

## Our Thanksgiving Trip to Ashland and Arcata 1991

Our trip up to Ashland and northern California this last week was lots of fun. When we left wednesday, our intention was to take a cross country road at Castle Crags State Park over to Highway 3 and take 3 to Yreka where it joins up to Interstate 5. We turned off the freeway and started on the backroad only to find it blocked by a fallen tree....but the tree had been cut into two foot sections but not removed. Didn't know what to make of this, so decided we better go back to the local store and ask some serious questions before just heading into the back country. Turned out that they were aware of the tree....just hadn't moved it yet! We also found out that that back road was in terrible shape and it would take at least three slow hours to get to the highway, so decided that wasn't such a good idea for this time of year or this trip. Relooked at our map and decided to take state Highway 97 out of Weed to Klamath Falls and Highway 66 over to Ashland. As our luck would have it...fresh snow had fallen the night before and the drive on Highway 66 was picture book beautiful that afternoon...i.e. clear sky, absolutely breathtaking. Mother Nature renews the spirit with her natural beauty! We got to Ashland just as night was falling and took Phebe and Keith out for pizza.

Thursday was the day to check out the Ashland Inn where Liz is going to have her wedding...and made a room reservation for the four of us. The wedding is June 14. Jake I wanted to walk back to the house and Keith thought it was a good idea and knew a fun way to take us...Phebe wasn't interested and was quite happy to drive the car home. So we walked the 4-5 miles back with Keith. That afternoon we all spent quite a bit of time putting Xmas lights on the large blue spruce in Phebe/Keith's front yard. It was really cold but a fun challenge and the job got done. Phebe cooked a small turkey for Thanksgiving, which we all enjoyed.

Friday was get up and packed up the three lambs in the ice chests to bring back to California via a short visit to Nathan's in Arcata. Decided to go up to Grants Pass and cut through Jededich Smith Redwoods State Park for fun. Got almost to the entrance of the park i.e. within 10 miles of Crescent City when we were stopped by a flagman... There was a fuel truck over turned and they were having trouble getting emergency vehicles to the sight i.e. at least a two hour delay! If you had a regular car that ment waiting for the road to clear or driving back to Grants Pass and taking a different route. We had noticed a National Forest facility back at the town of Gasquet, about 4 miles back and decided to see if there were any 4-wheel roads we could take to the coast. We were told there were two alternatives, one that would take 2 hours, but have us headed in the right direction and one that would take about an hour, but take us north a little (it was also considered to be in better shape.) We bought the local forest service map, put the little car in 4-wheel drive and headed cross country.. It was a beautiful day so a fun way to get to the coast. Besides at the top of the ridge, it was clear enough to see to the ocean..what a tough break, right? Drove to Arcate and took Nathan and his girlfriend Teri to a vegetarian place for dinner.

Saturday, we got up leisurely, went to the grocery store with the kids to get stuff for a picnic lunch and headed off for a hike in the

redwoods. The day was clear and cool and the hike wonderful, so we all really enjoyed the outing. Got back at Arcata about 4 p.m. and agreed to meet at six to take the kids to a country inn for dinner. The food wasn't outstanding but the inn was a fun place to experience, so a winner. We said good-bye to Nathan and Teri that night as we like to get up a bit earlier than he does and get on the road headed home. Jake had looked at the map and decided it would be fun to take Highway 36 from Eureka to Interstate 5, so we did. Basically no one on the road but us and the countryside was beautiful. The deciduous trees were bright yellow for the most part and gave a wonderful contrast to the evergreens. When there was the 49er's game that afternoon which turned out to be terrible entertaining... Jake was kicking himself that he hadn't asked anyone to record it as there were any number of wild plays that one would love to see.... Can't win all the time!

I will close with this. Hope you enjoy my trip comments, certainly was a fun short trip.