

THE KAVANAGH GAZETTE

Volume 24

December 2017

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

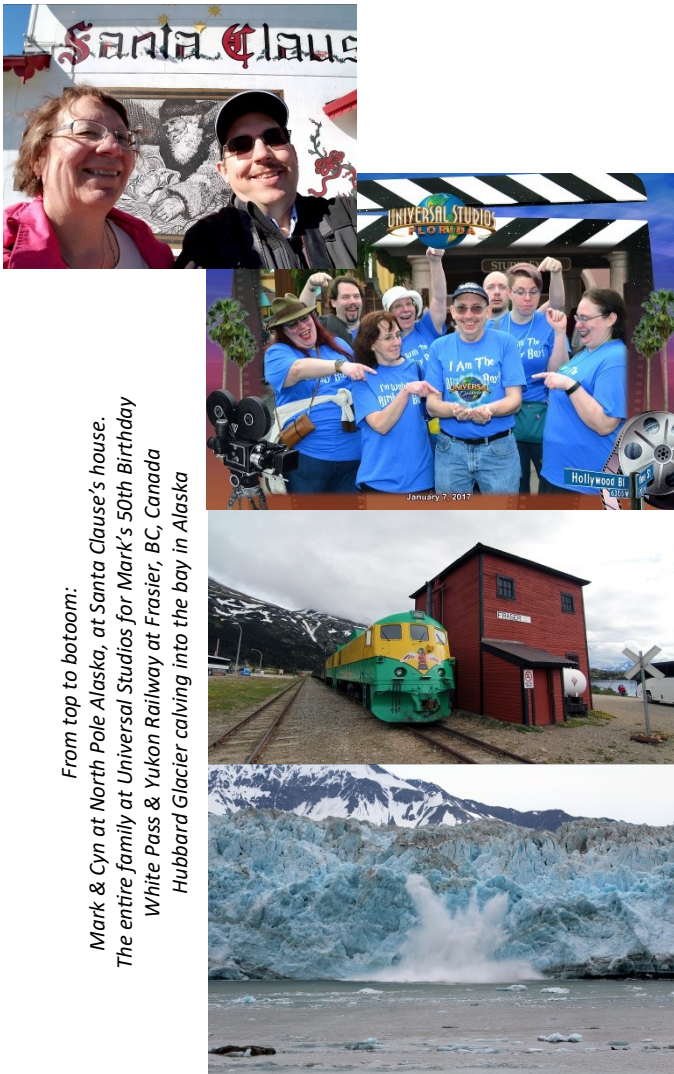
Welcome to the 2017 edition of *The Kavanagh Gazette*. The purpose of this newsletter is to give you an update on the family out here in Oregon.

2017 Was a Year of Highs and Lows

2017 was another busy year in the Kavanagh household full of joy, worry and sadness. In this issue of the Gazette you will get a brief highlights that include:

A quick rundown is

- 2 Cruises (Caribbean & Alaska) w/2 big birthdays
- 3 pets crossed the Rainbow Bridge in September
- Mark went to the ER & spent 5 days in the hospital in Oct.
- We adopted a new kitty and a puppy in late Oct.
- Small trips to Idaho, Seattle, San Francisco & New York
- Emily moved to Portland area



From top to bottom:
Mark & Cyn at North Pole Alaska, at Santa Clause's house.
The entire family at Universal Studios for Mark's 50th Birthday
White Pass & Yukon Railway at Frasier, BC, Canada
Hubbard Glacier calving into the bay in Alaska

Caribbean & Alaska

2017 started with a high. Mark turned 50 and decided to take the family to Universal Studios Florida. Mark and Cyn then boarded a cruise ship to the eastern Caribbean. In June, Cyn hit 65, to celebrate Mark and Cyn were joined by Cyn's sister Cara, and her husband Tom for a cruise to Alaska.

The year started with Mark and Cyn flying a red-eye flight to Atlanta to arrive ahead of the rest of the travelers in Orlando. In Atlanta they volunteered to be bumped from the short hop flight to Orlando in return for 2 \$600 vouchers and fly out 2 hours later. Not a bad deal!

