



The Goughs' Christmas Times

Column 4

December, 1989

WOW, WHAT A YEAR

1989 saw a lot of changes for the Oregon Goughs. In February, Dick hopped on board a westbound jet and headed off to start his new career in Portland. Leaving NY, the temperature was an unusually mild 55 degrees; in Portland it was just 18. That was not the way it was advertised!

For the next two months, Dick once again lived the life of a bachelor. Fortunately, during that time, Diana made a house-hunting trip, lasting about a week. The trip was successful and we found a wonderful home in a suburb of Portland called Lake Oswego. The lake is about 3.5 miles long and we were fortunate to find a house with a great lake view and boat slip.



Meanwhile, back at the ranch... Although the housing market in the Northeast was slow, we were fortunate to sell our Connecticut house rather quickly. We were actually in the air, winging our way west, when both closings occurred. The trip west was pleasant and uneventful for all but Buttons. We had to put him in a dog crate and he flew in the cargo hold. Can't imagine what he was thinking as the plane fired up its engines and took off. We've asked him, but to this day he remains silent on the entire subject.

LIVING IN PORTLAND

Portland, city of roses! What a great place to live. We found a house in a new neighborhood with lots of friendly neighbors and kids. It wasn't long before both boys had friends over and were well established in their new setting. As you recall, both boys have lived their entire lives (except for Chris' first 18 months) in the same house. So even though the boys were ready to set out for something new, they had no idea of what it would really be like. Experienced now, they both love it, missing only their friends back in Connecticut. There were several things that helped them along.



First, having a boat slip, we naturally had to buy a boat. In late June we became proud owners of a 20'



Sea Ray bowrider, designed for day cruising and water skiing. Both boys learned to water ski after a single lesson. We also bought a giant inner tube and had lots of fun trying to spill the boys out as they tried not to be spilled.

One of the things we didn't use our boat for (though lots of people do) is to watch the annual Lake Oswego fireworks which are ignited over the lake. Instead we went to the swim park at the western end of the lake, sat on the lawn and enjoyed a most impressive display. The swim park provided the boys with a place, within walking distance, to swim, meet friends, and generally horse around. By way of demonstrating creativity, Corey and a new found friend on the lake invented the bicycle dip. In this event, you affix a life preserver to the handlebars of an old bike, ride it down a hill toward the lake, go up a ramp, and - you guessed it - fly into the water.



While Corey was biking, skateboarding, and building ramps (about 6 by last count), Chris was taking college Italian and getting his driver's license. In Oregon, you can get a learner's permit at 15, after passing the written motor vehicle test. So Chris was driving as a learner in May and as an official driver in August. As to linguistic skills, one of the things we discovered was that none of the local high schools offer Italian (but we do have Japanese, as one school official said). Needing at least three years of the same language, and having two years of Italian already, we decided that Chris should make up his shortfall in the summer at Portland State University. Chris successfully completed college sophomore Italian with an "A".

DIANA AND DICK

So much for the boys. What about the big kids? The most striking thing about living here is how accessible everything is and how friendly the people you deal with are. The people in the stores actually try to be helpful! One of our favorite stories involves George Winston. He is a gifted new age jazz

pianist who, once a year, has a Carnegie Hall concert. While living in Connecticut, we kept saying that one of these years we really have to get tickets and go into the city and see him live. Logistics being what they are, we never got around to doing it.

In Portland, in mid-summer they have an event called Artquake. This is a giant street fair devoted to the arts - painting, music and crafts. It's held on Broadway, the main north-south street, right smack in the middle of Portland.



This street goes by Portland's new music center. While wandering through the exhibits, we glanced up and saw that George Winston was appearing that Friday. Five days later we attended the concert with excellent seats! Since being here we've gone to several musical events and about four plays. The city is

close, parking is easy, tickets are cheap, and there's lots of variety.

The other major discovery we made was the robustness of the local wine industry, a field in which we have some prior experience. Starting about 20 minutes drive from our house is the beginning of the Yamhill county wine area. This is a thriving, new wine-growing region that's producing award-winning wines, notably Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. One Saturday, we spent half a day touring four wineries and having an outstanding lunch at a gourmet deli called Pinot Pete's. The oldest of the wineries is about 10 years, so this boom is very recent.

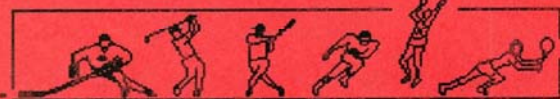


JOBS

In addition to Dad's new job with Intel (which is going very well), both boys and Diana have found employment as part of their Oregon experience. This summer, Corey worked part time in a bicycle shop in Lake Oswego and Chris got a job at the local Safeway. Diana, after looking for quite some time, got a job with Group 3 Consultants, Inc. as a part-time computer applications instructor.

SPORTS, ETC.

One of the first things we did after moving in was to install a basketball backboard which has gotten much use. Chris was on a local basketball team this summer while Corey was on the middle school track team last spring. Both boys are now in Lake Oswego High. LO has its own (indoor) swimming pool and Corey is putting it to good use as a member of the swim team. Both boys are planning to go out for track in the spring, Corey for hurdles and Chris for javelin. Growth continues with Diana inexorably sliding into next to last place (ahead of Buttons) as Chris (6'2", 185) and Corey (5'10", 140) continue to sprout.



Diana made it easy for the boys to zip past her sizewise, since she lost 36 pounds as a result of Weight Watchers and Jazzercise. She got the weight

watchers gold key and needed the gold as her entire wardrobe was redone. Meanwhile, Dick resumed jogging (2 miles a day) and/or cycling (6 miles a day) and lost 9 pounds of his own. Current size rankings: Chris, Dick, Corey, Diana, Buttons.

We found a new church, The Lake Grove Presbyterian. They have a very active youth group in which both boys are participating. Corey has already gone on a church trip to Salem. This is one of a number of trips the youth group takes during the course of the year. Skiing is up next. On the subject of skiing, with Mt. Hood only about 90 minutes away, both boys are eagerly awaiting the chance to try out their new skis (Santa made an early drop shipment). Lake Oswego runs a weekend bus service to Mt. Hood; \$20 covers transportation and lift ticket. The bus leaves from a local parking lot and returns by 8:30pm. Super deal!



Since we were new to the Pacific Northwest, we decided to take a vacation in that region this summer. We took a car vacation staying on the Olympic Peninsula; Victoria, British Columbia; Vancouver, BC; and Seattle. We had a great time with the highlight being the Victoria Natural History Museum - absolutely world class - bicycling around Stanley Park in Vancouver and Pike Place market in Seattle. The natural beauty of the Northwest is something to behold.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

We're in better shape (especially Diana) this Christmas than we've been in a long time and trust that this Christmas season finds you in good health and spirits as well. The Oregon Goughs hope you have a very merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

