

KAVANAGH GAZETTE

December 2003

Volume 10

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Welcome to the 2003 edition of the *Kavanagh Gazette*. The purpose of this newsletter is to give you an update on our family out here in Oregon. This is really important since a good portion of our family is on the east coast. Some of you may be receiving this edition for the first time, particularly from my father's Christmas list. 2003 had highs and lows for our family.

The Lows: we lost two family members. Mark's Dad, Neil passed away in April. Cyn's Mom, Helen passed away in September.

The Highs: Richard graduated from High School. Mark, Cyn & Richard went to Japan.

Both are featured later in this newsletter which is longer than in year past.



KAVANAGH 2003 TRIPS

The big trip of the year was our trip to Japan in June. We had asked Richard where he wanted to go for his graduation. He stated Japan. We flew over to Tokyo using frequent flyer miles in business class. We had 4 nights free in Tokyo using AMEX points. We then paid for hotels in Kyoto and Osaka. We had a blast. We visited Tokyo, Hakone Nat'l Park, Kyoto, Osaka and Hiroshima. The sad part was flying home (in coach). On page 4 of the newsletter be sure to see some photos of our trip. For even more photos and a detailed day-by-day travelogue, be sure to visit the following webpage: <http://home.comcast.net/~subwaymark/trips/Japan/Trip2003.htm>

Other trips this year were all back to NY/NJ or Florida to handle family matters. But we tried to schedule fun stuff with each trip. Helen's memorial service was scheduled for the Monday before

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CYNTHIA'S YEAR

Cyn continues to work part time at Keizer Stretch and Sew/Bernina. She is in sales selling her favorite sewing machine. She even purchased the latest and greatest Artista 200E. The owner is starting to have her learn how to service the machines, which Cyn is looking forward to! There are even plans to send her to Bernina University which will held in Atlanta in June of 2004.

Cyn is enjoying sewing again. She has made really nice clothing for herself and others. Many of our Christmas presents to people are projects she made on her new sewing machine, "Tista".

Cyn is still with Weight Watchers, Cyn has done great this year in losing weight. She has lost over 50 lbs since joining. This is despite all the trips and stress we have had the last two years. She deserves a lot of credit for this hard work.

MARK HAPPENINGS

Another rough year at work made it tough. The semiconductor industry was still down in 2003. It is looking brighter for 2004. However, Tokyo Electron sold Mark's division to Metron Technology. Metron did not bridge seniority so vesting and vacations start at zero as if he was a new hire. They also did not provide a car, so he purchased one. To make it even better there are forced shutdowns requiring days without pay or, go negative in vacation. But wait there's more, Mark is no longer in service, he was moved into sales. At this time it looks like all travel will be west coast only with little chance of foreign travel. Mark likes hands-on work, not selling, but it pays the bills

Outside of work, Mark is still in St. Paul's Episcopal Church Trinity Choir. He is still a board member for the local trolley museum. He recently joined a citizens committee to look at the possibility of a small streetcar system for downtown Salem. He never knew how bad government and politics could be.

He continues to maintain his large transit website as well as sites for 2 trolley museums. He is also maintaining a website for Keizer Stretch and Sew/Bernina.

MEMORIALS

NEIL J. KAVANAGH

1/31/43 - 4/21/03



Father & Son at Portland Airport during his final visit to Oregon, 2001

Mark's Dad had been fighting small-celled cancer since he collapsed at work in November of 2001. He had been in the hospital/nursing home since that time. The cancer was in his lungs and his brain. Rounds of radiation and Chemo slowed the progress and almost made

remission a few times, but it never went away.

Mark was there during his final days at Christ Hospital in Jersey City. He was for the most part in good spirits. He made an amazing transformation on the last day Mark talked to him. He accepted his fate and opened his arms to God and made peace with everybody. After Mark left him, to return home, Neil never woke up & passed on a couple of days later.

We had him cremated as per his request. A memorial service was held for him at his Church, Good Shepard Lutheran in Pearl River, NY.

The family interned his ashes into the Harlem Ship Canal (or often mistakenly called the Harlem River) at the upper tip of Manhattan. You may ask why here? It is off of Inwood Hill Park. Inwood is the section of Manhattan he grew up in. He always talked about the monument where the Dutch bought Manhattan from the Indians, it is in their park. Another favorite topic of his was the "C" Rock. This is a rock that is painted for Columbia University directly across the river from Columbia's Baker's field, which happens to be next to Inwood Hill Park. Also across the river is Metro-North Railroad, which he also loved trains. It was a beautiful day when his ashes were spread into the river.

May His soul rest in peace!



