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*Season's Greetings*

*From The O'Connor Family*

*An American Family's Journey through Life  
as told by their Christmas Letters, 1966 - 2021*

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# Season's Greetings:

**The Journey of an American Family's Life  
as told through Christmas Letters, 1966-2020**

1963: Joni Clever and John O'Connor met while skiing in Aspen, Colorado.

1964: Joni, a Girl Scout professional working in Gary, Indiana, moved to Colorado to work for the Girl Scouts Mile-Hi Council in Denver and serve as Director of their *Tomahawk Ranch Summer Camp*.

1965: John, an Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, wrote to & communicated with Joni long-distance.

1966: Joni and John were married in Mooseheart's *House of God* near Batavia, Illinois, her home town. The newlyweds honeymooned in Aspen; their son, Tom, was born ten months later.

**Starting in 1966**, the Christmas greetings (for years, hand-lettered) were prepared to maintain contact with out-of-town friends. Local friends did not receive these letters.

1969: Our daughter, Heather, completes our family.

1975: The family moves to Columbia, Missouri -- and visits Disney World.

1996: The end of the hand-drawn era for our letters. After 31 years, we resorted to an Apple computer and a color printer.

**2007: The torch is passed.** Tom now authors his own brand of **Annual Report**, written for a new generation of friends. Sent by e-mail, his environmentally-friendly essays are richly-illustrated and include '*links*' to videos of various happenings.

2008: The Old'Connors no longer send their greetings via snail-mail. While the quality of its content may be diminishing, the wishes it conveys remain heartfelt.



# Season's Greetings

## An American Family's Journey through Life as told by their Christmas Letters, 1966 - 2021

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- 1966 - *The Journey Begins: Batavia, Illinois; Aspen, Colorado; Urbana, Illinois*
- 1967 - *Baby Tom sets up playpen in Sudbury, Massachusetts*
- 1968 - *Tent Camping at Cape Hatteras; drying out in Washington, D.C.*
- 1969 - *Baby Heather goes on sabbatical: Newtonville, Massachusetts*
- 1970 - *Work and Family Life in Urbana, Illinois*
- 1971 - *Touring the Colorado Rockies & the Southwest; San Francisco & the Bay Area*
- 1972 - *Summer at Montana State University: Bozeman, Montana, Yellowstone & the Tetons*
- 1973 - *Around Lake Michigan: Ann Arbor & Muskegon - A Sewage Treatment Vacation*
- 1974 - *Sampling the Snowy Peaks of Utah: Alta, Snowbird, and Park City*
- 1975 - *Crossing the Mississippi to Columbia, Missouri*
- 1976 - *A Taste of New Orleans; the Sight of Sewage in San Diego*
- 1977 - *Adventures in North Dakota, Philadelphia, and Silver Dollar City, Missouri*
- 1978 - *Family Skiing at Breckenridge, Colorado*
- 1979 - *The Coastal Redwoods to Otter Rock, Oregon*
- 1980 - *See Naples (Florida) and Live; A tour of America's Southland*
- 1981 - *Sunset Beach, North Carolina and the Intracoastal Waterway*
- 1982 - *Meet me in Saint Louis*
- 1983 - *Waging Water in Las Vegas; Kansas City, "City of Fountains"*
- 1984 - *Saint Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands - "America's Paradise"*
- 1985 - *Santa Domingo, Republica, Dominicana - "Oldest City in the New World"*
- 1986 - *Montego Bay, Jamaica - "No Problem"*
- 1987 - *Water Research Labs: Utrecht, Netherlands; Paris, France; Zurich, Switzerland*
- 1988 - *СССР, "Перестройка", "Гласность"; Barbados (bearded fig tree)*
- 1989 - *Tom's band tours; Heather tours Europe; 'rents tour Door Peninsula, Wisconsin*
- 1990 - *Christchurch, New Zealand - "The most wonderful year of our life!"*
- 1991 - *Jogging and biking along the Missouri River (Katy) Trail*
- 1992 - *Diaspora: Heather to Montana; Tom's midwest music tour; 'rents to Champaign, IL*
- 1993 - *Little Rock, Arkansas; San Antonio, Texas; San Juan, Puerto Rico*

1994 - *Waste Lecture Tours: Taiwan, Republic of China; Parquera, Puerto Rico*  
 1995 - *San Juan Islands, Washington; Vancouver, British Columbia; EAAAΣ, Greece*  
 1996 - *Copenhagen, Denmark; Willmar, Minnesota; Midwestern Mega-Hog Farms*  
 1997 - *Natchidoches, Louisiana and the Southeastern U.S.; Washington, D.C.*  
 1998 - *Family reunited in Columbia, Missouri*  
 1999 - *Wildfoods Festival - Hokitika, New Zealand; Duluth, Minnesota & Lake Superior*  
 2000 - *Republica de Costa Rica for the Y2K Millenium*  
 2001 - *Niagara Falls, Cape Cod, Nova Scotia & 225 miles of the Missouri River Trail*  
 2002 - *Wyoming & Colorado; Florence & Cinque Terre National Park, Italy*  
 2003 - *Rotary International dispatches Tom to Japan*  
 2004 - *New Zealand (winter); Canadian Maritime Provinces (summer); Montreal*  
 2005 - *NYC for The Golden Cooper reUnion; Bicycling in Sweden*  
 2006 - *We celebrate the marriage of Tom and Diana*  
 2007 - *We celebrate the marriage of Heather and John*  
 2007 - *Tom creates his - and Diana's - first annual report; also, a water project in India*  
 2008 - *Diana guides the old folks on a tour of England and, because it was nearby, Rome*  
 2008 - *In addition to Italy and the UK, Tom recounts trips to Vermont, Texas, & Chicago*  
 2009 - *A tale of three cities: Washington, Chicago, New York*  
 2009 - *Tom works up a video report for 2009: Chicago, Kansas City, Salt Lake City*  
 2010 - *Barcelona, Spain; Siracusa, Sicily; Aeolian Island of Lipari; Sitges, Spain*  
 2010 - *No theme - just Mexico, Switzerland, & Rome*  
 2011 - *Joni occupies Colorado & Newfoundland when not occupying New York City*  
 2011 - *Amsterdam for 'the Roast'; Diana weighs in with her own segments of the report; Eastern Europe: Berlin to Prague; London & Preston, England*  
 2012 - *Arctic Circle: Svalbard; Norway; Missouri Botanical Garden; Tall Ships, Baltimore*  
 2013 - *The Old Connors in Ireland*  
 2014 - *The Alaska 'Uncruise' and The Big Apple*  
 2015 - *Our Fiftieth 'Season's Greetings'; the Grand Canyon, San Francisco and Iceland*  
 2016 - *Adventures in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia & Russia; Autumn in Colorado*  
 2017 - *The Total Eclipse brings visitors to Columbia, MO*  
 2017 - *Heather and John Leigers in Columbia, Chicago - and Catalonia*  
 2018 - *Coastal Central California, Arizona's Slot Canyons, Utah's Bryce Canyon, Columbia, MO*  
 2019 - *LWV Centennial, Votes for Women, Holiday Parade, Mobile Funk Band; Mexico City, Mexico*  
 2020 - *Pandemic 2020, Queen's gambit, Solar table, Speaking of the Arts*  
 2021 - *Vaccinations, Zoom, Family activities, - including mushrooms, chickens, and pies.*

OUR WARMEST  GREETINGS TO YOU DURING THE

HAPPY  
HOLIDAY  
SEASON



1966

HAS BEEN AN EVENTFUL

CALENDAR OF EVENTS			
WED	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	NYC	THURS
SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC

YEAR FOR US

ON JANUARY 15, WE BEGAN LIFE AS  $T_{H}F$  &  $T_{H}F$ .  
WE WERE MARRIED IN THE BEAUTIFUL HOUSE OF GOD AT  
MOONHEART, ILLINOIS.



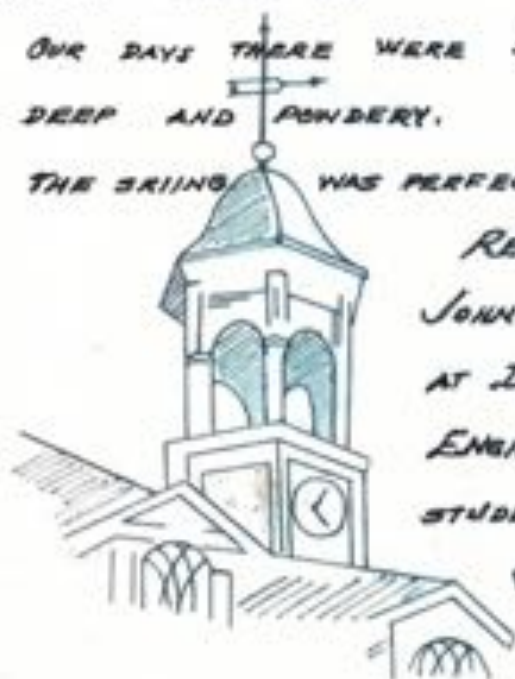
WE HAD A GLORIOUS  
THREE WEEK WEDDING  
TRIP TO ASPEN,  
RESORT WHERE WE

OUR DAYS THERE WERE SUNNY AND  
DEEP AND POWDERY.

THE SKIING WAS PERFECT.

COLORADO, THE SKI  
FIRST MET, TWO YEARS AGO,

CRISP; THE SNOW,



RETURNING TO THE UNIVERSITY,  
JOHN RESUMED TEACHING (AS 5<sup>th</sup> YEAR  
AT ILLINOIS, DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL  
ENGINEERING). I ENROLLED AS A  
STUDENT AND TOOK COURSES IN  
GERMAN (SEHR SCHWER) AND  
ART HISTORY.



OUR WARMEST  GREETINGS TO YOU DURING THE

HAPPY  
HOLIDAY  
SEASON



1966

HAS BEEN AN EVENTFUL

CALENDAR OF EVENTS			
WED	DEC 27	DEC 28	DEC 29
THU	DEC 29	DEC 30	DEC 31
FRI	JAN 1	JAN 2	JAN 3
SAT	JAN 4	JAN 5	JAN 6
SUN	JAN 7	JAN 8	JAN 9
MON	JAN 10	JAN 11	JAN 12
TUE	JAN 13	JAN 14	JAN 15

YEAR FOR US

ON JANUARY 15, WE BEGAN LIFE AS J.F. & J.YE.  
WE WERE MARRIED IN THE BEAUTIFUL HOUSE OF GOD AT  
MOOREHEAD, ILLINOIS.

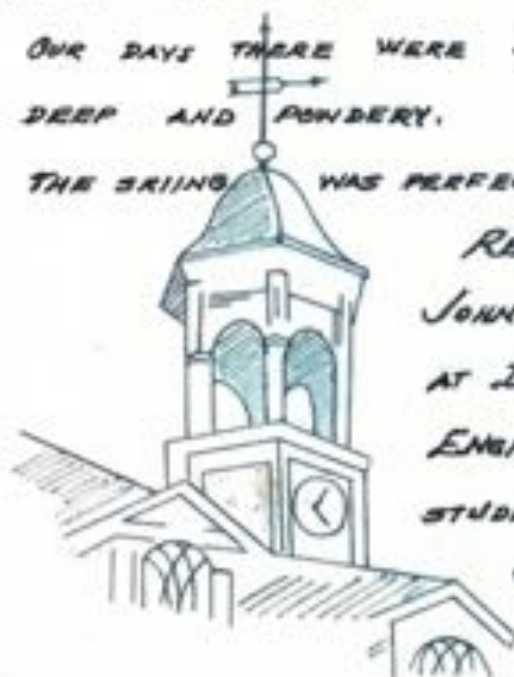


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ART HISTORY.



MY LOVE FOR GIRL SCOUTING (I WAS A PROFESSIONAL GIRL SCOUT WORKER FOR 4 1/2 YEARS BEFORE GETTING MARRIED.) LED ME TO BECOME NEIGHBORHOOD CHAIRMAN IN AN URBANA NEIGHBORHOOD IN WHICH WE DON'T LIVE.

IN ADDITION, I BECAME ACTIVE IN THE ALUMNI CHAPTER OF MY SORORITY, SIGMA KAPPA, AND WITH CIVIL ENGINEERING WIVES.

JOHN, ON THE OTHER HAND IS OFTEN BUSY OUT-OF-TOWN. HE SPRINKLED HIS YEAR LIBERALLY WITH TRIPS TO CONVENTIONS, USUALLY IN ORDER TO PRESENT A PAPER. IN TWO INSTANCES, I ACCOMPANIED HIM. IN JUNE, WE PURCHASED A TENT AND CAMPING ACCESSORIES FOR A TRIP TO TEXAS, VIA MISSOURI AND OKLAHOMA; FOLLOWED BY A RETURN TRIP THROUGH, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, AND KENTUCKY.

A HIGH SPOT OF THE TRIP WAS NEW ORLEANS (BOAT RIDES, OYSTERS, FRENCH QUARTER, NIGHTLIFE, A PLAY, LUXURY HOTEL SWIMMING POOL.)

LATER, IN SEPTEMBER, WE DROVE TO NYC VIA ONTARIO, CANADA, NEW YORK FINGER LAKES, VERMONT, CAPE COD AND CONNECTICUT. JOHN PRESENTED A PAPER AT THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK WHILE I SHOPPED. TOGETHER, WE DINED IN ELEGANT RESTAURANTS AND SAW TWO BROADWAY SHOWS ('THE ODD COUPLE' AND 'SWEET CHARITY').

WE ALSO VISITED MY BROTHER AND SISTER-IN-LAW IN SOUTH ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS, AS WELL AS FRIENDS WHO HAD JUST MOVED TO DELAWARE.

JOHN ENJOYED THE TRIP TO NEW YORK, HIS HOME TOWN, IMMENSELY. THE CAR RADIO WAS ALWAYS TUNED TO HIS FAVORITE RADIO STATION, WQXR,



THIS PAST YEAR HAS BEEN FILLED WITH  
MANY BLESSINGS, THE GREATEST OF WHICH WAS  
THE BIRTH OF OUR SON,

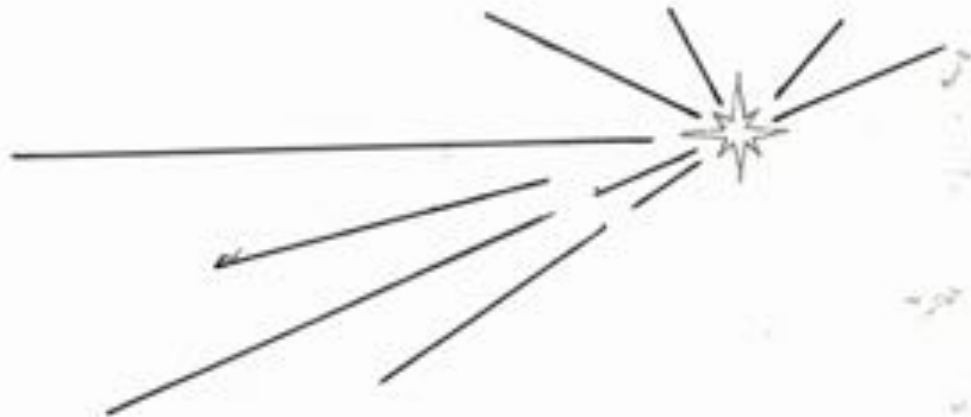
THOMAS LYNN,

ON NOVEMBER 15.

HE IS, OF COURSE, A REDHEAD AND THE  
MOST PRECIOUS BUNDLE ONE COULD HOPE  
FOR.

THIS INDEED WILL BE A MOST JOYOUS  
CHRISTMAS FOR US, AND WE SINCERELY  
HOPE IT WILL BE FOR YOU ALSO.

THE O'CONNORS

















OUR WARMEST GREETINGS TO YOU

DURING THIS HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.



has been another exciting year for us. Little Tommy made it our first as a family. He was responsible in some ways for diminishing the pace of the previous year. However, he has turned our house into a real home (by messing it up).



In the early spring of the year we again returned to Aspen, the skiing paradise where we met and honeymooned.



After our vacation, John gave a seminar at the Univ. of Colorado while I visited with my friends and former co-workers at the Mile-Hi Girl Scout Council.

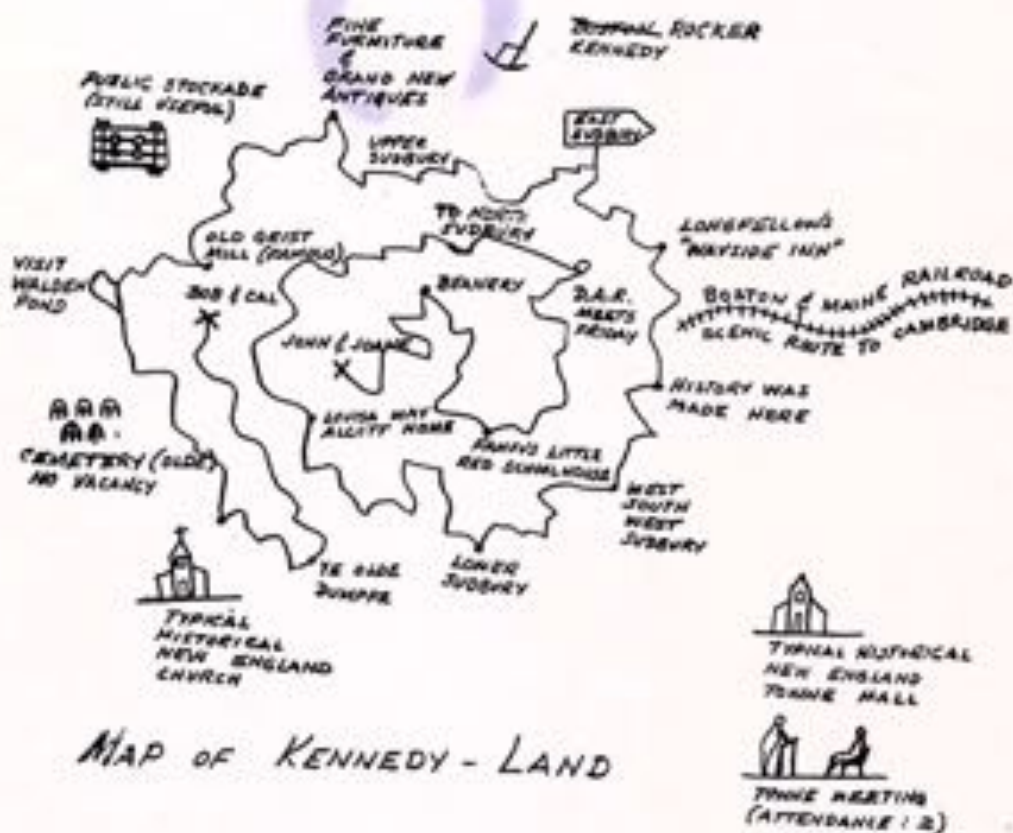


During the summer we lived for five weeks in the delightful, rural New England town of Sudbury, Massachusetts.

We rented a furnished Cape Cod home on a wooded acre while John studied water chemistry at Harvard.



My parents visited us in Sudbury and, in turn, we all visited my brother and sister-in-law frequently as they lived only 13 crooked miles from us.



Back in the Land of Lincoln, we were delighted to have, as house guest for a few days, my great-aunt "Tina" from Vienna. She is 84, speaks no English, and is the most alert, cheerful, and adventuresome octogenarian we had ever seen. We showed Aunt Tina all the sights of Champaign-Urbana (corn, cows, beans, etc). Typically, she saw beauty in it all. She was enthralled.



I am still in Girl Scouting as Neighborhood Chairman. This summer I helped at Day Camp while Grandma O'Connor chased around the house and yard after Tommy. This year I am also vice-president of the Sigma Kappa sorority alum chapter.

John started a new research project this year. He will try to make a pill which will disinfect canteen quantities of water. Project work has taken him to Washington, D.C., and Baltimore. I accompanied him to only one conference this year -- in Chicago, but John went to several others, even spending a week in N.Y.C.

As of this writing, Tommy is beginning to toddle and climb. He drags John or me around the house by our index fingers. His crawling approaches the speed of lightning. He thumps, bumps, stumbles and tumbles around the house damaging the furniture, furnishings, and himself. Despite the destruction, we plan to keep him, at least until next year.

This should indeed be a most joyous Christmas in our home. We sincerely hope it will be for you also.



The O'Connors

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

Matthew 2:10







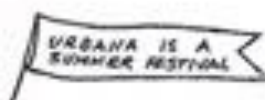
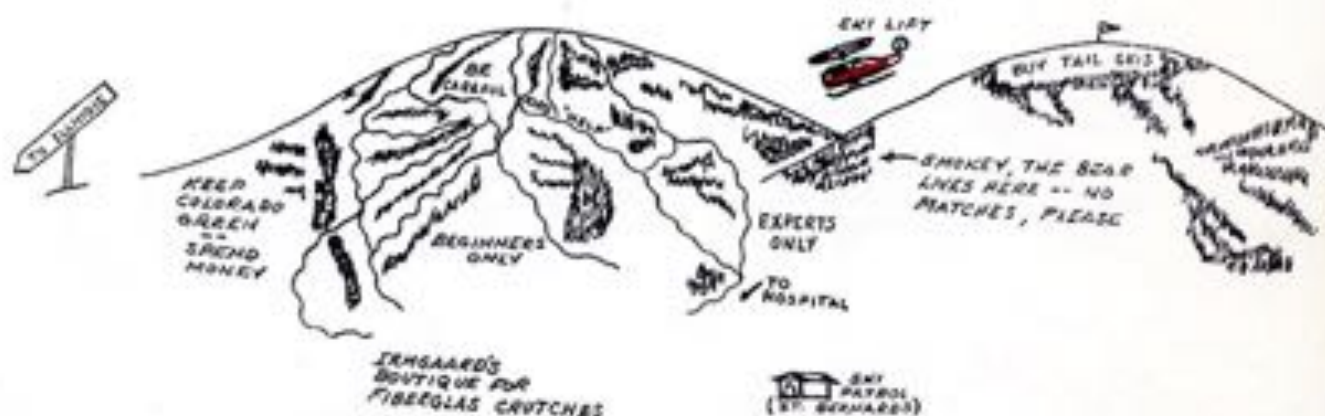
With Warmest Greetings  
to you during this  
Happy Holiday Season



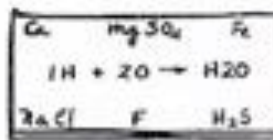
has been another happy year for us.

We began the year, as usual,  
with a trip to Aspen for skiing.  
We skied the new area at Snowmass  
and found it to be delightful.  
The slopes are broad and uncrowded.

The view can be justly described as magnificent.



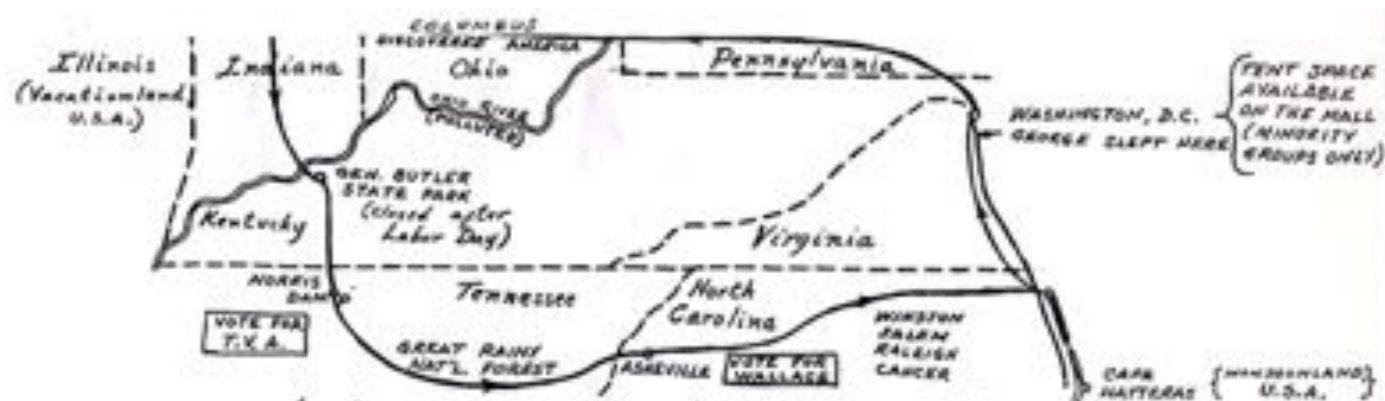
We spent the summer in Urbana as, for the first time, John taught a summer course in water chemistry.



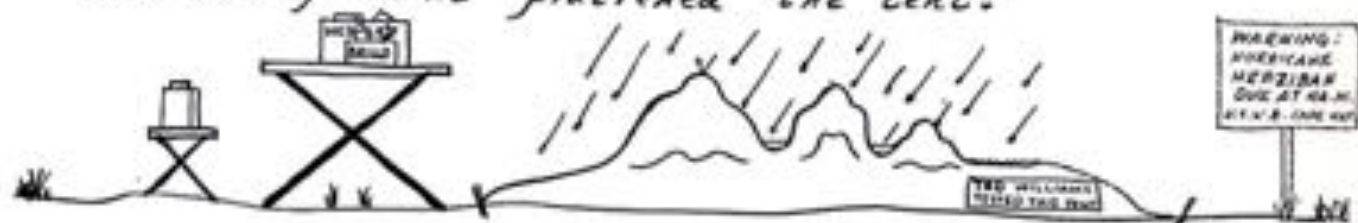
We set out for vacation after Labor Day.  
It rained continually for three days as we  
~~followed~~ a "frontal system" eastward towards  
Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.







After we arrived at the Cape, it began to rain in earnest. For three days, our interest in meteorology and weather forecasting grew until, finally, our tent blew down. At 4 A.M., high winds and heavy rains flattened the tent.



We gathered up our soggy belongings in the downpour and struck out for Washington, D.C., where we visited all the places that inveterate tourists visit. It was delightful.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
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Upon our return from the eastern rain-forests, I decided to become a student again. I'm currently enrolled in a graduate course and a seminar in Recreation and Park Administration.

John is still doing research on water treatment; iron removal and disinfection. Reporting on this work keeps him moving.



At two years, Tommy's piano recitals, including vocalizations, are priceless. In February, his appreciative audience will increase by one with the arrival of his baby "brover" or "sizzer".



Again this year we'll be celebrating Christmas in Batavia with my folks. We expect that this will be a joyous Christmas for us.

