

## The Schaeffers at Christmas 2012

We hope you had an enjoyable year and that 2013 will be even better. As most families we have had our ups and downs but rejoice that it was mostly good.



Our travels this year took us to Colorado for a week with Judy's nephew Dave and his wife. Her cousins from Florida, Texas, California, Washington, Colorado and Pennsylvania all got together for a Lorimer family reunion. They made it last for three days of laughter, food and reminiscing!



On our previous western train trip, Amtrak diverted us around the Colorado Mountains and the Moffet Tunnel. So, Judy's nephew joined us on an Amtrak day trip to Fraser and back. Dave is an avid fly fisherman and spotted some new fishing spots in the mountains! Judy's Florida cousin and her husband drove up to Fraser and took us to Winter Park Ski Resort for lunch and sightseeing. We got caught in a lovely mountain downpour waiting for the train back to Denver.



After the reunion, Lee and I joined a Collette bus tour to see the state's stunning scenic sites: Estes Park, Rocky Mountain Park, Vail, Colorado Monument, Grand Junction, Mesa Verda and Colorado Springs.

It also included four train rides: The Georgetown Loop, Silverton Durango, Royal Gorge and the Pikes Peak Cog Railway. Each hotel stay was for two nights which saved packing and unpacking. Also included was a wine-tasting dinner, a Western Barbeque and show and rafting on the Colorado River.



Our grandchildren remind us how fast time goes by when we see how much they grow and mature each year. Renee is now in second grade. She also takes horseback riding, swimming and Chinese lessons. She loves to read and do science experiments with her grandfather. Recently, they made a papier-mâché volcano with a Diet Coke and Mentos eruption - we are not sure who enjoyed it more! Emily likes reading and math in kindergarten and is taking gymnastics and swimming. She really likes it when Grandma meets her at school to spend the day. Both girls recently had their ears pierced and are excited about growing up.



The big kids are keeping busy with work. Debbie is also working on another masters degree. Of course, Lee still helps his father recording the high school football games and doing a fancy Web site for the team. They finally ended a long season with the playoff game at Heniz Field the day after Thanksgiving.

Judy is still knitting prayer shawls and dishcloths when not reading books on her Kindle. Lee spent big bucks upgrading to High Definition video which meant new cameras and a computer for editing. But, Judy got a new Honda Civic to balance things out.

Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year. Keep in touch! One of the highlights of the holiday season is hearing from friends! Include your email address as we have lost some upgrading our computers.

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