

Christmas, 1992

In January, we set up and ran a booth at the Winter Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas to introduce a new product for DSPeech. Having a booth in such a large show is an adventure in itself, but when you drive to Las Vegas and find that nothing has been arranged in advance, it gets even more interesting. We made up a display from a tabletop backdrop we had with us, some party masks, a sign, and the product itself. We were amazed at the good response we got from everyone. Our major competitor even came over and said he wanted to discuss dropping his product line in favor of ours.

Later in January, Jerry had to go to Stony Brook University and to a clinic in New York to fix a couple of the medical units he designed for SleepTrace. While he was there, he stopped in to visit with his brother's family in New Jersey (Milton was out of town at the time).

In March, Jo went with us to our condo in Kaua`i. We explored some more of the island and enjoyed better weather than the last time we were there. We relaxed a bit and plan on doing more exploring on our next trip. The hurricane damage to the condo will be repaired by the beginning of the year when power and telephone service is due to be restored. All the damages were minimal and covered by insurance.

On our 11th anniversary in April, we helped out at the Star Trek Convention at the Cow Palace in San Francisco featuring Patrick Stewart, and then spent the night at the Donatello. We also helped out at several other Star Trek conventions throughout the year. Due to the lack of quality of conventions presented by Creation, we are working with the Star Trek Fan Club of California to plan a future convention that will be more professionally handled.

Jury duty finally caught up with Jerry in May, but he didn't have to serve because the case was settled out of court. Jerry also found out that due to earthquake damage, the courthouse had been temporarily moved all the way across the valley.

A short time before we were to attend the Summer Consumer Electronics show in Chicago, we found out that the display booth had not yet been designed. Less than a week before the show, we managed to write and tape a promotional video for the show and design a simple

booth. There wasn't enough time to finish editing the video, so we had to use it without music and with a crude morph. Amazingly, it got a lot of positive comments. Parts of it may be used in a 30 minute "infomercial" in the United States and there were requests for copies of the tape for use in France and Canada.

We attended a demonstration of the latest film formats at the Academy Theater in Hollywood. There are some GREAT new film formats coming out soon, watch your local theater. The presentation was given by the Society of Motion Picture & Television Engineers. They wouldn't let us take home the life-sized Oscars (6+ feet tall, gold) that you see during the Academy Awards. Jerry was also invited to join the society as a full member.

FOOM! Boom, bang, flash, hammer, crash! No, it wasn't World War III in Idaho this summer, just the annual convention of the Pyrotechnics Guild International, Inc. (Jerry's a member). As is their custom, at least two world records were set for largest displays this year (these are the people that build and shoot large fireworks and theatrical special effects). Jo explored Yellowstone Park and a few other local sights with us while we attended the PGII convention in Idaho Springs. We met several interesting people that Jerry had been talking to over the computer nets for the past year. (If anyone would like to see a video tape of the public show, ask either Harriet or us.)

Sharon's friend Sandra flew out from New York for her first trip to California. We met her in Los Angeles and spent 4 days playing tourist. We visited Paramount Studios, walked the entire Walk Of Fame, and other such fun stuff. Jerry had to fly off for a customer's emergency, but returned in time to sightsee a bit and drive back home with Sharon.

In September we went hiking at the Pinnacles (half of an ancient volcano near here, the other half is a couple hundred miles south of here). It was 105°, fun, with strange caves (the caves were not carved by water, they are the result of part of the volcano collapsing, a cascade of very large marbles with a path following a creek at the bottom).

Later in September, we were invited to help pick cabernet and chardonnay grapes at a small local vineyard (Martin Rey, one of the oldest in the valley). We learned a lot about wine making, it's cool fog in the morning, hot in the afternoon, sticky, drunk bees (they're too drunk to sting, you just push them out of the way), and fun. After the picking we had lunch at the owner's house (incredible view of the valley), we each got a bottle of wine from a previous year (one of each type per person, a prime vintage) for our efforts, and then we went to the crushing in Santa Cruz. We helped feed the grapes, stems, bees, spiders, etc. into the crusher which does an excellent job of removing the stems (the bees and spiders add character). Then we had a good BBQ dinner with some more wine from previous years (the owners' private stock).

Even later in September we went to see "Two Gentlemen of Verona" at the California Shakespeare Festival with some friends. It was out in the middle of the woods and as the fog crept in it got much colder than we had anticipated. The theater is entirely open air, out of doors, and they encourage you to bring picnics, snacks, and things to keep warm throughout the performance. But, all in all, a truly enjoyable evening was had by all.

In October we went to the Renegade Film Makers Festival in San Jose and saw some strange, wild, and wonderful films made by stranger, wilder, and wonderfuller people...our kind of place!

In November we saw "A Christmas Carol" performed by Patrick Stewart. A very good job for a 2½ hour one man show! We had ordered our tickets early and asked for good seats, we wound up in the front row, two seats from center!

And as Tiny Tim observed, "God bless us, everyone." Merry Christmas to all, and to all our love,

Jerry & Sharon