

## Christmas News 2006

Greetings to our friends and family. We hope you are enjoying the holiday season and we want to bring you up to date on our activities of the previous year.



Early in 2006, Sue and I spent 10 days in La Manzanilla on the west coast of Mexico about 110 miles South of Puerto Vallarta. This is prime agricultural country where tequila is made and banana and pepper plantations stretch for miles. It was warm and sunny but the sand fleas and mosquitoes were a challenge. On the edge of the city, were 300 large crocodiles which we watched carefully and vice versa.

In July, Gary went on his first organized bicycle tour in Wyoming. He camped out with 300 other riders and pedaled 330 miles back and forth across the Big Horn Mountains in Wyoming. Gary lost 5 pounds during the week and met some very nice folks from all over the West. Gary will be looking for another bike tour next summer.



Last summer, Gary also took a river trip with friends from Wyoming and went down the Yampa and Green Rivers that flow from Colorado into Utah. He enjoyed an excellent float and the same adventurous group is making arrangements to spend 3 weeks on the Grand Canyon this spring.



In August, Gary flew to Toronto to join Sue's brother Dick on his journey across North America. Dick was traveling by automobile in part to celebrate his 60th birthday and to tour aviation museums across North America. Gary kept him company across the middle and western portions of the continent and Sue was able to join us from Boise to Seattle and back. Together we saw many sights along the way before Gary returned to Toronto to fly home 25 days after the journey began.



In September, we flew to Great Britain to attend the wedding of Sue's second cousin, Christopher Jarry. The wedding was lovely and we spent a week subsequently with cousins Ian and Jinny Jarry and Michael. Together we went to Conwy in Wales and stayed at a bed and breakfast. Then we visited another cousin, Jain Wright in a small town called Whaley Bridge and enjoyed the Peak District with them.

In November, with friends from the Thistles and Ghillies, we attended a workshop for Scottish country dancing at Asilomar, an isolated resort location near Monterrey, California. The workshop focused on developing Scottish dance techniques and is just across the road from one of the most beautiful beaches in California.

The highlight of Asilomar was a formal ball on Saturday night that was magical. The Great Hall was beautifully decorated with banners from Scottish dance groups hanging from the ceiling. The festivity began with a champagne toast prior to the 400 dancers being piped into the hall in a Grand March. The men were in kilts and the women in their finest ball gowns. We danced to exquisite live music until midnight, and then headed to another location for a ceilidh.



Well that is all from Sue and Gary for this year. We frequently think about our friends and activities from previous times and when we do, we wish you all the best in the coming year.