

travel log
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The Klondike! Birthplace of the Gold Rush is preserved

SKAGWAY, ALASKA: From the air, Skagway looks like a tiny wedge of streets tucked into a mountain valley at the edge of the sea. The Pacific makes gleaming fingers of water in inlets all around it, and the snow-dusted mountains wrinkle the land to the east as far as the eye can see.

I was flying over it on the way to Whitehorse, in the Canadian Yukon, when I saw it first from the air — one little grid of streets in a world of mountainous wilderness. Only small planes fly into Skagway.

Most people come by sea, from Prince Rupert, Vancouver or Seattle on the cruise ships that sail the Inland Passage. The rest come in by the historic White Pass and Yukon Railroad or over the two-year-old highway from Whitehorse.

Old photographs of the main street show a town that looks very much the same now: wooden buildings on either side of a dirt street that runs from the sea several blocks to the foot of a mountain. Wooden sidewalks lead you two or three blocks to mountains on either side. This is the narrow delta of the Skagway River, the only toe 'hold men could find in the mountains.

SKAGWAY WAS the beginning of the Gold Rush Trail. From here they climbed the high mountain pass to the town of Bennett, where they built boats for the long ride up river to the Klondike. The population of Skagway, rose from 20 to 20,000 during the Gold Rush, and dropped to 800 when the dreams were over. About 800 people live here now, not counting the tourists who are a major industry here.

When the Gold Rush ended, Skagway continued to be the seaport where freight and people came in for the mountain journey to interior cities. Most people pause here just long enough to walk the streets, stop, stay overnight and possibly ride the old railway through spectacular scenery to either Bennett or Whitehorse.

The Klondike hotel is the newest and busiest place in town, although there are older, smaller places to stay. The Klondike is operated by Wes Lours, a major tour operator in these parts.

The Klondike has live entertainment in the bar and one of the town's best restaurants.

AT THIS moment, on a wet Sunday morning, I am eating breakfast at the Northern Lights Cafe, which seems very popular with local people. Bacon and eggs cost \$3.75, orange juice \$1.00. Nothing is cheap in a land where everything is imported from a long way away.

There is a film showing the history and highlights of the town and a museum that must be seen. I have bought a piece of carved Alaskan soapstone in the shape of a walrus-rougher and less prized than the darker Canadian Eskimo carvings, but considerably less expensive.

The most popular live entertainments for tourists here as in most parts of the north are comic-melodramatic stage presentations that focus on the Gold Rush days.

THE ONLY other things I still must do are slog through the light rain to a laundromat, and walk down the now-muddy street to the ferry dock.

I will see tourists wrapped in raincoats along the wooden sidewalks of Skagway. Otherwise, I suspect, it will look very much as it did in the days of '98, when this was the start of The Trail.

Boston

The tea party gang returns to life

By WILLIAM SCHEMME

It's scarcely surprising that Boston, feisty as it is, should turn one of its oldest landmarks into one of America's most exciting — and delicious — new attractions.

What is surprising, in this age of the all-enclosed suburban shopping mall, is that reborn Faneuil Hall Marketplace is convincing more than 35,000 people a day, more than a million a year, to shop, dine, browse and people-watch in the very epicenter of downtown Boston.

Mayor Josiah Quincy opened the three block-long Greek Revival buildings one fine morning in 1826, and for more than 140 years the gilded grasshopper weather vane atop historic Faneuil Hall looked down on armies of fishmongers, cart drivers, vegetable peddlers, butchers, bakers, candlestick makers, and pinchpenny housewives.

As the city spread further beyond the waterfront, the marketplace began to die. One by one, the merchants shuttered their doors for good. Finally, a decade ago, the market closed completely.

IN 1975, the cavalry, in the guise of the Rouse Co. (a firm previously known as builders of suburban shopping malls) rode to the rescue.

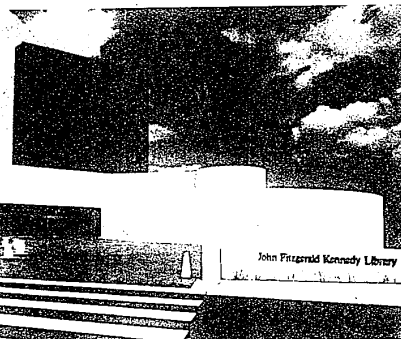
With an infusion of some \$30 million, craftsmen restored the crumbling granite facades and reworked the cavernous interiors of the three buildings — the North, South and Quincy markets — into a cozy maze of more than 150 restaurants, nightspots, gourmet food shops, clothing and craft stores, bookshops and offices.

Take a casual stroll through the market, and you'll come away laden with a hundred kinds of pasta and breads, Indian teas, Italian cheeses, Armenian cheeses, French wine, a live codfish, lavender soap, a scrimshawed belt buckle, a pair of ski boots, a Ming vase, a Paris designer dress.

