

MARK

He was sent to Japan in February to upgrade software on customer tools in southern and in western Japan. He had to ride the Bullet train to the customer on the west side, oh well! He was in five different hotels in six nights, luckily he packed light. He did try to get in as much transit riding as possible, which is easy in Tokyo, including taking the train to/ from the airport instead of a bus.

He was also sent to South Korea to install two new systems there. Mark was scheduled to do an install in Holland, but was told two days prior to change plans and head to Korea. This was only to be two weeks, but was stretched to three. Due to visa problems, he had to leave Korea and stay overnight in Tokyo Japan and fly back. The last week he took the subway to work each day which was much easier and less stressful then driving a car. They drive like maniacs in Korea. Other news is MRC, the company Mark works for, is closing down their NY operations and moving everything to just outside Phoenix Arizona. They are also planning "significant reductions" in work force. It is thought that Mark's job is secure. The company may not be. Therefore he is passively looking for a new job. He is looking at HP in Corvallis as well as other companies in Oregon, but he is also looking at companies in Colorado and Virginia.

Mark celebrates the big 30 on January 7th '97. Now his physical age is finally catching up with his mental age...

Teresa & Erik

Erik is going back to school at Western Oregon State College. They both have been working at Goodwill industries Retail Store.

They are still planning on getting married in March of 1998.



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WHAT THE KAVANAGH'S DID ON SUMMER VACATION

As stated in the beginning, the Kavanagh's went on a cross country journey to Florida. The vehicle used was a 1995 28 foot Coachman Class "C" motorhome. The vehicle held up fine for the 7400 mile round trip. We didn't even get on each others nerves!

We left Salem on Sat. June 15th. Went through Washington and Idaho and stayed overnight in Missoula MT. Next was to drive through Montana and Wyoming, arrived at Custer, South Dakota late at night.

That Monday was spent looking at the Crazy Horse Monument, Mount Rushmore, and taking in the scenery of the area. We also stopped at the American icon of Wall Drug. A place touted for a cheap cup of coffee, free water and ice, basically a tourist trap, but a nice one. We stayed overnight at Sioux City SD, just short of Minnesota.

Tuesday was Emily's day, Mall of America in the Twin Cities. We also rode the Como-Harriet Streetcar Line. A wonderful little operation. Spent the night just over the border in Wisconsin.

Wednesday was Mark's day at the Illinois Railway Museum, the best and biggest of Museums in the country for electric traction fans as well as Steam and Diesel. Later we drove by Chicago, boy were the potholes big. We lost four Corning ware bowls when they flew out of the cabinet. We laid up at a Jellystone park between Chicago and Indianapolis, ID with many mosquitoes!

Thursday was spent driving through. Stopped at a White Castle which there are none of in the west. We stayed over night about 60 miles north of Chattanooga TN.

Friday we parked the rig at a new Park-n-Ride for Atlanta's MARTA Subway. We went down to see where the Olympics were to be held and to try to find our brick at Olympic Centennial Park (Where the bomb went off during the games). With the Olympics only a few weeks away, construction was still going on so we were not able to see our brick. We stayed overnight about 1 hour north of the Florida Border.

Saturday we arrived in Orlando at lunch time. Teresa and Erik were already there.

We checked the RV into Fort Wilderness at Disney, and picked up Neil at the Orlando Airport.

Sunday was Helen's 70th Birthday party. It was great! It was good to see the Ackley clan and extended family all together.

The next week was spent at Cocoa Beach (our niece, Heidi, got separated, but the police found her and we were all grateful, this showed how the family can pull together during a crisis!), Blizzard Beach, Magic Kingdom, MGM, and Epcot. We also had a huge Crab dinner at the Crab House for Cynthia's Birthday.

Monday July 1st, Erik and Teresa and Neil flew back home for work reasons. We hit the road on Friday July 5th and stayed overnight in New Orleans.

This was Mark's and Emily's spot. We rode the streetcar line through the Garden District, and went on a "Ghost" walking tour of the French Quarter. We left NO on Sunday and stayed overnight in Dallas, after pictures were taken of its new light rail line.

Left Dallas and drove up to Pueblo Colorado. Along the way we stop at a Dinosaur track site in New Mexico, it was interesting. Tuesday was spent riding the Pikes Peak Cog RR and visiting the Denver Museum of Natural History to see Dinosaurs. Stayed overnight at the foot of the Rocky Mountains.

Wednesday we visited Mark's & Cynthia's Honeymoon spot at Breckenridge, they didn't recognize the place, it has changed a lot in 7 years. we visited Dinosaur National Monument. This had many exposed fossils in a rock ledge that now has a building around it to protect it. Very informative. Stayed overnight in Jensen Utah. The next morning we went through the Utah field museum for more dinos! Later we stopped at Golden Spike National Monument. We actual drove the motorhome over the original trans-continental railroad right of way! We stayed overnight in Idaho.

Friday we arrived back home in time to pick up our mail at the post office. Our long trip is over, when do we go again!!!!