


Seattle, Washington

Sept. 26, 1979

Chris drove me to the airport for a plane that was scheduled to leave at 7:00 A.M. Passengers waited on board until 8:05 when compass fault was corrected. At 8:09 the plane was above the clouds with cirrus only above us. What lakes I could see were green. The area to the east was completely sealed with clouds on a horizontal level with cumulus (compact) relief so:  These clouds extended as far as I could see. We passed just ^{north} east of Ranier with the plain of clouds at about half way up Ranier with some shoulder ridges exposed. The mt was clear and perfectly define. I have never seen such exceptional circumstance of clouds and mountain. It looked more like a picture than the real thing. All mountains stood out in bold relief like Ranier and seemed to closer than I have ever seen them before. They included, St. Helens, Adams, Mt. Hood, Three Sisters, all of them with the continuous base of clouds. Except for the mts, no other ground form was visible. The clouds continued as a solid surface to just east of Adams where clouds started to open up in the forested areas, then farther eastward clouds only in gullies and valleys. The ridges were brown and drainages yellow. at 8:28 A.M. Columbia River. West of river regular dry farming but east of river first circular irrigation patterns.

8:34 forest now in gullies. Drainage systems constricted before entering main drainages. Some fog in patches. To east more fog in canyons and basins. 8:39 first low mountains, bare tops and forested below. 8:45 steeper mountains and forests. 8:47 Snake River? There are more gullies on the west side of ridges than elsewhere. 8:55 Snake River?, deep canyons and reservoirs. Fog now continuous and topography controls distribution of fog. To the south toward Great Basin there is less fog but higher cumulus clouds. 9:08 mountains to S and well developed cumulus clouds. 9:10 plane turned to SE. yellow aspen common. 9:15 conspicuous flat topped mountain or ridge. Sky clearing of clouds as we entered the Great Basin. 9:16 Great Salt Lake.