Then everyone else started to arrive. Mark's Mom and Sister arrived first, then Richard and Ellen. Emily, Teresa and Ernie arrive late in the evening. They all stayed in a 2 bedroom suite at the Holiday Inn Universal Studios. They spent 3 nights there so they could spend 2 full days at Universal! It was a great time. Lines were relatively low, so everyone got to ride and enjoy what they wanted to do. For Mark's Birthday diner, they were joined by Cyn's sister Cara and her husband Tom, Cyn's brother William and Keyla, and by Maureen's son Adam for a fun evening at Capone's dinner show. But time was short. Everyone started departing for home and Mark & Cyn had a boat to catch.

They boarded the Oasis of the Seas at Port Canaveral. They had an interior balcony cabin facing "central park" on of the largest cruise ships in the world. Cruise port stops included Nassau, St. Thomas and St. Maartin. Due to storms shore excursion plans kept changing.

In Nassau Cyn had planned to go snorkeling, but it was cancelled. So Mark & Cyn winged it and took a taxi tour of the town. In St. Thomas, Cyn's snorkeling plan got scrubbed because the beach washed away. She switched to another tour, but snorkeling was scrubbed there. Finally got a different tour which included snorkeling. St. Maartin, Cyn took a snorkeling tour while Mark went to the famous Maho Beach to watch the planes land at Juliana Airport. Upon return to Port Canaveral, they spent the rest of the day with Aunt Helen & Uncle Harry before heading to Orlando airport for a flight early the next morning.

The next big trip was in early June. Mark & Cyn flew up to Vancouver, BC with Cara and Tom arriving a little later in the day. They spent the one night at a hotel in walking distance to the port. They walked to the port the next day to board the Radiance of the Seas. Both couples had adjacent ocean balcony rooms. Ports include Ketchikan, Icy Strait Point, Juneau, Skagway, Hubbard Glacier, and Seward.

Ketchikan lived up to its reputation as the rainiest city in the US. As such, Mark, Cara and Tom's plan for flightseeing was scrubbed. So they went to a lumberjack show and city sightseeing instead. Cyn, however, got the unique experience of snorkeling in Alaska, a bit crazy, yes.

At Icy Strait Point, Cara had arranged for a whale watching tour with a small operator (Hoonah Whale Tours) run by a young couple. There were only 6 of us on their boat. It was phenomenal to see the whales bubble feeding and breaching!

At Juneau, Cara and Tom headed out on a helicopter glacier tour. Mark & Cyn took a tour that included Mendenhall Glacier, a tour of the city and a whale watching tour. They all enjoyed our experiences.

Skagway was a requirement to ride the White Pass & Yukon Railway. It started with a one-way mini-bus ride up to Frasier with a great tour guide. Then they boarded the train to head back to Skagway. The scenery along the way was breathtaking.

The pinnacle of the cruise was Hubbard Glacier. The ship cruised within 1/2 mile of the face of the glacier. The ship rotated 360 degrees, so they were able to watch and hear the glacier from the comfort of their balconies.

The final stop of the cruise was Seward, but it was not the end of the trip. They boarded a tour bus for a long drive up to Denali National Park. For a 2 night stay. The next day they took an 8 hour Tundra Wilderness tour of the park where they saw many animals in the park. The following day they boarded the Wilderness Explorer train to Fairbanks. On board was the best meal of the entire trip. Next was 2 nights in Fairbanks. The trip included a tour of a gold dredge with gold panning and a riverboat cruise. This is now the furthest north the 4 of them had ever travelled. Soon it was time for Mark & Cyn to say goodbye to Cara and Tom and fly home. It was a trip of a lifetime....

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MARK'S WIERDNESS

Nothing major new to report this year. There was only one business trip in all of 2017 (to Japan). He remains an account manager with ASM. 2017 marked the 30th year in the semiconductor equipment industry.

October got a little scary. He came down with a cold and a stomach ache which got worse. He decided to go to urgent care, who immediately told him to go to the hospital. A quick diagnosis was a small bowel blockage, most likely due to scar tissue from a hernia operation nearly 2 years prior. It took 4 nights in the hospital before every was working again.

OTHER TRAVELS

Mark & Cyn can't seem to sit still. In addition to the 2 cruises in 2017, there were some small trips.

Since Cinnamon was still afraid of fireworks, and Rusty loves potatoes, the July 4th extended weekend was spent in Spokane, with traveling into Idaho and Montana. Rusty loved getting Tater Gems (aka tater tots) from Idaho, even though they were not in the potato region, he didn't seem to care.