We sincerely hope that it will be for you also.



the O'Connors

"Rejoice --  
and be exceedingly  
glad --"

Matthew 5:12





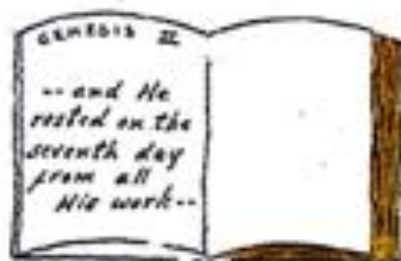




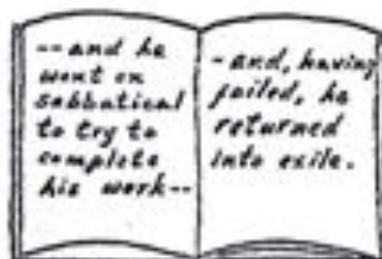


*Our Best Wishes  
to you during this  
Happy Holiday  
Season*

*On February 3, 1969, we celebrated the birth of our baby daughter, Heather. She arrived on the day of her Grandpa Clever's sixtieth birthday. With the advent of this little female, our family had achieved numerical balance, if not equilibrium or tranquility.*



*In August, we packed all of our belongings (Tommy, Heather & the TV),*

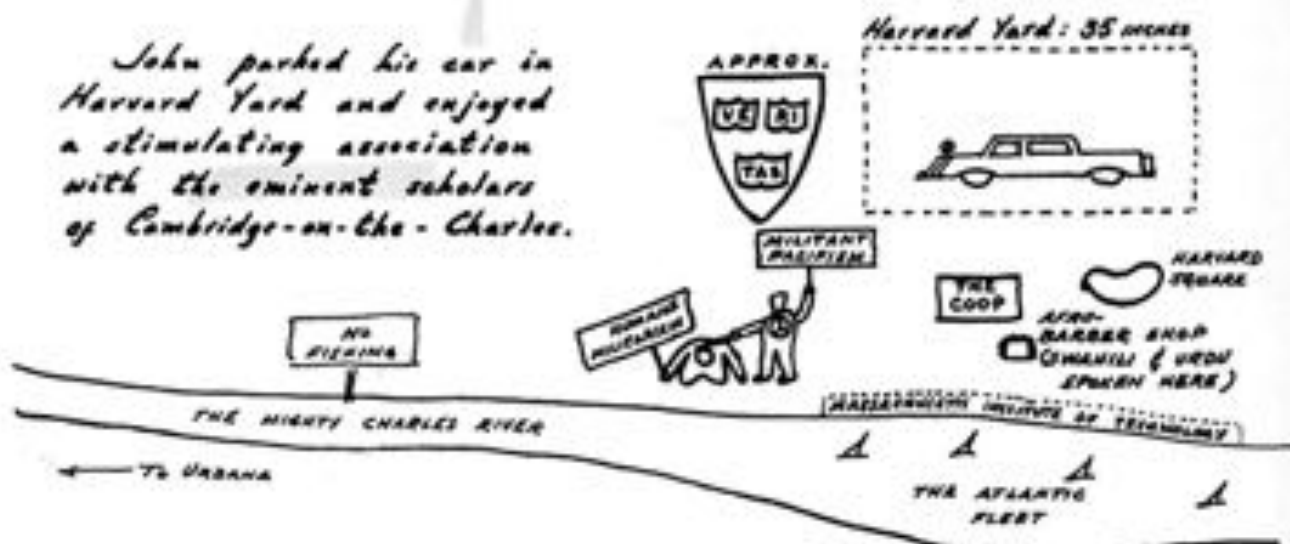


*and headed towards historical New England. We settled in the greater Boston metropolitan area; home of the META, the codfish, the baked bean, and the professor - on - sabbatical.*



*Our 200+ year old home wreaked of history and creaked of infirmity. A new sense of age made us realize that our Urbana home, ancient by Illinois standards, was really modern and youthful -- at 60+. Grandma O'Connor was preserving its youth in our absence.*

John parked his car in Harvard Yard and enjoyed a stimulating association with the eminent scholars of Cambridge-on-the-Charles.

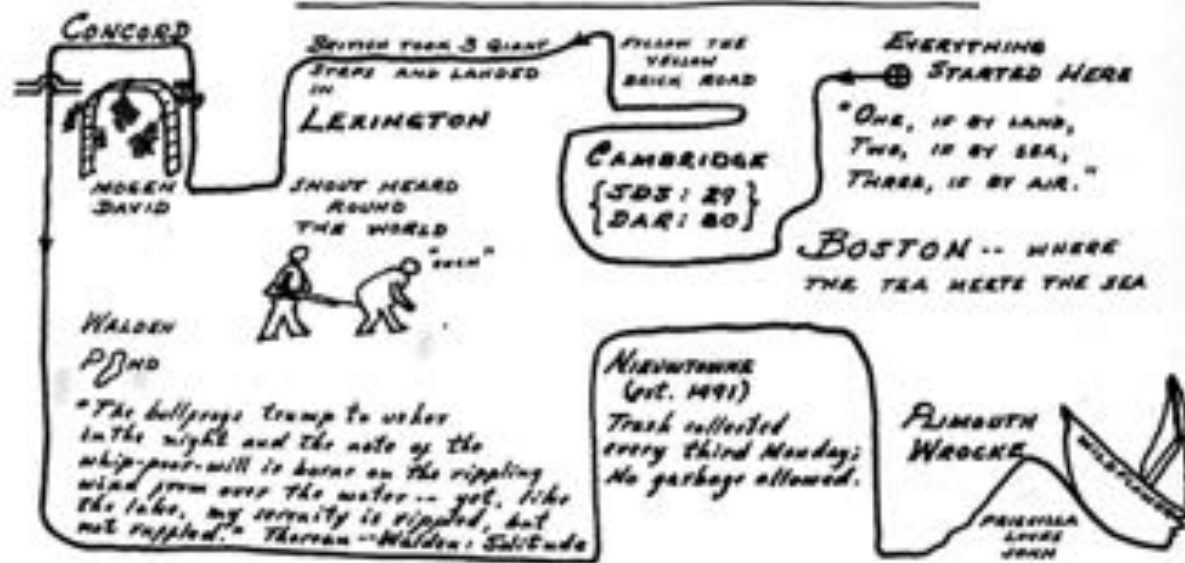


Tommy initiated his academic career by enrolling in nursery school. So far, he is doing well in nuclear physics, but is having difficulty with spelling.

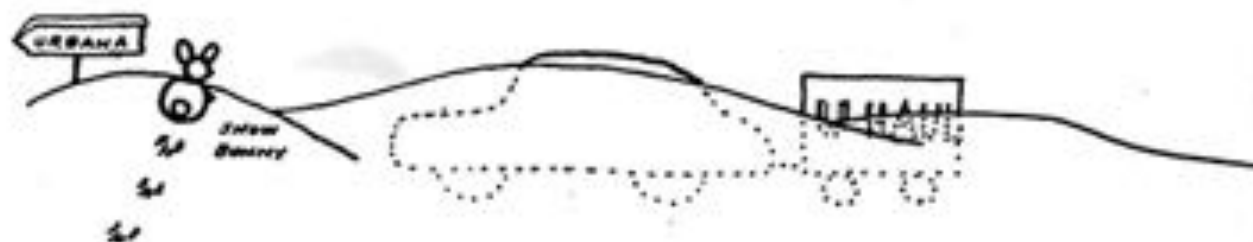


We spent many happy days travelling around the New England countryside during the autumn season. In time, we came to learn some of the history of our nation's birthplace.

### TOUR OF HISTORYLAND, U.S.A.

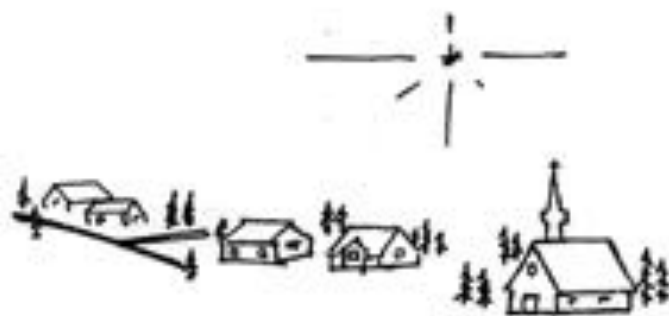


*In January, we'll be trudging back to Urbana (hopefully, not through the six-foot snowdrifts which added untold beauty to the New England landscape last winter).*



*This year, however, we will be celebrating Christmas in Newtonville. We expect that this will be a joyous Christmas for us. We hope that it will be for you also.*

*the O'Connor's*



*"Let us cast aside the pretense of sturdy men, and live, if only for a day, in the hope and joy we knew as children."*

*Christmas prayer  
by an unknown author*





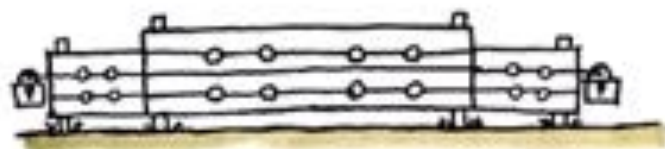


*We gratefully acknowledge the gift of another year of peace and tranquility.*

*We returned from our too-short sabbatical leave late in January with an 18<sup>th</sup> Century Italian cupid birdbath, a statue of baby St. Francis and other nonessentials accumulated during our five-month stay in Massachusetts. More important, we returned with a new perspective of life in the Bay colony.*



*Sale! Price includes bird, soap & towel.*





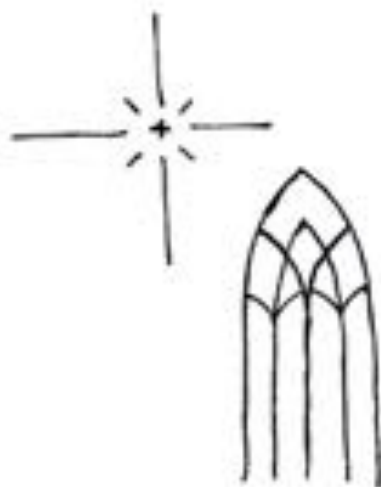






For my part, I continued work towards an M.S. degree in Park Administration and Recreation. Progress is slow, but the work is fun. I also joined some women's clubs: American Association of University Women, Housewives Interested in Pollution Solutions (HIPS), as part of my effort to save the world.

My interest in Girl Scouting is unabated. I came out of retirement to work at Day Camp this past summer. Tommy & Heather romped in the "Papoose" unit, as I led the silver-throated Brownies in song.

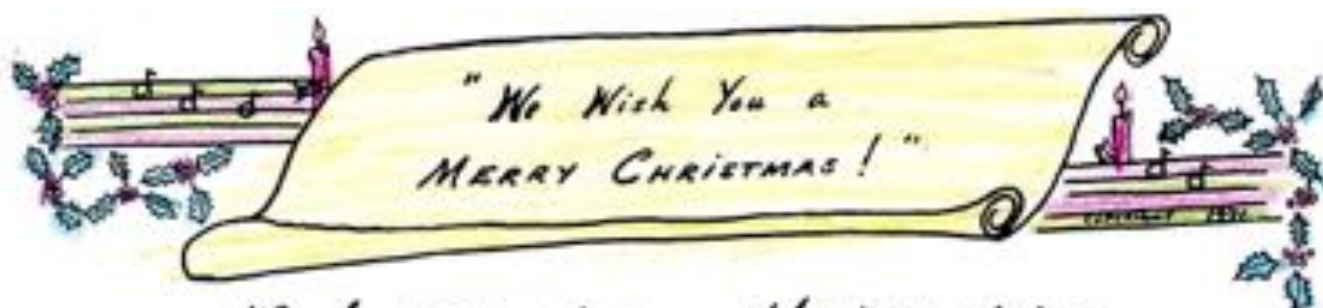


And, in the New Year --

"May the road rise to meet you,  
 May the wind be always at your back,  
 May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
 the rains fall soft upon your fields  
 and, until we meet again,  
 May God hold you in the palm of his hand."  
 An Irish Blessing

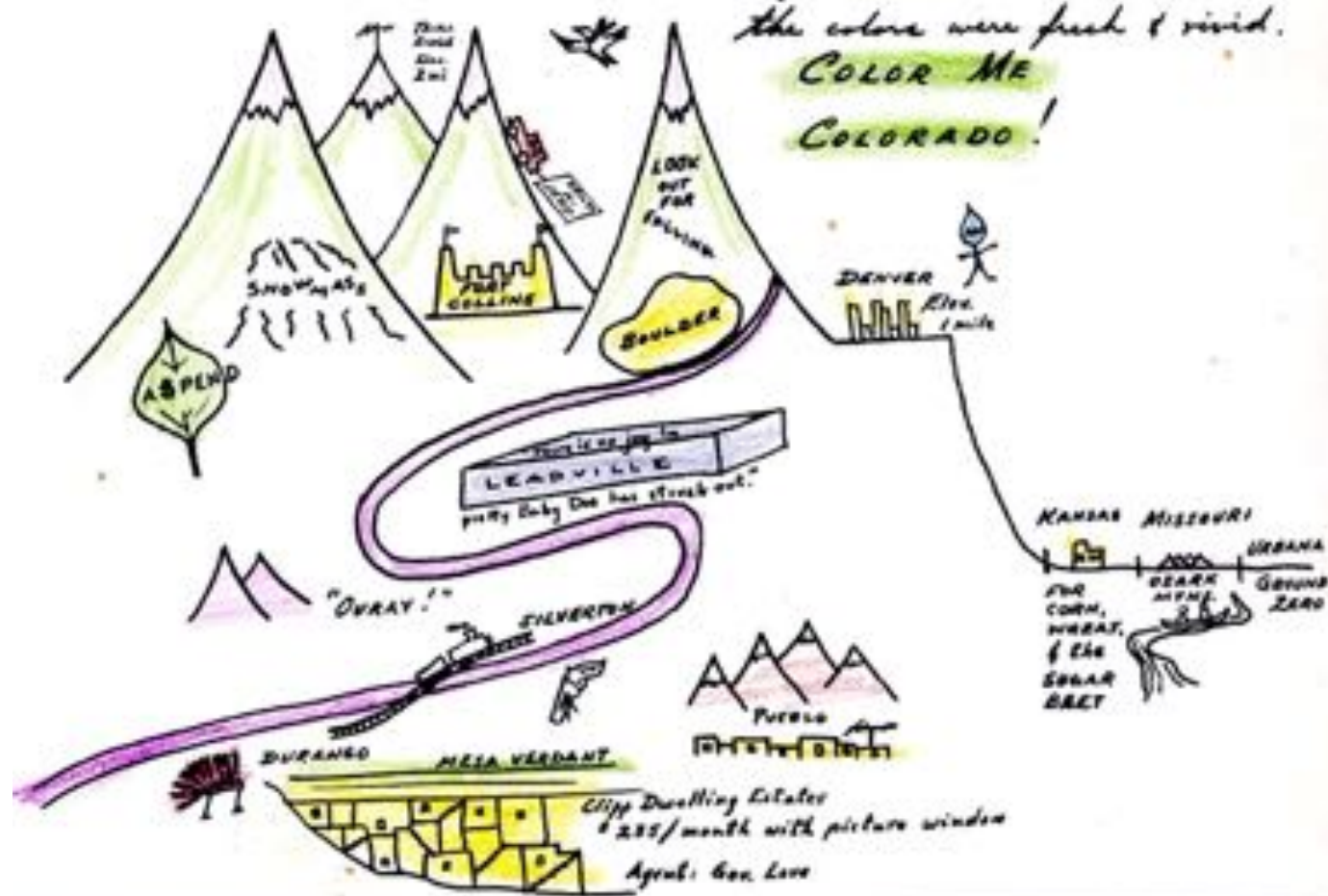






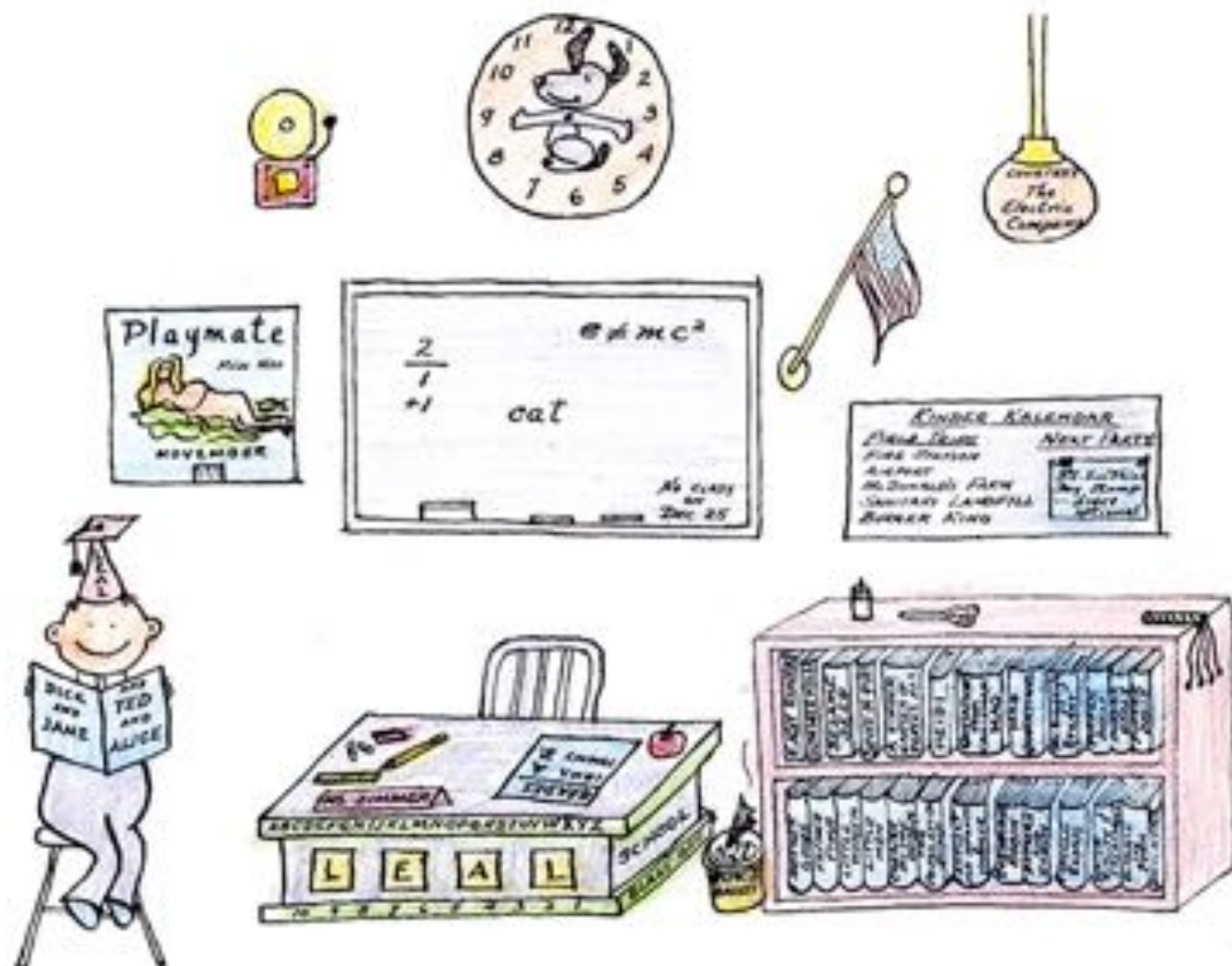
We have enjoyed many blessings during the past year... simple ones... such as health, happiness and love. We sincerely hope that a measure of these simple blessings has come your way also.

One of the HIGH points of our year was reached in June after Tommy, Heather and I helped John attend a waterworks conference in Colorado. It was spring in the Rockies and the colors were fresh & vivid.  
COLOR ME  
COLORADO!





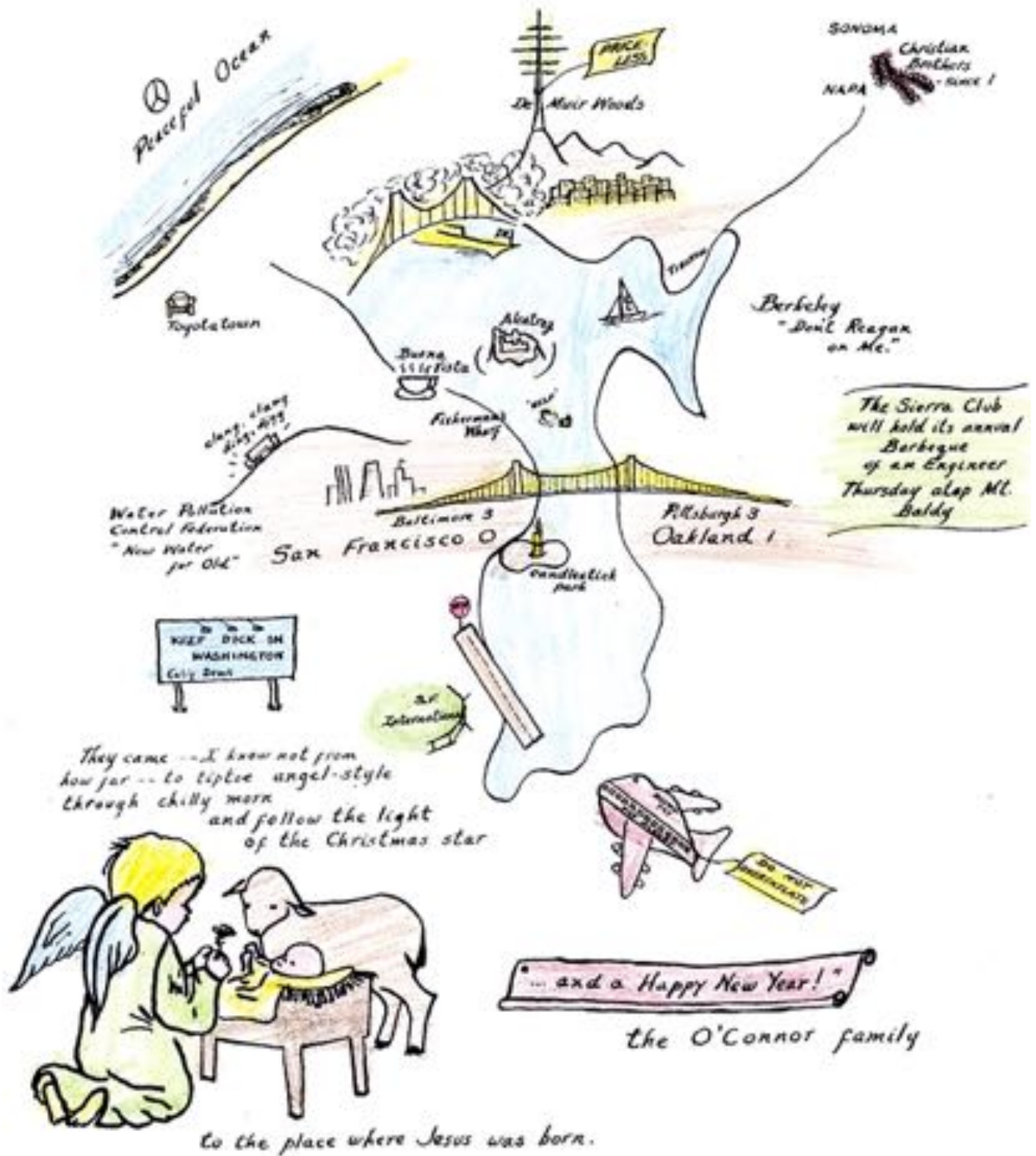
Tommy started Kindergarten in September. In his absence Heather finally got her chance to dominate the household. We got our chance to join the P.T.A.



In October, Grandma & Grandpa Clever took charge of Tommy & Heather so John & I could travel to San Francisco. John was attending a conference on pollution control. We found time to look at the city, Bay, ocean, northern peninsula, Muir woods and wine country. However, John missed seeing the local ~~sewage treatment plants~~ water pollution control facilities.

I was thrilled by the flight and the trip as it was the first time I had ever been west of Colorado.

# San Francisco Guidebook











We are grateful to report that 1972 has been a happy year for us. We hope it has been the same for you.

This year, Tommy played his way through kindergarten and into first grade. Despite less play and more responsibility, he likes it.

Heather has, at last, been liberated from a daily routine of "Life with Mother." She is now enrolled in

READING, WRITING  
AND ARITHMETIC  
ARE A GROOVE.

JACK AND JILL PLAYSCHOOL.

With guidance from Tommy, himself an alumnus of Jack & Jill, she has learned how to pack a tremendous amount of play into her 2 1/2-hour daily session.

In June, Tommy and Heather joined the "Papoose Unit" at the Girl Scout Day Camp while I taught, sang and learned a few new songs.

During the year, the children diverted the family's cultural and recreational activities into other channels, notably N.E.T.

[illegible]











 "We wish you a Merry Christmas!"

Every day of 1973 has been a



for which we are extremely grateful.

  
"WHEN IT'S  
SPRINGTIME  
IN THE  
ROCKIES."

John and I began our travels by taking a spring skiing vacation in Colorado.



We discovered  
KEYSTONE Ski  
Area while the

children hunted for the Easter bunny at their grandparents' home in Batavia.

On the drive home from Colorado, we read "BURY MY HEART AT WOUNDED KNEE" as we drove through the country where many of the events took place. We grieved and were deeply ashamed.



In June, John and I participated in the University of Illinois commencement exercises. For John, it was the first time in 12 years on the faculty; for me, it was to receive my M.S. degree in recreation & park administration.





"SUMMER  
TIME  
AND THE  
LIVIN'  
AS  
EASY..."

Except for his dozen graduate students, John was unemployed during the summer. So, we took the opportunity to take a camping trip around Lake Michigan. This was

coupled with a conference on water quality at Ann Arbor and a visit to the Muskegon, Michigan, facility for waste water disposal.

Ultimately, we came upon better water.



Finally, John and I had an opportunity to spend a week in New York. Raindrops kept falling on our heads.

We anticipate much less travel in the future.





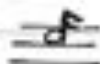
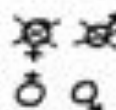
This summer the children enjoyed their first visit from their Massachusetts cousins. My brother, Bob, his wife, Cal, and their children, Jay and Esie, spent several days with us in Urbana. Mom and Dad came down from Batavia and Dad took the whole tribe to dinner.



Tommy is now addicted to chess and Heather has become a "libber." While Tommy challenges everyone who comes into the house with Fisher-like confidence, Heather refers to all indeterminate creatures as "she".



P-KB3 P-K4  
P-KN4 Q-R5



".... and a Happy New Year!"

With warmest (but minus  $3^{\circ}\text{C}$   $5^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) regards,

O'Connor family.









# CHRISTMAS 1974

-- and our little ship sails on!



We hope that this has been another wonderful year for you -- that you have survived the rapids and the shoals -- and that you have found your voyage through life exciting and filled with adventure.

