

Summary of the publications in Rubtsovsk mass media  
about the recent delegation to Grants Pass  
(September 2015)

There are 3 articles from the Evening Rubtsovsk ("Vecherniy Rubtsovsk") newspaper, RTV3 newspaper, Rubtsovsk Industrial Institute newspaper, on official site of Rubtsovsk Culture and Youth Policy Department, videos on Facebook and a display devoted to Sister City in the Grill Beer restaurant owned by Maxim Sudnitsyn.

In general, these publications cover the mission and history of the Rubtsovsk-Grants Pass Sister City movement and the competition the delegates had to go through to be selected. They also cover the program delegates had in Washington DC and Grants Pass during their visit to the USA from September 20 through October 2, 2015.

Article No1 from the Evening Rubtsovsk covers their impressions from visiting Washington DC.

Article No2 is devoted to the delegation stay in Grants Pass and is translated completely below.

From Washington DC via San Francisco the 5 members of the Rubtsovsk delegation flew to Medford Oregon. Tired of the flight we were not in a hurry to get out whereas the hosts started worrying waiting for us. And here it is - long time expected meeting! Everybody was happy - hugs, hand shakes, greetings.... and here we are - in Brian Robinson's van, and he quickly drives us to Grants Pass. Here we should say that Brian was the one who drove and accompanied us to all the events and meetings. Previously he used to be the head of Sister City. As an ex-fireman he is a very responsible person and the delegates felt very safe and protected with him. On our way to Grants Pass we could admire the beautiful landscapes of Oregon. Grants Pass is located by Rogue River and is surrounded by mountains. We immediately recognized the similarity with the Altay mountain area - the same majestic mountains covered with forest, the same streamy mountain rivers with rapids and rocky bed.

In half an hour we found ourselves in the house of Nancy Hitchcock, the current president of Sister City Committee. This hospitable house was the point of gathering for us. Every morning smiling members of Sister City headed by Nancy Hitchcock met us and explained the plan of meetings and entertainment for the day. In this very house we started and ended our day. But no less warm and happy memories we carry from interacting with our host American families, who offered us their homes, love and care.

- "My" family in Grants Pass was Arturo Ville and Olga Rusina. What's it like to live with strangers? I never thought I will ask myself this question, - says Alexey Gilmanov, head of operation department of Rubtsovsk Lumber Mill. - Meeting "my" family started with a big hug. I didn't expect such a warm family greeting. This family never gets bored. The couple always has a lot of plans. They love traveling and arts. The family atmosphere is love and understanding. From the first day of meeting them I got involved

in a swirl of events. I especially remember the Oktoberfest Festival in Jacksonville where I met a great artist Laila Dzene. I also loved the dancing party with the delegates and their host families where we were learning polka dance moves. Every day spent with my host family brought me loads of positive emotions; it was so interesting and so much fun that I am still very impressed!

The Grill Beer restaurant owner Maxim Sudnitsyn created a good contact with the Walkers host family, still having been in Rubtsovsk.

- Doug, Beverly and their three sons have a beautiful big house with a lovely garden where they grow vegetables for their family, - tells Maxim Sudnitsyn. - I noticed that houses in Grants Pass are mostly not fenced, but theirs is. The answer was - to protect the garden from deer that come down from the mountains. And really I had many chances to watch these animals fearless of people and civilization. And it's the beauty of American people's reverent attitude to the wild nature.

- All Doug's family is into sports - sometimes we would bicycle together. They also live an active social life. For instance, Doug is the president of the local branch of the Rotary Club. Also I am the third person they hosted through an exchange program. They love to travel and are involved into charity. Being wealthy enough they spent 4 weeks working as volunteers in England without any payment. Doug and Beverly are very positive and friendly people.

The Russian cuisine night, organized for their host families Anna Manley and Kori Bieber and for the Sister City Committee members, became unforgettable for the college English teacher Olga Baraksanova and web designer Olga Bykova.

- We all gathered in Coletta Young's house and decided to make pelmeni and vareniki with potatoes, - tell Olga Baraksanova and Olga Bykova. - the three of us, including our facilitator Olga Tikhonova, cooked. We spent a very happy time together. We are sure that pelmeni and vareniki were loved by our American friends, who are not spoiled with homemade food. It turns out that most people in the US prefer to eat out rather than cook. - The last night we went to downtown, - the delegates say. - It was Friday and many galleries, shops and workshops were working till late hours. There you could find a lot of souvenirs with the city symbols. It was very interesting to visit the Glass Forge and watch the manufacturing in process. We enjoyed seeing the sunset together with Anna and Kori. After that our host families made us great presents - watch pendants that remind us about our oversea trip and our new friends from Grants Pass Anna Manley and Kori Bieber.

The reporter of the Evening Rubtsovsk (Vecherniy Rubtsovsk) newspaper Tatyana Kokotovskaya stayed with the other hospitable family of Walkers. She remembers the first evening with its wonderful dinner and involving conversation. Here is here story:

“I spent an unforgettable time with Jill, Grant and their daughter Lena Walker. One day we cooked borsht all together. I had to have a long explanation about using raw meat for making a broth for the soup, not sausages. As a result the dish impressed "my" family and Lena Walker asked for the recipe. I also attended a Walker family friend's birthday party. He came to live in Grants Pass from India. It was a real Indian party! Especially for me an unforgettable trip to Crater Lake in the National Park was organized. It appeared 7,5

thousand years ago as a result of volcanic eruption and has practically a round shape. Looking at the landscape around Crater Lake I felt like being at the end of the world... Every day spent with this family gave me more of an idea about the routine of regular American people. They don't buy into political shows; they are for peace in the world... I fell in love with clean and tidy streets of Grants Pass, hospitality and friendliness of its citizens. Having lived in the Walker's family, I made a conclusion, that life of American and Russian people is both similar and different, but there's something that unites us - the will to make life better, brighter and more interesting.”