

1993 Merry Christmas

Another year has rolled around and we want to take this season to up date you on our family news and happenings. The New Year started out with our family reunion meeting in Disney World, Fl. At the last minute, everyone was able to come except for my Dad, Charlie and Doris. Staying at the Dolphin resort was quite an experience with 2 1/2 acres of water pools and lake and 5 minutes away from all the major attractions. We especially enjoyed vacationing with my brother Rick and his wife Tammy, and their daughter, Jamie.

The men most enjoyed Universal Studios. Another treat was Bob's Mom and Dad joining us along with Bob's Aunt Justine and Uncle Junior. With great sunshiney weather and minimal crowds, we have been remembering the fun all year long. I especially enjoyed Epcot Center with the Country Exhibits. China seemed especially timely and accurately portrayed as we had just recently returned from China in Nov..The water, light, lazer, and music show was spectacular and well worth going to. The boys extended their educational vacation travel with a 6 week tour of the U.S. with Granddad and Grandma Marks. They visited and studied 17 states. One highlight was visiting their Great Grandmother Ormeda. She was quite ill at the time and passed away in Jan. They were able to attend the funeral in West Virginia. The boys enjoyed visiting the farm. Highlights included riding and crashing on the 4 wheeler, and shooting the 22. Lenore was very diligent in making sure the boys didn't get behind in their school work. Since she is a very experienced teacher she even kept Joshua on track and Jeremiah even did well in his least favorite subject--writing. The boys were very glad they could be home schooled to enjoy this special time with their grandparents and learn about the U.S. in a more memorable and exciting way. When Joshua came home, he exclaimed to Marilee, "Marilee, your favorite song of "It's a Small World After All" is a dumb song. I know, because I sat in the car through 17 states and it's a very big world! My bottom is sore.

Marilee was sad that we thought she was too young to go with the boys on this adventure. So she got her chance in June to fly with Bob to Pittsburgh, where Jack and Lenore met her and took her home to Cleveland, while he continued on for a business trip. They also visited the cabin and farm in West Virginia. She loved it there. All the children said , "Why aren't we living here? She brought back 5 Mark's family live turtles for pets that she collected on the farm.

We are now in our 7th year of homeschooling. Thankgoodness all the children tested remarkably well. Jeremiah's test scores are actually outstanding. Marilee completed kindergarten, so she was exzempt from state testing. She did however reach all of her kindergarten goals, such as learning more about Jesus, learning how to read to mom and she is still working quite successfully on being able to write me little notes.

All 3 children enjoyed their first year of swim team. I almost didn't sign them up for fear they would be water logged with swimming every morning and then every afternoon and evening in our own pool. However, it rained almost every day of the 7weeks of swim team. As soon as swim team ended, the sun came out and we began to have our daily swimming parties. Sometimes the turtles were even allowed to participate. Marilee's first swim meet was very entertaining and

unfortunately not videotaped. She started off full force, but refused to wear her goggles. About mid way she went crooked and hit the lap rope. Since she couldn't see she made an about turn and swam all the way in backwards. She was so focussed that she ignored all of our screaming at her to stop and turn around. The next time was also eventful as this time she hit the rope and made a right hand turn and kept on going across 5 lanes. However, if at first we don't succeed we keep trying. She ended the year with a silver medal in the championships and has become quite a swimmer even though she was only 6. Jeremiah and Josh also won high ribbons and medals.

Ice Hockey, the boys favorite sport ended in April and started again in June. Jeremiah moved up to a new level where they allow checking. We, especially me, was concerned about this, so I watched with apprehension his first game as he got slammed up against the boards and knocked down crashing into the sides. When the game was over, thankfully, he runs up to me and says "Mom, it was great! It was the first time I needed every piece of my protective equipment! Pray that I can survive this sport.

Jeremiah enjoyed playing muddy baseball. However, he had his heart set on being on the traveling team in gymnastics, but the cost and commitment are too high at this time for us to allow him to participate except for the weekly homeschool class that I coordinate..

In May, we participated in an outdoor homeschool geology camp. Staying in the cabin versus the tent was a wise decision as the thunderstorms blew the tents over. We studied rocks and different types of volcanoes. The field trips were fascinating to different volcanoes, including a cinder cone where they make cinder. We even went digging for agates on the Columbia River Gorge. We also enjoyed looking at the planet through the states largest telescope at Goldendale.

In July , the children and I bravely went tent camping at our church Family Camp. We loved the fellowship and the horse backriding, miniature golf, tennis, swimming, and outdoor cooking. Jeremiah was quite the young man helping me with the tent, fire, and cooking --not the dishes. Joshua loved flashlight gun tag. Marilee has never forgot the smores and having the freedom to ride her bike all around the Christian camp with her friends.

In August, we enjoyed a vacation with four other homeschooled families at Ocean Shores. This was so much fun that we plan to make this a yearly event.

School started out with a Homeschool

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