

THE KAVANAGH GAZETTE

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

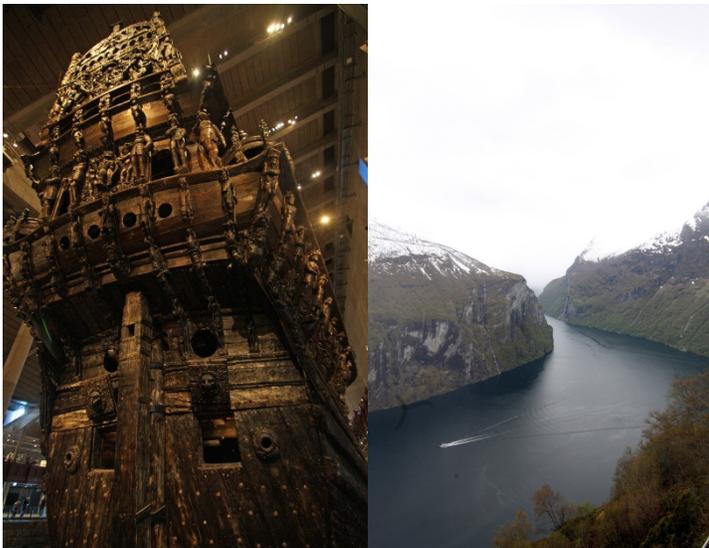
Welcome to the 2015 edition of *The Kavanagh Gazette*. The purpose of this newsletter is to give you an update on the family out here in Oregon.

Another Big Year

2015 was another busy year in the Kavanagh household. In this issue of the Gazette you will get a brief highlights that include:

A quick rundown is

- Celebrated Mark's Mom's 70th Birthday in NY (& Canada)
- A Scandinavian Cruise to the Norwegian Fjords
- A Cruise to Bermuda with bringing Mark's Mom along
- A short weekend trip to Disneyland
- Mark went to an Electric Railway Convention in Texas
- Cyn's trip to Florida
- Mark's 2 business trips to Japan
- Mark & Cyn completed their McMenamins Passports and are Tripsters
- Getting ready to add a master bathroom to the house.



Scandinavia

Mark wanted to fulfill one of Cynthia's childhood bucket items, that is, see the Fjords of Norway.

After a quick trip to NY for Mark's Mom's 70th Birthday in May, and taking her to Niagara Falls, Mark and Cyn boarded a plane for Amsterdam. They had a long layover at AMS before their connection to Copenhagen. So they hopped on a train and a tram to meet up with friends from Mark's Trolley museum who were also in Amsterdam. They had a late breakfast at the Pancake Bakery. After this, Mark went to find a geocache, just to bump into another geocacher from Oregon looking for the same geocache, what a small world

Soon Mark & Cyn were in Copenhagen. They spent a full day in Copenhagen with a canal cruise, bus tour, and stopping at the Carlsberg Brewery. Then they spent an evening at Tivoli Gardens, a very nice amusement park where Walt Disney got some ideas from for Disneyland

The following day they boarded Royal Caribbean's Serenade of the Seas for a 7-day cruise. They were in a Oceanview cabin with a very large window. The ship held about 2200 passengers and is noted for the amount of windows in the passenger areas.

The first stop of the cruise was Stavanger. It was pouring rain, but that did not stop Mark from grabbing a geocache in town, and then both of them boarding a high speed boat to go up the nearby Fjord to see Pulpit rock. It was wet, but the view of the rock from below was awesome, as well as the Fjord itself.

The second stop of the cruise was Bergen. Here Mark and Cyn did a hop/hop-off tour of the Hanseatic city. They also boarded the Funicular to the top of one of Bergen's 7 hills with awesome views of the city below, plus geocaches abound. After lunch Cyn returned to the ship, while Mark rode Bergen's Light Rail line out and back. It is a neat system, with a variety of views and right-of-way.

The third stop of the cruise was Alesund. Again, Mark and Cyn used a Hop-on/Hop-off tour to visit this small city at the entrance of the Fjords. They visited the Sunmore Open Air Museum, filled with old homes and other old buildings telling the story of life in the Fjords. Mark spent some time at the top of the hill overlooking the city, grabbing photographs, and geocaching, as well as walking thru the Art Deco downtown.

The fourth and final stop of the cruise was Geiranger, at the end of the UNESCO World Heritage Geiranger Fjord. Geiranger is a tiny town but with wonderful views. The floating dock was also interesting as it elbowed out to meet the ship, one of 2 of its kind anywhere. Mark and Cyn had a bus tour to two wonderful overlooks, as well as a small boat cruise down the Fjord. Simply breathtaking!