Later in July they went up to Seattle for a weekend to watch the NY Mets play against the Seattle Mariners in interleague play. Sadly the Mets lost.

In September Mark did a weekend trip to San Francisco for MUNI Heritage Weekend. So it was a weekend of transit riding.

Early December, Mark & Cyn took a week long trip to New York to visit with family and friends. They got to ride the Holiday Subway train in NY with friends. They took Mark's Mom to an off-Broadway play. They took Maureen up to walk across the Hudson (old RR bridge now a walkway), and to M&M World and pay respects to where their Dad's ashes were scattered many years ago. The trip ended with visiting Cyn's Brother George's family in NJ.

In July 2018 Mark & Cyn will be going to England with the St. Paul's Trinity Choir. There are other potential trips in 2018 in planning/budgeting phase. The key is to never stop!

A SAD YEAR FOR PETS & NEW BEGINNINGS

September turned into a dark time at the Kavanagh household. All 3 pets crossed the Rainbow Bridge. It started with their cat, Freddie. For quite some time he was having occasional seizures. Over the summer the seizure frequency dramatically increased. They thought they had them under control with meds, but September they came back with a vengeance. So the hard decision was made.

As reported last year, Cinnamon was struggling with spinal issues that were being managed with pain meds. So she was slowing down over the year. The big blow came in May when Rusty was diagnosed with bone cancer at his hip joint. We decided amputation was not an option, so we managed with pain medication. By September Rusty was having a hard time getting up or lying down. We made the extremely hard decision to send both dogs to the bridge at the same time with the support of our vet. We knew once Rusty passed Cinnamon would have gone soon after due to her pain and the loss of Rusty. Freddie was 7, Rusty 10 and Cinnamon 13 years old.

In late October the quiet of the house was unbearable. So a trip to the humane society was made where we found Nori, a cute 2 year female black cat. Just a few days later Mark found a dog on Craigslist. A one year old Golden Retriever named Dylan Pickle who was part of a divorce situation and living in the apartment. The former owner would not accept payment for him as he felt Dylan found a great home. Nori deals with Dylan okay. But Dylan is very much a puppy with some challenges but he is smart and will be a good boy.

ADULT KID HAPPENINGS

Emily moved out of the family home in Salem, and moved in with a friend up to Milwaukie, in the Portland metro area. She still is working as a deli cook at Uwajimaya in Beaverton

Teresa is enjoying the house her household moved into last year. It is in walking distance to the family home which is convenient. She still works at Petco.

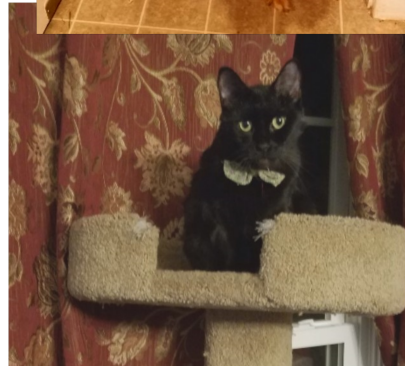
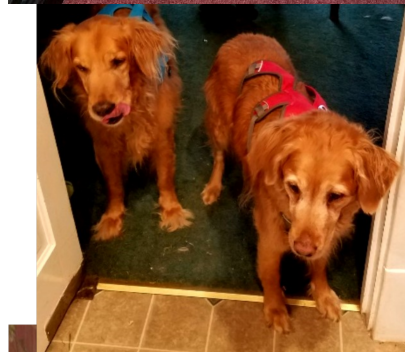
Richard and Ellen remain happy living in Independence. Richard continues to work in the IT department at WOU, as well as being the local union president.

CYN'S UPDATE

Cyn's has had fun traveling this year. She continued he fused glass hobby, but unfortunately the community college will be dropping the class this year. She has set up a glass studio in the basement, but it lack on major requirement, a kiln. That will come in time. In the mean time she will most likely use her teacher's personal kiln on occasion.

865 D ST.

No major updates this year other than having new carpet installed up the main stairs and into the master bedroom. The furnace was replaced and added air conditioning and non-too-soon as it was a hot and long summer.



Top left: Our 3 angels, Cinnamon, Rusty and Freddie. Top right: Freddie.
Middle left: Rusty & Cinnamon; Mid-right: Cinnamon & Rusty in Idaho.
Bottom left: Our new cat, Nori. Bottom right, our new dog, Dylan!