

They Traveled Here...

It has been a jam-packed (and you've got to pack jam really well) year for the dynamic duo. They rang in the New Year with a visit from Alicia and Steve Ridgeway (a dynamic duo themselves) and they were off!! (like a bucket of prawns in the sun)



First thing was a quick trip to Atlanta to reset the heart stopping (Waffle House fix) and starting (good friends fix) tour.



Theo Down Under to surprise his parents for their 50th wedding anniversary and to take the traditional family portrait on the front fence. (Oh yes, a most traditional family.)



Not only were the family surprised but friends, and especially Ben, were shocked at his flashing in and out and Sue & Helen debated the



me - 2&1/2 months is, like, forever, dude."

Then it was back to the daily grind where Mike the Canadian (Bonnie &



Kent fashionably imported one for their beautiful wedding) was egging on Theo to make a hole in the ceiling and then screaming when he did it.

Finally the hole turned into a fan and then there were two fans and a painted bedroom and a bed that alternately sounds like a jet and a SBD fart. Really, you'll have to come and visit to find out about the jet/farting bed.



anniversary celebration in Laguna Beach, a swanky, south coast tourist town with large baths in every room.

The next momentous occasion was the May event and the whole lot of lipstick - ne ne ne - ne ne...

A LOT OF LIPSTICK

That is what Sallie had said was in the humongous box that arrived days before the big day when the old man became the - old man.

The day was perfectly pleasant and the usual suspects were assembled. There were endless tours to "view" the new bed, new decor, new fans and the impressive rack of remote controls to - well - control them remotely. And we must not



forget the beautiful gazebo built just in time for the occasion.

Then there was the "BIG BOX" It turned out to be the 88 keys Theo had needed for some time because he was always falling off the end of his old one. Joey had to remind him which notes were down there. But I



digress...



The trip to Laguna got them thinking (Washington, take note!) Less big pink thing and more bath!

No sooner had the indefatigable Chuck-I-kid-you-not-Hazard started to rip up the pink thing and they were off again (peeyew) This time to Bean Town!

No photographic evidence exists of this whirlwind tour so you will have to take this journalists word



when I tell you that: they were at a summer school for young scientists; they were almost the only ones with air-conditioning; Sallie witnessed Annette buy the most chic chapeau on the east coast; dined with astronomy legend Bill Tango in the Italian quarter; were waited upon by a culturally rude waitress at the "Cheers" bar; walked the length and breadth of Boston in a tour that was treacherously threatened by culturally rude street theatre clowns; and Theo reliably insulted the French, Australians and Americans. There was a little trouble with the French, however, apparently they didn't know it was a requirement to be zinged by Theo and they complained to the management.

A much chastened Theo has assured the new summer school management that all subsequent events will be met with the gravity they deserve.

But all was well when they returned to their new beautiful bath-



room and the monster tub. "It's so big it makes you feel like a kid again. You can lie down and just be able to peer over the top."

There was not time to reflect on this revelation be-

cause the multimedia moguls were preparing their musical ode to the newest happy couple, Stephanie and Gerard (I work at JPL) Van Belle.



Next stop Athens,

Georgia. This time it was Sal, for a reunion with Kate, Hans, Lee and family, Renee, and trial by merri-ment for her new beau, the lovely Paul.

So then our southern belle only had time to wash out her delicates before she had to pack them again. This time for the balmy breezes and the adventurous niece Kate! Americans would call her Kite but that must have been because they



thought she was a high flyer. Why else?

Here we see her with the happy couple because they were there too. What's this? Did I hear you ask if



everybody were there? Yes, in fact, they were! There was Lori, Gautam and their mystery guest who cleverly trav-



eled first class for free. Andrew & Michelle picking up extra money modeling for The Scientific Gap. Indeed there were so many friends there we cannot show them all even though they have the photos and that may make them rich eventually...

