

July 24, 1986 - Thursday
Forest: stunted type ^(tundra) evergreen forest, but not as stunted as some we've seen.

No of people in park limited - no private parks - many flowers & low shrubbery - trees not intensely close. (Sub arctic and alpine tundra landscape)

Teagat land of little sticks. Small trees over 100 yrs old. Short growing season.

Snow expected any time after mid-August.

Elevation Hotel - 1700 - peak ^{elevation} on trip 3900.

Some of small (low) trees 200 yrs old.

No set pattern in the park as far as feeding ^{for animals} patterns are concerned. Can feed any time of day.

not as many flowers in Teagat environment as around ^{teagat} hotel area.

Even the forest is sparse.

Lots of arctic ground squirrels (bumpy road) ^{which are food for bears.}

Grizzlies ^(Brown - golden - etc) - all one breed. ^{They} Interbreed.

Small lakes near road very quiet today

Reflection very mirror-like.

One of passengers spotted our first wild life - a gull ^{probably} on a hill. Dr Gunn's guess - It's gullible. Primary food.

8:25 - We are getting into more rugged mountains now. ^{in mountains}

good diversity of plants which bears like in the higher elevation - (8900 ft)

Animals sighted - Grizzlies - two

four sheep up high -

a Dall sheep in valley -

Lots of Caribou Caribou at a distance

bumpy road.

near the end of our trip was a mountain which was absolutely breathtaking. There were streaks of green which extended up the mountain and from the top of the cone of the mountain descended "melts" where the grass didn't grow probably because of land slides of gravel and sand. But the unusual aspect of the mountain was the coloring of the ungreened melts, purple, brown of course, & the rocks near the top deep purple. The mountains in the distance were snow capped & the delta below indicated glacial run off. ^{The mountain was in the sun on way in + on in the shadows going back. Colors more intense in Sun.}

11 AM We are now retracing our steps & will see the scenery on the other side of the bus.

Some of the mountains at the top look almost like desert mountains

The ^(tundra) environment is so delicate that even ^{changes} tourist trespass on it destroys it, and yet it is strong, too. You can see ^{has been from the mountains} on the edges where the road is cut into, that the tundra is thick and spongy and nature's way of preventing erosion. We are on a very high road here that takes one's breath away as the driver maneuvers the huge tires around the curves. I take my eyes off the valley below where the waters draining off the glaciers form sand deltas & concentrate on the high rises to my right - grateful for the steep cut in the side of the mountain which affords us access to ~~the~~ such beauty, but still apprehensive of the precipitous drop-off on the left of the bus.