



Happy Holidays 2002 to our Family and Friends!



We are now on our fifth year in Corvallis, Oregon. We are both actively involved in our jobs, community, and recreation. It is definitely home here. Kristin is still teaching fifth grade and Jerry is still at the Conservation Biology Institute.



Our niece Mary was our first niece or nephew to graduate from high school.

CONGRATS!!!



We had a great fourth of July with the neighbors. Kids of all ages couldn't wait for fireworks while other kids had fun with the hula hoop! Kristin's mom made it down to spend the holiday with us.



Jerry and Marc are still putting in way too much time on the old house. Here they're cleaning out old rat nests in the attic! We are really close to finishing. FINALLY!



Our big trip for the summer was to the Steens Mountains located in eastern Oregon. This is a view of Alvord Dessert from the top of Steens. This is one of the biggest dry lake beds in the world!



This is a view of Steens Canyon, one of the many huge (some almost 1 mile deep) glacially carved U-shaped valleys in the area.



We took a hike to Lost Horse Lake located near the top of Steens Mountain. The trail was very steep getting down. We decided to make our own way back up which started along a lovely stream and end with scrambling over rock slopes.



We spent time at Diamond Craters National Monument. Jerry is standing at the edge of one crater. We found a spring fed pond in the bottom of another crater. This was a real oasis and the water was very cold!

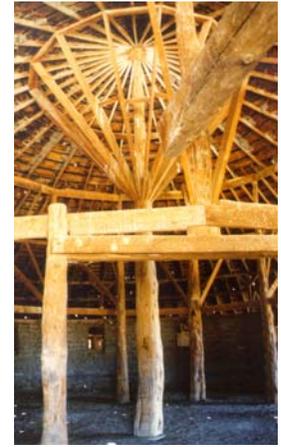




Here are some of the “wild” horses that we kept looking for, but didn't find. There are wild Keiger mustangs in the area believed to descend directly from escaped Spanish horses centuries ago.



We explored this huge round barn that was built by hand in the middle 1800's out of juniper. It was used for breaking horses by one of the first land barons. He was hated, eventually shot in the street, and the shooter was never put on trial.



Our entire trip was during a heat wave, with temperatures in the 110's. We spent one day at Succor Creek and spent our time sitting in the water, drinking beer, and reading. Our van, the Blue Turtle, enjoyed its break in the shade of the cliffs.



Leslie Gulch is a small BLM park that reminded us a lot of a small Zion National Park. It was gorgeous but the temperature reached 118 in the van, with the windows down!



We stopped at a small roadside display for the Oregon Trail. Jerry is standing in one of two ruts left behind by the wagons. They looked a lot like deep, old ditches!



One of the last places we visited was the John Day Fossil Bed National Monument. This is the Painted Hill unit. Plants can't grow on the hills because the soil is so absorbent they can't pull water from it.



Jerry, Gene, and Nancy climbed Mt. Hood, but didn't quite make it all the way. They used the tree in our front yard to practice getting out of a glacial crevasse.





We went on a jet boat ride with Mom and Dad Heilman up the Snake river into Hells Canyon. It was an all day trip that stopped at historical homesteads. The canyon itself was not a “canyon” but looked more like tall eroded hills. The rapids in some spots were fun and we saw a bunch of wildlife including sturgeon and bighorn sheep.



Mom and Dad Heilman came over for a weekend on the Oregon coast. The weather was unbelievably sunny and warm. We spent the time near Yachats and stayed at our favorite ocean motel, the See Vue Inn.



Kristin was part of a 12 person walking relay team. The race went from Portland to the ocean at Seaside and took about 28 hours to finish. She did great with the walking but didn't like the lack of sleep.



Our puppy Sheena went back for professional guide dog training. We were disappointed when she was dropped for a cataract in one eye. We are co-raising our current puppy, Yvette, with another raiser, Alice.



Kristin went to Sue's wedding. It was a great chance to see old high school friends including Teri and Laura.

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



Jerry and Kristin
Dogs Daisy and Yvette; Cats Missy, Sassy, and Tiggy; Turtles Scooter, George, and Evenrude