Neil at the controls of a Boeing LRV in Oregon

HELEN V. ACKLEY

6/23/26 - 9/17/03



Mother & Daughter at Portland Airport during her final visit to Oregon, 2001

Cyn's Mom has been sick for a long time. She had almost passed away around Thanksgiving in 2002. Cyn had spent over month in Florida during this time last year helping her sister, Cara, tend to their Mom. At that

time it looked like she was in the final stages of renal failure. The doctors pulled her off all her medications. Then she started improving.

Helen was moved out of Cara's house early in 2003 into an assisted living center. This was better for everybody. It was not far from Cara's house and she was well cared for.

Cyn went back down to Florida in August. By this time Helen's renal failure was catching up with her. She died in September still fighting. She was then cremated as per her request.

The family decided to hold her service and internment in Nyack, NY near Thanksgiving. We stayed with Cyn's brother George in Budd Lake, NJ, and had a family reunion of sorts.

The service was held at Grace Episcopal Church in Nyack. Right after the service we went down to 2 LaVeta Place on the Hudson River. This is the home of the Oursler's, long time family friend and across the street neighbors when the Ackley's lived at the famous "haunted" house at 1 LaVeta Place. Her ashes were spread into the Hudson from the Oursler's dock. At the following reception a slide show presentation of Helen's life was shown. It was another very beautiful sunny day for the service.

May Her soul rest in peace!



Helen's portrait from 2002

EMILY'S DOINGS



Emily is attending Chemeketa Community College. The plan is to get her Associates degree then move onto a 4 year school. We took a trip in September to Seattle to look at Bastyr University. It is an alternative med-

icine university. She is looking into going into Herbology, which is a new program they offer.

Emily now has a new boyfriend named Matt. They say they will get married in 4 years or so. She is still living at home, however she is gone more then she is home anymore, but then again she is 21.

RICHARD'S ROAMINGS

Richard graduated from North Salem High in June. He is now going to Chemeketa Community College to get an Associates Degree in Network Technology. After this he has tentative plans to attend Seattle Pacific University to get a Computer Engineering Degree. Richard has definitely become a computer geek. He just got himself a top-of-the-line laptop that is more powerful then most desktops.

Outside of school, Richard still works part-time for the State of Oregon as an Intern rebuilding computers. He also enjoys Anime and D&D.



865 "D" ST REMODEL



The Kitchen is about 90% complete. New flooring, ceiling, walls and lighting are all done, as well as a new center island and a cabinet next to the refrigerator. The only things left are molding, refinishing the original cabinet doors, and building the entertainment center over the small bathroom.

The only other project that has been done is splitting the large common in the basement

into two rooms. Now we have a living area and a shop that are separated by a wall. The former tool room will be converted into storage and possibly a train room.

Next projects include the front entry, the master bedroom and as kids move out (cross-fingers) spare bedrooms.



OTHER FAMILY INFO

Teresa and Erik:

Teresa and Erik still have their great house in West Salem overlooking the city. Erik been having some tough medical issues that the doctors have been working hard to solve. Teresa is doing fine, and she loves her 4 Ferrets!

Neil and Kelsey:

Neil is still going to PSU to get his teaching certificate, plus working as a student teacher in the Reynolds school district. He should be getting his certificate in March & Masters in June of '04. Kelsey is working for AFS which works with exchange students. She got to go to Costa Rica to bring home some US students over the summer.

Mark's Mom, Josephine:

She moved into an apartment by herself in Garnerville, NY. This is the first time she has ever lived without a roommate. She does have some difficulties walking, particularly walking downstairs. She came out to Oregon to pay us a visit over the summer. For Christmas she will be in Florida with her sister Helen.

KAVANAGH TRIPS 2003*(Continued from page 1)*

Thanksgiving in Nyack, NY. We turned this into a Ackley family reunion/Thanksgiving. The best part was spending one day in NYC seeing the Radio City Christmas Spectacular and 42nd Street, the Musical.

The only definite trip for 2004 is NYC. It is the 100th anniversary of the opening of the NYC subway system, which MTA (& Mark) is making a big deal of!

**Osaka Castle****at Night****Shibuya in Tokyo****Cedar Street in Hakone National Park****Yasaka Shrine****in Kyoto****Very somber, A-Bomb Dome, Hiroshima****Nijo Castle, Kyoto****Pushers on Yamanote Line****Love Beer? Ropeway in Hakone National Park****Tokyo Rush Hour****Railstar****Shinkansen at Shin-Osaka Station****KAVANAGH FAMILY E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

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FAMILY & TRANSIT WEBSITE

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MARK IS ALSO A WEBMASTER FOR:
 Oregon Electric Railway Historical Society

<http://oregonelectricrailway.org>

Keizer Bernina/Stretch and Sew

<http://keizerbernina.com>