

December 1996

Greetings to all our friends and relatives,

This is our first attempt at a Christmas letter together, but then this is the first year we share the same address. It has been quite a transition for Mark, the bachelor, but moving into one home has been a happy decision for both of us.

This last year we took a trip up to Oregon for a family reunion (Sally's family) at Diamond Lake (near Crater Lake). We had about 60 people there in all, so Mark now has met almost the whole family.

On the way home we camped and bicycled in the Redwood National Park. It was Mark's first visit to Oregon and the northern California coast line. We also took a ride on the "Skunk train" through the Redwoods.

Between Mark working hard in his computer hardware design business and Sally working hard in her CPA practice, we spend as much time as we can outdoors either hiking or bicycling. One of our favorite bike trips began with a train ride up to Santa Barbara and then bicycling 40 miles back down along the beautiful California coast line to Oxnard, where we caught the train back home. Exhausting but exhilarating!

Our favorite hike was out in Borrego desert. We hiked over eleven miles along old railroad tracks that took us out to an historic trestle in Carrizo Gorge. (Mark, the train buff, has hiked this one many times before, but this was Sally's first.)

Sally's daughter, Kelly, was married in November. The wedding and reception were quite a task to coordinate, but all went well and was a very beautiful day.

Christmas will be spent in Aliquippa, PA with Mark's family. We look forward to seeing all there.

We both send our love and good wishes for a very wonderful holiday season!

