

## MY TRIP TO SEATTLE

By Art Dykeman  
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On May 18<sup>th</sup>, I flew to Seattle, WA with Karen and Alan for a two weeks visit with members of my family I had not seen in over ten years. This was my Christmas present from Alan and Karen.

Our flight arrived on a Saturday evening. The next day was my cousin, Elsie Meacham's 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday. There was a gathering at her house of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren along with Karen, Alan and me. My son Bob and his wife, Alethea came up from Tacoma to share in the celebration. For me, it was a heartwarming gathering.



That evening, after the festivities, my cousin Hank Meacham took me in tow and we went north to Lopez Island, where he lives with his wife, Pat. Karen and Alan also came, bringing Elsie with them.

The next day we all went to a Yoga studio, a place Hank frequents regularly. All of us underwent a solid hour of basic Yoga positions and exercises. It was amusing and interesting, as well. The rest of Monday we spent visiting at Hank's house.

The next morning all six of us, Elsie included, boarded a charter boat for a two and a half day cruise around the San Juan Islands. It was a cruise we thoroughly enjoyed. The food and accommodations were outstanding. We also had the opportunity to do some whale watching.



After our return to Lopez, Karen and Alan left to go hiking and sightseeing. I stayed with Hank and Pat enjoying a trip to the local Lopez Island Fair, a regular Saturday event where island residents display and sell their wares. The time on Lopez was very relaxing and most enjoyable, with no pressure to get anything done.

Hank took me to the Lopez Island ferry landing to catch the ferry to Anacortes where I met Karen and Alan. We rode down to Seattle and stayed at an inn near the airport. On Friday we spent all day visiting my son Bob and his wife at their home in Tacoma. Their back yard is a park-like forest.



Saturday morning we boarded our flight back to North Carolina. After landing and recovering the car, we drove to Karen & Alan's where I spent the night. Anne picked me up the next day for the last leg home.

I could never find the words to express my appreciation to Alan and Karen for giving me this wonderful belated Christmas gift.