



The Goughs' Christmas Times

Volume 5

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Our First Full Year in Oregon

1990 was our first full year in Oregon and we tried to cram in as much as possible. Between skiing on Mt. Hood, strolling the beach at Cannon (Mom sneaks in some shopping, too), and jet boating on the Rogue river, we managed to sandwich in a vacation to Hawaii, courtesy of frequent-flyer miles on Delta. Let's cover the vacation first.

Vacation

This year we took a long-awaited major vacation to Hawaii, seeing 3 islands. Dick had accumulated about 300,000 frequent-flyer miles on Delta over the years, and we cashed in 200,000 for 4 first-class round trip tickets to Hawaii. We started in Oahu where we visited the Sacred Falls -- an uphill hike for over an hour through a mangrove forest to a spectacular canyon pool with a ribbon waterfall. The pool is ensconced in Hawaiian legend and filled with the feet and bodies of tired hikers. That evening we celebrated Chris' 17th birthday with a trip to John Dominis restaurant in Honolulu. An anonymous caller had alerted the staff to the significance of the date and Chris was serenaded and given a special cake.

The next day we went on a tour called Action Adventure Hawaii that included hiking, snorkeling, and boogie boarding. The Diamond Head hike afforded us a spectacular view of Honolulu from the very top of the rim of this extinct volcano. The low-light of the Oahu trip occurred when we were all boogie boarding in the surf and Chris got attacked by a Portuguese Man O' War. His back and chest were covered with red welts, and he was out of combat for 3 hours.

From Oahu, it was on to the big Island of Hawaii and the Kona Coast. This was Dad's favorite island with great snorkeling, interesting dining, and the Hawaii Volcanos National Park with an active, steaming, erupting volcano. We loved Kona so much we bought a condo time-share week at the Kona Coast resort. This will permit us to return or to trade our week for a number of similar condos all over the world.

We wrapped up our trip in Maui where the boys enjoyed cliff diving into waterfall pools along the road to Hana.

Trips

All of us went skiing on Mt. Hood numerous times. There are two separate ski areas -- Timberline and Mt. Hood Meadows. Timberline has a distinguished old lodge (register of National Historic Places), great food and ambiance. Meadows has far better skiing. Both boys have become expert skiers. Corey, in particular, is the family dare-devil. They both like "catching air" and skiing off cliffs into the powder below. Mom and Dad both wince. Mom started out wondering how she'd ever be able to ride a chair lift and ended the season as an intermediate skier. Dad, who hadn't skied in 20 years found it all came back quickly and was even venturing the occasional black diamond (expert trails -- the boys live there).



One of our favorite trips was on Memorial Day weekend when we drove to Grant's Pass in southern Oregon. While there we explored the Oregon caves, a huge series of linked, limestone caves with dramatic mineral deposits. Surprisingly, we hadn't heard of it before moving here. The Rogue River flows through Grant's Pass, and we all went jet boating on the river. Our trip ended in Devil's Canyon -- sheer water-etched sandstone cliffs on either side of the river.

Speaking of water, Chris and Corey both learned how to slalom ski this past summer; this is water-skiing on a single ski. Our boat got a good workout.

Chris

Chris, at 17, is completing his last year at Lake Oswego High and will start college next year. We were all very pleased when he got a score of 1310 on his final SAT; this puts him in the 95 percentile of college-bound seniors. He's applying to UCLA, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, Southern Cal, University of Washington, and University of Oregon. He plans to major in computer science. Chris works at Captain Video, a large, local video rental store. He (and we) get free video rentals. This was likely one of our motivations in getting a 45" projection TV for the den. Whatever the reason, we all love it and it makes movie-watching a lot more enjoyable. Chris and Corey formed a Lake Oswego ski club called DBA (Distance Bailers Association). Chris is president, Corey, vice-president. They have about a dozen members and custom tee shirt.

Corey

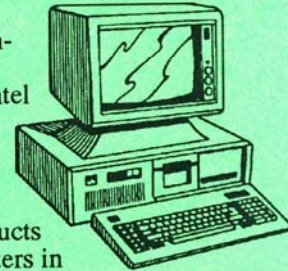
Corey, at 15, is a sophomore at Lake Oswego High, and in addition to snow and water skiing, is into skateboarding. Corey designs and builds his own skateboard ramps. His latest creation is a half-pipe located in our side yard. The trick is to skate back and forth doing a variety of acrobatics. During last summer, Corey joined the church youth group in a trip to Watsonville, California to help repair earthquake damaged housing for the poor. Corey is also heavy into Prodigy, using that computer-based information service to communicate with half of western civilization. He also made friends with a new kid in the neighborhood who's a Dungeons & Dragons whiz. Corey was able to make a nostalgia trip this summer back to Stamford (thanks to the hospitality of the Carenas) and renew old acquaintances.

Mom and Dad (The Big Kids)

We used to call ourselves the big kids. It doesn't work any more with Chris at 6'2" and Corey at 6'1".

Anyhow, we "small kids" have found plenty to do also. Diana is treasurer of the local AAUW branch and membership chair of the American Association of Training and Development (ASTD). She's also active in a literature group, still enjoys her computer hobby and is an expert Prodigy user. We both make time to exercise, Diana 3-4 times a week at Jazzercise and Dick doing 6 miles a day on his exercise bike while watching cable news network. Diana was able to travel back to Connecticut this summer to attend the 50th anniversary party for the Stamford Branch of AAUW where she was past president.

Dick's business unit at Intel announced 2 major PC enhancement products this year, the Intel SatisFAXtion board and 9600EX modem. SatisFAXtion was picked by PC Computing magazine as one of the most valuable products of 1990 and is going gangbusters in sales.



We had visits from Dan Gough and Frans Forrsell this past summer (both left their wives at home causing grousing by Diana) and we were able to show them the sights of Portland. We always manage to include a quick trip to the Oregon wine country. Next year we'll have a different kind of side trip as we bought stock in an Oregon winery -- Willamette Valley Vineyards. One of my long-standing ambitions was to own part of a winery, but this is a very small part indeed.

Season's Greetings

That's a quick summary of our year. Christmas this year finds us in continued good health. We trust the same is true for you. The Oregon Goughs hope you have a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