Our voyage took us to Utah for a week of skiing last April. We anticipated a perilous journey as we joined a group of hardy skiers and contemplated the precipitous declines of Alta, Snowbird & Park City. Fortunately, we survived all our descents with no more damage than sunburned noses.



In June, Tommy & Heather completed milestones in their academic careers: Second grade & Playschool, respectively.

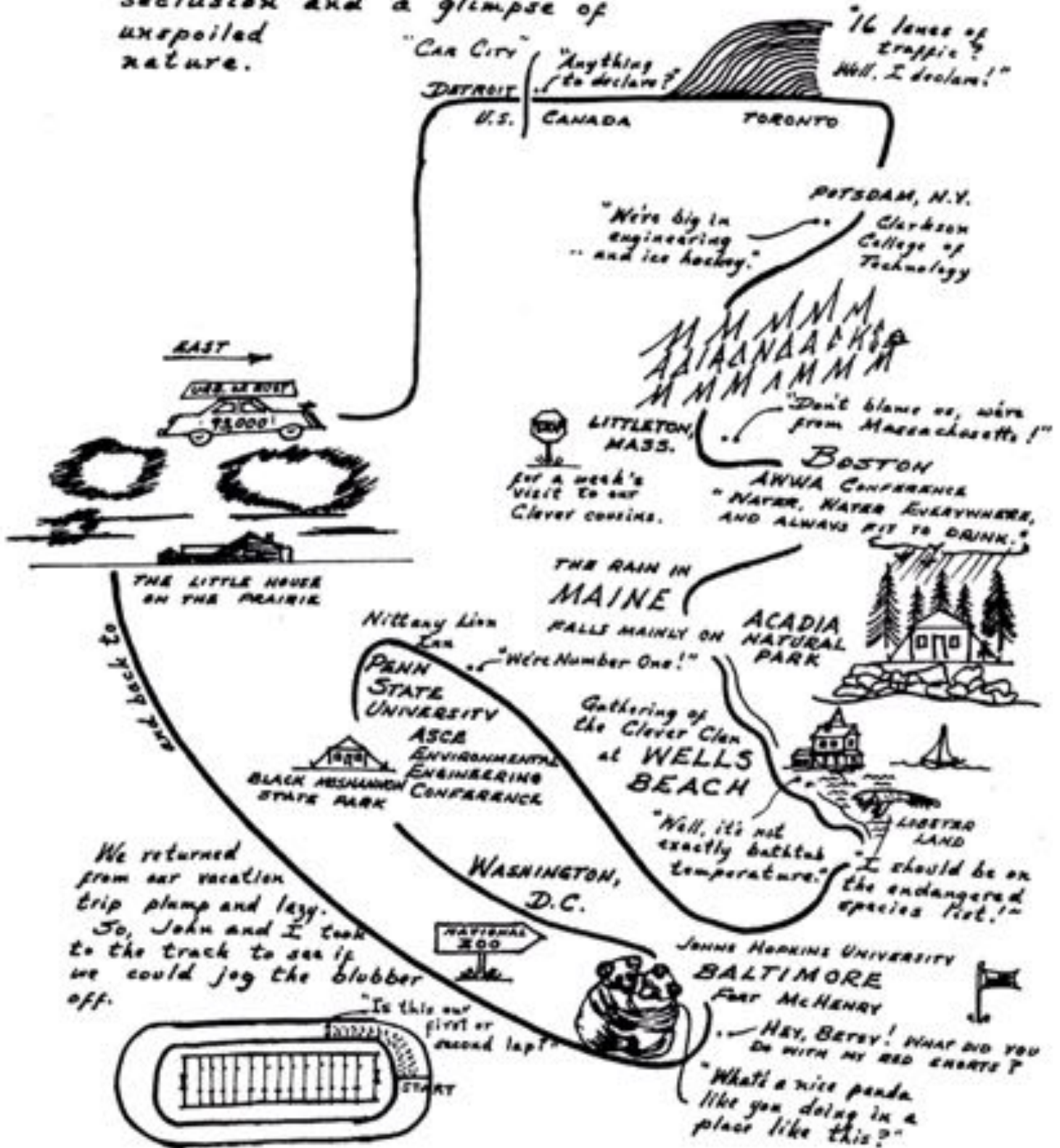
## ACADEMIC PLAN

Playschool - Kindergarten - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 - 11 - 12  
 TOMMY ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓  
 HEATHER ✓

FRESHPERSON - SOPHOMORE - JUNIOR - SENIOR - MASTERS - DOCTORATE  
 POST-DOCTORATE - RETIREMENT



At the next high tide, we loaded our well-travelled car to the gunnels and set our course for an extended voyage to the mystic East. For 5 weeks we meandered from garden spot to garden spot in search of beauty, seclusion and a glimpse of unspoiled nature.



John & I acted in our first play in August for the national meeting of teachers in homemaker's extension. We also made our first film (rated R<sup>+</sup> for recyclable.) The play was entitled "Lifestyles... A Recycladrama." John played the role of 'Ernie Ecology' while I was 'Rhoda Recycle' in an upbeat version of boy meets girl at the trash can.

JOHN & JONI  
in  
LIL SWEET'S PRODUCTION  
of  
"LIFESTYLES"



"Love me, Love my  
Garbage!"  
"Oh, you ~~mad~~ impatient  
peel!"



In the fall, John went to Denver to bone up on pollution. I accompanied him to bone up on shopping. I also enjoyed lunching with friends, including some I had made while working for the Mile-Hi Girl Scout Council.

Around the first of the year, our little family will be navigating the mighty Mississippi to take up residence in Columbia, Missouri. Columbia is a pleasant town of about 60,000. It is also the home of the University of Missouri ("Old Mizzou") John will become Chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering at UMC. As he puts it, he is "stepping down into administration."

"All I want is less to do, more time to do it, and more pay for not getting it done."

As of January 3, 1973, our new address will be:

806 Leewood Terrace  
Columbia, Missouri 65201

In the new year, we hope you will live well, laugh often and love much, "for these are the good old days."

"For yesterday is but a dream,  
and tomorrow is only a vision,  
But today, well lived, makes  
yesterday a dream of happiness  
and every tomorrow a vision  
of hope."

"Keep us going, Lord!"

1973









# MERRY CHRISTMAS - 1975



This year we greet you from  
Columbia, the gem of the nation.  
It is truly a lovely town in the  
middle of a beautiful state and  
country.

The first move of our marriage  
ended with all of us nestled snugly  
in the land of Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher.

In February, the four of us  
attended the Missouri Water  
Pollution Control Association  
meeting at the land of the  
Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks.  
We arrived in a heavy snowstorm  
and were snowbound for two  
wonderful days.

While John talked 'pollution',  
the children and I swam  
(indoors and outdoors) and  
played (pool, air hockey,  
ping-pong). We bowled,  
shopped, hiked and frolicked  
in the freshly fallen snow.



kikes + wops + niggers + micks +  
wasps + japs + krauts + pollocks +  
dagos + chinks + hankies + libbors +  
Indians + etcetera = U.S.A.



"We're from the  
 Heart of America!  
 George Fox Insurance  
 Company of  
 Independence, Kansas

WELCOME TO FLORIDA --  
THE FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED  
STATE

So way down upon the  
Sukwanee River... So


The O'Connell Tour of the South  
or "How to see America on less than  
\$100 per day."

Our excuse for going to Disney World in July was an American Society of Civil Engineers meeting in Gainesville. After enjoying the beautiful University of Florida campus, we luxuriated in our tent for a week at Fort Wilderness visiting the Magic Kingdom, Treasure Island and Botanical Gardens. All four of us 'roids' had our time in the glittering pleasureland.

Tom, Heather and I began piano lessons this year. After a few months that he had finally the instrument. or and I are still working at it.

ENERGY: SPECIAL 12  
THE HUNTERS  
 ENDANGERED SPECIES

If it's such a small world, why does it take so long to get to

DISNEY  
WORLD   
(LAS VEGAS  
FOR SMALL FRY)

The Water Pollution Control Federation met in Miami Beach in October.

John and I returned to Florida for the meeting while Mom and Dad Clever packed school lunches, settled disagreements, gave goodnight kisses, answered riddles, played children's games and ministered to hurt fingers and feelings in Columbia. It is hard to say who had the most fun.

I'm back in Girl  
Scouting in Columbus.  
This time I am Brownie  
leader for fourteen dear  
first, second and third  
grade girls. Heather is  
one of them.





John's position at the University of Missouri is proving to be as stimulating and interesting as he had anticipated. Professional activities have taken him to New Orleans, Minneapolis, Madison, Lafayette, Atlanta and Prairie Home, Missouri (Population: 150; 28 miles from Columbia.) As an administrator, he feels that he is a freshman, starting all over again. It is hard to tell his glossy of paper from that other white stuff flying around.

Time sure flies when you're behind in your work.

We do wish that the joy of this holiday season will be with you throughout the year.

the O'Connor's

"The world and the books are so accustomed to use, and over-use, the word 'new' in connection with our country, that we early get and permanently retain the impression that there is nothing old about it."

Life on the Mississippi  
Mark Twain



CHRISTMAS 1975:  
AMERICA'S BUY-CENTENNIAL





Merry  
Christmas



1976

We hope you have enjoyed a year of joyous life, good health and gentle love. We can gratefully report that our little family has remained healthy and busy throughout the year.

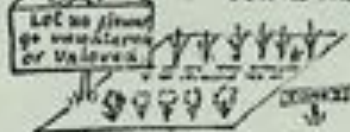
We occupied ourselves with a wonderful array of perfectly ordinary, but exciting, adventures.

Wonderful Array of Perfectly Ordinary {<sup>but</sup> exciting} Adventures

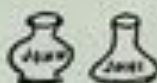
FAMILY GARDEN

Let no flower  
go unwatered  
or unloved.

Plant a little seed,  
Poll a little weed!

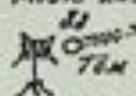


POTTERY CLASS

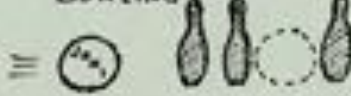


"Pot is something  
you make, not grow!"

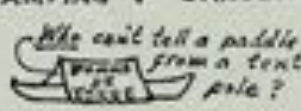
MUSIC LESSONS



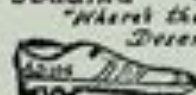
BOWLING



CAMPING & CANOEING



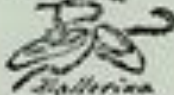
JOGGING



ICE SKATING



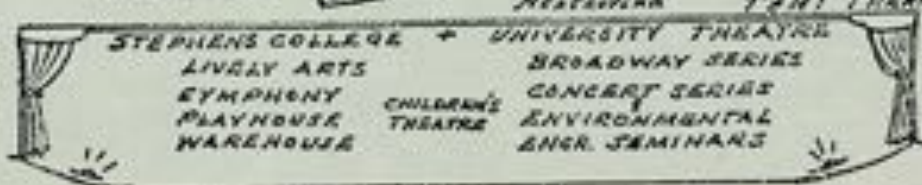
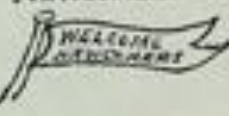
BALLET



STAR TREK CLUB



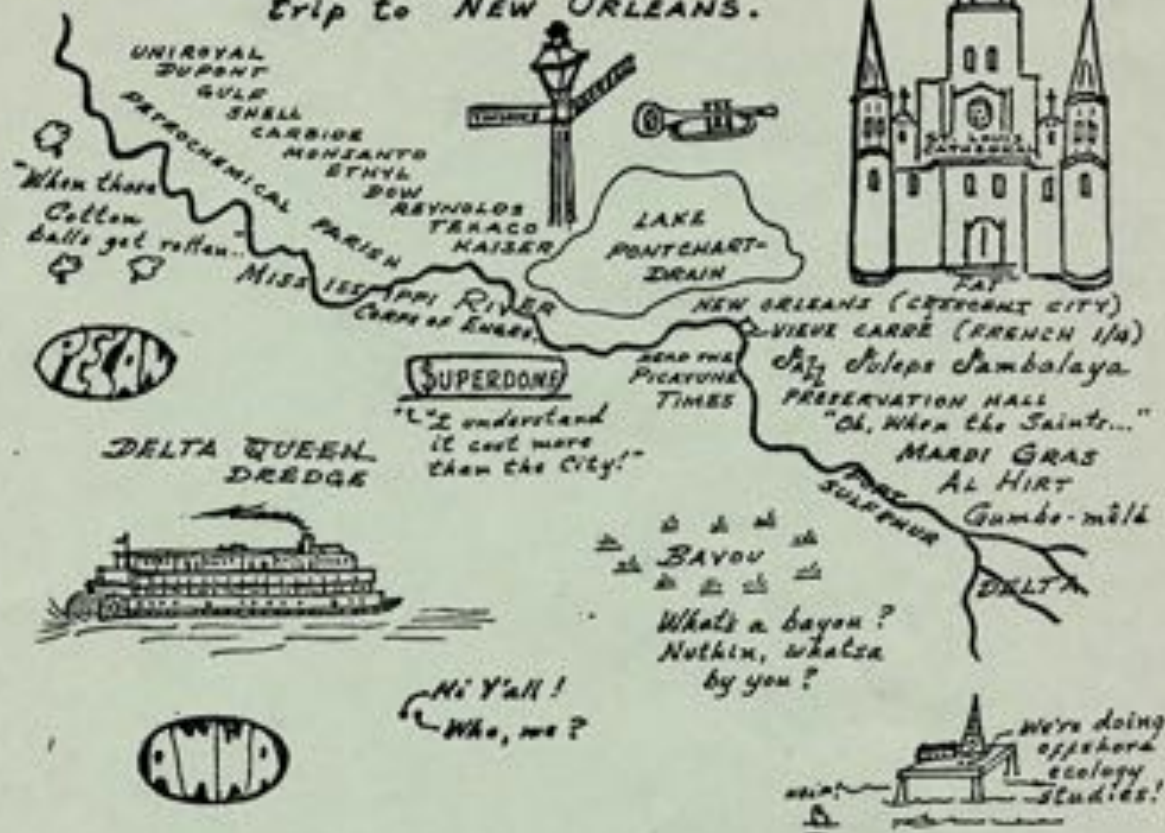
NEWCOMERS



GIRL SCOUT  
BROWNIES  
JONI - LEADER  
HEATHER - LEADER



We did, however, get away from the mundane routine for a refreshing trip to NEW ORLEANS.

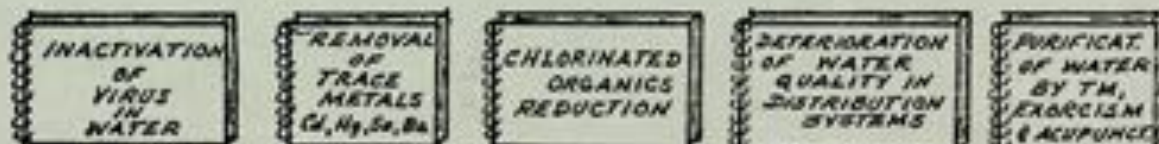


John & I also sejournd to Batavia to attend my High School class reunion. It was fun to see how 20 years had transformed our gawky group of teenagers into handsome, mature adults.

#### YEARS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
GO TO COLLEGE	STUDY LAHAZE	JOIN PTA	TENNIS	JOGGING	APPLY FOR MEDICARE	GET A JOB	BUY A CAR	BUY A HOUSE	BUY INSURANCE	BUY CEMETERY PLOT	GET MARRIED	HAVE A BABY	GET DIVORCE	DIET	REHARRY	KEEP REGULAR	TAKE VACATION	BUY NOW-PAY LATER	SWING STOCKS	RETIRE TO SOUTH AMERICA

Back in Columbia, John was starting a number of new research projects on water supply.





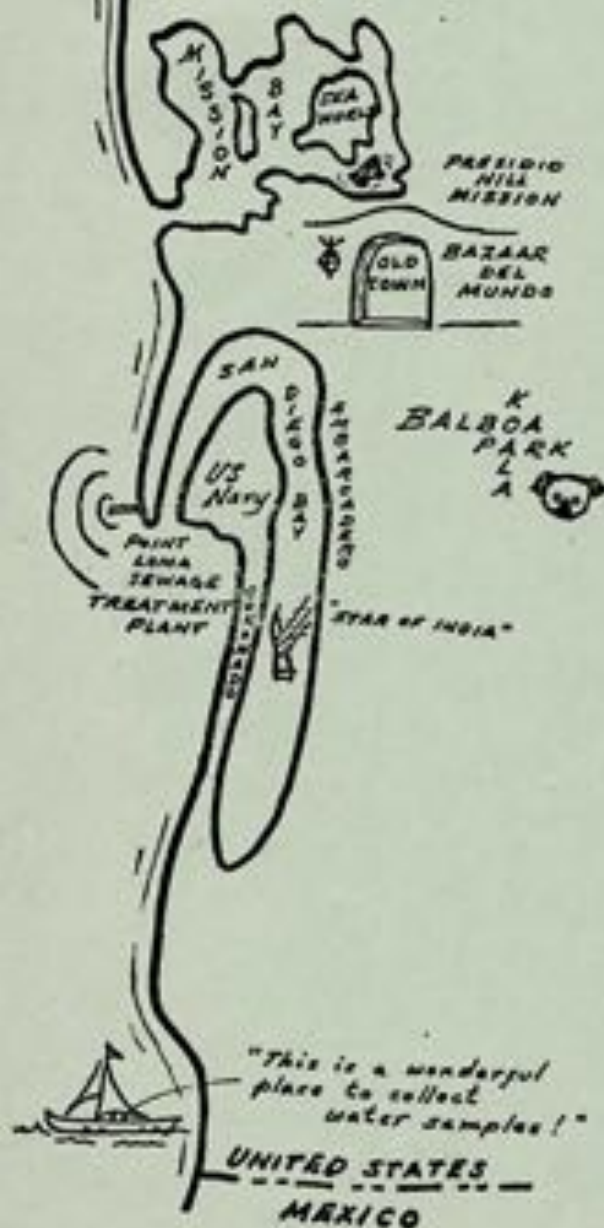
SLIPPER  
INSTITUTION  
OR  
OCEANOGRAPHY

LA JOLLA

Early in December John & I went to  
SAN DIEGO while Mom stayed with Tom & Heather.

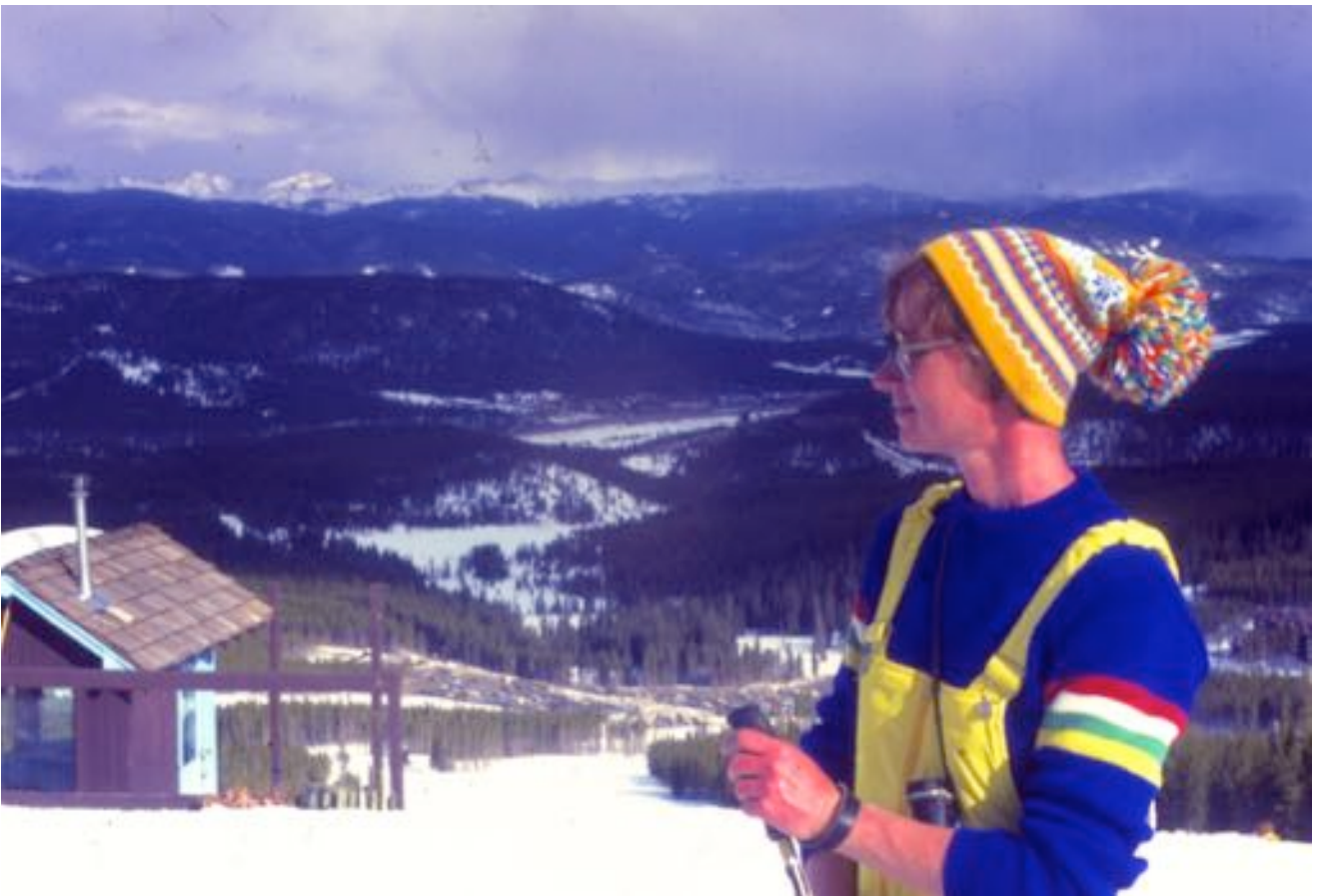
While John went to the Water Works meeting, I visited the  
Zoo and shopped in Tijuana. Together, we rented a car  
and drove up the coast along the ocean.

As we begin our twelfth  
year of Christmas as a family,  
we wish you a year filled with  
life's most important gifts.



TIJUANA  
SILVER POTTERY TURQUOISE  
SARAPI PERSE TEQUILA  
SEBRITAS PINATA TAXI









*We wish you a most  
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON  
1977*

*We hope it has been a joyous year for you.*



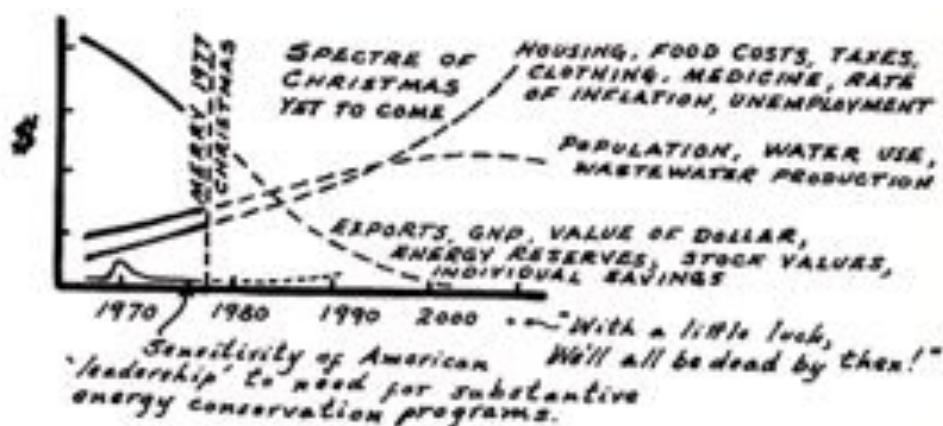
*For our Twelfth Year of CHRISTMAS  
the Good Lord gave to us ....  
continued Life and Happiness.*

*Early this spring, the University of  
Missouri Medical Center found that  
Joni had a brain tumor. Surgery  
for its removal was a dramatic  
success. Within six weeks, Joni & I  
were jogging together again.*

*"I feel a little lightheaded  
these days!"*

*ife*

Before long,  
John returned to  
the task of keeping  
track of America's  
future.

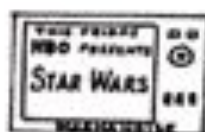


Heather and Tom  
were involved in more  
pastoral pursuits.

### GOURMET DINING

Italian - Pizza Palace  
Mexican - Taco Bell  
Country - Col. Sanders  
Seafood - Long John's  
French - House of Fries  
Mod. Amer. - Burger King  
Desserts - Dairy Queen

### ENTERTAINMENT



### HOBBIES



### TRANSPORTATION



Onk! XXXX 10-speed  
"racing bike"

During the summer we travelled to North Dakota for an  
Engineering Educator's Conference; to Chicago (a suburb of  
Batavia) to see King Tut, Sears Tower, Field Museum,  
Shedd Aquarium, Grandpa, Grandma and the Clover Clan.

Later we went to Philadelphia to learn more  
about water pollution control.



"On the whole,  
I'd rather be in  
PHAMOUS  
PHILADELPHIA"



BURKINDER'S  
RESTAURANT  
"Scappie and  
Huckpuppie  
Please!"

FRANKLIN  
COUNTY



BELLEVUE  
STRAFFORD  
(FOR SALE)

ACADEMY  
OF MUSIC  
"the house  
that Ormandy  
built."



CARPENTER'S  
HALL  
(LOCAL #1)

DECLARATION OF  
INDEPENDENCE  
"In Independent!"

"the purport of  
happineff!"



How many observe Christ's  
Birth-day;  
How few his Precepts!  
O 'tis easier to keep Holidays  
than Commandments.

