

Holiday Greetings 2000

This year's holiday card shows Jeremy, Emily, and Andy "hard at work" on Aunt Marilyn's and Uncle Ron's island in Canada. Last August we helped them clear brush and trees as they laid out the site for their house. We also had an enjoyable visit and some good fishing in that beautiful Lake of the Woods north-country. In October, Chris went to Boston for a conference, and the rest of the family followed for a long weekend with the New England fall colors. We went up the Mt. Washington cog railway and ate lobster in Boothbay Harbor. Louis and Chris then went canoeing in the Black Canyon of the Colorado with the TRW Wilderness Club. We enjoyed hiking, hot pools, and "Clan of the Sauna Cave Bear" craziness with the group. Louis' parents and friends Tricia and Dennis shared Thanksgiving with us, and Bob and Barbara Sugar and family visited from Sacramento. The next day, the Sugars went with us to Disneyland; it's much more accessible on crowded days with their new Fastpass system.

In June, Chris took a small group of girls and adults from Emily's Girl Scout troop backpacking to Santa Paula Canyon, a pretty hike in the Los Padres Mountains, with waterfalls and pools near the campsite. A week later she had arthroscopic surgery on the same, pesky right knee to repair torn cartilage. She still enjoys hiking on the weekends with her friend Debbie and volunteering with the Girl Scouts. Chris still likes working at Litton Guidance and Control Systems on their newest generation product, a Micromachined gyro. However, the Litton Advanced Electronics Group, of which G&CS is a Division, is on the auction block. We are rumored to have two potential buyers - Northrop-Grumman and L3Comm, but nothing has been announced yet. We will see what 2001 brings. Chris is the primary author of a chapter in the new Handbook for Critical Cleaning to be published this December by CRC Press. The chapter is on "Contamination Control and Analytical Techniques".

Louis is working at two jobs, TRW and SAIC. He accepted the SAIC position to work on a proposal and project, but the contract hasn't come in yet. As a result, he continues to work at TRW too, which is good for TRW, since they didn't want him to leave anyway. TRW is offering a \$10,000 bonus to employees who recruit new staff with security clearances. He withdrew from the start-up company neXXsoft that he and Armand started last year. Customers wanted to pay \$10/hour but workers wanted \$100/hour. Louis just didn't have the time to put into the technical side. Chalk it up as a learning experience. He still enjoys gardening, gaming parties, bridge, softball, and beach volleyball. (sounds so retiring)

Chris and Emily ended last year with a post-Christmas trip to visit Katy in Big Sur. We hiked in the beautiful Big Sur coastal area, went to the aquarium in Monterey, and enjoyed a cozy meal around the big wood-burning stove that heats her cottage. Katy still enjoys her job at The Phoenix Shop and just got a promotion to Buyer. Louis made a couple of visits to Katy as well, first in March to deliver a 1987 Subaru to provide Katy some needed transportation. It had been poorly maintained and fell apart in many ways. That vehicle lasted almost until

November, when Louis drove up with a more carefully chosen 1991 Subaru wagon. This one has all-wheel drive and a sunroof.

Andy is in his second year at Cal Poly Pomona in a Computer Information Systems (CIS) major. He spends three nights a week in his dorm room and Thursday through Sunday at home. He is the family resource on anything electronic and set up the LAN connecting our whole house with computers and peripherals. He was one of the few people in the country who waited 14 hours in the rain to be the first to get a Sony PlayStation 2. Since the PS2 is also a DVD player, it was years ahead of our current entertainment system, so Andy set the living room up with a Dolby Digital surround sound system. Now we can play multiplayer games on the home network and blast the neighbors while watching movies.

Emily is a Junior in High School and still doing very well in school and on College Entrance Exams. She is active in Scouting, and her troop won "Top Ship" honors for the second year in a row at the GAM (Gathering of all Mariners) competition this year. She went with the Girl Scout troop on a cruise to Mexico. She passed her driving test this summer and was rewarded with a 1997 purple Chrysler Sebring convertible, which Louis accidentally bought. (He thought his bid was too low to actually get the car.) She now drives to and from school, and she enjoys her newfound "freedom" on the weekends.

Jeremy became the last in the family to get his braces, a distinction he reluctantly accepted. He is in 8th grade and will graduate Middle School in June. Like his brother, he enjoys video games and is very coordinated. He likes watching "Simpsons", "Dragon Ball Z" and "Gundam Wing". He also collects cats and monkeys (not real ones). His favorite food is sushi, which he requests every time we go out to eat.

We have 5 cats, Emily's ferret (Peanut), and a bunch of goldfish in the little backyard pond/waterfall. The cats really like their new tree-like cat tree with a hollow interior that they can climb up. They also like lying under the Christmas tree and climbing it too. LaNore still comes and helps with the housework and pets. She had hip replacement surgery this Spring but came back after two months. We see Louis' parents often. On frequent Sunday nights we all go to our favorite Chinese restaurant. They are in good health and spirits, spending a lot of time rooting for their favorite teams – the LA Dodgers and Lakers. They still hang out with their deaf crowd almost every weekend, but there are fewer of them each year.

We hope you had a good year and want to wish you all the best for 2001.