They stayed at a fabulous resort that had a monorail and a boat to take you anywhere you wanted to take 24 hours to get to. What a time they had! Theo didn't stop - going to the

conference every day. "I'll have to go to Maui to rest," he said and so Lewis extended the island hand of friendship and Theo,

Sal, Nils, Annette and all the hats took 5 days to sit inside a cloud that only broke long enough for the telescope to - break. "That's astronomy," said everyone. Then back home to meet the intrepid niece. Kite had flown to San Fran, Santa Barbara, Santa Fe, San Diego and other holy sites. "I didn't expect Klingons to know so much about our mating rituals" Young Kate was heard to say, obviously having found Mecca.

The year had become a blur and suddenly it was September and Sallie's birthday.

And there was a re-joining under the Pasha's tent and Andy was inspired to be the burgermeister for the occasion because Sallie was frau Gretel in a dress brought all the way from Austria by Kate and Hans.

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It was very tough for evil uncle Theo and wicked aunty Sallie to see Kate go and it is to be hoped that all nieces and nephews follow suit.

One evening our unsuspecting heroes were driving down to Lucky Baldwin's their favorite watering hole, when Theo said to Sallie "There's a very bright light in the sky. It looks like a missile." They laughed and then Theo said, "No Sallie, pull over. There's a missile in the sky heading this way." So they pulled over and had a very sobering moment while the dragon filled the sky and then they went and had some very stiff unsobering moments with all their friends and felt very lucky to have them. "I just hope we see home



again," said Sal.

Well, it doesn't take much for our local yokels to get their spirits up again and this time they were buoyed up by several events. First, Lori brightened the neighborhood when she and Gautam bought a house in Pasadena preparing for the arrival of the mystery guest. Then Gerard

and Stephanie summoned the ten Cruiselaars for champagne to celebrate the final signing of the papers to buy their house in lovely uptown Altadena.

Bing, bang, boom and Nils and Annette had money down on a house. It was all going so fast something had to bust. And it did. A week later Gerard and Stephanie were to be found at Lucky's drowning their anger at their house deal faltering. Just when the new puppy had been adopted.

Sending them all skyward again, Lori and Gautam welcomed little Maya, mystery no more, into the world looking as beautiful as suspected.

Then sliding down when Nils & Annette were beaten to the punch on their house.

Cheer was not far behind in the shape of a weed whacker. "To whack is to be joyful," said Sal. Theo and neighbors Deb, Boyd & Val stayed at a safe distance.

Theo found his bliss where he always finds it. With his baby on the mountain. "She's growing up so fast," he was heard to sigh.



Photo by Peter "OLBIN" Lawson

on its quicksilver downslide and training had started for the four-month, head-shaking Declining Seasonal Goodies event. (Young Cy-pictured-is in the lead.)

Halloween came and went heralding that the year was



By Thanksgiving dinner, when Nils' dad, Dale produced gourmandom at 6,000 ft up Mount Wilson, all was well again. Nils and Annette have their new dream house near the water which has "...been kept up really well by a guy who really cared" said a pleased Nils.

Stephanie, Gerard, kitties, rabbit and new pup are all ensconced and Lori and Gautam get minutes and minutes of sleep

a night.

But just before they got away with 2002 scot-free, our hairy householders were given a whack by Mother Nature when the Santa Ana winds knocked down a 20 meter branch in their front

yard, crushing the gazebo but missing the bedroom window. "Nature 2 - gazebos 0," scored Theo and Sallie added, "That tree has dropped needles and sap and branches on us for the last time - it's got to go!"



Now, gentle reader, you are up to date with Sallie and Theo, they wish you Happy Holidays and send their love to you all.

Dragon Update



Unfortunately, another year has gone by with too many people spending too much time playing fantasy role playing games about being scientists in a 21st century high tech world. Consequently, what real adventuring there has been has largely consisted of our heroes running away from small parties of Dwarves, cleverly avoiding mêlée by hiding in secret passages, and befriending a small dragon called Binky. Despite their recent success with the Sea Devils, and while they have mastered the old pit-with-spikes routine, this writer is prone to wondering when they will get on with the hunt for the opposing pirate ship and the treasure map.

"Well, two games are better than none" smiled Sallie, the camp optimist, "We'll play again before next year, I'm sure!" We'll see - watch this spot for more Dragon Updates.



Teaser - What are these men doing? Stay tuned...(it's a hint)