POOR RICHARD'S ALMANACK



*One of the highlights of our year came in late October when we travelled through the rolling hills of Southwest Missouri.*

*The warm weather and vivid autumn colors were at their peak, as we wended our way to a tasteful and seemingly authentic view of American mountain life at the turn of the century.*

*SILVER DOLLAR CITY*  
*"You have a great past ahead of you!"*



*We wish you a joyous holiday season and may your New Year be filled with Happiness and Contentment.*

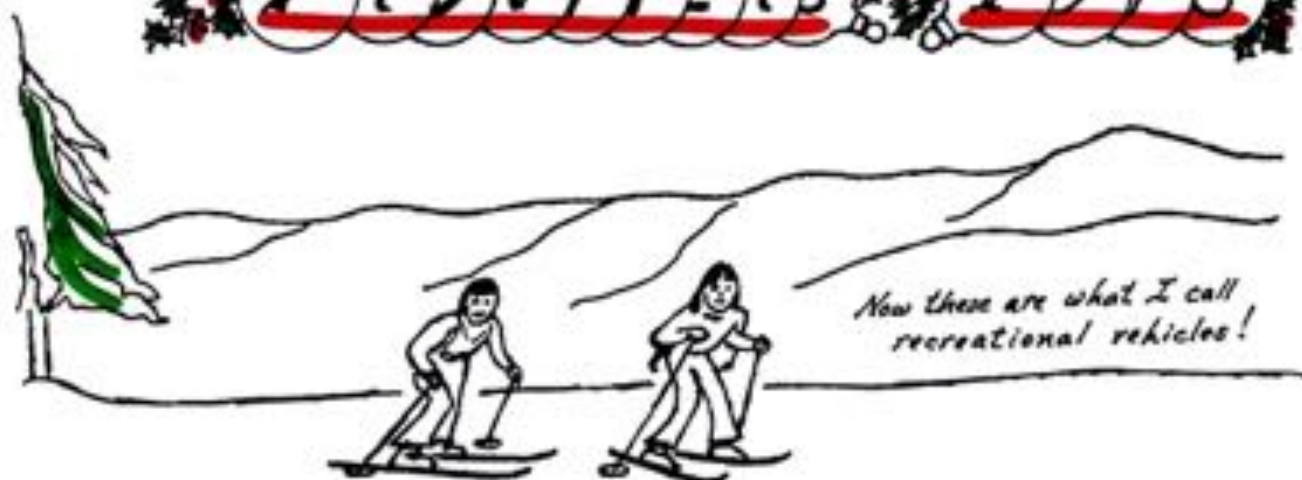








# FRONTIERS 1978



May Each New Year Bring You  
New Frontiers to experience,  
to explore, to enjoy!

*This ridge is broken!*

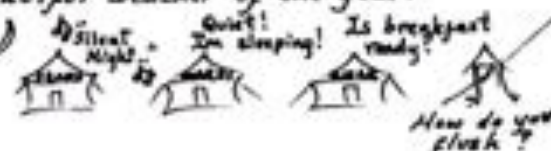


Breckenridge, Colorado, was the frontier for Tom & Heather's introduction to downhill skiing.

Despite Tom's broken ski and a full set of sunburned noses, it appears that future ski trips will be family affairs.

Heather's newest frontier is Junior Scouts where overnights, badgework and cookie selling eclipses the excitement experienced in Brownies.

We tent camped with 29 girls in November during some of the most beautiful weather of the year.



# PAPER BOY RULES

**WET PAPER** **THROW AWAY** **NO ON MESS**  
 Wet paper Merry Christmas! Bah, Humbug!

EASY

**WALK** **CLIMB** **WALK**  
 1. Walk a crooked mile.  
 2. "Climb every mountain,  
 & fetch every paper" &

ST.

**3. "Get me to the House on time!" &**  
 Funnies missing **EARLY** **LATE** **WANT**  
 Vote for Demo. Vote for Repub. Vote

ST.

**4. "Not snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays this courier from the swift completion of his appointed rounds!"**  
 Sports page **ALWAYS** **PAID** **NEVER**  
 By tipper **NEVER** **PAID** **NEVER**

HARD

This fall, Tom ventured into the frontier of the business world with a paper route serving 80 homes. He is fond of being solvent and is saving for a Trans. Am. By the time he has sold enough papers at 9.23¢ apiece, the private automobile will be obsolete and a tank of gas will cost an equivalent of a week's pay.

John's frontiers were in water treatment research. Reporting on its progress took him to: Bozeman, Montana; Springfield, Missouri; Atlantic City, New Jersey; Miami Beach, Florida; Kansas City, Missouri; Iowa City, Iowa; and Cincinnati, Ohio.

My frontier was my fortieth birthday, a birthday which should be no different from any other, but somehow is. A small gathering of friends entertained me with a champagne breakfast of strawberry blintzes with sour cream and whipped cream. What a way to start life after forty!

"Water, water everywhere... make every drop fit to drink!"

Champagne and blintzes? Is that kosher?

This morning I was seventeen. I have barely begun the beguine and its Good night ladies Already.

While I've been wondering who to be when I grow up someday, My acne vanished away and its sagging kneecaps Already.

While I was thinking I was just a girl, My future turned into my past. The time for wild kisses goes past and its Time for Sanka Already. "How did I get to be 40 and other atrocities."

Judith Viorst

Forty is the old age of youth. Fifty is the youth of old age.

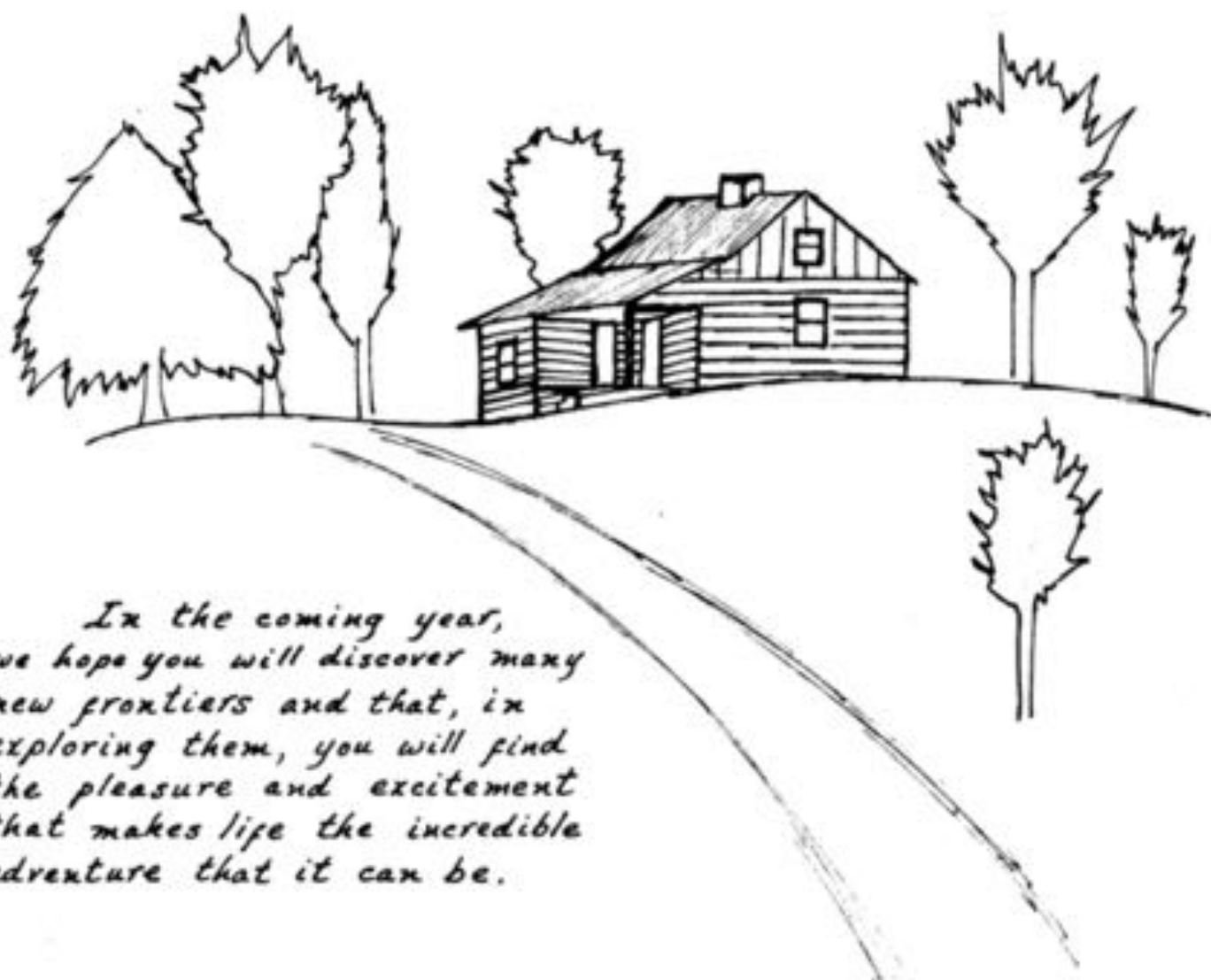
Victor Hugo

The best ten years of a woman's life are between 28 and 30.



*Our most adventure-filled frontier includes a two-story, hand-hewn oak log cabin. It resides on 120 acres of beautiful rolling, wooded Missouri countryside not far from Columbia.*

*Our family summer vacation consisted of a solid week of hammering on tin roofing and oak logs; knocking out the decades-old chinking; mixing new mortar; tearing off old siding and clearing away bushes and trees barring entrance to the cabin. Despite all this effort, our frontier is far from tamed.*



*In the coming year, we hope you will discover many new frontiers and that, in exploring them, you will find the pleasure and excitement that makes life the incredible adventure that it can be.*





JOY  
FROM  
P.R.C.E.  
CHRISTMAS  
TANNENBAUM

# UNDER YOUR 1979 CHRISTMAS TREE

WE HOPE YOU WILL FIND  
MANY GIFTS  
INCLUDING THOSE OF ....  
PEACE, LOVE,  
HAPPINESS  
AND FRIENDSHIP.



We gratefully acknowledge the gift of still another happy and peaceful year -- filled with jogging, gardening, PTA, marching band, rollerskating, baseball, bicycle repair and many other important pursuits.

We joined the "Human Race" this year, running in Columbia's new 10,000 meter event. All we got for our

efforts were sweaty socks, a T-shirt and our names on the bottom half of a long list in the newspapers.

Tom, however, finished in the top half.







We stayed close to home for most of the year --  
 enjoying a summer visit from the 'Massachusetts  
 Clevers' and the variety of excellent live entertainment  
 which abounds in Columbia.

Do we have to go out tonight?  
 We'll miss 'Monday Night Football'!  
 Where's the tickets?

Live  
 VARIETY OF EXCELLENT ENTERTAINMENT WHICH ABOUNDS IN COLUMBIA!

Stephen's College	Chancellor's Concerts	Romeo and Juliet	Pleasures
Warehouse	Daron Capland	I do, I do!	Homes
Playhouse	Carlos Montoya	Not now, Darling!	Horseshoe Room
University Theatre	Geoffrey Ballet	Pippin - Smith	Country Manors
Broadway Series	Nolerucker	Annie, get your gun!	(No tickets required!)
Maplewood Barn Theatre	This Concert Band	A Christmas Carol	CROSS-COUNTRY
U.S. GRANT SENATE 'FIRESTAY'			SKIRMISH

"Columbia is a  
 year-round  
 festival!"

It was great!  
 Wasn't she good?  
 I was bored!  
 I fell asleep!

Wishing you a  
 Toasty warm, happy  
 holiday season!



Christmas is a lovely way  
 of rounding out each year.  
 For every hearth and home aglow  
 with love and warmth and cheer.  
 And Christmas is a lovely way  
 of remembering again  
 The promise of its spirit..  
 "Peace on Earth, ~~to men~~  
 Good Will toward Men."





# Our Warmest Wishes for the 1980 Holiday Season



We hope you have enjoyed the gifts of life and love to the fullest during the past year. Our year was occupied with many happy little family activities.

-- happy little family activities --

## SPORTS

10 KILOMETER RACES!  
HUMAN RACE  
DIET PEPE!  
OCCIDENTAL

"Joni & Heather  
each took a prize,  
but Tom had the  
fastest time."

RACQUETBALL  
"-- handball with  
a racquet?"

"One - Mississippi..."

SANDLOT FOOTBALL  
AND BASEBALL

GYMNASTICS  
"Chinese Splies?"

BOWLING  
"Joni's bowling  
35 pins over  
her weight!"  
"In pounds  
or kilograms?"

## ENTERTAINMENT

"Go, Mizzou!"

MU FOOTBALL  
MU BASKETBALL  
-- tailwalkers and  
tailgaters.

KC ROYALS "At least we  
beat the  
Yankees!"

KC CHIEFS  
ST LOUIS CARDINALS

GLOBETROTTERS  
"Madewatch's 20 Lemon!"

INTERNATIONAL AND  
MADRIGAL DINNERS

"Why can't we go to  
Hardee's?"

CAMPING AND FISHING  
AT  
LAKE POMME DE TERRE  
(43°C)  
"NO, in the shade!"

## CULTURAL

WEST JR. 'PAP' BAND - TOM  
'HONORS' BAND - HEATHER

PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ  
BAND - "NO, in the shade."

BYE - BYE, BIRDIE!  
NUCLEAR BALLY

CHAPTER TWO  
TWELFTH NIGHT  
BELLE OF ANHERST

SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL  
TOYS IN THE ATTIC

FUNNY THING HAPPENED  
ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

MESSIAN "And his name  
shall be called  
Wonderful..."

ALICE IN WONDERLAND  
"Heather sang the  
role of Alice..."  
"-- just before she  
got her braces."

## CIVIC

GRANT SCHOOL  
PTA  
WEST JR. H.S.

LEAGUE OF WOMAN  
VOTERS

Recycling  
Solid Waste  
Bicycling  
"-- for a better  
America!"

COLUMBIA ART  
LEAGUE

MISSOURI RIVER  
SOCIETY

FLOAT TRIP  
"-- Let's the Year  
of the River!"

FRIENDS OF THE  
LIBRARY  
"Let's be Friends!"

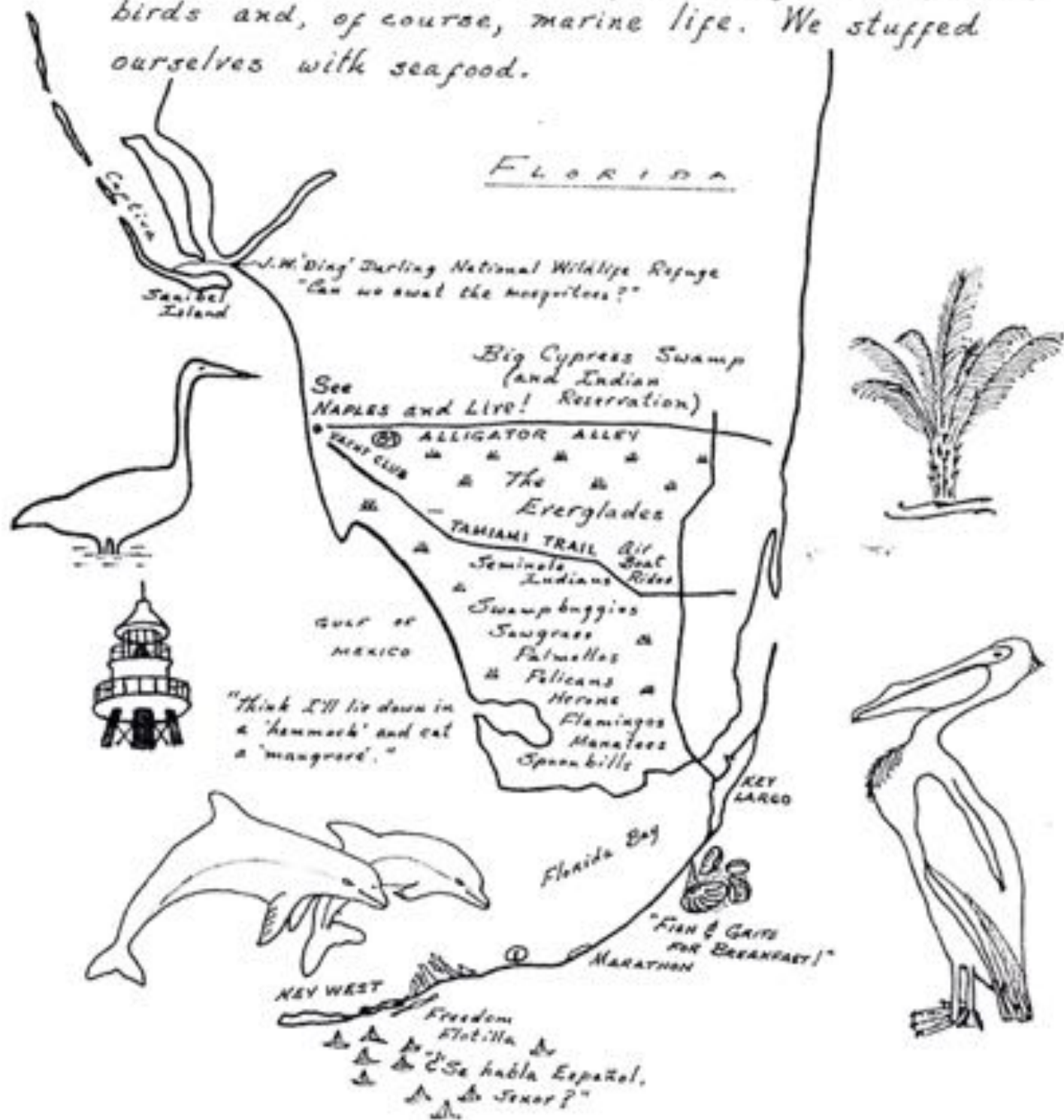
HAPPY  
NEW YEAR



METTY  
Christmas!



With snow on the ground in Missouri this past winter, we flew to Florida for our first visit to Naples and the West Coast. We visited Sanibel Island, the Everglades and the Florida Keys. It was a visit to an exciting world of exotic plants, birds and, of course, marine life. We stuffed ourselves with seafood.











MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

and

HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR

"Merry Old  
Santa Claus"

by Thomas Nast  
Harper's Weekly  
January 1, 1881



*We hope that you have shared another year of  
peace, happiness and love with your family and  
friends.*



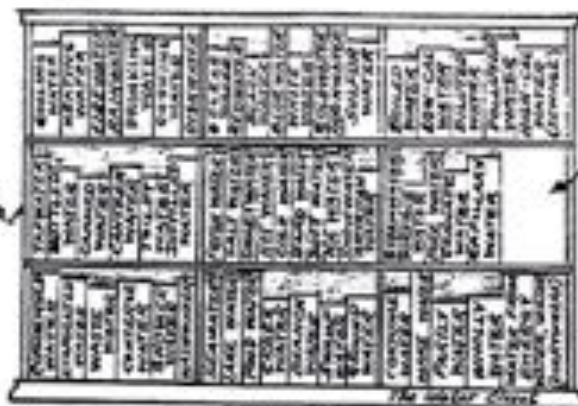
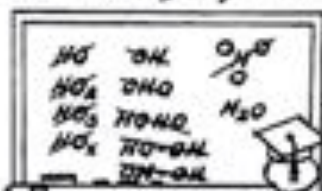
*Our year has been happy and  
tranquil -- filled with those  
ordinary daily activities that  
make life the extraordinary  
adventure that it can be.*



0, H<sub>2</sub>O, H<sub>2</sub>O!  
Christmas

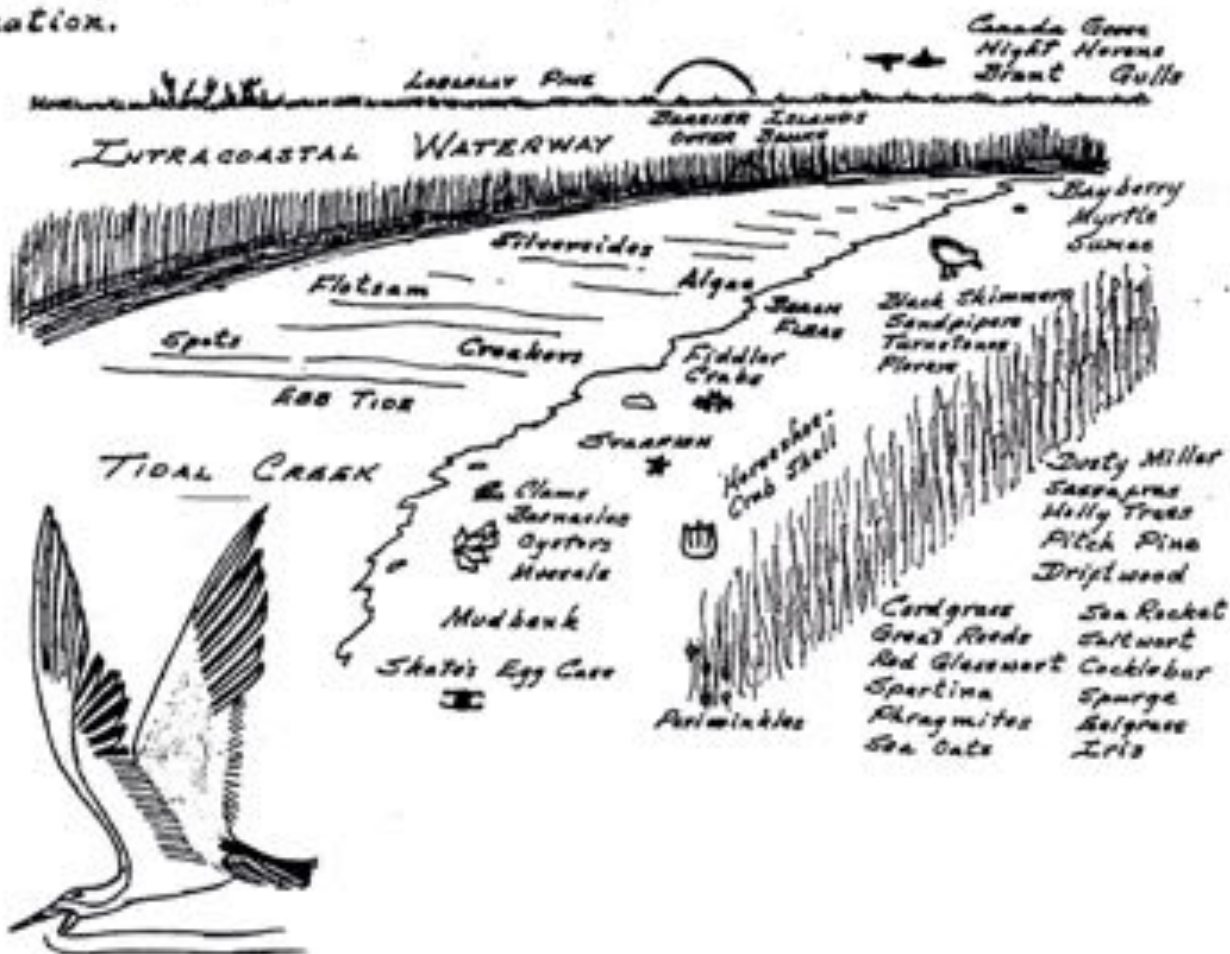
Sohn is still studying water.

In July we travelled to Atlanta, Ga. where he presented the Simon W. Freese Lecture, "Global Environmental Deterioration" and received the ASCE Freese Award.



Fill with your favorite water.

Later, at Sunset Beach, North Carolina, we enjoyed a quiet week of pier and surf fishing, kite flying, jogging, swimming, body surfing and exploring the tidal flats for marine life. Among the marine life, we found my mother and her friends on their annual N.C. vacation.







For 1½ weeks during the summer, we were host family to Yuuko Koike, a 12 year old girl from Japan. She and 14 other teenagers were here with the "Experiment in International Living." It was a fascinating experience.

In August, my Batavia High School class held its 25<sup>th</sup> reunion. We combined a visit to my parents with that silver-lined event. It was good to see so many friends from so long ago -- some I have known since kindergarten.

In this, our 16<sup>th</sup> Christmas letter, we wish you a happy holiday season and a new year filled with love.

Christmas is a promise  
we make to ourselves  
when we write our annual  
Christmas letters,  
the promise that we will try  
to keep in touch more often  
with those we love but seldom see.

Pearl S. Buck



*SING! CHOIRS OF ANGELS  
SING IN EXULTATION  
SING, ALL YE CITIZENS  
OF HEAVEN ABOVE*



*.. with angelic host  
proclaim, Christ is  
born in Bethlehem  
.. and heaven and  
nature sing...  
... that glorious song  
of old...  
Hark! The herald  
angels sing...  
... the virgin sings  
her lullaby...  
.. ring, ring, ring...  
I heard the bells  
on Christmas Day...  
Angels we have  
heard on high,  
sweetly singing  
o'er the plains..*

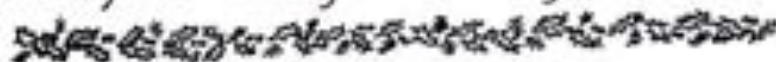


*O, hear the  
angelic voices...  
... then peal the bells,  
more loud and deep...  
.. songs of good cheer...  
... troll the ancient  
Yuletide carol...  
sweet singing in the choir  
Here we come  
a-wassailing...  
.. sing a sleighing  
song tonight...  
Ye, who sang a  
creation's story...  
... whom shepherds guard  
and angels sing...  
... twelve drummers drumming,  
seven pipers piping...*



*Hark! We send You a Song  
to Celebrate the Joy of Christmas!*

*We hope the echoes of its refrain will bring  
you comfort throughout the year.*



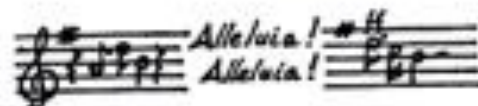
*This year, the little world of our family  
has been alive with the sound of music.*

*Tom flirted with electrocution as he assembled  
the impedimenta of the modern guitarist. In  
addition to organizing a rock group, Tom played  
tenor saxophone in his high school marching and  
pep bands. They are a loud and happy crew.*



*... 100 Watts?  
Ours more  
than enough!*

*... 'round you Virgin,  
Mother and Child..*

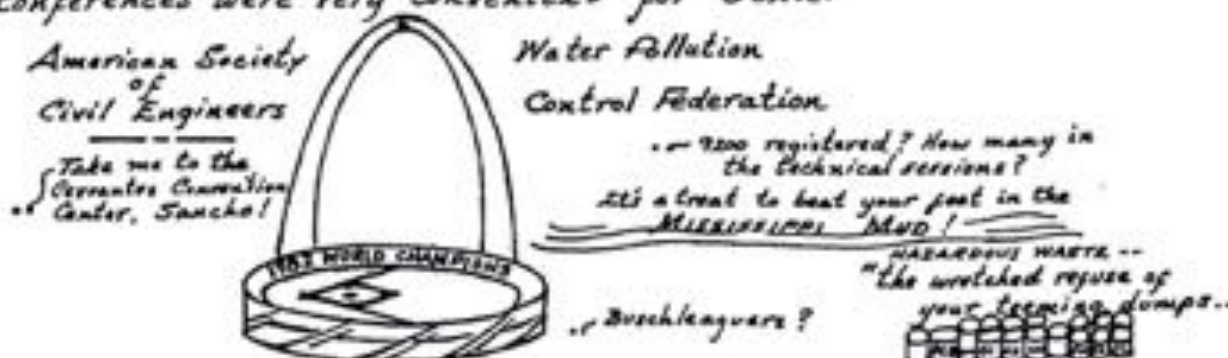




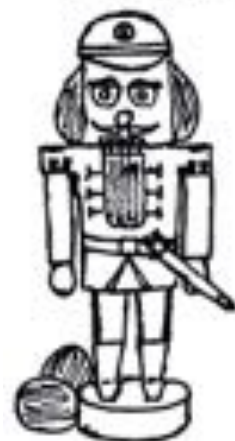
Heather was one of the gaggle of clarinetists in her Junior High School marching and pep bands. Heather also enjoyed singing in the school choir. Her appearance changed noticeably when her teeth braces were removed and she switched from glasses to contact lenses. With gymnastics and ballet as additional diversions, Heather's days are full and varied.



