

Season's Greetings 1998

Greetings of the Holiday Season. We hope this letter finds you well and in good spirits. As is our tradition, we'd like to share some of the highlights of our past year with you.

Last Christmas, we hosted Jim and Ellie Christo and their son, David, and also Bob and Barbara Sugar, Audrey, Tony, Chris, and their new puppy. Lots of good cheer was shared by all. In January - March, we took several trips with Louis' Aunt Ethel and her friend Frances to such places as Las Vegas and Palm Springs. We also fit in a couple of ski trips to Big Bear. Friends Tricia and Dennis joined Chris and the boys for a springtime camping trip to the desert, where we enjoyed flowering cactus and bought many varieties of the famous, sweet Borrego Springs grapefruit from the orchard stands. In August, Chris, her sister JoAnna, Emily and Jeremy took a backpacking trip to Eagle Lake in the western Sierras (Mineral King area of Sequoia National Park). The scenery was breathtaking, which made the 2000 ft. climb worth it. Chris' mom flew out in September; we visited the Getty and Huntington museums, the arboretum, and the Reagan Library.

Our longest vacation of the year was a June-July driving trip through the northwest United States through Yellowstone and Grand Forks to Lake of the Woods, Ontario and a two week visit with Chris' sister, Marilyn and husband, Ron, at their island. The fishing was great...we caught several large walleye right off the dock. Andy landed the biggest northern pike. Take our word for it, there is nothing better than one of Ron and Marilyn's fish fries. We then visited Louis' cousins in Winnipeg and Brandon, Manitoba. The trip back then went through the International Peace Garden and the Black Hills of South Dakota. We saw a wonderful western pageant about the covered wagon trips along the old Oregon Trail in Lusk, Wyoming, with fancy horseback riding, a story of the Indian life, and realistic pioneer events on the trail.

During our last stop on the way home, Las Vegas, we finally agreed to let Emily buy her new pet ferret, whom she named "Peanut". Peanut is really cute, tame, and friendly. He hops around and likes to play hide-and-seek. Emily takes very good care of him. Jeremy's new pet is a tarantula, Harold, who was found crawling around our neighbor's entryway. ("Mom" takes very good care of him.) Our cats are wonderful playmates, and they keep the rodent and lizard population low.

Jeremy, 11, enjoys video games. He saved his allowance and bought his own Nintendo 64. His favorite game, however, is the computer game "Command and Conquer". Emily, 14, is a budding "Renaissance woman". She gets straight "A's" in school, is on the Flag Team, and is a Senior Girl Scout and Sea Scout (Boy Scout) in the "Mystic Yankee" troop. She is also a sought-after baby-sitter. Andy, 17, is in his senior year at Calabasas High School. He's been accepted to three colleges but is waiting to hear from a couple more. His favorite pastime is playing Nintendo fighting games. He's getting to be a good computer programmer and got a new Mac G3 "for homework". Katy, 18, is living in Big Sur, California. She has a job and a "nice little place with an ocean view". She and Jesse have adopted a puppy whom they named "Hawk". Chris is working at Litton (almost 15 years now). She received one patent this year and has four applications pending, all in the integrated optics area. As of August, she transferred to the Fiber Optic Acoustic Sensor group, having completed a process upgrade for the integrated optics product. She spent most of November at the Litton Laser Systems Division in Florida, consulting on laser mirror damage mechanisms. Louis is at TRW working on the LANCE project. It will control most of the Government satellites. He and Emily built a small waterfall and goldfish pond in the back yard and are having fun landscaping it.

We all wish you the best of the new year and invite you to come visit.