



# Happy Holidays 2001 to our Family and Friends!



Another year has already passed. We continue to be busy with our jobs, hobbies, and having fun. Kristin is in her fourth year teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade and Jerry continues to work at Conservation Biology Institute. If you want to know what Jerry does, get on the internet and go to <http://www.consbio.org> and look at the Redwoods and the Forest Intactness projects.



We are on our 2<sup>nd</sup> year helping renovate Marc and Mary's old farm house. It took a year to shingle the walls, but we are done and are now starting on the plumbing.



Sharon, Bunny, Colton, and Kristin all spent a weekend on the Oregon coast last winter. They enjoyed shopping and beach combing.

We were thrilled to have our niece Lauren come from Alaska to visit with us for a few days. She got a whirlwind tour of Oregon including the Newport Aquarium, beaches, and the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.



Our big trip this year was to a bunch of National Parks. We took our nephew Brandon (which should qualify us for sainthood) on a three week trip in our new VW camper van . . . the "Blue Turtle." Fern Canyon in the northern California redwoods was one of the first adventures we had. Jerry and Brandon started the first of many rock climbing escapades which occurred throughout our trip. When rocks could not be found, trees worked just as well!



Yosemite was a disappointment. It was very crowded and the large rock formations were not that much different than other ones we have seen in the Cascades and elsewhere. We are just spoiled by all the great scenery in the Pacific Northwest!



Tuolumne Meadows were nice, but all the trails were eroded by horses, dusty, and swarmed by flies.



The obligatory big tree photo at Sequoia National Park.



Look! The Turtle fits!

One of Sequoia's treasures is the Crystal Caverns. Well worth the long and steep hike back out.



We stopped in southern California and visited with Grandmommy Ruby. Brandon enjoyed talking history with someone who had actually been there. Grandmommy celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this year.



As we headed out across Joshua Tree and the desert to Arizona, we saw a rare tree species growing by the roadside. It was in full bloom with shoes!



Some road weary travelers resting in the shade (ha!) of a saguaro cactus. We have been on the road for about a week by now.



Grand Canyon was gorgeous! We spent some time on the South Rim taking in the great views then drove around the east side of the canyon to the North Rim. We saw many neat things including some great earth and rock dwellings. We took a hike from the North Rim down into the canyon to some very interesting tunnels, water springs, and very high cliffs! The North Rim was not nearly as crowded and we also saw a lot of wild turkeys in the large meadows. We were about two weeks into our trip by now.



Zion National Park in Utah was probably the most spectacular of all the parks we visited and we can't wait to go back and explore more of the slot canyons. Jerry and Brandon explored one slot canyon called Hidden Canyon that required a bit of rock climbing to get around; very fun!



The hike to Timpanogos Caves near Salt Lake City was worth seeing the unique "spiky aragonite" formations. People may have noticed from this and past Christmas letters that we enjoy caving.







Craters of the Moon in Idaho was another spot we could have easily spent a whole day or two. Highly recommend exploring the numerous lava tubes, just bring a good flashlight! We are now getting towards the end of our third week and are ready to get home.



We joined Marc and family and Sharon and family at the Oregon coast for a great Labor Day weekend. Daisy and Ariel enjoyed each others company while riding in the Turtle.



We hosted our annual Halloween party as Charon which were characters from an old Star Trek episode. A final "hanging chad" was seen next to Cleopatra discussing the ins and outs of the past election.



Kristin and Sheena (our current Guide Dog puppy) had a great time as lady bugs for their dog club party. Sheena waited for over an hour before trying to eat her costume! Our 1<sup>st</sup> Guide Dog puppy, Thorn, went back for his professional Seeing Eye training in June. We were disappointed when he was career changed for allergies. He is now a pet for a nice family in west Portland.

Strange gourd trees were the item of the day for Nancy's annual Squash Goddess Party.



Bob, Les, and Dad Heilman enjoyed a Thanksgiving hike to the Umptanum Falls in eastern Washington with Jerry.

Overall, it has been another enjoyable year in Oregon. We were saddened, however, by the loss of our aunt Anita and grandmother Rachel this year. We wish Jerry's family well as they as they go through their grief. We hope you all had an adventurous 2001 and enjoyed many happy memories.

**We send you all our Warmest Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday Season!**



Jerry and Kristin  
Dogs Daisy and Sheena; Cats Missy, Sassy, and Tiggly; Turtles Scooter, George, and Evenrude

