



YO!!... HO, HO!

We know some of you haven't heard from us for two holiday seasons but last year Christmas must have just come earlier than usual...didn't it?

We hope the holidays find you healthy and happy. Everyone here for the most part is doing well and we're experiencing life with two teenagers in the house. With Amanda's energy we sometimes think we have three.

Terry, as a sophomore, divides his life between school and the computer, dungeons and dragons and the computer, Scouts, friends and the computer. He has recently expanded his horizons by joining his school's award-winning chorus. It's tough--it is during "O" period at 7:20 am--but he's having fun. Terry's also becoming very interested in cars but he doesn't yet have his learner's permit. His driving experience so far consists of moving the car up and down the driveway and driving on boulder-strewn dirt roads in remote campgrounds in the high desert of the Sierra Nevada. He did manage one time to back the car onto the front lawn (to load up some hedge trimmings), missing the mailbox, garage, a tree, our neighbor's car and the horde of small children that had gathered to watch him. After that he still wants to drive!?!

He's still looking at a major in genetic engineering and is really enjoying his biology class this year. We're hoping that in this wonderful(?) State of California, UC Davis will still be in existence by the time he is ready to study there.

Speaking of genetics: Jocelyn! Where did those genes come from?! This girl is topping out at 5' 6", maybe taller! Eighth grade has been a good year so far for her, with her grades at a B+ average. She is at cadette level in Girl Scouts and still taking piano lessons. Her interests include wolves, Alaska, traveling, languages and genealogy, not necessarily in that order. We think she should also study archaeology, as she has a ready-made site of preserved artifacts, living and otherwise, on her bedroom floor.

And Amanda at nine! As her sister did, she seems ready to jump in and do everything! Through school and community fundraising efforts our school is lucky enough to have band reinstated this year, so Amanda has taken up the trumpet and is rehearsing for her first concert on Dec. 14. She also is rehearsing for a school play and has joined a children's church choir which will be performing a Christmas pageant. Amanda is still interested in gymnastics; in fact she has added a class in rhythmic gymnastics this year because "I'm a jumpy person." She is the youngest in her class--a 4th/5th grade combination--but seems to be doing well and likes her teacher. Her Girl Scout troop is getting a slow start this year but will be starting up in January.

Amanda is also taking HANDS ON SCIENCE (Hear that, Marylanders?) because finally, after three years, Sharon was able to work through the maze of red tape and insurance requirements and establish HOS at our local elementary school. We have four classes in session now, serving 43 children and hope to start up again in February. What's even more satisfying is that the students and their parents are happy with the classes (just the way it's supposed to be.) Sharon is also still working with Boy and Girl Scouts, carpooling and helping from time to time at the kids' schools. Hands On Science just about fills up some days.



Tim has been working VERY hard this past year and has been traveling a little: to Portland, Seattle, and Pocatello, Idaho mostly, but last February he was sent Brazil for a 10 days! Although his assignment was in Rio, he flew to Florianopolis, the city where we used to live, and visited friends for a few days. He also saw the beaches, heard the music, ate the food and brought back some goodies for us. Stirring up memories of when we were there made it feel as if we had all traveled back there again. Tim has also served active duty three times with the Navy in Hawaii (tough duty): October '90, March '91 and August '92. Thanks to frequent flyer miles and military housing, Sharon was able to go in '91 and spend a week there this past summer, also. Well, we did celebrate our 20th wedding anniversary this year, so we can justify at least one trip. We flew to the Big Island for an overnight stay, as well as spending time on Oahu, just a few weeks before Iniki hit.

Speaking of traveling, Jocelyn was really on the go last summer. First, she spent a week in Washington D.C. with a student group. Staying at the Holiday Inn in Gaithersburg, Md. (3 miles from our old house) made it easy to visit with some of her Germantown friends. Back in Petaluma, she spent two weeks volunteering at the local pool as an assistant swim instructor and found two occupational hazards of that job: perpetual sunburn and being splashed in the face for several hours by 3-5 year olds. In July she began a 3-week "Summer Science Academy" for junior high students, visiting local points of interest almost daily (tidepools at 6 am) and culminating in a 5-day camping trip at Mt. Lassen in northeastern California. Mom went too and visited two US volcanos this year. In early August Jocelyn spent a week as a counselor in training at our local Girl Scout camp.

Terry and Tim spent a week at Camp Meriwether Boy Scout camp, near Tillamook, Oregon. It was right on the coast, and beautiful. Terry fulfilled his job as Senior Patrol Leader and Tim only helped out with the oceanography and weather merit badges, helped with rock climbing and did a conservation project (piece of cake!).

Amanda spent the summer keeping cool on the summer swim team, spending a week at Girl Scout camp and having some nice long visits with Grandma Gwen.

As a family, we spent one weekend camping on the east side of the Sierra, in a remote campground, complete with hot springs. In 1991 we did manage to take our first family backpack trip, again to the Sierra. We were cold and poor Amanda had to hike out with a high fever, but seeing the stars, the granite, the pines and playing in a snow bank in the warm sun provided the best memories. Eating chili-mac (a well known freeze-dried food) provided the worst. Also in 1991 we had a guest: Katja Kolamainen, an exchange student from Finland, lived with us for the month of July. We hope she'll come back sometime!

Merry Jocelyn

Christmas



Happy

New Year

Sharon

From

The Morans

By Amanda

Amanda

Terry