During summer months, cafe tables go up outside, and carts overflow with fresh fruit, carnations and mums.

Because it sits smack in the center of downtown Boston, the market is an ideal launching pad from which to explore the historic riches of this self-proclaimed "hub of the universe."

HARD BEHIND the market is



John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library

The new John F. Kennedy Library, which includes a research center and elaborate audio-visual exhibits, overlooks Dorchester Bay four miles southeast of downtown Boston. It is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and can be reached by bus. Admission is 75 cents.

Faneuil Hall itself. Built in 1742, Boston's colonial town meetings were held in old Faneuil. Anger against king and Parliament glowed so white hot that John Adams labeled it "the cradle of liberty." The first floor is still a market, and upstairs there's a fascinating military museum.

One of the best ways to get a handle of this complex metropolis is through a presentation called "Where's Boston?" next to Faneuil Hall, at 60 State Street, which lets the city speak for itself in a 50-minute multi-media show.

From Faneuil Hall, visitors may follow the red brick road through the Freedom Trail. This mile-and-a-half walking tour, clearly marked by a double row of red bricks implanted in the pavement, takes you back through history, to where the U.S. began.

Pick up a map at one of the visitor centers on Boston Common, or at the modernistic City Hall, and stroll by the site of the Boston Massacre, the dignified Old State House (1713) where John Hancock cried out against taxation without representation, and the State House designed by Charles Bulfinch in 1789 and topped with gilded cupola.

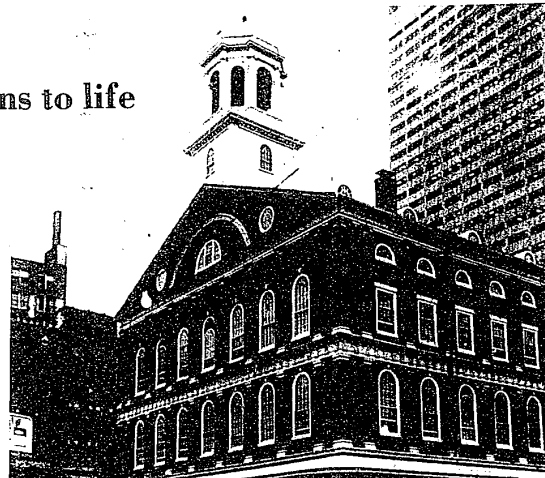
Hancock, Samuel Adams, Paul Revere, Ben Franklin's parents and victims of the Boston Massacre rest in the Granary Burying Yard on Tremont Street. Revere, a silversmith who literally galloped into history with his famous ride warning the colonials against the Redcoats, lived in the dark shingled cottage at 19 North Square.

REVERE WOULD be hard put to recognize his former North End neighborhood these days, and would experience considerable difficulty even understanding the lingo of the current residents.

The area's gone Italian, and if his passion for linguine equalled his passion for liberty, he'd find scores of places dispensing such delights as fettuccine, Alfredo, veal Marsala, linguine with clam sauce and red wine.

Old Italian gentlemen play bocce ball beneath Revere's statue. A few steps away, facing Salem Street, rises the spire of the Old North Church, from which two lanterns signaled that, indeed, the British were coming.

Two other Freedom Trail landmarks, Bunker Hill Monument and the U.S. Constitution ("Old Ironsides") are



Faneuil Hall, built in 1742, is part of a three-block historic complex of shops, restaurants and nightspots in the heart of Boston.

in the Irish Charlestown section. Just down Congress Street, you'll find the Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum.

The New England Aquarium on the waterfront is one of the city's newest and most exciting attractions. The aquarium's many displays include a 200,000-gallon saltwater tank inhabited by sharks and other deep sea denizens, a dolphin show, and display of marine life in Boston harbor.

IF YOU'RE NOT shopped out from Faneuil Hall, have a look at the antique shops on Charles Street in Beacon Hill, and Newbury Street in the Back Bay, where you'll be sorely tempted by the gorgeous ceramics, sculpture, copper and brass, lithographs and etchings, paintings and jewelry. This very European street is also famous for its sidewalk cafes.

After seeing Boston at ground level, it's fun to go up high and see it laid out below. The Skywalk at the Prudential Center offers a view from 50 floors up. The John Hancock Center, on Copley Square, presents the city from its 60th floor observatory.

The city that reveres its Adamses, Lodges and Kennedys also pays homage to its Coussys and Williamsses. It's nutty about sports, and if you're here in summer, don't miss a night at Fenway Park with the Red Sox and their wild and crazy fans.

For further information on the city, write to the Greater Boston Convention and Tourist Bureau, 900 Boylston St., Boston, Mass. 02115.



Paul Revere's statue is outside Old North Church, in the neighborhood where he lived.

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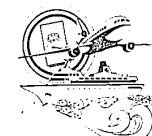
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