John had a happy year doing what he enjoys most, working with students on projects. He is now working to establish a University Hazardous Waste Research Center. Aside from trips to Minneapolis, Orlando, Cincinnati and Nashville, some of this year's conferences were very convenient for John.



In Columbia, we took advantage of a wealth of cultural events, including a Chet Atkins concert, productions of Mame, Music Man, South Pacific, Christmas Carol and, a special favorite, the Nutcracker. We jogged and did some biking in the Amish country, north of Columbia, to fill in the lulls.



We returned to Sunset Beach, N.C. for a vacation at the ocean. The week was especially pleasant because we shared a rental cottage with our good friends, the Novaks, who now live in Virginia.

Unexpectedly, I was invited to become a volunteer announcer for the University of Missouri-Columbia National Public Radio station (KBIA). On Mondays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., I try to correctly pronounce the names of classical compositions, composers and artists while juggling tapes, records and interspersing public service announcements. If all goes right, it is fun.



Once again, we wish you the best that the Season and New Year can offer. Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas...

the O'Connors



"As dry leaves that before  
the wild hurricane fly,  
when they meet  
with an  
obstacle,  
mount to  
the sky.."



## Our 1983 Season's Greetings

arrive with the hope that you  
have enjoyed a year of peace and tran-  
quility -- and that you will receive yet  
another gift of happiness for the coming year.

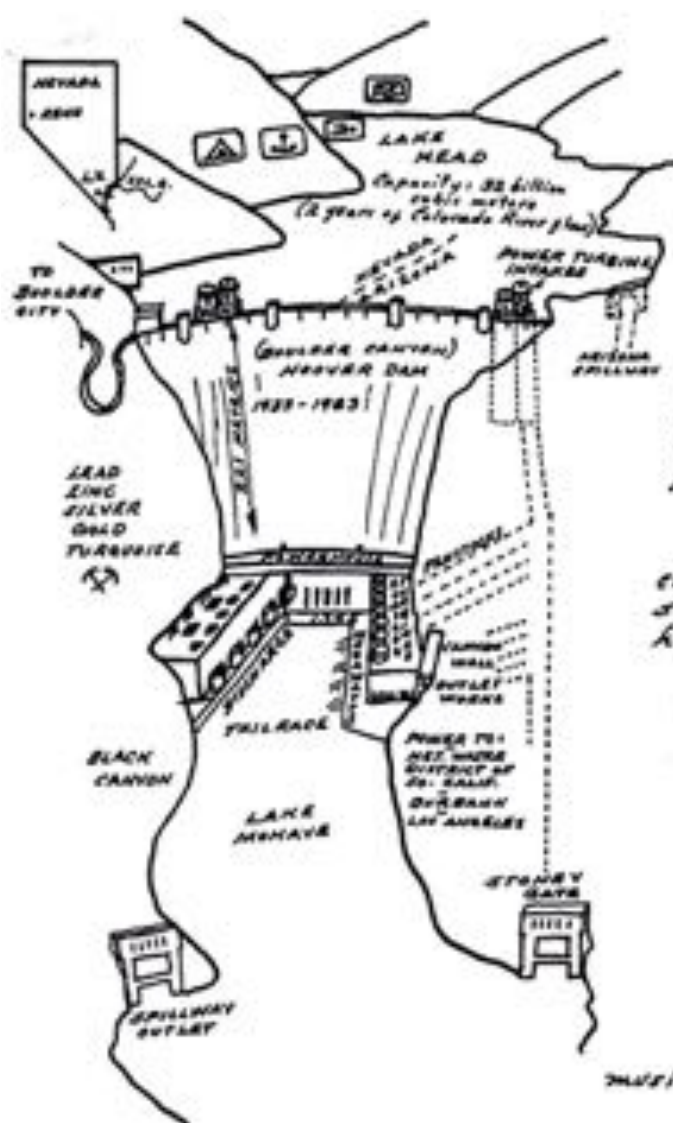
Early in the past year, we took flight  
westward. A trip to Portland, Oregon to visit  
old friends gave me the chance to see Mt. Hood  
and Timberline Lodge, walk the beach of the  
Pacific Ocean and jog the first "Columbia Crossing",  
a run between the states of Oregon & Washington  
over the new Glenn L. Jackson bridge which  
spans the Columbia River.



In June, John & I flew to Las Vegas  
for the water works meeting. "Sands, Dunes,  
Desert, Castaways and Sahara" certainly  
characterize the area. -- and, whoever  
North Las Vegas named it "Circus, Circus"  
"Totally nude!" certainly knew his  
business.



MASS 9 & 10 a.m. Sundays: St. Joseph Catholic Church



After John presented his paper, we toured the hydropower facilities at Hoover Dam.

We also visited the beautiful Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands with its 40 million year old, wind-carved, multi-colored sandstones.

Nearby, we found the Spring Mountain Ranch, now a state park after a long history dating back to 1830, when it was established as a campsite for travellers.

In Columbia, Tom and Heather enjoyed the vigorous learning and social activities of senior and junior high school, respectively.

#### VIGOROUS LEARNING/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

##### TOM:

GUITAR/SAXOPHONE  
MUSIC MAN  
ANNIE  
JAZZ BAND  
BAND CONTESTS

##### HEATHER:

BALLET  
GYMNASTICS  
CHOIR  
CHEERLEADING CAMP  
MARCHING/PEP BAND  
POM-POM  
FLAG SQUAD

CANCEL  
VIGOROUS  
ACTIVITIES

Tom also wrote, directed and played music for his senior class play.

#### SUMMER MINI-VACATIONS

Our family "vacation" this year was comprised of several trips to Kansas City and St. Louis.

On one special occasion, the Massachusetts Chapter of the Claver Clan (Bob, Cal, Jay, Susie) joined us in a rented van to go to a baseball game at scenic Royals stadium.

Who are the Royals playing?

Turn down the stereo!

Who what I want for Christmas?

We can buy a Royals cap—

... potato chips, please...

Do we have time to do some shopping?

Let's stop at the waterlids!



Is there a bathroom in here?

I didn't ask for Pepsi.

Did you bring sunglasses?

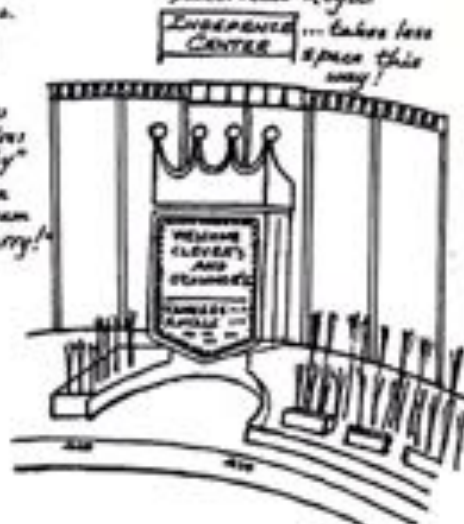
I think we need gas.

Turn the A.C. up!!



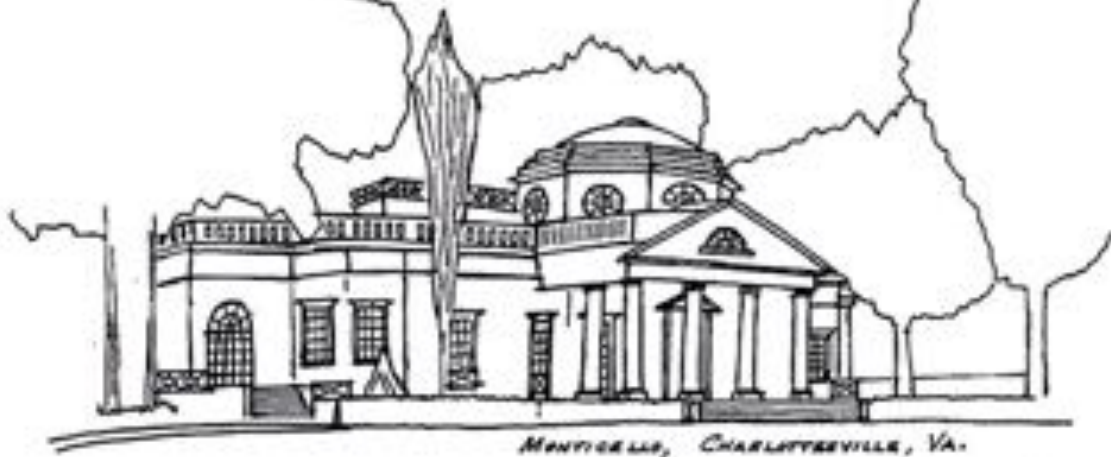
First, the Kemper  
Brown, then, the Hyatt Regency  
collapse,  
and now this..  
Crown Center  
American Royal  
Independence... takes less  
space this  
way!

Country Club Plaza  
-- nation's first  
shopping center?  
Crown Center-Hallmark  
American Royal



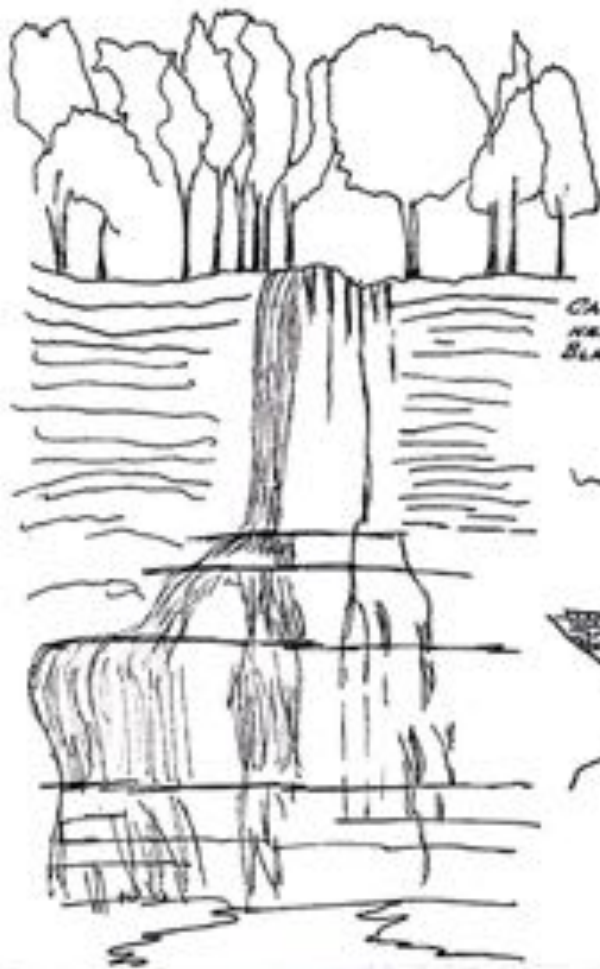


*This autumn, several friends and I drove to Virginia to visit a friend. Together, we hiked, once, in the pouring rain, on the trails of the Blue Ridge Parkway. We visited Thomas Jefferson's Monticello home and dined at Michie Tavern. The countryside was cloaked in color.*

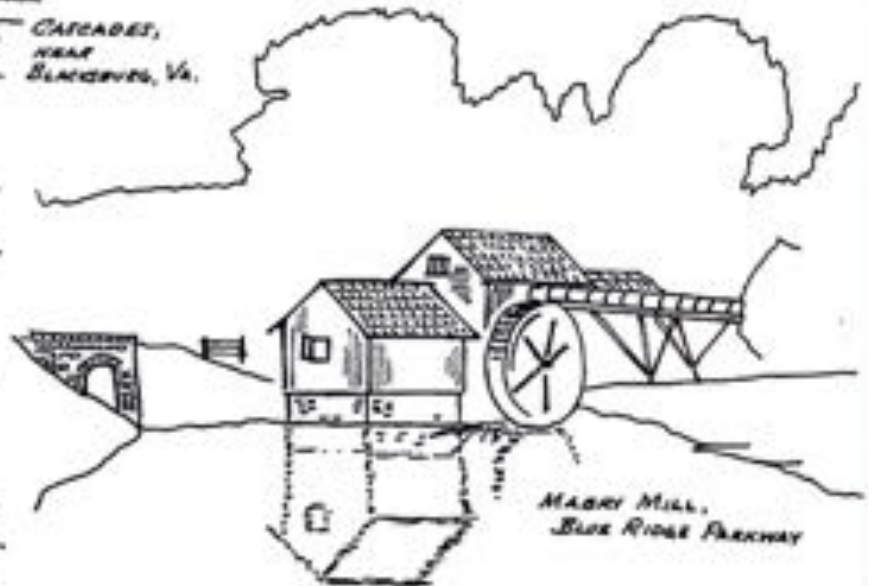


MONTICELLO, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.

*For the new year, we wish you health, happiness and friendship.*



CASCADES,  
NEAR  
BLACKSBURG, VA.



MADRY MILL,  
BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY



WE WISH YOU  
A  
MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
AND  
MAY YOUR HOME  
BE FILLED  
WITH THE  
CLUTTER OF  
LOVE, HAPPINESS,  
FAMILY & FRIENDS  
THROUGHOUT  
THE COMING  
YEAR.

1984  
HAS BEEN YET  
ANOTHER  
HAPPILY  
CLUTTERED  
YEAR FOR US.

Tom enrolled in college this fall  
to study pop, jazz, rock and current movies.  
He will minor in electrical engineering,  
physics permitting.

#### Physics Quiz #111

A 3.0-kg particle is at  $x=3.0\text{m}$ ,  $y=8.0\text{m}$   
with a velocity of  $v=5i-6j\text{ m/s}$ . It is  
acted on by a  $\text{Fnet}$  force in the nega-  
tive  $x$ -direction. (a) What is the angular  
momentum of the particle? (b) What torque  
acts on the particle?

#### MISSOURI COURSE SCHEDULE\*

12:00 Polly Sci  
1:00 Math 207  
2:00 Physics Lab  
3:00 Lunch  
4:00 Music Appreciation  
11:00 Late Show

\*computer was unable to  
schedule Intro. to Computer  
Science because of conflict  
with lunch.



Heather moved on to her sophomore year in high  
school. During the fall, she got to see the sun rise  
weekdays at 6:30 a.m. as she marched downfield with  
the band. Weekends, she saw the sun rise at noon.

On a perfect day in October, John  
jogged/shuffled/walked through his first  
marathon. By the time he strolled past the  
finished line, he said he was already recovered.

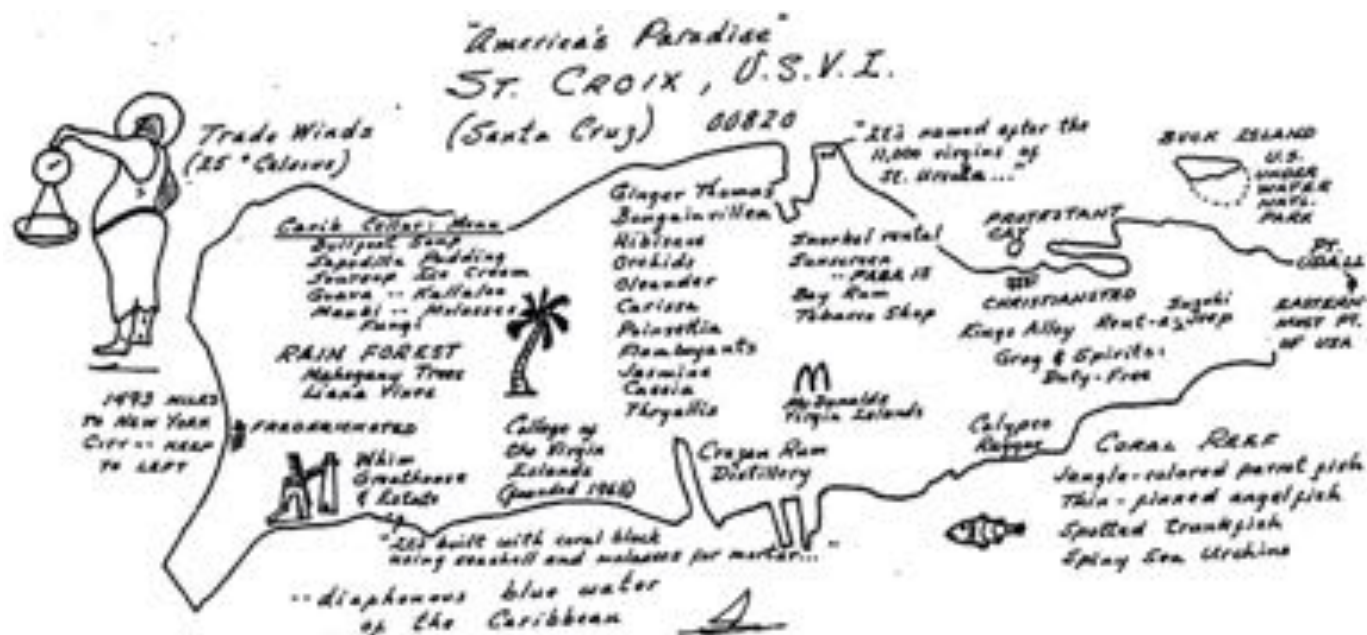


"KDEA, FM 91,  
Austin Radio Voice  
of the University  
of Missouri-Columbia  
now presents the  
Concertgebouw  
Orchestra of Amsterdam  
playing Mozart's  
Symphony No. 34 in  
C Major (K 388),  
conducted by George  
Szell and recorded on  
Pentecost Gramophone  
Gesellschaft..."

I continued to broadcast classical music on  
the University's public radio station. We get  
comments on the catchy titles of our musical  
selections.



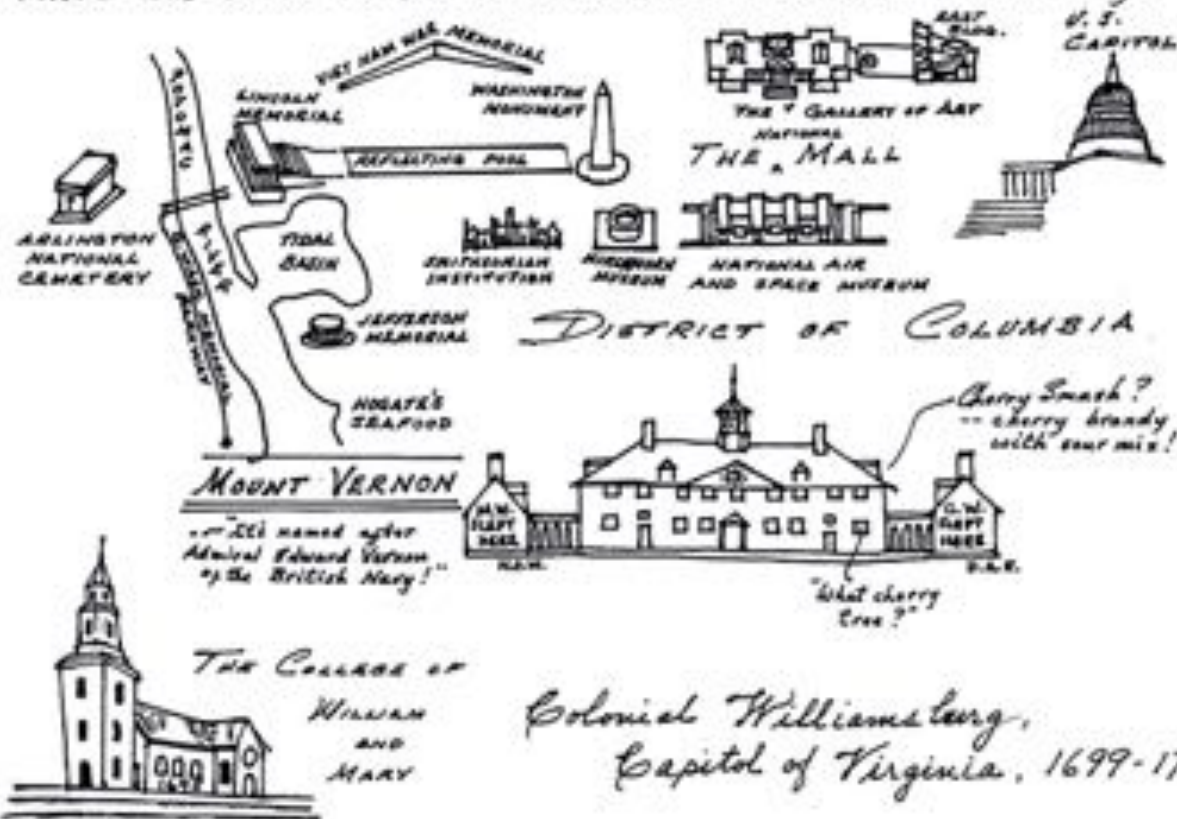




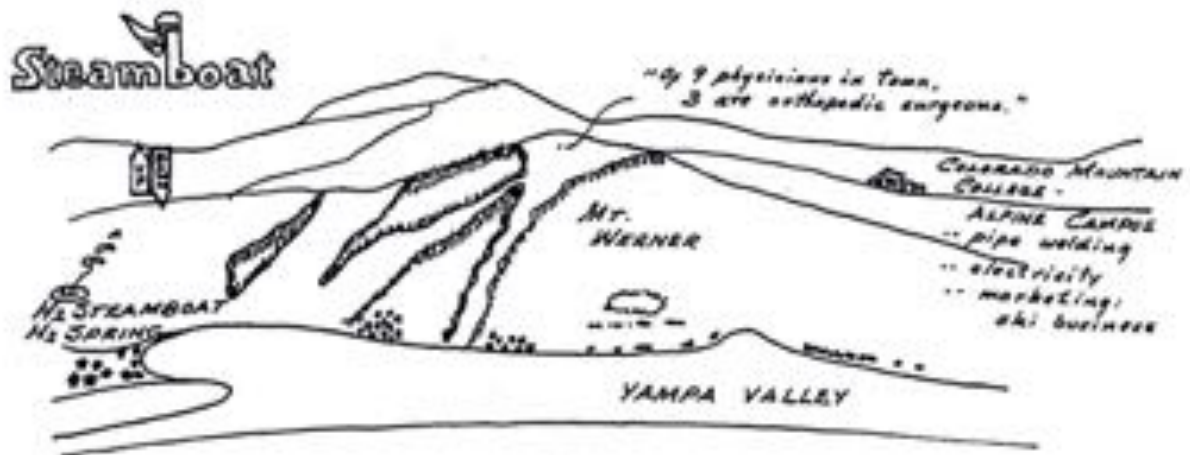
In March, we flew to St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, via Puerto Rico for a week of fun in the sun and water. We bobbed in the salt water as brightly colored tropical fish darted through the coral.

or "Was the weather nice?"

We visited the Nation's Capitol, Mt. Vernon and Colonial Williamsburg during our summer trip to Sunset Beach, N.C. There was much to see and learn about our nation's earliest days.



Following a trip to Denver for a waterworks convention early in December, John and I continued on to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, for a brief ski vacation. Early snows had provided a 1.2 meter base for the ski slopes.



Whether your holiday scenery is white, green or something in-between, we hope you will share the happiness of the season with your family and friends.<sup>W</sup>

Glad the weather is good for your trip here this year. Love,  
Joane, John, John, + Heather



FREDERICHTAD, ST. CROIX, U.S.V.I.





# SEASON'S GREETINGS

## 1985



Snow  
Frost  
Rime  
Iceberg  
Glacier



Ice  
Glacial  
Frosty  
Wintery  
Boreal  
Arctic

Flake  
Drift  
Flee  
Hearfrost  
Avalanche



Crystal  
Sparkle  
Fragile  
Hailstone  
Snowball



Chillblains  
Frostbite  
Nipping  
Arctic  
Merry  
Crispness



We hope our 20th Christmas letter finds you happy, healthy and celebrating the holidays with family and friends. We also hope we will be in your thoughts, as you will be in ours, when we toast happy holiday memories.

This year, our family came together in Batavia, Illinois to celebrate a very rare family event --

-- the Golden Wedding Anniversary of my parents,  
Lynn and Agnes Clever.

Friends and relatives gathered to join the golden celebration.

Why gatherest  
these folk here?



What hath this day deserved?  
What hath it done that it in  
golden letters shall be set  
among the high lides in  
the calendar?

W. Shakespeare

With fifty years between you  
and your well-kept wedding  
now,

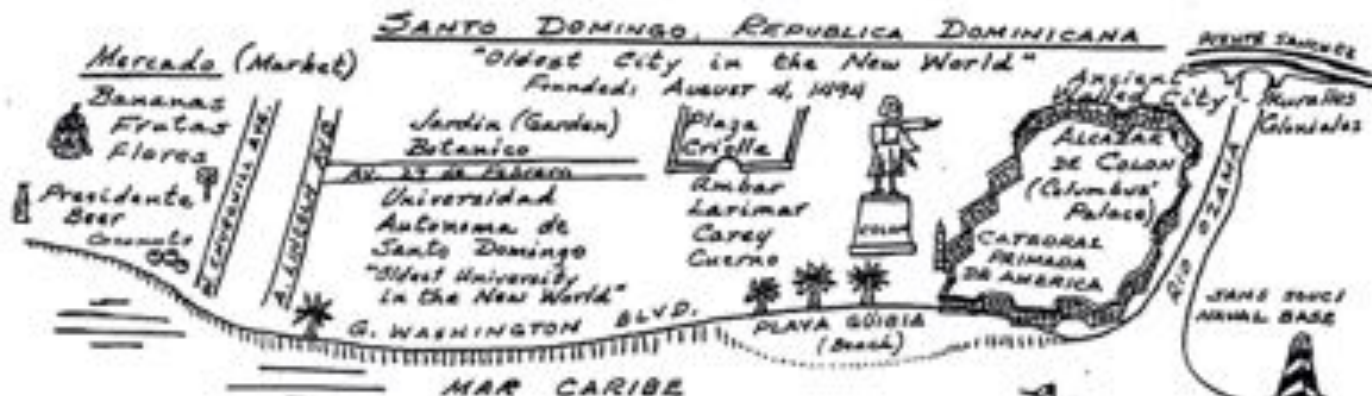
The Golden Age, old friends of  
mine, is not a fable now.

John Greenleaf Whittier





In March, we flew to Santo Domingo for a lovely Caribbean vacation. It was a wonderful educational experience which took us back to the origins of the New World.



