

## *Seasons Greetings for 1998*

*Yes, we made it to beautiful Corvallis, Oregon. The trip across the country wasn't anything like we had planned. We left later than we had hoped and the cargo trailer and truck we purchased wouldn't carry the weight of all of our things (especially the books!). We had to rent a 26' Ryder truck and tow our "wimpy" truck behind. The Ryder truck and our truck on the car carrier were so long and*



*tall that we could barely fit into regular gas stations and between the lanes of traffic on normal streets. We were also unable to travel to National Parks and camp out at night. We traveled straight across the country, mainly on Interstate 80. We stayed in motel rooms, had to get gas three times a day at semi-truck stops, and didn't do any sightseeing. We made it though!*

*We are renting a large house. There wasn't much available and what was available cost an arm and a leg. We have plenty of room if anyone wants to visit. We sure are enjoying living closer to the families again, but they still need to call before dropping in! Remember the Mark Twain rule: guests and fish both start to stink after about three days.*

*Jerry is working for the Conservation Biology Institute. He is doing a lot of computer mapping such as finding the remaining areas of old-growth redwoods or finding out how much of the lower 48 states are covered with forest and trying to determine how healthy the forests might be. The various projects he is working on are funded by groups like The Nature Conservancy, the U.N., and the World Wildlife Fund. Isn't it funny (and sad) that people working to protect a bit of nature more*

often than not end up in front of a computer? If you would like to read a bit about where he works you can visit his work web site at <http://www.consbio.org>.

Kristin is teaching fifth grade at Jefferson Elementary School, about 2.5 miles from where we live. She has 28 students with a wide range of abilities, including one that can speak and read only Chinese! She has quite a challenge creating curriculum during her first year. She is short on textbooks and has to create a great deal of what she uses in class. She is also trying to get a good collection of materials for use in her classroom. She is teaching the highest math group and is taking a leadership role in the school for meeting the upcoming new state science standards. She spends a lot more time at school than she had originally expected.

We spent Thanksgiving at the Oregon coast at our old favorite, the See Vue Inn. It was just the two of us and was a very nice break. We really had a great time just being together and relaxing. We will be spending a week during the Christmas holiday visiting both Kristin's mom and family in the Ferndale area and Jerry's family in Yakima.

We send you our warmest wishes that you all have a wonderful holiday season!



*Back in the REAL mountains!*

*If you don't have it yet, our mailing address is:*

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