

Alaska

August, 2001

~500 miles total
(incl. 100 mi by ferry)

Larry & Liv's 50th state,
visited a month before
Larry's 50th birthday.





First, in the spring we flew to North Carolina for a weekend,
so that Liv could visit her 49th State, ...



... so that, when we flew to Alaska, ...



... we'd each have our 50th state when we visited "the 49th State".



Log cabins in downtown Anchorage.



... and a grass-roofed visitor center.

KIMBALL'S



Kobuk
Coffee
Co.

Downtown Anchorage, ...



... with flowers everywhere, ...



Lots of flowers!



Go to museum, get a close-up view of a moose.



Go to a street fair / market, ...

LAST FRONTIER TRADING POST

... and try on some warm gloves;



... go to a brew-pub,



... and try out the local beer.



Borrow some bikes and check out the Chester Crk Trail in central Anchorage.



A monument to the M9.2 earthquake of 1964.



Liv on the trail, a mile or two from Downtown.



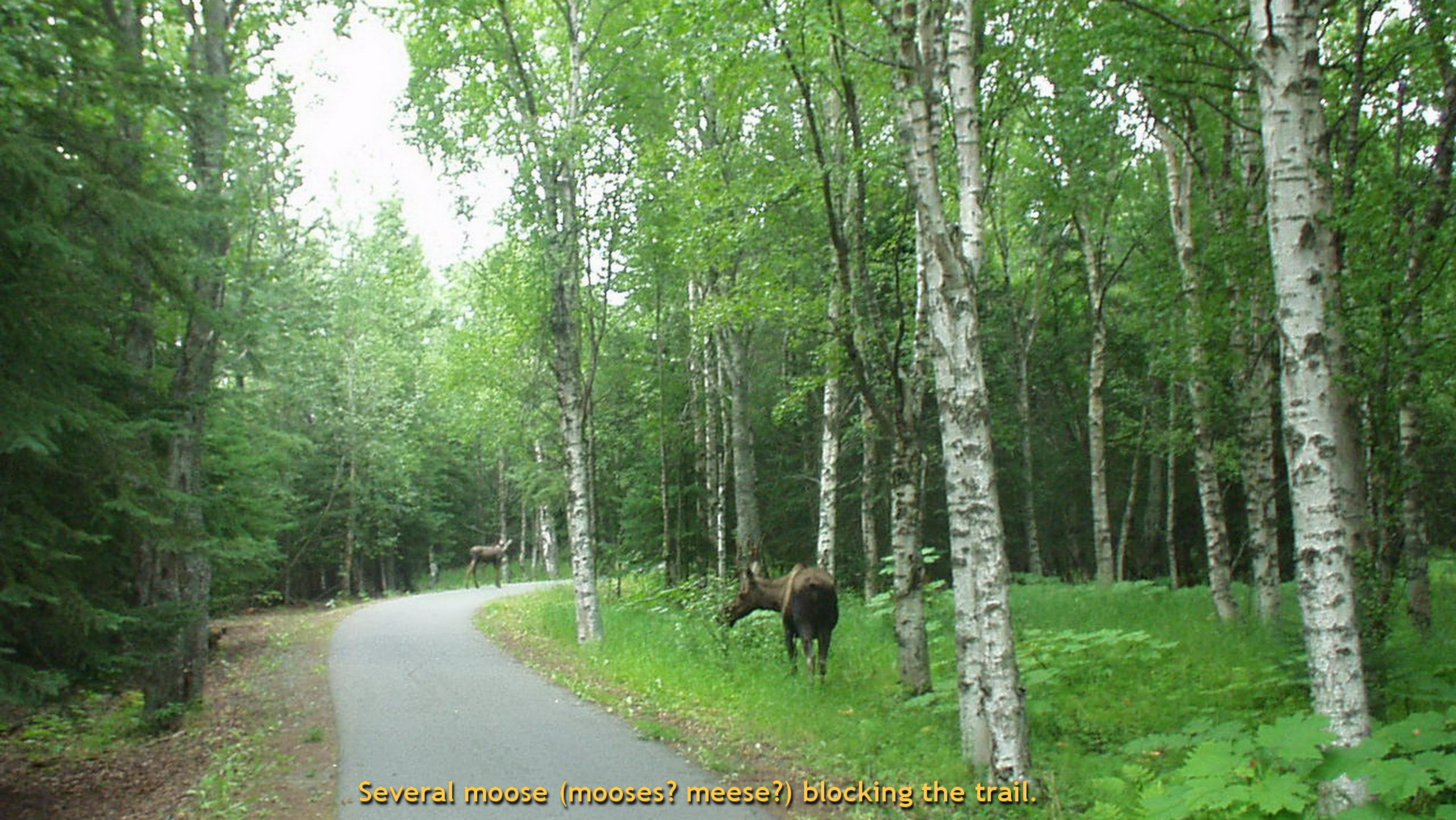
Happy to find berries!



... and a mushroom fairy ring,



... and a moose.



Several moose (mooses? meese?) blocking the trail.



We begin the drive, and Anchorage recedes into the distance.





Fresh running water, ...



... but if you want a drink, you'll have to work for it.





Heading south on Alaska Hwy 1.





a glacial moraine.



go out and touch a glacier.











ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DARRINGTON
WASHINGTON



a cruise ship on the TurnAgain Arm.





We drive the recently opened, 2.5-mile long, one-lane car/train tunnel to Whittier.



Light at the end of the tunnel.



Whittier Marina on Prince William Sound.



Whittier was demolished by the 1964 earthquake & tsunami,
and now the entire town lives in this one leftover "relic" from the Cold War.



(A second Cold-War building also survived, but it was too far from town...)



Into the belly of the beast.
(We take the ferry across Prince William Sound to the town of Valdez.)



Sit back and relax!





A glacier flows directly into the Sound.



Valdez.



"Let's go kayaking!"



"But I've never kayaked before!"



"Don't worry! The water's warm!" --ha!



Valdez has salmon-themed bike-racks, ...



... and creeks full of spawning salmon.





We drive north and then west.



Another glacier,



flowers,

A photograph of a dense forest of tall evergreen trees, likely Douglas firs, with dark green, needle-covered branches. The trees are closely packed, creating a dark green wall against a bright, overcast sky.

and trees.



Alaska is a -BIG- state, and we did not have time to go see Denali,



but we did find time to go berry-picking --



-- blueberries! --



-- and we did get to see some amazing scenery!





Alaska: been there, done that!



... now let's get out of here and go back home (!)