In September, I headed for Holland with three girlfriends for a week-long "Bike-the-Dike" trip through the northern province of Friesland. We enjoyed Amsterdam, but really loved the countryside. We saw Van Ruisdael's skies, first, in the Rijksmuseum, the next day, while biking in the Dutch countryside.

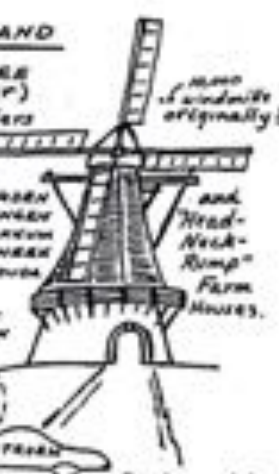
If this is a New World, what are all these tourists doing here?



**KLM** → **Amsterdam**  
 "Hoopt"  
 "City of Bikes?"  
 "Bicycles outnumber cars by 2 to 1!"  
 Van Gogh Museum  
 Anne Frank's House  
 Concertgebouw  
 Rembrandthuis  
 Diamond Factory



**FRISLAND**  
**ZUIDERBEE (Zee/meer)**  
 Dikes Polders  
 Canals  
 Watergates  
 Leuwarden  
 Haringen  
 Museum  
 Sneek  
 Grou  
 "I thought that was a fruit!"  
 and "Head-Neck-Rump" Farm Houses.



We followed the "Romantische Strasse" through **Würzburg** (episcopal see, Irish saints) to **Tauberbischofsheim** (Gothic, Baroque) to **Bad Mergentheim** (Teutonic Knights) to **Weikersheim** (Renaissance Palace) to **Röttingen** to **Greglingen** (Altar of the Virgin Mary) to **Rethenburg** (Medieval defensive walls) to **Schillingenpust** to **Fauhtwangen** (Romanesque cloisters) to **Dinkelsbühl** as well as lesser known German towns.

We settled in **AUSTRIA** for nine days as **SEEPELD** became our base for day trips throughout the region.



**Neuschwanstein Castle**  
**Lake Garda, Italy**  
**Salzburg, Austria**  
**Linderhof, Germany**  
 Had King Ludwig's Castle  
 Had A. Hitler's Eagle's Nest



While we live together, our individual activities often take us in many different directions. However, we enjoy our precious hours together.

We hope that you will also enjoy your precious hours with your family during this holiday season.



## A CALENDAR FOR THE NEW YEAR<sup>2</sup>

### JANUARY

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Sleep late                        | 17 Go somewhere you've never been             |
| 2 Visit a friend                    | 18 Waste some time                            |
| 3 Make faces in a mirror            | 19 Give yourself a present                    |
| 4 Walk instead of ride              | 20 Have a picnic                              |
| 5 Read a poem aloud                 | 21 Hug someone                                |
| 6 Take a picture                    | 22 Look at old photos                         |
| 7 Do something you'll be proud of   | 23 Watch children play                        |
| 8 Blow bubbles                      | 24 Go fishing (shopping)                      |
| 9 Express your thanks               | 25 Eat your favorite food                     |
| 10 Read an amusing book             | 26 Don't do something - Sit there             |
| 11 Watch the sun rise               | 27 Ask a friend to lunch                      |
| 12 Don't worry about money          | 28 Go to a garage sale                        |
| 13 Pay someone a compliment         | 29 Help a good cause                          |
| 14 Rearrange a room                 | 30 Drop a penny where someone will find it.   |
| 15 Write down your family tree      | 31 Be thankful                                |
| 16 Buy a ticket to a special event. | 32 Ask an older person what he or she thinks. |

<sup>2</sup> MHA of Oregon, 718 N. Burnside, Portland, OR 97209 (\$2 per 12 picture)



Merry Christmas Merry Christmas Merry Christmas  
 New Year Happy New Year Happy New Year  
 Merry Christmas mas Merry Christmas  
 Happy New Year New Year Happy  
 Christmas Merry Christmas  
 Noel Noel Noel Noel Noel



The twentyfirst year  
 together as a family  
 has been another happy  
 and healthy one filled  
 with the joyous  
 clamor and confusion  
 we have come to  
 expect and love—or at least  
 to expect.

We hope that you also  
 enjoyed a year of happy  
 clamor and confusion amidst  
 family and friends and  
 that your New Year will  
 become even more  
 clamorous and bring  
 still more joyous confusion.  
 "You can never be too confused,  
 Charlie Blue... er, Brown!"

Caution—this letter contains bragging-chortling and  
 silly jokes—do not proceed further if you are easily  
 bored or allergic to Christmas letters.

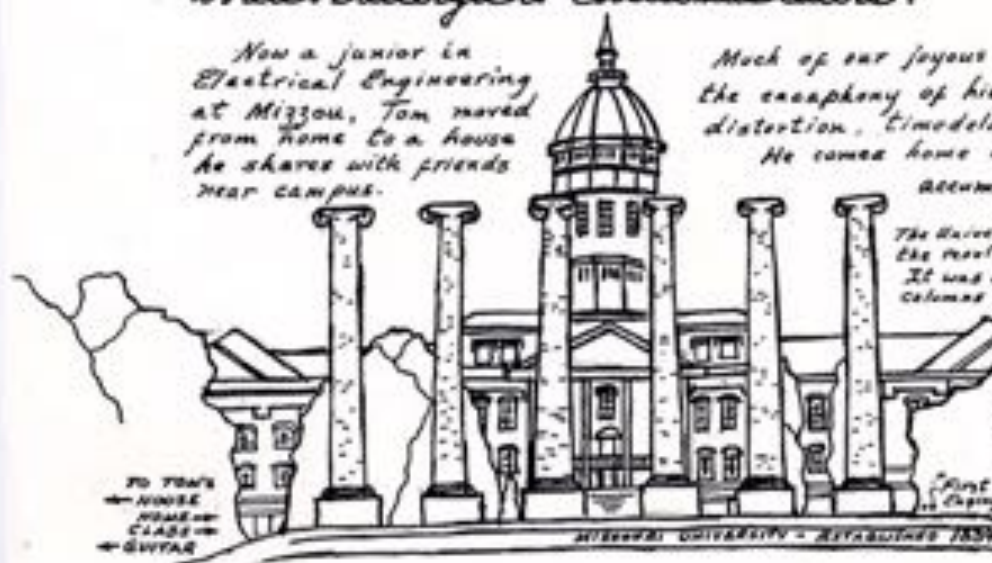
Now a junior in  
 Electrical Engineering  
 at Mizou, Tom moved  
 from home to a house  
 he shares with friends  
 near campus.

Much of our joyous confusion left with  
 the cacophony of his guitars, amps, phasers,  
 distortion, timodelays and wah-pedals.  
 He comes home when he has  
 accumulated enough laundry.

The University burned down in 1891,  
 the result of an electrical fire.  
 It was decided to let the  
 columns remain as a symbol.

Let the columns stand!  
 Let them stand a thousand years—  
 a memorial to the men who  
 in their magnificent presence,  
 learned what life and duty are,  
 to live the one and  
 do the other.

G. F. Rothwell  
 of the Mississippi 1892





### Choice of College: (Check only one)

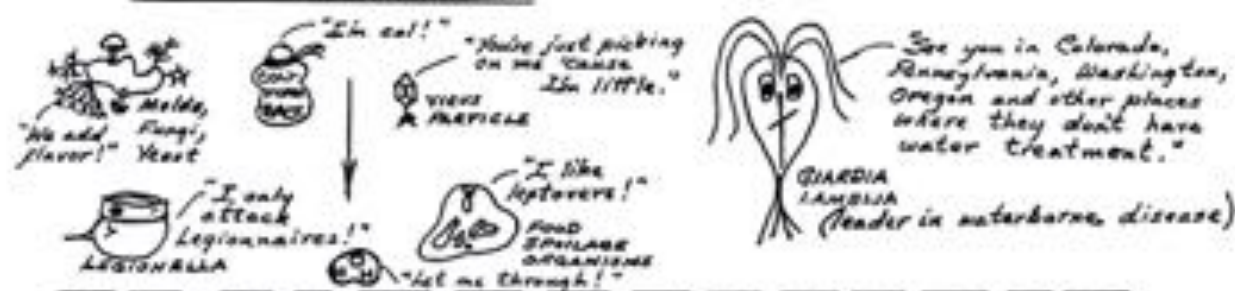
- ☐ Small Private College with large Public scholarship
- ☐ Mizgou (home)
- ☐ Illinois (away)
- ☐ MIT-Missouri Institute of Technology
- ☐ Slippery Rock State Univ.
- ☐ Cooper Union

Heather became a high school senior and National Merit Scholar Semifinalist this year. She plans to leave home next year to attend college. The decrease in confusion at Leewood Terrace could well become unbearable. Meanwhile, Heather works at a local pharmacy, exercises, jogs, cooks and plays in the highschool band.

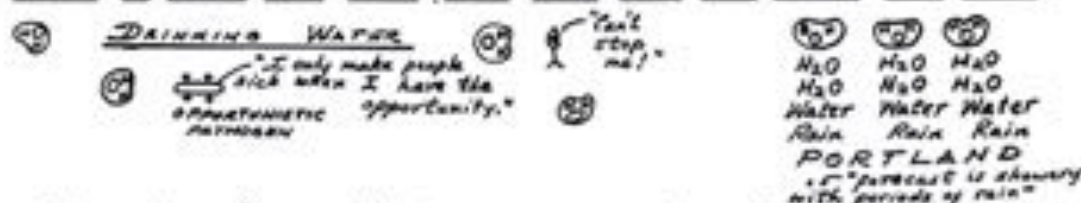
... "We're confused, but proud!"

John spent his time researching the removal of organisms from drinking water. While presenting the results at a meeting in Portland, he learned a new word, "showery." In the mid-west, it means rain.

### Missouri River Water



### WATER FILTRATION PLANT



I continued my Monday morning classical music radio broadcasts and started my second year as President of the Boone County Chapter of the League of Women Voters. It's a wonderful group of people to work with.

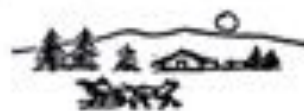


KBIA - "Accent on Music"

COLUMBIA ART FAIR - accent on art

BICYCLING IN AMISH COUNTRY - accent on fall colors

30th HIGH SCHOOL REUNION - accent on nostalgia, nostalgia



John, Heather and I continued our jogging. We entered some local races and enjoyed the competition. While Heather and I won several trophies in our age categories, John completed his third marathon.

... "Keep on trekkin!"







We hope you enjoyed another happy and healthful year. We trust you are looking forward to 1988 with joy and exhilaration.

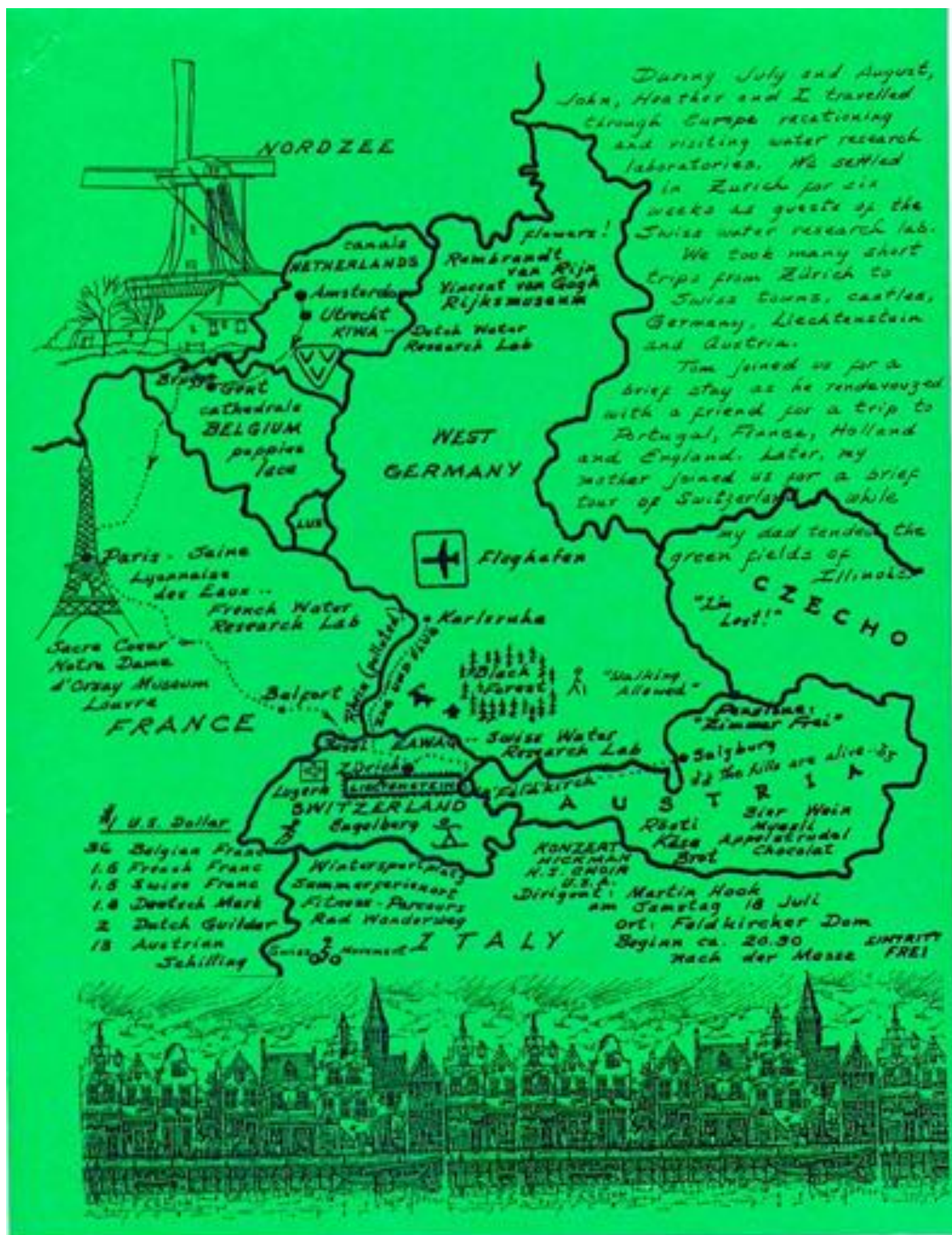
This year, Heather headed off to college. Happily, college was only 2 kilometers away (Mizzou). As a National Merit Scholar, she is trying to live up to advance billing.

Tom is still computing his way through electrical engineering; enjoying the pleasures of college life while tolerating the academic demands that limit his social activities.

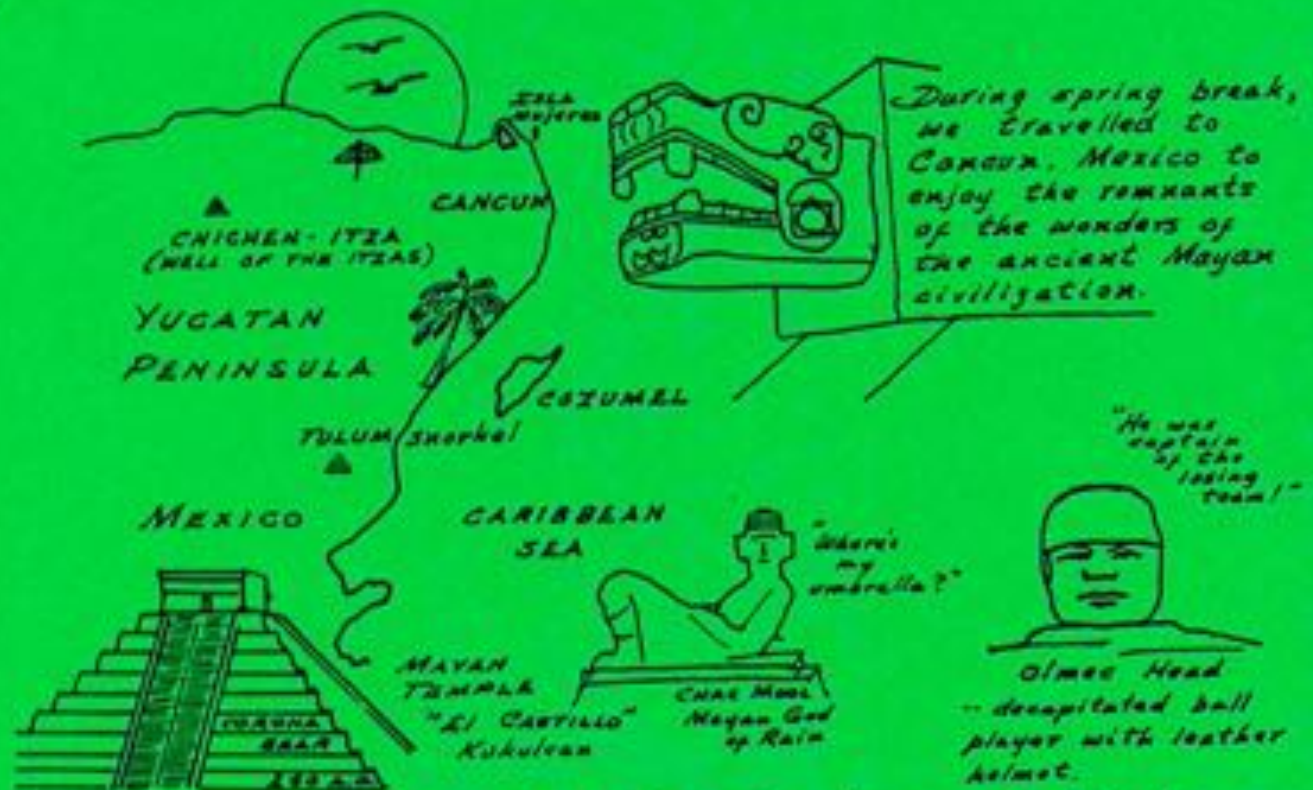
John is doing more research than ever despite continuing as department chairman.

For my part, my days are a potpourri of enjoyable activities ranging from bowling and bicycling to arranging for political candidates to argue with one another at League of Women Voter - sponsored debates.









We feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to visit these places this past year, gaining insight into fascinating lifestyles and cultures. From sharing a small part of the lives of new friends, our world will never be the same.

To our new, as well as our old friends,

MERRY CHRISTMAS &

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



МИР

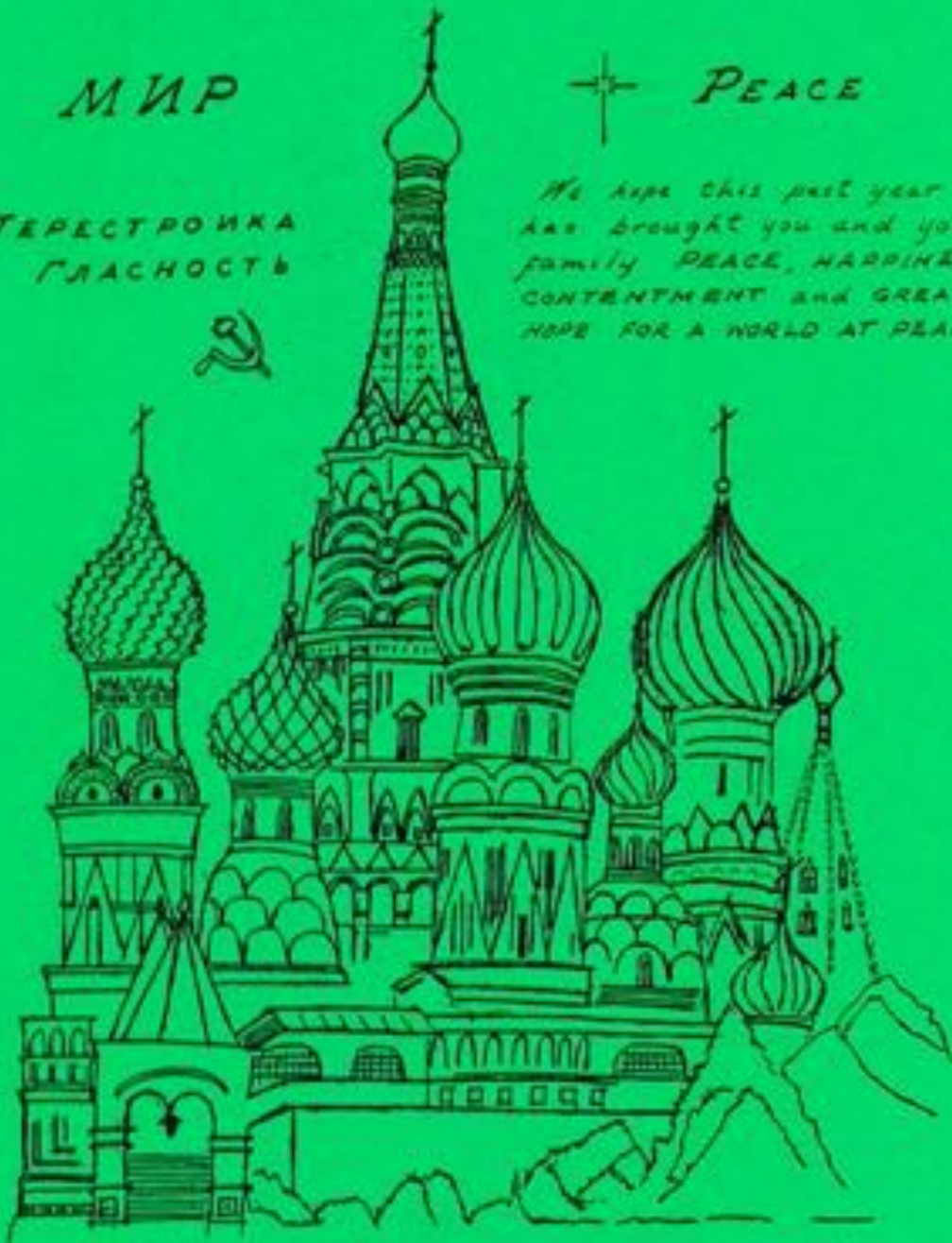


PEACE

ПЕРЕСТРОЙКА  
ГЛАСНОСТЬ



We hope this past year  
has brought you and your  
family PEACE, HAPPINESS,  
CONTENTMENT and GREATER  
HOPE FOR A WORLD AT PEACE.



This past October, as part of the U.S. contribution to world peace, John visited the Soviet Union. He was a member of a N.U.D. technical exchange group assigned to observe Soviet building and utility construction.

While warmly and openly received, the U.S. engineers never imagined that the acknowledged poor construction material and practice would soon lead to an unprecedented disaster in Soviet Armenia. The planned Soviet reconstruction (perestroika) had come too late.

Having seen the happiness of a Soviet family in occupying their fifteenth floor apartment after years of waiting for housing, the tragedy of the earthquake's destruction became far more personal.





Both Tom and Heather continued their studies at the University. For fun, Tom played guitar with his musical group.

SAXOPHONES DRUMS TRUMPET  
**SPANKIN' RUFUS**  
 FRENCH HORN GUITAR KEYBOARD BASS BOWS

Comprised primarily of music majors, the group created original jazz, rock, pop, and ~~some~~ electronic music.

For her diversion, Heather worked as House Manager for the University Concert Series. In her role as coordinator, she met many nationally known performers.

University  
 of Missouri  
**150**  
 1838-1988

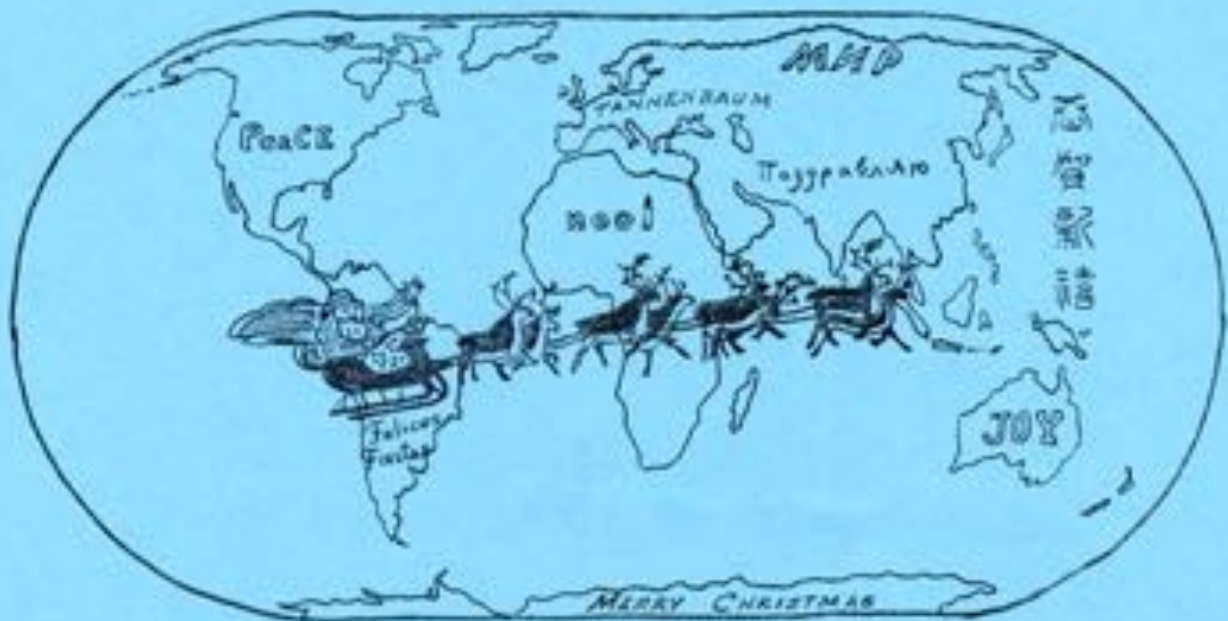
Gerry Mulligan Quartet Canadian Brass  
 Scottish Chamber Orchestra King's Singers  
 Prague Symphony Orchestra



We hope that the coming year will continue to bring peace and happiness to you, your family and the world.



Christmas 1989 brings hope that  
the 1990's will bring greater peace, unity and  
happiness to our World.



University  
of Missouri  
**150**  
1839-1989

This year has brought much happiness to our family. A major event has been Tom's graduation (B.S. Electrical Engineering) during the University's Sesquicentennial Celebration.

"Who gave it  
that name?"

After a summer trip to Sweden, Tom enrolled for graduate study in Civil (Construction) Engineering. Still, his greatest interest remains Spankin' Rufus. His six-member musical group composes original music and performs regularly around Columbia.





