

Merry Christmas Friends and Family,

December 1, 1997

Well, we've finally "arrived" in California! Our first 10 months here have flown by, but we're starting to settle into a routine now that we've moved into our new home. David is enjoying his position as a Senior Software Engineer at Apple, and Christy is being an Assistant Manager at Gizmo, Chisolm and Tristan, with so much room to peer out of. Our first year has and short jaunts around the area, as well as work and frequent trips to the



construction site which became our house. We're constantly amazed at the dramatic changes in scenery in the course of just a few miles' drive. California is truly a beautiful place.

Hollister is a great little town, population around 33,000 and growing rapidly. We are situated in a valley, so we are surrounded by beautiful scenery in every direction. We are 8 miles from the mission town of San Juan Bautista, home to many wonderful Mexican restaurants. Fremont Peak State Park, with a respectable observatory, is a scenic 12-mile drive. Pinnacles National Monument is 25 miles to the south. Monterey Bay is a mere 30 miles west of us (as the crow flies), and the town of Monterey is a 45-minute drive. We are 50 miles from San Jose and the Silicon Valley, and the wonders of San Francisco lie 2 hours to the north. Of course the Napa and Sonoma Valleys are accessible, as are Lake Tahoe and Big Sur. If this paragraph is beginning to sound like a travel brochure, let me end it by saying that there is something for everyone out here, and our door is always open to those who wish to venture westward. In other words, we'd love to have you visit anytime!



We enjoyed a taste of home earlier this fall when we attended the OU vs. Cal football game in Berkeley. It was great to be surrounded by so many other transplants, all clad in red & white. The conversations around us were familiar too, as we overheard strangers discussing the difference in real estate prices between California and Oklahoma. It was nice to be among our own.

We'd like to close by thanking you all for the special role you play in our lives. We are sincere in our invitation for you to visit anytime, and hope to see each of you at some time in the near future. If you have access to the internet you can contact us that way. David's e-mail address is pond@computer.org, and Christy's is yseult@aol.com. We have a web site as well, at "http://www.earthlink.net/~djpond". Let us know how you are and what you've been doing.



David & Christy

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