

Christmas 2010

Winter has come to Springfield, Oregon. Though the autumn foliage is hanging on, the first snowfall has arrived. Every season is beautiful, so much like New England.

Tony and I are well and each pursuing projects with friends, family and church – we're adjusting well to NOT having a "work schedule," recently bought a used 10' pop-top camper and plan to explore some of Oregon's diverse and beautiful areas this spring.

Joe and Patsy and family are busy with many activities as Hannah (almost 13) and Cassidy (10) are involved in music and sports. Both are enthusiastic and able students. Speaking of students, I took Joe's history course on Vietnam last spring. I read the books but didn't take the exams – I got no special perks so officially "flunked" the course...but I DID learn a great deal.

Andy and JoLani continue at their same jobs and hobbies of singing, yoga and biking and skiing for Andy. Tony and I go by train tomorrow to hear their choral group perform a Christmas program at Stanford Chapel. Then, on the 18th, they'll come to spend Christmas with us, first at Mount Bachelor for skiing and then here for Christmas Day.

The year started out rather routinely until the spring. In April, my brother Joe took us on a week-long road trip from Bullhead City, AZ to Springfield, OR via Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, Mesa Verde, Canyonlands and Arches National Parks. What a spectacular country we live in. (The weather cooperated too!)

Mary, Ed, Sadie and Bill came for their first (of many, I hope) visit to Oregon. It rained all week. Thankfully, they're hardy New Englanders, so we persevered, but a little sunshine would have been nice.

We were back on the farm for the Fourth of July. Louie and Jane put on a great fireworks show along with their hayrides and "mini-train" rides. Mary and Ed had a big welcome party and Manny and Elaine had live country bands playing until dark, and yes, many more barbecues going there too. Josephine graciously opened her home to us again. While there, we reconnected with many old friends, relaxed with family, ate lots of seafood and danced to Manny and Elaine's band.

Tina and Heather Barner spent three sunny days here in late August. We did a little mountain sightseeing and Tony made sure they had Dim Sum before leaving for Seattle. Let's make our next reunion a Ped. Lab one!

Bro Joe left sunny Arizona for a rainy (surprise!) week here in October. We did have one day at the coast, but mainly cooked together at home (he's very good) and I lost a lot more pennies at poker each night.

Sprinkled among our other autumn activities has been one of my favorites – Oregon Ducks Football games! We have season tickets again this year and it's so much fun. We're #1 BUT the last number of games have not been easy to watch, exciting but tense! We'll at least go to the Rose Bowl again...and maybe even the "BIG ONE" if we win our last game on Saturday. GO DUCKS!!

With all best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, peace-filled New Year. Tony and I are grateful for your love and thoughtfulness. God Bless!