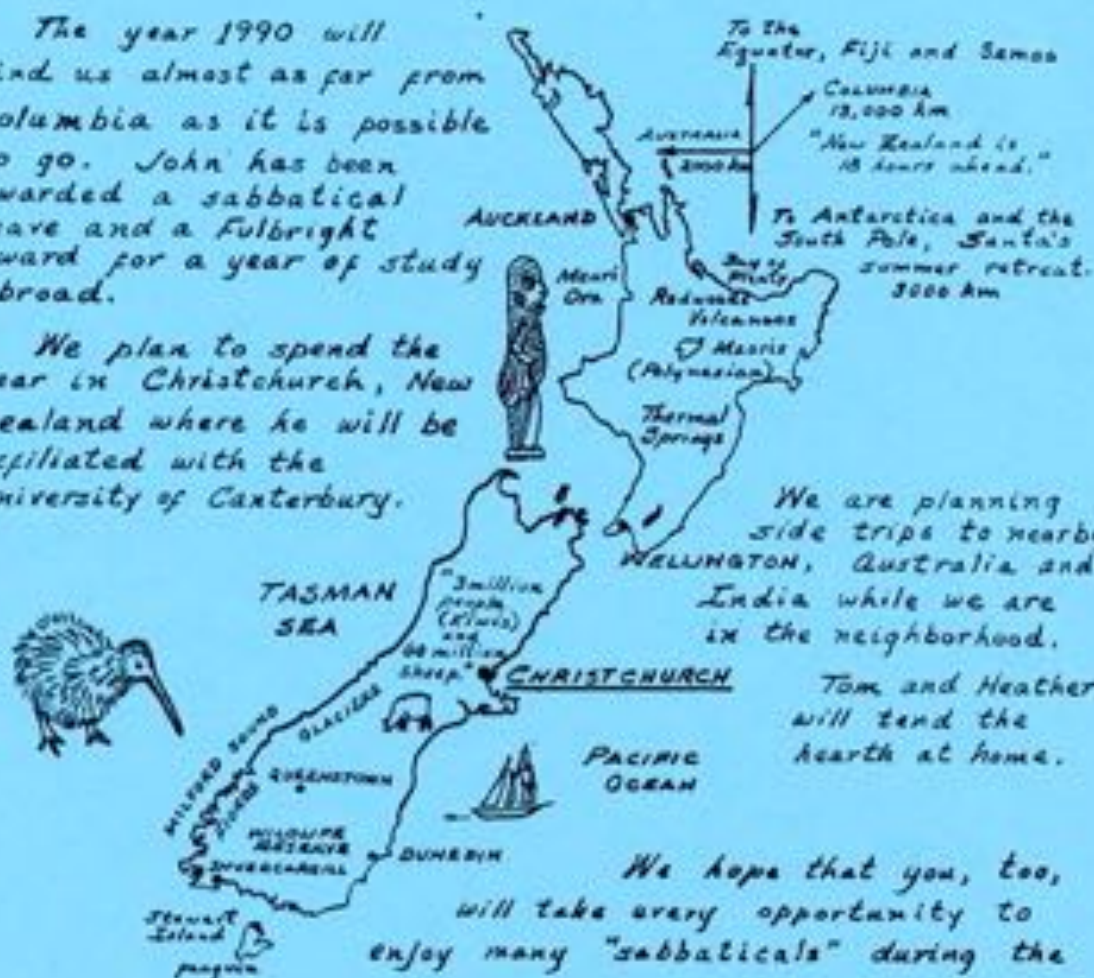


DOOR PENINSULA,  
WISCONSIN



The year 1990 will find us almost as far from Columbia as it is possible to go. John has been awarded a sabbatical leave and a Fulbright award for a year of study abroad.

We plan to spend the year in Christchurch, New Zealand where he will be affiliated with the University of Canterbury.



We are planning side trips to nearby WELLINGTON, Australia and India while we are in the neighborhood.

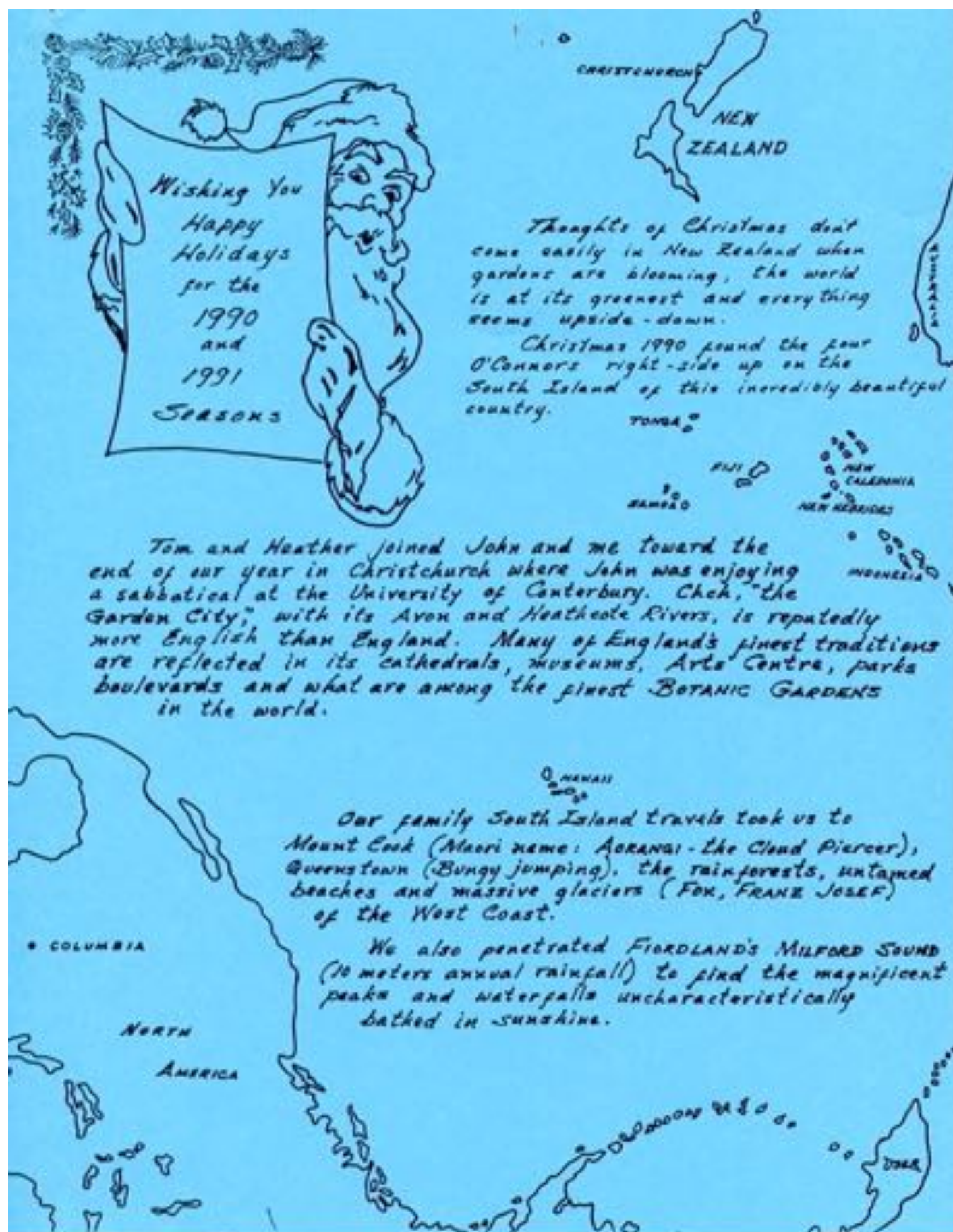
Tom and Heather will tend the hearth at home.

We hope that you, too, will take every opportunity to enjoy many "sabbaticals" during the coming years, sharing pleasant times with family and friends on every possible occasion.

Happy '90's!









Royal Albatross  
3.2m wingspan

"I can breed  
till I'm 80!"



## NEW ZEALAND ALPINE PLANTS

Alpine cinquefoil, eyebright,  
Alpine cross, cushion plant  
Mountain carrot, native orchid  
Sundew, forget-me-not,  
Maori onion, Mtn. spurge,  
Mtn. daisy, South Island edelweiss,  
Tree daisy, Southern heath, GOLD  
Alpine willowherb, Buttercup, COAL  
Snow Marguerite, Hebe lupiara, JADE  
Snowberry, Snow Grass,  
Orchid grass, Porcupine Shrub,  
Vegetable sheep, Haastia,  
Alpine bidi-bidi,  
Episcia, Oxalis,  
St. Johnswort,  
Mtn. portulaca,  
Snow Lotus,  
Bristle Cuscuta,  
Prostrate caprim,  
Harbort,  
Kororoculus,  
Pimelia,  
Shrub groundsel,  
Alpine arena, Pteropodium,  
Lichens, Liverworts,  
Sphagnum Moss,  
Nardus, Fern-Fern,  
Lycopods



My Friday Spinning Groups  
provided the perfect opportunity  
to meet the gentle, warm-hearted  
New Zealanders plying the skill  
they've honed to perfection.

Other days I might be found with new friends  
exploring the many walkways near Christchurch or with  
John trekking some farther flung track -- often surrounded  
by fluffy white sheep.

## ZEELANDIA NOVA (1642)

POP. 3.2 MILLION PEOPLE  
60 SHEEP

NATIVE  
FOREST  
KAUAI,  
RIMU  
TUTARA  
MAHE  
KANIKATEA  
BEECH  
(PODCARPS)

BIRDS: TUI, BELBIN,  
PANTAIL, KEREHU,  
MAORI PAR, FALCON,  
BIRCHMAN, WEYBULL,  
SPILL, NE, PIRREN,  
KINGFISHER, MOON

ABEL  
TASMAN  
SEA

ANGUS-  
"No Nukes"

WELLINGTON  
CITY OF  
SANDS

ROTARUA  
GEOGRAPHICAL  
AMER

Volcanic  
Plateau

MARLBOROUGH  
SOUNDS

WINE  
TECH

WHALES  
SEAL  
PENGUIN  
POLARW  
(NICTATE)

CHRISTCHURCH  
UNIV. OF CANTEBURY  
POP. 300,000

## SOUTH PACIFIC

OTAGO  
ALBATROSS  
COLONY  
GANNET, TERN  
PETERALPACAR

ANTARCTICA  
GONDWANALAND  
McMurdo Sound, Ross Dependency  
Capt. Robert Scott, Amundsen

## KIWI GLOSSARY

Veggie Telly-Cum (Phone Company)  
Charlie Brully (Umbrella)  
Happy Rolly (Relative)  
Astic Lakays (Locomotive)  
Mitly OERIE (Australian)  
Yachtie Boatie  
Lolly (Sweet)  
Housie (Party)  
Woolies Fair-Go  
Kerries (Cereal)  
Barbie-Cook (BBQ)  
Z(yed) Yaccie (Vacuum)  
Peezy (?)

## Spectacle Dispensers

Chemist Fish & Chips  
Paul Batters (Car Body)  
Chilly Bin (Ice Chest)  
Tidy Dress (No Shoes,...)  
No Parking at all times  
Made Redundant (Laid Off)  
... KEEN TO.... test match (game)  
made to eat, not to keep (No preservatives)  
Faviera (dessert) Crayfish (lobster)  
Bluff Oysters Akaroa Cod  
Paua Scopes

## RUGBY (Football)

League, Union, Scrummage,  
Try, Jersey, test series,  
Ranfurly Shield, All Golden  
Blacks

## SPINNING

Fleece, staple, crimp, Merino, Romney  
Niddy-Noddy, lazy Kate, carder,  
drafting, plying, spindle, bobbin,  
treadle, twill twist, flyer, driving  
hands, Scotch tension wheels,  
double band wheel, rear maiden,  
whorl, pinch, draft





In 1991, we settled back into our relaxed Mid-Missouri lifestyle. John taught drinking water and solid waste management courses to enthusiastic students. Tom continued study toward a Master of Business Administration. Working part-time for the Columbia Public Works Department, he helped initiate the City's yard waste composting program. His *"SPANKIN' RUFUS"* continued to be a popular part of Columbia's entertainment scene.

Heather worked for the Missouri Department of Conservation on a fish survey during the summer and returned to her Biology studies in the autumn. Near semester's end, she joined 244 voices and the University Philharmonic in performing Mozart's "Requiem" before a packed auditorium on the 200th Anniversary of his death.

My bicycle logged many miles on the Katy Trail along the Missouri River. In the future, John and I hope to enjoy "bed and breakfast" along the 320 km of proposed trail. We invite you to bring your bike and join us.

Botanic  
Gardens

Christchurch,  
New Zealand







# HOLIDAY GREETINGS!



We hope you have had a tranquil, but eventful,  
1992  
and are looking forward to another year of the same.

Our tranquility was a bit ruffled when John  
decided to accept a coveted position as:

CHIEF, ILLINOIS STATE WATER SURVEY.



As a result, this  
holiday season finds  
us at home in  
Champaign,  
Illinois.





However, occasionally, every family's tranquility can be punctuated with

## ADVENTURE!

HEATHER's adventuresome spirit has taken her to the UNIVERSITY OF Montana



LOOSEPOLE  
PINE CUTTHROAT  
TROUT  
where the graceful white  
swan goes gliding along,  
like a maid in a heavenly  
dream

where she is trying to thaw out a degree  
in biology. Her field trips take her to  
the habitat of the bighorn sheep and bison.



Odense Erspkping  
Cykeludlejning



In June, HEATHER and I accompanied another mother-daughter duo on a bicycling trip around Fyn, Denmark.

We spent a wonderful two weeks drifting from hostels to castles to bed-and-breakfasts -- stopping along the way at Elsinore Castle, Tivoli Gardens, the Hans Christian Andersen Museum and to see the Little Mermaid.

Flowers were everywhere -- even the poppies growing in sidewalk cracks were healthy and vivid.

TOM's six-member band ventured on tour in an old school bus to entertain numerous midwestern audiences. They are planning to produce their second compact disc this spring.

LAWRENCE, KS  
WICHITA  
COLUMBIA, MO  
ST. LOUIS  
KANSAS CITY  
FULTON  
CHICAGO, IL  
NASHVILLE, TN  
FAYETTEVILLE, AR  
LITTLE ROCK  
DALLAS, TX  
AUSTIN  
HOUSTON

JOHN's adventures, as usual, centered on water research. A special opportunity has led him to return to the UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS campus to work with the air and water research staff of the nearly century-old

ILLINOIS STATE  
WATER  
RESEARCH CENTER





*RINGS ON THEIR FINGERS, BELLS ON THEIR TOES, .....*



My brother, BOB, married BONNIE BARRETT in October. Mom, DAD and I flew to Boston to join many other friends in celebrating the event.

TOM became engaged to ANDREA GREBLER of Clayton, MO. in November. They met while students at Mizzou. ANDREA is wearing a diamond and we are wearing smiles.

*\*Tom also completed his M.B.A. this year!*

If not with "adventures," we hope your New Year will be filled with many little delights and pleasant surprises. During this holiday season, we hope you will enjoy the comfort of family and treasured friends and that you will recall fond memories of good times past.

As always,  
the O'Connors



Mom & Dad  
(1977)





The O'Connor Family wishes you a  
Happy 1993 Holiday Season



We  
are  
all  
home for  
the holidays.

John is just  
back from visiting  
a water plant in  
Arkansas. "It's wet  
there!"

Heather has returned  
from her studies in  
Missoula, Montana. "It's cold  
there!"

Tom has placed a hiatus on  
his unceasing tour of the  
midwestern music venues. "It's loud  
there!"

I, along with the others, am occupied  
deploying decades of accumulated Christmas  
memorabilia around the house. "It's cluttered  
here!"

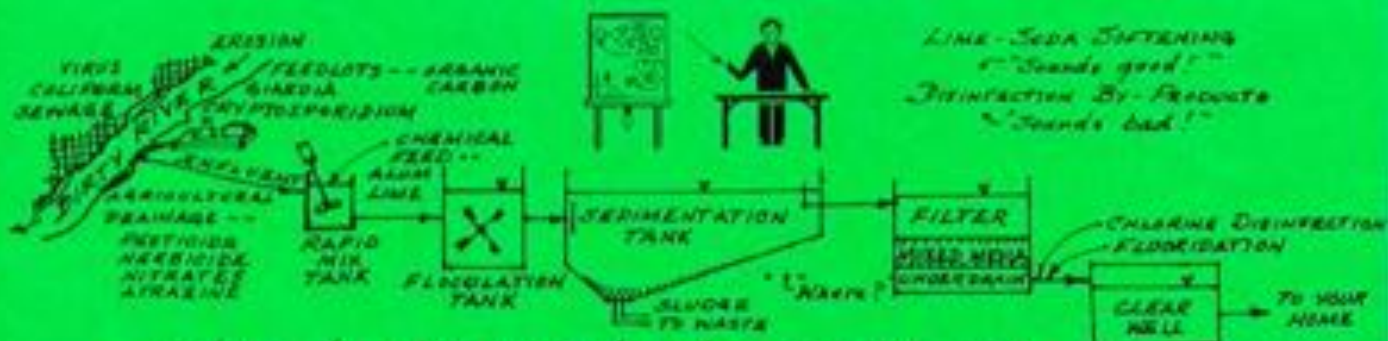
We hope you are also enjoying  
tranquility, good health, family and friends.

These are life's most precious

N  
O  
E  
L







JOHN has done a great deal of research and writing this year. His work is being published by the American Water Works Association and in technical journals. "That means nobody will read it!"



HEATHER has addressed broader environmental concerns both in MONTANA'S MOUNTAINS and in ILLINOIS' PRAIRIES. Topics include: RENEWABLE RESOURCES, CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION, SUSTAINABILITY, ECOLOGY, SOIL LOSS, PRODUCTIVITY, CLIMATE.

HEATHER brought with her from Montana, an adorable Black Labrador mix puppy which is, <sup>as</sup> assiduously working on training us as we are on training him.

"Obedience classes begin Jan. 28"



Bia!

#### GIGS:

St. Louis, Joplin, Fayetteville, Columbia, Kansas City, Dallas/Fort Worth, Austin, Houston, Little Rock, Omaha, Lincoln, Lawrence, Des Moines, Fulton, Wichita, Sioux City, Terra Haute, Springfield, Carbondale.



"\$2000 per an engine? We gotta sell more discs!"

SPANKIN' RUFUS' BUS is still running....

It remains filled with six hard-working musicians and their impedimenta.

The band is working on its second compact disc and bus engine.

TOM hopes the next CD will buy a new bus.





Last January, I enjoyed a trip to HAWAII -- "the Aloha State!" #50!  
 with three of my girl friends. We toured OAHU, WAIKIKI BEACH,  
 the USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL at PEARL HARBOR, DIAMOND HEAD AND  
 HANAUMA BAY.

We even ran in  
 the HONOLULU ZOO  
 FUN RUN!



Red Flag = Dangerous Water

COMMONLY USED HAWAIIAN WORDS:

LANAI (terrace) LAVA, LELI, POI,  
 MULA, KANUNA (expert), KANE (man)  
 NADLE (Monkey) WAIKINI (women)  
 TUTU (Grandmother) KAPU (taboo)  
 ME'HEU (loose fitting gown)

FLORAL Hawaiian Ginger  
 Lokelani, Hibiscus,  
 Bougainvillea, Oleander,  
 Bird of Paradise, Banana,  
 Plumeria/Frangipani, Sugar Cane  
 Poinsettia, Pineapple, Ferns...

In April and June, respectively,  
 I accompanied John

NATURAL BRIDGE CAVES  
 NEW BRAUNFELS -- Springs.

Oceano Atlantico, American Society  
 Caribe of Microbiologists  
 Hilton were here?

to  
 FUERTO RICO  
 "RICH PORT"  
 2.5 million  
 160 x 56 km  
 "El Yunque"  
 "only  
 Tropical  
 rain forest  
 in U.S. Forest  
 System"  
 2.8 mi. yr.  
 "El Yunque"  
 "only  
 Tropical  
 rain forest  
 in U.S. Forest  
 System"  
 2.8 mi. yr.

Mar Caribe



Castilla  
 San  
 Felipe  
 del Morro  
 "El Morro"  
 (Headland)



MISSION  
 SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

LEONARD RIVER  
 THEATRE --  
 "Schlitterbahn"  
 (Slippery Road)  
 PLANTS  
 HEARTACH  
 FANDANGO

ANWA Annual Conference  
 and Exhibition - 1993

-- on the 13<sup>th</sup> day, all was lost.

-- what were they  
 fighting about?

-- I don't  
 remember...

The  
 Alamo



MISSION SAN ANTONIO DE VALERO

One of the joys of being back in Illinois is being close to  
 Mom and Dad in Batavia where we spent a few days at  
 Christmas.





It is our sincere hope that this past year has brought you JOY and GOOD HEALTH. We also hope that the NEW YEAR will bring still more contentment, pleasant adventures and LOVE.

This year has brought both happiness and sadness to our family. In October, at age 88, my father died at home in Batavia, Illinois. His memorial brought friends and family together to celebrate his life.

Mother has adjusted to the loss and continues to be very active in the community and with her many friends.



They were married  
59 years!

Heather was born on his 60th birthday. ——— and they lived in Batavia the whole time. Also, he lived in every decade of this century.

Copyright © 1999 by [illegible]



Tom's fiancée, ANDREA, has been teaching english (U.S. version) in Uijongbu-Si, South Korea. In September, Tom rendezvoused with Andrea in Korea.

Together, they flew to remote Boracay (Philippines) for a vacation.

JOHN was invited to present a series of lectures on wetlands and sanitary landfills in Taiwan. He insists he learned more than he taught.



#### TAIWAN (REPUBLIC OF CHINA)

400 km. long x 140 km wide  
24 million square kilometers  
Mountains, 70%; Plains 30%  
Warm (avg 22°C); wet (2000 mm/yr)

#### POPULATION

20.8 million (52% male; 47% women)  
Density (Taipei): >25,000/km<sup>2</sup>  
18 million pigs (Pilot Ig. = 8 people)

#### ECONOMY

94,507 factories (3.8/km<sup>2</sup>)  
Growth/Year: GNP, 8%; Export, 15%;  
Industrial, 8.2%; Electronics, 9%;  
unemployment, 1.5%

#### ENERGY

Nuclear (20%); Coal, Gas, Oil (95%  
imported); Industrial Use (51.4%)

300,000 cars per year to dispose of?

and 60,000 motorcycles

#### ENVIRONMENT

Birth Rate, 14%; Death Rate, 5%  
Auto Waste 1.2 million tons/yr, 6%  
Motor Vehicles, 15 million; 6000/km<sup>2</sup>  
(13% / year)  
Air Quality, 16% "unhealthy days"  
Water Complaints, 14,306 (20/million)  
Factories (70%); Parks (15%)  
Rivers, 28% polluted or badly polluted  
Drinking Water: 35% unacceptable  
Fish Farming (Green Shysters, 1986)  
Marine (Harbors): oil/dioxin, 1 ppm  
Metals, Nitrate, Radionuclides, low  
Agri. Crop Damage (Irrigation)  
Industrial Accidents: 125 explosions,  
47 fires, 102 leaks

HEATHER joined us on a trip to San Juan as John addressed the "Primer Seminario sobre Reglamentación Aplicable a Sistemas de Agua Potable en PUERTO RICO." Oh!

After the Seminario, we were spirited to a scenic fishing Parguera village.

Phosphorescent Bay "It glows!"

We had a weekend of swimming and boating through the mangroves.

"It isn't raining rain, you know."  
"It isn't?"

MINI-TRI

John and I participated in our second mini-triathlon this summer. The pregnant lady didn't outswim John this year. "She's not pregnant anymore!"

We also ran in the Single Bell Run for the Arthritis Foundation benefit. We both won trophies in our age classifications. It appears that arthritis and lumbago may have taken their toll on our contemporaries.

At work, John began a year-long celebration.

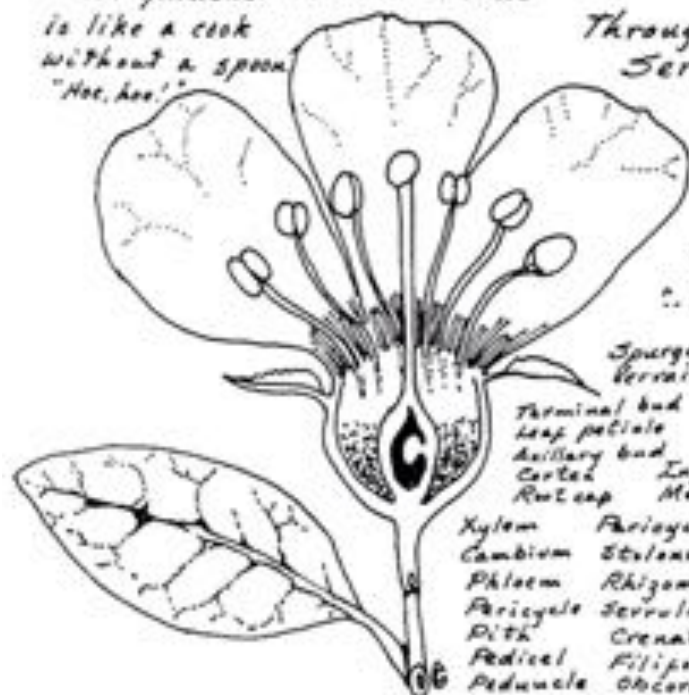




A gardener without a rake  
is like a cook  
without a spoon  
"Hoe, hoe!"

Through the County Cooperative Extension  
Service this year, I studied to become  
a  
**MASTER GARDENER**

I am required to give 60 hours  
of public service for the training.  
.. and she didn't even have to commit a crime!



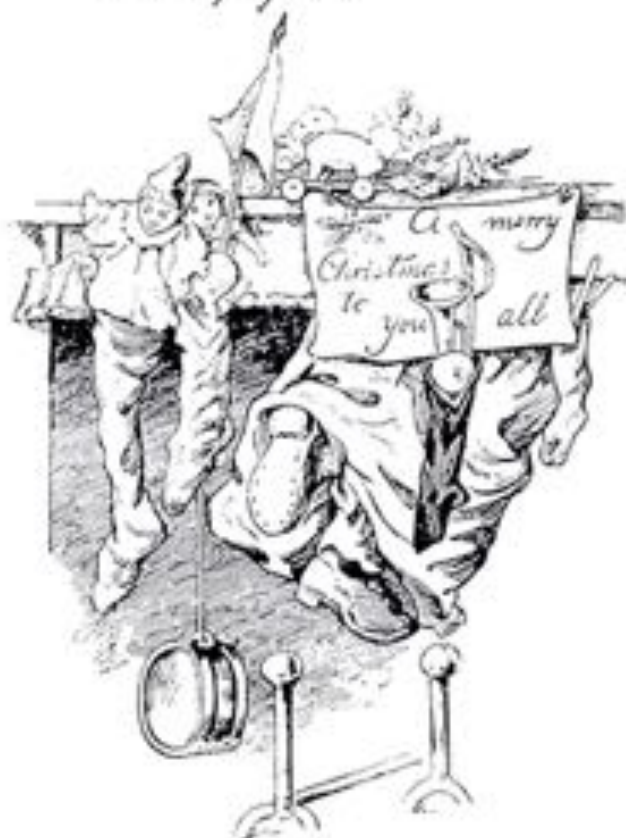
Spurge	Broom
Vernain	Dock
Terminal bud	Henbit
Leaf petiole	Kochia
Auxiliary bud	Mallow
Cotyled	Euphorbiaceae
Root cap	Meristematic
Xylem	Paricyle Pinnate
Cambium	Stylens Earwigs
Phloem	Rhizome Aphids
Paricyle	Serrulate Galls
Pith	Crenate Sawflies
Pedical	Filiform Mites
Peduncle	Ochordate Scab

LESSON 4: *MANURE*  
COMPOST



Curculio Carburyl  
Leafminer  
Maggots Malathion  
Borers Diagenen

Pests and weeds notwithstanding, we look  
forward toward earth's renewal of life. We hope  
you will harvest a rich bounty of happiness this  
coming year.



