

December 13, 1996

The news this year is that Sally and I have up-graded our relationship. We have combined households (ie, we have moved in together). For now, we are at what used to be my house until we figure out the future.

It has been a change for me and took some getting used to. I almost backed out a few times but Sal helped me through. Thank goodness.

Our big trip this year was up to Oregon to Sal's family reunion with a week after that driving and hiking through the Redwoods in northern CA. I got to see Crater Lake - which has been on my list of things to see since I was a kid and got to ride the Skunk Train, an old logging railroad. We also made it out to the desert a few times with one trip an eleven mile hike along the tracks of what used to be the San Diego and Arizona Railroad. Its claim to fame is the highest wooden trestle bridge in the US. It is perched along the mountain side of what is called Carrizo Gorge.

Sal's business is doing fine as well. I am her computer installer/maintainer. She has more powerful computers than I have now. She is getting ready for her worst time of the year "Tax Season".

My work has been going well this year. Three new clients kept me going all year: Pacific Communications Sciences, Inc - makers of the electronics in cellular phones; IOMEGA - makers of ZIP drives and tape backup systems; and Nellcor Puritan Bennett - makers of ventilators (modern equivalents of the old iron lungs).

Last year, I took my Professional Engineers Exam. In California, everyone working as a consultant who calls himself an Engineer must have taken and passed this exam. I found out in February that I passed! I felt pretty good after I took it but I wasn't sure until I got the results. Only about 1/4 passed.

Sally and I are going back to Pittsburgh again this year. We hope to get to Washington DC for a few days but there might not be enough time.

Happy Holidays

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