

Day 13 ~ Saturday 2 August, Ketchikan, Saxman Village.

We have been sailing all night and still not reached Ketchikan, which with 262 wet days each year is the "Rain Capital" of Alaska. Perhaps we will be lucky. The sun is shining through lumpy clouds.

The approach to Ketchikan, located at the end of a fjord, is not pretty. The shore is lined with shipping containers, fuel storage tanks and other signs of heavy merchant shipping.

The Princess dances a slow motion ballet, sliding sideways to kiss the dock without a sound. From our balcony we look down on the roofs and false fronts of tourist stores lining the harbor front. A view I am sure no one planned to be seen.

Neil has a walking tour planned for this morning. A sign proclaims Ketchikan received 168" of rain last year. "If you can see the top of the mountain, it is going to rain. If you can't see the mountain, it is raining."

The town has a lot of history and preserved or restored a number of buildings. Land was (and is) so precious, buildings cling to the hillsides. Trestles still support a road and many homes are reached by wooden walkways and ladders. "Married Man's Trail" leads down to what was the *red light district*. We follow the wooden walkway back into town skirting a salmon stream complete with fish ladder. Here is Dolly's House a "cat house" into the 1950's. The sea front property was extended by filling 100ft of the fjord.

Neil tells us where to order salmon to ship home.



Trestles support this road.



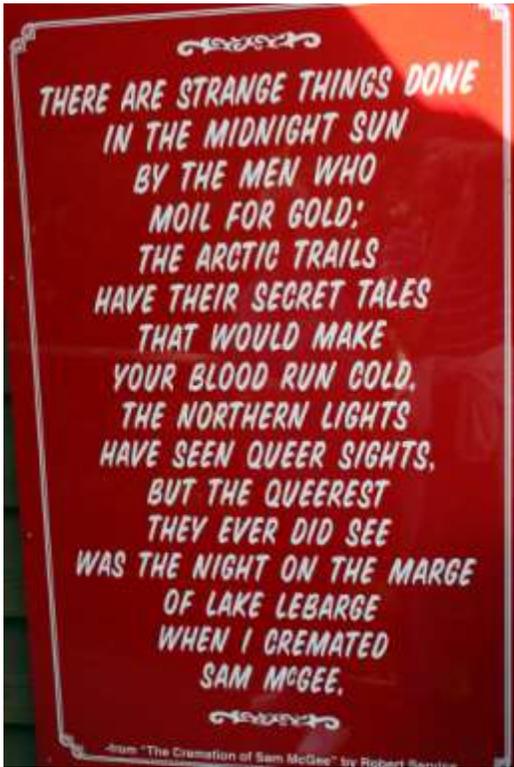
Built on fill.



Clinging to the hillside and reached by walkways.



At the end of Married Man's Walk.



Strange signs.



You can tour this cat house.



After lunch we bus to Saxman Village noted for its totem poles. First orientation, then a woodland walk to the Beaver Clan House where native dancers display their regalia, sing and dance for us. At the end some of our group are invited to join in.

The objective is to preserve native crafts like carving, food preservation for a potlatch (feast) and basket weaving.

Nathan Jackson is carving a totem which might take more than a year to complete. Carvers earn \$1,500 – 3,500 per linear foot depending on their skill and experience.

After carving, the poles are painted in three colors, green, red and black. Now days, instead of producing these pigments from crushed stone, modern paints are used.

Totem poles record historical events but often defy interpretation.

Tonight is a group dinner. We enjoy the dance show which is colorful and loud.





Nathan Jackson.



Totem and Pole.



A tree is stripped of bark...



which is slit...



to make a basket.