Soon Mark and Cyn were back in Copenhagen. From there they boarded a train to head up to Stockholm for a couple of days. Mark's bucket list item was the Stockholm, T-bana (Metro), often called the world's longer art museum as many stations are in art filled caverns. They went to the world famous Vasa Museum, which is an old sailing vessel from the 1600's that sank on its maiden voyage. It was raised up from the harbor in the 1960's and is a great example of shipbuilding and artistry from the time period. Mark and Cyn's one conclusion of Stockholm was, they will return. Going back to see more of the Fjords would be awesome too, maybe next time stopping at Oslo.

Photos:

Top Left: The rear of the ship Vasa

Top right: Geiranger Fjord,

Bottom: Bergen Norway, old Germany port.

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MARK'S WIERDNESS

Mark as usual is a very busy person. This was his 11th year working for ASM. On top of all the personal travel this year, there were many work trips. Several business trips were to Phoenix and 2 trips to Japan. He has been given a roll to work with the ASM business unit in Japan (along with Phoenix). The trips to Japan added one new city to his map (Sendai) and returning to a small town he spent a lot of time in the late 1990's (Nagaoka)

In September Mark went to Texas for an Electric Railfan tour. This included visiting the Light Rail systems of Dallas and Houston, with a stop in Austin for their Commuter Rail line. It was hot in Texas, but worth it.

Geocaching wise, he has past the 3300 cache finds mark. In 2015 he added 4 new countries to his world map.

He is still a member of his Church (St. Paul's) choir. He was a rolling supervisor for the Chi-Yo (Vietnamese Spring Rolls) project in the summer..

He is still the secretary for the local Trolley Museum.

We're not sure where he finds the time to do much else.



CYN'S UPDATE

Cyn had a great year. After Fjord trip, Cynthia scheduled herself for a partial knee replacement. That occurred mid-summer. The surgery was a success. It doesn't hurt her to walks as much anymore. She is still working to get 100% motion and more stamina

She has re-organized her sewing room and has started sewing projects again. This is in addition to her glass projects she does at the Community College (which is on temporary hold), as well as working out the Kroc center 4 mornings a week!!

KID HAPPENINGS

Teresa continues to work at PetCo and enjoys her job. Erik is getting very close to graduating and being a full Chiropractor.

Emily's worked as a full-time cook at an retirement community in Sublimity. After working there for about a year, she decided to take a job as a deli cook at Uwajimaya, in Beaverton (Portland Suburb). She stays with

a friend in Beaverton, and comes home 1~2 times a week to care for her cats..

Richard still works in IT at Western Oregon Univ. and enjoys his job. He and Ellen are now in their house for nearly a year and seem to enjoy home ownership. Their house is in Independence along a very "living" creek.



Josephine, Neil, Maureen, Cyn and Mark waiting to see the show 39 Steps

Upper Right: Left: (clockwise) Cinnamon, Freddie and Rusty

THE ANIMALS

In December, both dogs and the cat have scared us. Freddie (the cat) seemed like he went into a seizure, but nothing was found. Then the dogs, Cinnamon and Rusty decided to get into Mark's migraine prescription medicine, which could have been deadly. Luckily everything worked out in the end.

THE HOUSE

In November, Mark & Cyn signed a contract to install a master bathroom. It will go in the current huge, unfinished "closet" that they had created when they remodeled the master bedroom 4 years ago. The hope is it will be completed by February. It will be nice to have 2.5 baths, although with the kid out of house, less necessary now.

JETSETTERS



The Trip the Fjords on page 1 is just one of several trips Mark and Cyn went on this year.

In February, Mark got exclusive tickets to get a VIP Boeing factory floor tour up in Everett and Renton, Washington. Also in Feb, Cyn went back to Florida to visit with her sister.

In May, as stated in the Fjord article, Mark & Cyn spent a short time in NY for his Mom's 70th Birthday. Mark's brother flew out from Portland, and his sister, Maureen, were all there to celebrate. They went into NYC to see a show, followed by dinner. Then Mark and Cyn took Mom to Niagara Falls with Mom's brand new passport. The first time she had ever stepped outside of the USA!

In August, Mark & Cyn went up to Seattle to attend a Geocaching event, and to complete their McMenamins Passport. McMenamins is and Oregon/Washing chain of Brewpubs/hotels. Once visiting 56+ of their locations, you become a tripster and get 3 free nights at their hotels, plus other benefits along the way. They enjoyed the journey so much, they got new passports to start over again!

In October, they went to NY to again pick up Mark's Mom to take her on a cruise to Bermuda. She had always wanted to go on a cruise. Marks sister and brother had pitched in to pay for her fare. It was a 5 day cruise with 2 days in Bermuda. They enjoyed a mini-bus tour of the island as well as a glass-bottom boat. It was really fun!

In November, Mark determined he was at risk of losing Delta Gold Status of 2016, so he and Cyn decided to fly to Disneyland for a weekend. It was DL's 60th birthday celebration, and the parks were decked out for the holidays as well. It was a fun quick trip!

Plans for 2016 include a trip in September to Scotland, central England and Ireland. The main purpose is to attend the Kavanagh Clann Gathering in Ireland. Another busy year is coming!