



The Goughs' Christmas Times

Volume 10

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Oregon, Year Five

1995 was a year of big changes for the Oregon Goughs. We sold one house, bought another, moved, and broke ground on our Newport vacation home. Chris and Corey were home for the major holidays, and Dick is winding down his computer career as he prepares to retire in about two months. The details...

Strike Camp! We're Outta here



Some time back we decided to sell our large house in Lake Oswego and use the proceeds to buy two smaller ones: in Lake Oswego closer to Portland and at the Oregon coast. We wanted to wait until Chris' last year in college so the smaller space would work for us. In June we began Step 1 — the quest for a "downsized" home in Lake Oswego. Dick was convinced that it would take Diana at least a year to find something that was both smaller and "called to her." Given this agenda, it took us a remarkable four weeks to find our home! It's a new house bordering a large green belt — smaller (2700 vs. 4100 sq. ft.) but the space works very well for us.

It was difficult for Diana to make one-third of her belongings disappear in order to move into the smaller house.

Newspaper ads, tag sales, consignment boatyards, and pickups by welfare agencies finally reduced the load just in time to deal with the movers, realtors, prospective buyers, the builder, electrician, plumber, painter, decorator, wall paper hanger, closet organizers, landscape designer, alarm company and carpenters.

We bought first and were uncertain how long it would take to sell. Helped by great weather, it happily sold at essentially our asking price (99%) in four days! We moved into the new place on September 19, the whole process taking only about 3 months from start to finish. There are, of course, a few unfinished details...

Academia

Chris is now in his fifth and final year at UC San Diego and is president of his fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi. As fraternity president, he got to travel to North Carolina for a national training session this summer (at fraternity expense).

Once again he and three buddies are sharing a house near campus; this one is a little closer to downtown and has two kitchens. This greater food capacity comes in handy as Chris, despite being 230 lbs., is the smallest of the four. We were in San Diego in November and took Chris and two of his roommates to an "all you can eat" Sunday brunch. The maitre d' paled somewhat as we asked for a larger table.



Chris will be busy this spring deciding among job offers. His field, software engineering, is hot and he should have many choices, but for him it will be the end of an era.

Again this summer he worked as a fifth year intern for Intel, writing test scripts for the Pentium Pro, Intel's latest microprocessor.

Corey is in his junior year at the University of Oregon and is vice-president of his fraternity, Phi Delta Theta. Corey lives at the fraternity house where each year he moves upscale roomwise.

This year for the first time Corey also was a summer intern at Intel. Of all of us, Corey had the most unusual job. Intel did a deal with Sega and adapted their hit game "Sonic the Hedgehog" to run on Pentium PCs. Corey was hired as a Sonic tester who's job was to play Sonic and try to "break" the game. Corey got pretty good and some legends resulted. At one point he found that if you got from one part of the game to another fast enough you could cause an audio failure. He reported the problem, but the resident Japanese engineers from Sega said they couldn't reproduce it. This surprised Corey as he could do it every time. He met with the Sega engineers and discovered that they had no one who could play the game fast enough to cause the problem! Intel also held a Sega high score contest which Corey won \$150. He had such a successful

experience, the group he worked for wants him back next summer.



Ever the adventurer, this summer Corey and a friend climbed Mt. Hood, Oregon's highest at over 11 thousand feet. Next spring he plans to take off a quarter and travel to Europe.

The Big Kids

Dick is wrapping up what will be his last full year at Intel — he will have been in the computer business for 35 years: 28 at IBM and seven at Intel. After seven years at Intel Dick is eligible for an eight week sabbatical and is fully vested in Intel's retirement plan. The sabbatical begins in early February and we plan a major starting in Tucson and ending in Santa Fe.

Dick was co-chair of the program committee of the Food & Wine Society of Oregon of which we have been members for several years.

We also started a gourmet group modeled somewhat after the group we belonged to in Connecticut. The highlight was a Victorian Christmas dinner in which we all swore never to eat again. Diana got to cook the goose (lots of lines there) while Dick made the truffles (Mmmmm!).

As part of the new house, Dick got to build a wine cellar into a large interior closet. It has a capacity of about 750 bottles, enough to tide us over the most inclement weekend.

Diana continues very active in AAUW as Newsletter Editor and chair of the Educational Foundation Silent Auction. She is still an Oregon Master Gardener answering questions over the telephone at the local university extension office. This year she also was promotion chair of the Spring Garden Fair — a major plant and garden sale held at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds.

Of course our move necessitated that Diana give up her garden. She had put lots of time into the planning and development and it was a neighborhood showpiece. It was hard for Diana to give it up, but the garden had grown into some big time work, especially in the fall. Since our new lot is considerably smaller, Diana got ready by buying a book about gardening in small spaces. Phase one of our new landscaping is now complete — we have piles of soil/compost interspersed with some industrial strength rocks. This mix will “rest” over the winter for spring planting.

Diana continues to play bridge and to play at aerobic step exercise with modest progress on both fronts.

Her big event this year was getting involved in the Lake Oswego Festival of Arts — a 20 year community event. Diana had to design and execute a survey and count of attendees. She drafted everyone in sight and her team ended up processing 17 thousand people.

Our Oldest



Buttons is now in his 17th year. While we've heard you can't teach an old dog new tricks, we have proven this theory wrong. In our new house we installed a doggie door with a magnetic flap. With cajoling and cookie bribes, we trained Buttons to enjoy free access to our back yard, a location we find superior to our carpets.

Buttons is now totally deaf in one ear and has poor hearing in the other. Although he's still open to a spirited game of sock, his recovery cycle is about 16 hours.

On the Road

What with house hunting and moving, we cut down somewhat on travel this

year. As has become our custom, we traveled to Sunriver for a few days skiing between Christmas and New Years. We had to rush back to celebrate Diana's birthday. I'm not allowed to reveal which one it was but it was a round number.

This summer we spent a long weekend in Seaview Washington at the Shelburne Inn, the oldest continually operating inn in the state of Washington. The Lewis & Clark Interpretative Center is the big attraction.

In October we traveled to Ashland to attend the Shakespeare festival where *Macbeth* was performed in a restored Globe theater.

Our big trip was a one week stay in Laguna Beach, California, where we stayed at the same resort Diana spent her childhood vacations. We managed a trip to Disneyland, the Mission at San Juan Capistrano, San Diego, beach walking, tide pools and art galleries. What a wonderful relaxing time with nostalgia thrown in.

The Coast

We broke ground on our Newport home in October, but not much progress since then. We gave our architect a target budget number but our builder saw the plans quite differently. We expect agreement soon and actual construction will likely begin in January. With an estimated six month construction period, we may yet have occupancy in June.

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season & the New Year

Well, that's our year in brief. Everyone's in good health, and even Button's decline has seemed to stabilize. We trust everything is well with you and wish you all a Merry Christmas and the best for the new year.