

The Goughs Christmas Times

December 1999

Oregon Year Ten

Pictures on the reverse. Details follow...

Dick and Diana

This was our 30th anniversary year, and we celebrated with a “trip of a lifetime”—well that’s what the travel agent called it...

In September we traveled to NYC and flew the Concorde to London where we spent five days. After a great time in London, we left for Southampton and boarded the Queen Elizabeth 2 for a six day Atlantic crossing. So far so good. Unfortunately there were two hurricanes in the Atlantic —Gert and Floyd.

After all the movies I watched as a kid about breaking the sound barrier, I was expecting a big “something” when we crossed into Mach 1. No such luck. The only nudge we felt was when the Captain fired the afterburners. We then proceeded up to Mach 2 with nary a bump. In fact it was one of the smoothest flights we’d ever been on. JFK to Heathrow took a little over three hours. Not so smooth on the return, which took six days.

The QE2 is about three football fields long; the bridge is about 12 stories above the water. There is a TV camera mounted above the bridge that you can view from your cabin’s monitor. While dodging the hurricanes (only partially successful) on at least one occasion the crashing swells obscured the camera 13 stories up.

All in all, though, it was a memorable trip. Both the QE2 and the Concorde are now 30 years old, so it seemed appropriate to celebrate our 30th this way too.

We did quite a bit of traveling this year as we hit our stride. In August we visited Dick’s Aunt Mildred and cousin Bob in Memphis. Aunt Mildred is a remarkable person, still full of vim and vinegar at 91. She reminded Dick it had been quite some time since we last visited. We then continued on to Greenville, South Carolina, to visit Dan, Josh, and Jennifer (Dick’s brother

and family). There’s a shot (reverse) of Diana and Josh (holding salad tools) and one of Dick (holding Lucy the dog) and Dan. Both of these were taken at Dan and Josh’s place in Greenville.

After our return from Memphis and Greenville, John (Dick’s other brother) and Kitzen visited us. We had some rain during their visit, which really is unusual in summer -- trust us on this. However, we were able to arrange a great sunset for them at Newport.



There’s a shot (reverse) of Diana, John, and Kitzen taken at the Rose Test Garden in Portland.

The two pictures of us in hiking attire were taken at Red Rock Canyon outside Las Vegas. We spent a week at the Bellagio and a casita in Sun City and have rented a place in Sun City for the month of April. Las Vegas is an interesting blend of gambling, world-class shows, great restaurants (and wine), exotic shopping, hiking, golf and delightful weather. We were both surprised by how much we liked it.

The Boys

Chris and Corey continue to live in Portland and work as software engineers for Intel in Hillsboro. They stay physically active with a basketball league and gym memberships. This summer they vacationed to Ireland together. There’s a shot (reverse) of them at Inishmore, one of the Aran Islands off the east coast of Ireland. They had a great time staying in a mixture of B&Bs and youth hostels (and sampling Guinness!)

Merry Christmas and Happy Y2K

Well, that’s a quick overview. We hope everything’s well with you and wish you a Merry Christmas and the best of New Years. On to the oughts... ('00)