

# The Goughs' Christmas Times

December 1997

## Oregon Year Eight

1997 was a year of transitions as Chris moved into his own Portland apartment, Corey began his final year at the University of Oregon, Dick completed his first full year of retirement, and Diana completed (?) her garden. The details...

## The Big Kids

We spent a lot of time travelling in 1997, taking full advantage of Dick's newfound time. Since our Newport vacation home was completed, we visit there pretty frequently, averaging a week per month.



Sunset at Yaquina Head, OR

Our longer journeys started with a trip to Palm Springs in March, arriving during a heat wave in the low 90s. We had a great time hiking (Joshua



Dick & Diana at Wine Tasting, 1997

Tree National Park and Indian Canyon), playing golf (don't ask—long break, no practice, rental clubs, etc.), and just looking around. The sun and warmth were a nice break from Oregon, which had it's second year of record rains. In May our "tropical phase" began with our yearly trip to Laguna Beach, followed in June with a week on Kauai and ten days on the Big Island of Hawaii.



Canal & Tunnel, Hawi, Hawaii

We hadn't been to Kauai since before hurricane Iniki in '93 and were surprised that there were still places closed as a

result of that storm.

While we found time to play golf on both islands, our most unusual excursion was out of the Big Island town of Hawi. Earlier this century, a series of canals and tunnels were built through the wet northern cliffs to the dry valleys below to move rainwater to the sugar cane fields. While no longer used for this purpose, the canals still carry water. We went on a four-mile kayak trip through a portion of these canals and tunnels. In the tunnels—the longest of which is  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile—we had to lean all the way back, to avoid bumping our heads on the tunnel ceiling, while pushing the rubber kayak away from the sides to avoid scraping. A unique experience!

We took a more conventional trip in September to the Napa Valley for wine tasting (and procurement). We stayed in a B&B called Maison Fleurie, a picturesque, ivy-covered building in Yountville. We hadn't been to Napa in about 25 years and were amazed by all the changes, especially the acres and acres of grapes planted everywhere. The wineries were releasing their '94 cabernets, considered the best year for Napa in the last decade.

We sampled some great cabs. We picnicked every day and for our supplies found some great delis nestled in the heart of Napa. We encountered a wedding party at one winery picnic spot that loaned us a flowered



Maison Fleurie, Napa Valley

centerpiece for our lunch. Our most unusual tour was of Greystone, formerly home of the Christian Brothers Winery but now the western campus of the Culinary Institute of America. They have a TV show called "Cooking Secrets of the CIA."

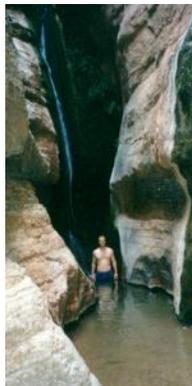
As has been our custom for the past several years, in October we spent a few days in Ashland attending plays at the Shakespeare Festival. In December we're going to the Rose Festival and Rose Bowl with Chris and Corey. So we'll be celebrating Diana's birthday in LA—land of her birth.

**Diana** has continued active in AAUW as newsletter editor and in Oregon Master Gardeners where she spends time in the summer staffing a Question & Answer Hotline. She also continues her interest in bridge, a book-discussion group, and—with greater frequency this summer—golf.

**Dick** spent a great deal of time this past summer playing golf, often four times a week. He is also in a book-discussion group and continues with his hobbies of computers, wine collecting and gourmet cooking. He occasionally dabbles in portfolio management as well.

## *The "Boys"*

**Chris**, now 24, ventured off on his own this year, leasing an apartment in the west hills of Portland. He's found a great location, closer to work and only five minutes from downtown Portland. His place has a small balcony overlooking the swimming pool. This summer he spent a week running the Colorado River



Chris, Grand Canyon



Chris, at Home

through the Grand Canyon—a graduation gift from mom and dad. Chris is in his second year as a software engineer at Intel. He works out most days and has been active in the Intel basketball league, playing about three times a week during the season. Now that he's back up north, he hopes to get in more skiing.

Perhaps not this year since El Nino promises warmer, dryer weather for Oregon.

**Corey**, now 22, is completing his final year at the University of Oregon in Eugene majoring in computer science. He will have a busy spring interviewing and lining up a full time job after graduation. Fortunately the demand for software



Corey at Zion, UT

engineers is high, so he should have lots of good choices. This summer he took a week to go backpacking with a friend through Zion National Park in Utah. He had a great time and did not run out of water as his mother had feared. Mom, dad, and Chris were invited to Eugene to join Corey for the Ducks' Homecoming Weekend and to watch them defeat the University of Utah in football. This year the Ducks have been picked to play in the Las Vegas Bowl on December 20.

**Buttons**. Sadly, we have to report that Buttons, our beloved pet of 17 years departed this earth in April. We all miss him, but he had been in declining health for several years and his time had finally come. He was a Fine Dog!



## *Best Wishes for the Holiday Season & the New Year*



That's our year in capsule. Everyone's health continues well except for Diana's occasional back flare-up. We trust everything is well with you and wish you a Merry Christmas and the best of New Years.