



# Happy Holidays 2004!



Sending you best wishes for the holidays and throughout the new year!



Our niece Jessica graduated from High School this spring. This is her with my sister Sharon and nephew Colton on her big night.



We had a difficult beginning for our summer when we had both our dog Daisy and black cat Mischief (not pictured) put to sleep. They were both 17 years old.



Our nephew Brandon helped Jerry with some of the "last touches" of the house. They ran about 500 feet of line to be used for phones and or future computer connections.



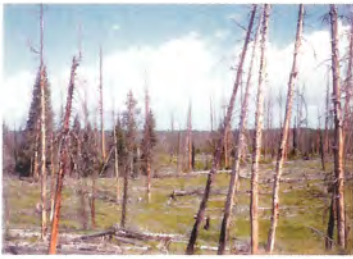
We finally were able to move into the "cottage" that we have been helping renovate for the last three years! It feels very small with only 900 sf, but it is really nice and feels like home now. Our friends Gene and Nancy helped us move some of the big stuff!



We then headed to Grand Teton National Park. This was a first for Kristin. WE LOVED THIS PARK! It was our favorite spot on our vacation! We camped, hiked and just had a great time. The landscape was everything from sage brush, to wooded, to alpine meadows covered in wildflowers. We even took a tram to the top of a beautiful mountain.

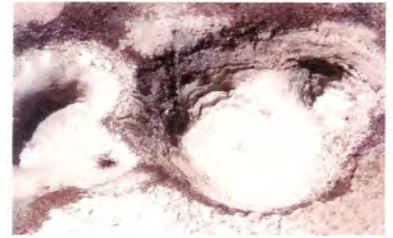
We headed out on our vacation after spending an entire day building a dog kennel and yard at the new house for the new Guide Dog puppy who would be waiting for us when we returned. We drove for 14 hours straight through the night to meet up with Jerry's folks and his uncle Frank and friend Peggy. We met them at the last minute north of Ketchum, Idaho. We stayed and fished with them around southern Idaho for the next few days.





Yellowstone was a new experience for Kristin and had changed a lot since Jerry visited as a child. We were very interested in the recovering forest that had been burnt in the early 1990s.

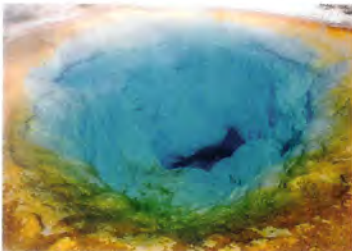
You never know what you will experience when you are on a "spontaneous" camping trip. We actually had a major downpour of hail at Yellowstone in July!



Jerry and I especially enjoyed the mud pots. They would glurp and spatter. The only down side was boy did they smell!!!



The many colors of pools were fantastic to see! Every stop and turn of the trail had another geothermal feature that was a little bit different. It was great fun trying to get pictures of the geysers and pools actually bubbling, blurping, or spurting. (We used up nine rolls of film at Yellowstone!)



We were constantly looking for wildlife and snapping tons of pictures on this trip. Yellowstone was known for it's "wildlife jams," when people just stop their cars wherever in order to take pictures. We really enjoyed watching this bull buffalo take over the road!!! He was huge and walked right by our window. I don't think the little car behind it would have stood a chance if it was in a bad mood!





We love to try to stay in historic hotels. We felt very lucky to actually get a room, because of a landslide that caused cancellations, at the Yellowstone Lodge. It was their centennial celebration. We loved the details in the construction and joined the other tourists to watch Old Faithful go off from the vantage of the deck at the lodge.



One of our best discoveries from this trip was when we left Yellowstone. We took the Bear Tooth Highway and discovered a road that went through some of the most gorgeous alpine areas we have seen. It was like climbing a mountain without having to do the hike. The summit was at 10,947 feet.

We then headed to Glacier National Park. We traveled over Logan Pass, a meager 6,890 feet compared to the Bear Tooth Highway! It was beautiful and had lots of wildlife including many ground squirrels, mountain goats, and mountain sheep. Jerry took a solo climb and enjoyed getting away from the crowds!



We left the United States and headed to Canada. We explored Waterford Park in Canada. We then found a great Bavarian Restaurant and motel by Lake Kootenay. The weather was warm and the lake was perfect for swimming!



Our return home was met with the surprise that our Guide Dog puppy Yvette had been career changed at the very end of her training. She is learning to love being a lap dog and pet! She was there waiting for our return along with our new puppy Countess. They both go to school with Kristin.



Jerry and I headed on the train with our nephews to Bellingham this fall. We went to help celebrate Kristin's grandmother Ruby's 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. It was great seeing (back left) cousin John, Mom, uncle John, aunt Jay, Colton, John's son Keegan, Grandmommy Ruby, Brandon, and Kristin.



**Jerry and Kristin**  
**Dogs Yvette and Countess; Cats Sassy, Tiggy, and**  
**Sunshine; Turtles Scooter, George, and Evenrude**

