

Christmas, 2002

Another year is gone, and here it is Christmas again. And a busy year it has been for us. Hope everyone is well and you had a good year.

Our year of new adventures started off in January with a snowshoeing trip to Mount Hood, Oregon. Then, in February, after a business trip to Klamath Falls, Oregon, we went with a friend to Crater Lake, Oregon where we went snowshoeing around parts of the rim around 7000 feet up. The snow was 15 feet deep, not unusual for a place that averages 533 inches of snow a year.

In February, our 10th wedding anniversary rolled around. What did we do after 10 years of marriage? We went to Disneyland!! And Disney's California Adventure as well. We had a great time and filled our 4 days in southern California with various rides and attractions. That's us on this year's Christmas card in front of Disneyland's main entrance.

Our Sixth annual Mardi Gras party was in March this year. Another great party, but we are thinking of foregoing it in 2003, since we will be gearing up for our sabbatical trip (John gets an 8 week sabbatical at Intel every 7 years) about then.

In May came a watershed event. After years of doing our camping first in a minivan, then a pop-up tent trailer followed by 7 years of camping in our 22-foot travel trailer, we purchased a new 33-foot Holiday Rambler motor home. There is a view of it in our enclosed picture collage. We've enjoyed it immensely and are taking it on the road for our sabbatical next year.

During the summer, we not only went camping around the state, but we did some boating on lakes and the Columbia River with some friends. We went to islands and beaches on the river, swam and had picnics and generally enjoyed ourselves.

In July, our old friends George and Nancy Parr came up from New Orleans to visit. We showed them around our adopted state from the California border all the way north to Mt. St. Helens in Washington State. We went jet boating on the Rogue River, visited Crater Lake, and attended the great Portland Brewers Festival. We certainly enjoyed their stay.

September brought some international travel. John took a business trip to San Jose, Costa Rica where he spent 2 weeks training technicians at a new call center there. Then Janet came down and we spent a week traveling around that beautiful country. If you ever have a chance to go there, take it. One of our excursions was to an active Volcano named Arenal. During the day we relaxed in a hot springs resort where steaming hot water comes pouring out of the side of the mountain, and at night we sat on the porch of our cabana and watched the fireworks of lava putting on a display at the peak. We also toured the rain forests where we saw crocodiles, monkeys, toucans, sloth and various other exotic wildlife. We finished our stay by spending a few days at the Pacific beach resort of Los Suenos.

In November, Janet had minor surgery. She missed about 3 weeks of work while she recuperated, but she is doing fine and is back at work now.

Here it is, Christmas time again. We're happy and in good health, and wish the same to you.

Here's wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Please keep in touch.

John and Janet Spain