

MERRY CHRISTMAS

from

Dennis, Bert, Tommy, Stephen, Aaron & Andrew Griffin

95736 Sunny Slope Lane, Lakeview, Oregon, 97630
541-947-3948

dbgriffin@centurytel.net
<http://www.griffin.isa-geek.net>

With three days until Christmas vacation, we are still undecided about a getaway destination or even the feasibility of an actual escape. Stephen has just "moved up" to the JV team and doesn't know the practice/game schedule yet. Tommy has to coordinate with his girlfriend. Andrew doesn't want to go anywhere and Aaron keeps asking, "Are we taking the train to Portland, Minneapolis or New York?" It's too late for plane reservations and Bert is well aware of the maximum distance that the six of us can travel in the car before she prefers to walk. Dennis has given up predicting when he should take annual leave.

Aaron and Andrew are in the 6th grade which is still at the elementary school. It is a luxury to be able to put middle school off for one more year. In an effort to keep Aaron playing piano, we negotiated a deal where he would continue piano and we would buy him a drum set. He's already putting together a rock band which has evicted all vehicles from the garage. Hey, we've had boys for almost eighteen years and we hadn't had to have a drum set

until now! The plan was that he could play drums in band, but the new band director prefers the kids start on a non-percussion instrument so he is very happily playing the baritone - something he and his father have in common. Andrew selected the trombone and loves it as he does the piano. He sets his alarm for 5:30am so he can practice. They both played touch football this fall and Aaron plans to try basketball. Both returned to swim team last summer, but Andrew says the water is still too cold.

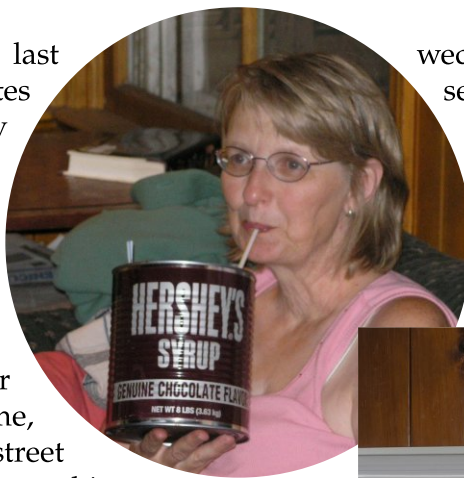
Stephen's life is much the same as last year - cross-country, basketball, baseball, youth group. This year, he's decided to help with Junior High youth group, so those kids will know a friendly face when they get to high school. As soon as he learns to drive standard and practices in the snow, he'll be taking that roadtest. He and his buddy Alex flew to Florida and had a great time in July. His other most favorite activity has been hosting the rock band members that come to play at our church. Mind you, these are famous Christian rock bands with their own CD's, T shirts and everything! So far, the band *Ever Stays Red* stayed overnight twice and



Creswell was here just last week. This even motivates Aaron to pick up a dirty sock or two!

Tommy is still writing up a storm and drawing. He is considering his long range options for exiting Lakeview while he looks for a job here. In the meantime, he's been trying the street musician scene as a guitarist - a bit of a novelty for Lakeview. His new girlfriend, Charlene, is sweet and fun. Tommy and his mother are somewhat amazed that Bert actually likes some of his CD's. Ever heard the band *White Stripes*?

Bert is unemployed, which freed her up to accompany Dennis to a training for a week in November. She caught up with her cousin Chris who had just recently relocated to the Columbia River Gorge. They decided it had been only about 28 years since they'd last laid eyes on each other. It was a beautiful trip up there and back and



wedding to Casey. Now Becky and Bert are semi-official out-of-town buyers for Annie's new "*A Country Home Floral*" shoppe in Lakeview. Those Amish rugs are selling like hotcakes!



Like Stephen, Dennis is having a repeat year. He is having fun with the new digital camera. Check out his panoramas on the webpage at <http://www.griffin.isa-geek.net/panos>. Tommy and Annie have both asked him for baking lessons so "*Bagel Bootcamp*" is planned. He also expects to be spending a lot of time and effort building www.acountryhomefloral.com!

Maxine, Tom and Cyndie, Rich and Ellen visited during the summer. We always enjoy Lakeview so much more when visitors come and remind us of its good points.

We think

it was gratifying to find the boys had held the fort well while they were gone. She flew home in June to celebrate Mary's 80th, then she and Becky had an adventure filled drive back to Oregon where Becky prepped for Annie's July

of you all through the year, but we're glad for Christmas time and for the opportunity to remind you, once again, that we count you among our many blessings.

