

Kavanagh Gazette

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Another Busy Year

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. 1996 was a very busy year. Mark went to Japan and Korea on business. In late December of 95 the Kavanagh's went down to Southern California and did Christmas Disney Style. In June-July they went cross-country via Motorhome from Oregon to Florida to visit Cynthia's Mom for her 70th Birthday Party and saw Disney World! The pets: Flame (dog) is doing well as well as Smoky and Ashes (cats). The mice and fish are also okay. A new cat Onyx, a stray Mark let in, is not doing as well but he is fighting. The following are the rest of the family updates:



The above photo was taken after the Kavanagh's returned to Salem from Orlando. The map on the back of the RV shows the states they went through to get there and back at total of 20 states. It took 7.5 days each way.

CYNTHIA

She has finished the dining room! It looks wonderful. The Front porch has new columns and has its first coat of paint. this was due to the fact that while we were on vacation we had new vinyl siding put on the house. That made the front entrance look really tacky. Currently she is working on Richard's room. She is taking time to show him how to use power tools. It should be nearly complete by Christmas.

She continues to help with the SCA, middle ages group.

In addition to her seeing her mom on vacation, she flew out again in September to help her mom out, and to help her brother William with his marine business. she learned how to operate a drill press and helped him with some final decision on new products. She also figured out real quick why she does not want to live in Florida, too hot. Of course she had visit her sister and play with the twins Katie and Becky and their big brother Bobby. She and Cara went to Disney on a ladies day out (Mark was jealous no kids at Disney!). This included a wonderful crab dinner with no husbands, brothers or babies! Yum Yum!

RICHARD

The eleven year old is now in Middle School. He is also now a Boy Scout. He enjoyed Scout camp this summer.

His interests peaked during summer vacation when we stopped at the Denver Museum of Natural History. They has a great Dinosaur exhibit. We did many other dinosaur things along the way.

His best buddy is still Russell. It is hard to believe that the "brothers" have been together since Kindergarten.

He is now in an accelerated math class, and is doing very well in school.

NEIL

He is now moved into a home owned by PNCA, his art school. He is basically in charge of the house which has 4 other students. His other jobs are: usher for Portland venues, work study at school, and the possibility of working on WEB site design.

He graduates from college May. The graduation date is May 16th. He then plans on taking a break from school

EMILY

She is becoming a beautiful young Lady at 14. Mark is starting to sharpen his long sword for any suitors she may have, although she claims she has none, ha ha! Anyway she has many friends at Parrish Middle School. She has a hard time putting school work before socializing but we are working on it. She is in dire need of implanting a telephone in her brain. About 80% of incoming and outgoing calls are for and by her.

Her interests are Vampire Role Playing games and Anne Rice Books. She loved it when we stopped at New Orleans on the way back from Florida. She also enjoyed our stop at Mall of America in Minneapolis going to Florida.

Next year she starts high school and she is already talking about getting her drivers license.



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!!!!