula Gap is a large water separation in the Columbia River. The Twin Sisters is a distinctive basalt feature within this gap just one mile upstream of Port Kelley, Washington. (photo).

**Platform Fishing**

Under treaties signed in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, the first Americans were given the right to fish in their usual places in perpetuity. As a result, the shores of the lower Columbia today have many native fishing platforms.

These are wooden structures that are stable despite their precarious appearance. They are constructed during low-water periods with techniques that have been handed down for generations.

Platform sites belong to families and the tribal fishers using these scaffolds are likely fishing the same location as their ancestors. Even on a hazy day, Mount Hood dominates the lower Columbia River (photo).

