

## Christmas

2018

An extremely busy year of retirement has gone by.

Let us give you a recap.

As we mentioned in last year's letter, we were headed to Oahu in January to get a respite from the rainy Oregon winter. We toured Pearl Harbor and paid our respects at the Arizona Memorial, drove around the island in a rental car and took an island tour. Mostly we just relaxed and enjoyed the beach and the weather. One little glitch; one morning our cell phones went off with an alert stating that there was a ballistic missile incoming to Hawaii. Fortunately, that turned out to be a false alarm.

In February, we took a trip along with our friends the Calhoun's to the Alpine-themed mountain town of Leavenworth, Washington, where we enjoyed German cuisine and sampled the local wines and beers.

In March, we left in our motorhome headed south for our long-planned US tour! We were on the road from March 15<sup>th</sup> to July the 15<sup>th</sup>. We did so much, I'll just cover the highlights here.

We started our trip by visiting friends in Pine Grove, Ca., Riverside, Ca. and Escondido (near San Diego). We also attended an RV rally in Indio, Ca.

From California, we traveled east to New Mexico, where we met John's sister Nancy, brother David and his wife who had traveled from the south to Alamogordo, NM where we all visited with our younger brother Chuck. While there, we took the opportunity to visit the Trinity site, where the very first atomic bomb was detonated in 1945. After leaving Chuck's, we toured Roswell, NM and then Carlsbad Caverns.

Next, we traveled to San Antonio, then from there we went to New Orleans and stayed with friends on the north shore and revisited our old haunts around the NO area. Next up, we traveled to Tupelo and Memphis to visit family.

Leaving Memphis, we went to the Great Smokey Mountains NP and the Blue Ridge Mountains, then Asheville, Winston/Salem and Appomattox. As we traveled north, we spent time in Washington DC, Philadelphia and New York, taking tours in each of those cities.

From New York, we traveled to the Boston area to spend time with John's cousin Joyce and tour that area. We left there after a few days and went to Niagara Falls (another bucket list item) and on to Janet's home town of Pittsburgh, where we had lunch with some of her old friends and decorated her parent's graves.

From Pittsburgh we moved on to the Dayton, Ohio area to visit John's cousins and their families, plus tour the Museum of the Air Force. Next, we spent time in the Chicago area and toured that town for a couple of days, then on to Moscow, Iowa to have some work done on the motor home.

Our next stop was Rapid City, which we used as a base to visit Mount Rushmore, the Crazy Horse Memorial, Deadwood (along with the Boot Hill cemetery) and the Devil's tower.

Finally, on the way home we spent a little time revisiting Yellowstone, then the John Day Fossil Beds in Oregon. Throughout the year we continued our camping trips. In fact, we were gone at least part of every month in 2018, and fulfilled a large chunk of our bucket list.

Our travels will continue in 2019. In February we have booked a trip to Peru, where we will visit Lima, Cusco and Machu Picchu.

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

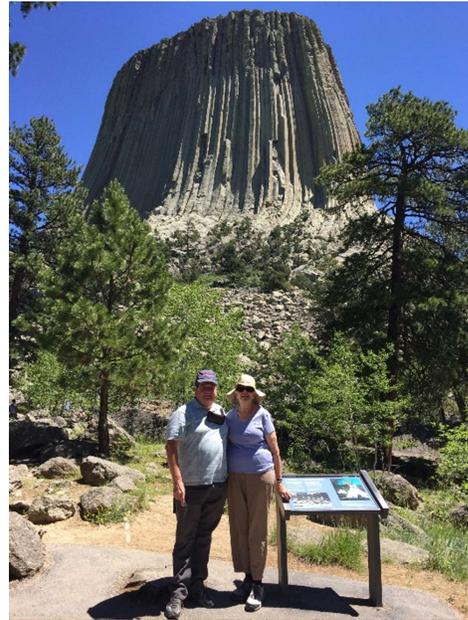
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@ 9/11 memorial in NYC



John and Janet at Devils Tower, Wyoming



Authentic deep-dish pizza in Chicago



@Roosevelt Hyde Park Home - NY State



Janet in Hawaii / January 2018



@Niagara Falls