

Hi, gang!

Well, this has been a year of changes for us. Steve accidentally finished his dissertation in July and was forced to accept his PhD from Purdue. Because of this, we left the ivied halls of academe and made our way into the "real world". Portland, Oregon, turned out to be the realest place we could find. Steve is now a Senior Software Engineer for Intel Corporation. When he's not shunting cars in the roundhouse and coupling cabooses, he's helping to develop the operating system for the new Intel-432 micromainframe computer. Janet has been resting on her laurels and playing interior decorator so far, but will begin teaching math part-time at Portland State University starting in the winter quarter.

Our gerbils seem to have taken the move relatively well. This, of course, is our second pair of gerbils: Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas. Our original pair, Spot and Puff, were returned to their original owners after being convicted of multiple counts of infant gerbicide. Since Gert and Alice are both female, we don't expect similar problems from them, although what they do in the privacy of their own cage is their business.

Portland is rather an interesting city. Mt. Hood's benevolent gaze gives us warm fuzzies when the fog rolls back long enough to see it, and the people here have made us feel at home. Heck -- half of the people here were at home, since Intel has a large Purdue contingent. Portland is the home of the Rose Garden, the Western Forestry Center (which houses the Talking Tree), the Trailblazers (and Blazermania), and the Awful Brothers gas station chain (all of which are painted in purple and yellow). Much of the area seems schizophrenic, unable to decide whether it wants to be urban, suburban, rural, or all three. On the whole, it's quite pleasant, and if we could only buy Keebler Double-Fudge cookies and Open Pit Barbecue Sauce here we could be truly content.

We're getting back into the sporting life again. While a good Frisbee golf course continues to elude us, we have been playing volleyball again, practicing and playing with the Intel RAMS (current record: 3 wins, 4 losses). We are also starting up a team to play in the mixed league starting in January (no, it's not a league for bartenders and concrete personnel). Steve has gathered a group that's playing basketball one evening a week in a local gym, and Janet is dancing again. We've even branched out a bit, going camping and white-water rafting. Steve decided to make part of the raft trip underwater, but was dragged back into the raft by friends who were afraid of being fined for polluting the water.

A year of entering various and sundry contests bore fruit when we submitted a winning entry in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre, a pencil-and-paper road rally. We proudly display our 131st place medallion (novice class) on our mantel above the fireplace.

Oh -- up on the housetop reign dear pause. Time to bring this missive to a close (much as we know you've enjoyed it!) Have yourselves a merry little holly-jolly popcorn-and-cranberry-stringing carols-around-the-spinet holiday.

With Love,

Steve and Janet

New Address: 19364C N.W. Mahama Way
Portland, OR 97229
(503) 645-9075