

Christmas 2017

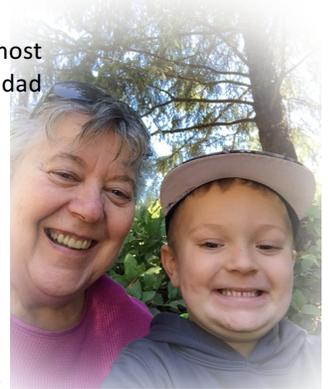
Dear friends, family and other strangers,

An early revelation this year was that I am married to a married senior citizen. Actually I've been married to her for over 48 years and she's been married the entire time. She's been a senior citizen for several years now, which means that she's a cheap date with senior discounts. Every day our love expands and so after all these many days our love is rather intense.

Gail displayed her youthfulness by running around Oregon with her 5-year-old grandson Gabriel for almost two weeks during his first tour away from his mom. His mom Becky on the other hand along with her dad Denvy and brother Marc and five others escaped to Gambell, Alaska where they helped build a church and viewed the hills in Russia while walking the beach among bleaching whale bones. Despite having no specific guidance for building the church we didn't do anything that had to be undone by the next team. En-route home stops near Wasilla allowed us to see our son/brother Darron and Becky's six half-siblings.



There was that day in August when a couple dozen persons camped in our yard to ooh and aah when the birds quit singing and the skies displayed an awesome show of solar proportions. Who knew the moon was big enough to block out the sun. Even naysayers and skeptics reported: "That was awesome." Over a million pilgrims migrated to Oregon for the show. Even those who headed home just minutes after the eclipse, about noon, didn't outmaneuver the mostly-stop-and-sometimes-go traffic finally arriving at their destination 160 miles away at 10:30 that night. The crescent glows from pinholes, the diamond ring glow and the midday cool temperatures left those of all ages a bit giddy.



While getting more comfortable with retirement we're still looking for that time when we aren't checking our email, soliciting volunteers or writing committee minutes. Yeap, Gail keeps chasing down cheap or free medicines and proper care for patients without insurance, besides mentoring college interns who will some day allow us to really retire. Homeless families and warming shelters have crept into our list of projects at church as well as pushing papers while the church searches for a minister.

A cool part about not being employed is that we can do what we want when we want. (Lie: there are commitments to the free clinic, the church and the homeless project.) However, we did get to the wedding of a niece's daughter high - much too high for lowlanders - in the Rockies, and we plan to gather with Saxowskys near the original homestead in North Dakota next June. If you're a relative and want to see other Saxowsky relatives in one place at one time the date is the 24th. And if you ever lived in Hebron you may be a relative either by marriage a century ago or more recently.

Grandkid report: the girls (Payton and Deona) in North Dakota are playing golf and getting really low scores qualifying them to travel to Florida and Colorado to represent their teams. College is not far off for them. Dominic and Riley in Washington are stars in their classes (no, really, it's not just proud grandparents bragging). They came by for the eclipse which went overhead at our place in Oregon and to teach Gabriel how to catch salamanders in the pond.

Now back to trying to retire and do less. We hope that you will have a great winter with all its awesome Celebrations, a very merry Christmas and a 2018 full of smiles and giggles.



Gail and Denvy