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

Volume 30

1955



We hope you have enjoyed the gift of another year of peace, health and contentment among family and dearest friends.







In May	I joined two girlfriends
on a	Crip to GREECE.
We rendezvoused	with Greek-speaking
Classics	Scholars in Athens on sabbatical!
We	enjoyed the beautiful AEGEAN
-- from hilltop vistas stretching across the plains.	
-- from the waters edge at sunset,	
-- from the deck of a ferry gliding on its unrippled surface	
and during our opportunistic dips off isolated beaches.	

We learned that early Olympians (male only) competed in the bugs -- to dispel doubt over their gender....

• "They propose to revive the tradition in Atlanta."

#### MENU:

Souvlaki  
Mousaka  
Tzatziki  
Feta -  
Baklava  
Ouzo



"6800 Drachmas for gasoline?"

Καλά Χριστούγεννα!  
(Happy Christmas)

Miller Brewing Company, creators



are sponsoring  
Spankin' Rufus  
as their  
midwestern  
band.

Tommy's musical  
crew continue to  
create original music  
for gigs from  
Colorado to Indiana;  
Texas to Iowa & Illinois.

(Their "Rufus News & World Report" is one of  
the funniest newsletters in the country)



# HEATHER

enjoyed a wonderful summer, assisting  
(driving bus) for 150 (noisy) kids in the  
1995 YMCA SUMMER DAY CAMP.

They took dozens of trips to  
educational & recreational areas:  
ROCKING GARDENS - ARCOLA <sup>NATURE TRAILS</sup>  
AMISH COUNTRYSIDE <sup>PARKS</sup>  
LAKE OF THE WOODS - MANOMET <sup>PLAYGROUNDS</sup>  
<sup>BOWLING</sup>  
<sup>PUTT-PUTT GOLF</sup>

LINCOLN'S BOYHOOD HOME - NEW SALEM

CHANUTE AIR FORCE BASE - RANTOUL

CHILDREN'S ZOO - DECATUR

FOOTBALL STADIUM; ASSEMBLY HALL

"...didn't know there was so  
much to see in Central Illinois!"

# JOHN

presented seminars  
throughout Illinois as  
part of the Water Survey  
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

He also went to Las Vegas  
for a USEPA research grant

review



# NEXT CHRISTMAS

we plan to be sending our letter from:

806 LEAWOOD TERRACE COLUMBIA, MO.

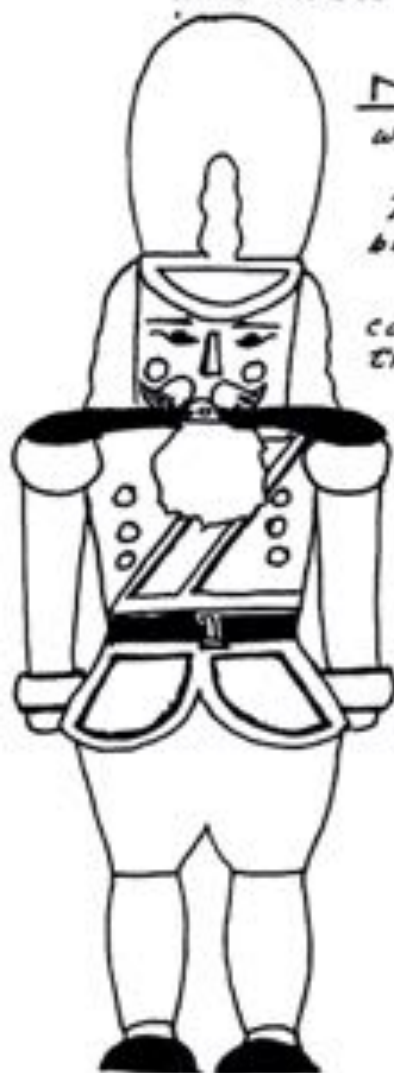
Tom and Andrea have kept our homefires  
burning during our stay in Illinois.

John plans to embark on a consulting  
career specializing in municipal drinking water  
treatment.

H<sub>2</sub>O'C, Limited

We hope that 1996 will bring you  
peace, joy, good health and the  
comfort of good friends and family!

the O'Connors





*"--and a Happy Christmas to us all!"*

*As we look towards the holidays and the  
New Year, we recount the new paths we  
have explored and hope that the passages of  
the year past have led you and your loved  
ones to new ones filled with everlasting  
Friendship, Happiness, Beauty and Love.*

31 1966 - 1996



*This year, the O'Connors have enjoyed a  
wonderful year of transition.*

*--follow the yellow brick road!"*

*John pursued his never-ending quest  
for drinking water sources to purify.*



Weather embarked  
On the study of  
horticulture at  
The University of  
Illinois,  
Champaign  
Urbana.  
biology  
Trees  
fruits and vegetables  
greenhouse management  
Economics



**disbanded**  
**Spankin' Rufus**  
and now works as an  
environmental engineer,  
desktop publisher and  
music composer.

Refurbish for Sale!  
Needs New Engine!  
Contact Tommy O



I continue to tiptoe through the tulips with Master Gardeners  
and the political minefield with the League of Women Voters.

Since participating in a Master Composter series at the County  
Cooperative Extension Unit, I count among my friends:

actinomycetes nematodes protozoa centipedes fungi beetles snails mites flatworms ants springtails







July 17, 1996, the day of Chicago's record flood as well as the crash of TWA Flight 800, found the 'five biking babes' en route to a rendezvous in

## Copenhagen, Denmark

Karen Novak, living in Aalborg, was hostess, interpreter and tour guide. Our two weeks of cycling the lovely Danish countryside were wonderful, and, by comparison with world events,

peaceful, harmonious, placid and uneventful.

Dannebrog, the Danish flag, is believed to be the oldest flag in the world!



### The Danish Countryside

Aalborg	University of Aalborg
Lim Fjorden	Wind Turbines
Copenhagen	Tivoli Gardens Glyptotek (Rodin) Sailing ships at Nyhavn wharf, —a canal dug in the 1600's.
Roskilde	Viking Ship Museum
Aroskebing	Windmills; half-timbered houses with thatched roofs
Ribe	Denmark's oldest city (2,000 years); Stork nests atop chimneys
Skagen	Tiled roofs; Baltic Sea (Kattegat) & North Sea (Skagerrak) meet
Koldinghus	15th Century Castle
Kroners	Bicycle Paths Royal Copenhagen Porcelain Hans Christian Andersen Museum White Churches with Cemeteries in Churchyard
Magrethe II	— world's youngest queen; world's oldest monarchy.

We visited Bob and Bonnie, my brother and sister-in-law, last April while John was attending a copper corrosion conference in Boston. They reciprocated by visiting us in Champaign in August as part of their annual pilgrimage to the Midwest to visit the family and enjoy the Lake of the Ozarks.

We made numerous trips to Batavia during the year to visit my mother. At 81, she continues to be vital, active socially and continually involved with volunteer activities.

With each passing year, we increasingly treasure the time spent with family and old friends.

## Class of '56 -- Batavia High School

Who were those old folks we partied with in late September? Alumni? Where did they come from? What was the function of that derelict building that is about to be razed to make room for progress? We were delighted to be among those who reminisced at the BHS 40th Class Reunion! Go Bulldogs!



# Puerto Rico



John's invitation to speak in April in San Juan was all the excuse we needed to schedule a family vacation in **Puerto Rico**. After all the talking, we boated through the dense mangroves and trekked El Yunque, the US Forest Service's only tropical rainforest.

¿Que Pasa?  
La Parguera  
Old San Juan  
Spanish Fortresses  
Bacardi Rum Factory  
Bay of Phosphorescence  
bioluminescent dinoflagellates



*As ever, we hope that the New Year will bring you and your family health, happiness, contentment, and the wonderful joys of everyday life.*



2118 Robert Drive, Champaign, IL. 61821-6535

tel/fax: 217-359-2719

h2oconnor@aol.com

# Merry Christmas



We hope the year past has been a time of peace, good health and happiness shared with family and friends. May the New Year bring you even closer to the places and people who bring the greatest happiness to your life.

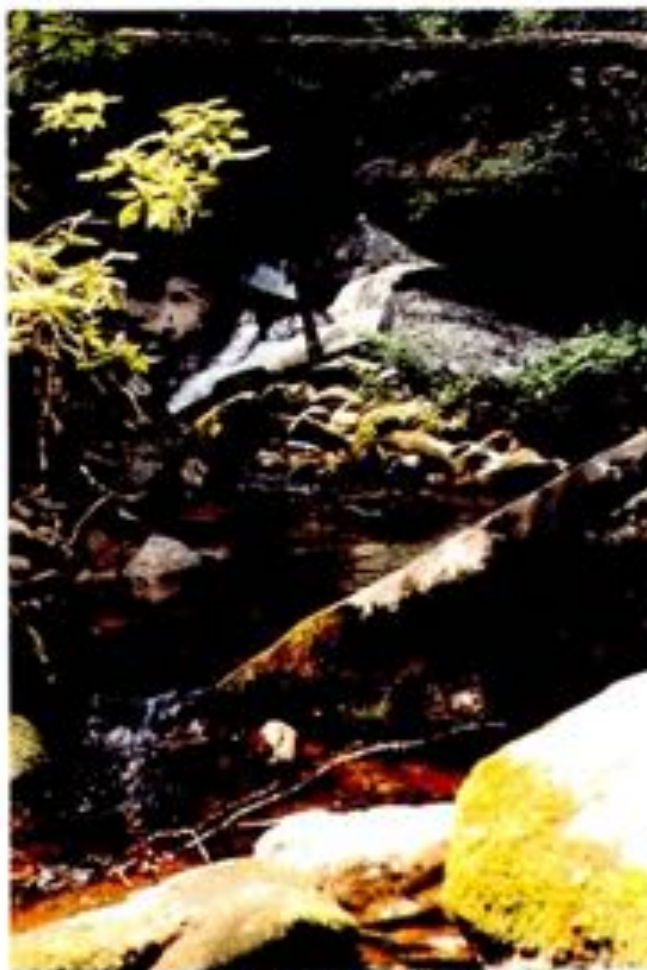


*This past summer, John and I seized the opportunity to attend a lovely wedding in the picturesque Louisiana town of Natchitoches.*

*This provided the impetus for visits to friends in the Southeastern United States.*

*We visited Shreveport, Vicksburg, Birmingham, Georgia's Callaway Gardens and JDR's summer home at Warm Springs.*

*We also hiked with friends in the incomparably beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains.*



Harper Creek Trail, Blue Ridge Mountains, North Carolina  
Photo by Carol Lane



## Tour of Southeastern United States

Blue Ridge Mountains: Rhododendron

NC

Callaway Gardens

"We estimate that 1 kilogram of butterflies excrete 95 grams of droppings per day!"  
Butterfly Sanctuary Engineer



GA

Birmingham, Vulcan

AL

"Today we should visit the Ball Wheel monument, the Coon Dog Graveyard, Hank Williams's memorial and Museum, and the U.S. Army Military Police Corps Regimental Museum!"

"Maybe it's time to go to Callaway Gardens!"

MS

Vicksburg Battlefield, Natchez Trace

"Do cotton balls really get rotten?"

"When all may / say is calling!"



"Steve, Do you take Shauna.."

LA

Pecans, Plantations, Crawdads, Newbyworks

"Yankees pronounce it 'pes cone'!"

"Have you tasted our Crawdads?"



Illinois

Agricultural Chemicals

Missouri

Large-Scale Livestock Production Facilities (Megahog Farms)

Minnesota

Chickens, Turkeys

"Tom and John evaluated water treatment plant performance in the Midwest. They also assessed the effect on stream water quality of raising pigs in Missouri. '...these little piggies go to market!'"

"We have discovered that all water is the same, it is only the stuff in it that is different!" H:Omily

### Heather was awarded a horticulture internship at the Berry Botanic Garden, Portland, Oregon.

She spent the summer digging, hoeing, mowing, learning about and enjoying the Pacific Northwest, a horticultural mecca.

Heather hopes to complete her BS in Horticulture at the University of Illinois this May. She would like to work on the restoration of ecologically-damaged land (phytoremediation).

Heather was invited to detail her experience for the Berry Botanic Garden newsletter. She had created a database of rhododendron species and studied *Syrinchium sarmentosum*, a pale, blue-eyed grass. "...but will it grow in industrial waste sludge?"

Berry Botanic Garden Water Feature-Photo by Heather



District of  
Columbia

John accompanied John on one his trips to Washington, D.C.  
to the Smithsonian Institution and the new FDR Memorial.

*"It was a dark and stormy night."*

John struggled with reviews for I/SEPA research grants and  
Fullbright Awards while I struggled with finding my way through  
museum shops.

*"This is a dark and stormy night."*

*"Do you take 'Discover'?"*

"Can members go up in the tower?"

"The National Zoological Park is part of the Smithsonian!"

John also introduced me to  
historic Old Alexandria, Va  
which is being lovingly  
restored.

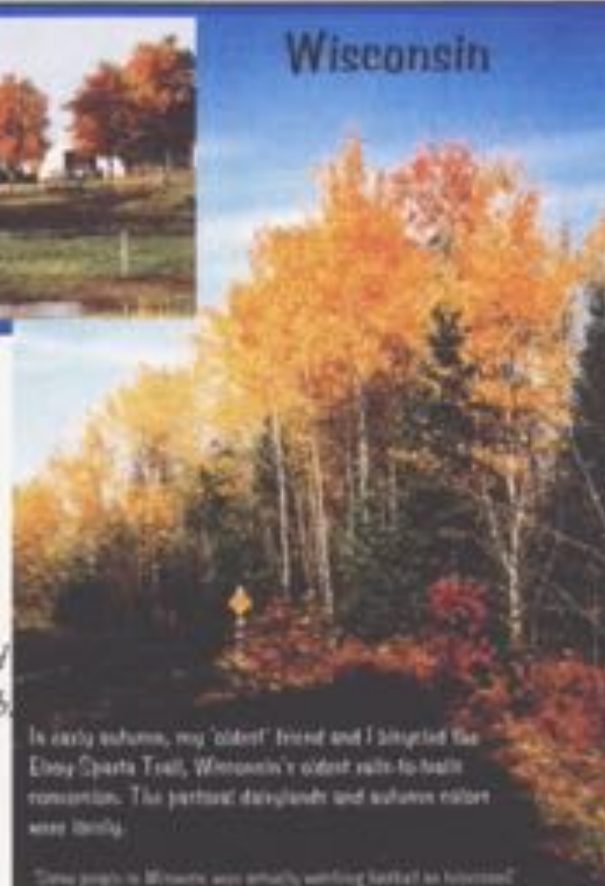
## Wedding Bells

also rang for our niece, Susie. Mother and I travelled to Massachusetts  
to enjoy the festivities surrounding the nuptials. Susie is the first of  
my parents grandchildren to be married.

*"We're a small family!"*



## Wisconsin



Once more, we hope that the



## New Year

will bring you and  
your family health,  
happiness, love  
and contentment.

In early autumn, my 'oldest' friend and I bicycled the  
Ellis Sparta Trail, Wisconsin's oldest rail-to-trail  
conversion. The pastoral landscapes and autumn colors  
were lovely.

*"Some people in Wisconsin are actually willing to call it a holiday!"*

Tribute to Franklin Delano Roosevelt  
32nd U.S. President, 1933-1945





# Happy 1998 Holidays

from the O'Connors at 2401 Tahoe Court, Columbia, MO 65203-1444

Heather graduated from the University of Illinois in May. Then, she was awarded a graduate assistantship in Biology at the University of Missouri-Columbia where her project is a study of the growth rate of poplar trees.

Tom lives in Columbia and works on water treatment and stream monitoring for H<sub>2</sub>O'C, Limited. He has become adept at sorting and identifying macroinvertebrates. Besides working on the microscope or computer, he goes fishing and serves on the Board of the Columbia Art League.

This Christmas we hope to move to our new home to live near and work with Heather and Tom. Our biggest problem seems to be where to place our compost pile.

John's library and office continue to expand as new water quality projects and publications develop. He and Tom have just completed two chapters on microorganisms in water for a book to be published by an engineering society. They hope this will be useful to others in the field of water treatment since it is unlikely to make the 'best sellers' list.

This autumn, to celebrate our collective sixtieth birthdays, eleven Bolavia High School classmates rendezvoused for a vacation in Door County, Wisconsin. This was the first time many of us had been together since graduation in 1956.

This was also a year of renewing friendships on trips to North Carolina, Oregon, Chicago and Boston. Between visits, electronic mail helped us sustain contact. Our address will still be h2pconnor@aol.com.

*As we are in the process of moving, it will be difficult to find time to decorate for Christmas this year. So, please close your eyes and imagine the most pleasant winter scene in your memory. We will see you there.*







We wish you a  
Merry  
Christmas  
1999



We hope you have  
enjoyed a wonderful  
year of love and joy  
with family and  
good friends!

We are Together in Columbia after six years in  
Illinois.

Heather is researching tree growth at the  
Univ. of Missouri Agroforestry Research Station.  
She may earn an M.S. if she can convince  
1600 Cottonwood trees to grow tall, green,  
healthy and fast. Measuring root system  
extension, dry weight and leaf area is  
part of her routine.



John, Tom and I continue to nurture  
H<sub>2</sub>O'C. The boys visit water plants and  
write reports while I learn to use  
accounting software.

.. "another computer?"  
[www.h2oc.com](http://www.h2oc.com)

.. "What happened  
to my ledgers?"

The trailhead to the 190-mile Missouri River Trail can be readily reached from our front door. My brother & sister-in-law, Bob and Bonnie, biked and hiked with us during their summer visit from Massachusetts.



Early in 1999, John & I returned to the 'Down Under.' Our Aussie friend, Tracy guided us to the beauty of Sydney, Canberra and the wine country.

Along with 500,000 other partygoers, we saw Sydney's 'famous' Gay & Lesbian Parade. "I'm both!" "We're neither!"

In New Zealand, our friend, Heather, led us on a free-wheeling tour which culminated with the

**Wildfoods Festival** at Hokitika on the West coast.

We dined on whitebait patties, Westcargot, eel sushi, ostrich, crocodile, paua, and prairie oysters. Monteith's brews helped make it all palatable.



This autumn, John and I traveled to Duluth, Minnesota where John presented a paper.

"Water is wet!"

After his wet words, we toured the shores of Lake Superior.



*In Illinois, my mom can be found, on any given day, volunteering at the Batavia Historical Society, maintaining her 125 bowling average, listening to the likes of former Senator Paul Simon reviewing his latest book at 'Books between Bites', lunching with her classmates from BHS Class of '33 or having a chat with her fellow octogenarian sister, Aunt Carrie.*

*The four of us plus two dogs will join my mother to await Santa in Batavia this year.*

*We trust Santa will also find you and your loved ones gathered together this year.*



*Tom is a Columbia Art League volunteer. Here he helps at the Art Fair food tent. Others pictured are customers.*

*" -- and a Happy New Year ! "*

2000  
1999



We hope the year **MM** has brought you  
**Joy, Peace and Good Health**

In the New Year, may you again share these with all those who bring happiness into your life.

Again this year, our family has enjoyed  
a year of adventure and discovery.

I pursue my interests in the  
LWV, gardening, bicycling  
with friends and traveling.

H<sub>2</sub>O'C takes John & Tom  
to ever more water and  
wastewater plants.

"Show us to the sewage treatment  
water pollution control facility!"

Heather continues to  
study trees & grasses  
at Missouri University.

"Your green is our valley!"

Color me Ireland! With girl friends, I hiked and biked  
the Emerald Isle where we found other John O'Connors.

This past year our journeys took us to Costa Rica, Colorado,  
Ireland and Wisconsin. Conversely, we hosted family and friends  
from Massachusetts, New Zealand, Virginia and Illinois. We also  
hope to have my mom visit us this holiday season.

(John and Tom got to visit Sauger, River and Sikeston, Missouri.)

One learns that serving as a host is a fine way to see and learn  
about one's own home grounds. As guides, we visited Missouri  
wine country, Hannibal, Mark Twain lake country, the St. Louis  
Arch, art museums, sculpture gardens, the Missouri Botanical  
Gardens, Rock Bridge Caves and other delightful local treasures.





A photograph of a man standing in a river, surveying the road crossing. The man is wearing a dark t-shirt, blue shorts, and a cap. He is standing in the water, looking towards the camera. The background shows a dense line of green trees and foliage along the riverbank. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery. The overall scene is a natural, outdoor setting.



Republica de  
Costa Rica

[illegible]

and ?"

born in daylight  
on TV!"

"What's 'Galle Plots'  
on 'Carnes'?"

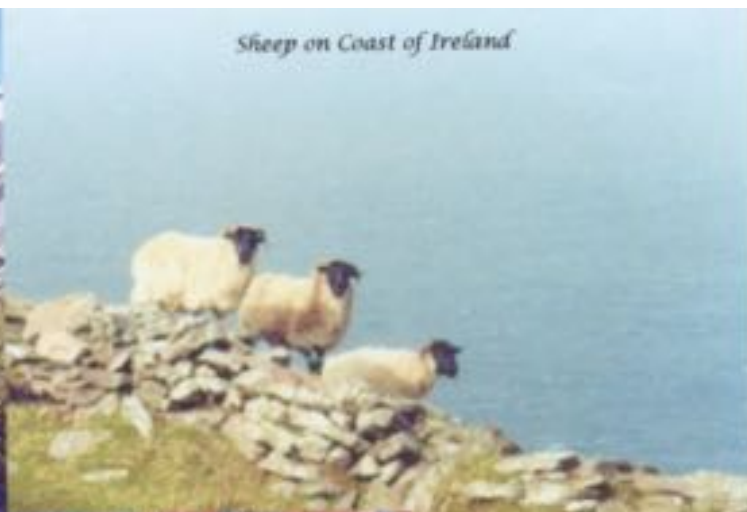
A photograph of three women standing around a table, looking down at something on the table. The woman on the left has blonde hair and is wearing a dark top. The woman in the middle has blonde hair and is wearing a light-colored top. The woman on the right has dark hair and is wearing a dark top. They appear to be in a room with bookshelves in the background.

A man and a woman are running through shallow water towards the camera. The woman in the foreground is wearing a dark tank top and is splashing water. The man is slightly behind her, also running. The background shows a rocky coastline under a blue sky with scattered clouds.





*Colorado Summer*



*Sheep on Coast of Ireland*



*Winter at Tahoe Court*



*Autumn in Wisconsin*



We hope you will relax  
and enjoy each day of '01.  
Happy New Year!



# Merry Christmas 2001

We hope  
the New Year  
brings You  
Good Health,  
Contentment,  
Happiness,  
Peace and  
many Joyous  
Reunions  
with Family  
and Friends.



**Heather**  
is still greening  
the world doing  
field work on  
weeds and bugs  
for the Missouri  
Department of  
Conservation.

**Tom**  
plays saxophone  
and guitar with  
'Festivus' and  
serves on the  
Columbia Art  
League Board.

Our travels took us to  
Colorado, Niagara Falls,  
Cape Cod and Nova Scotia.  
Business pursuits led John  
to Puerto Rico and Tom to  
Texas while the pursuit of  
happiness led me to bike  
the 225 mile Missouri River  
Trail with three friends of  
long-standing.



**John**  
continues to work with  
Tom & publish research  
results on arsenic, copper  
corrosion, and other  
arcane subjects.  
I work with the League  
of Women Voters, putter  
in the garden & bicycle  
at every opportunity.





Keystone, Colorado - March, 2001

A young skier gleefully exclaimed,  
as she breezed by,  
"This is my first time skiing!"  
to which John, awkwardly  
sprawled on the ground, replied,  
"This is my last!"



We set out for **Cape Cod**  
in August to help my  
brother, Bob, celebrate  
both retirement and his  
65th birthday. A great party!

We also visited Woods  
Hole. The marine biological  
and oceanographic  
institutes were wonderful!



Women's Rights National Historic Park  
Seneca Falls, New York



"Hire him! He's got great legs!"

Brother Bob's 65th Birthday Bash  
Mashpee, Cape Cod, Massachusetts



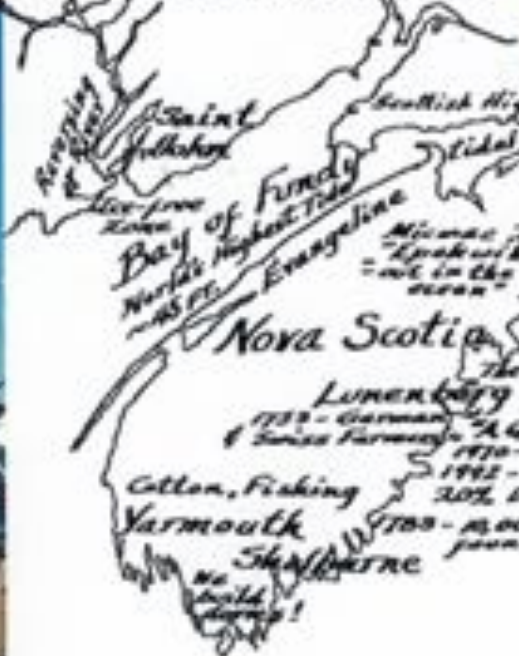
Bob, John, Jay, Dawn, Bonnie, Joane



Portland, Maine via overnight ferry/gambling casino to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.  
 Shelburne » Riverport » Lunenburg » Halifax » St. John



# Atlantic Canada New Brunswick



We viewed the transition to Missouri's lovely autumn from the air by balloon and from the ground along bicycle trails.

More than ever, we hope you and your loved ones find peace and happiness throughout the coming year!







## Merry Christmas 2002

*We hope you have enjoyed another wonderful year filled with those simple daily pleasures that make life the fantastic adventure that it is!*

*For us, all roads lead to Colombia.*



*This year, our travels took us to Wyoming, Colorado, and Italy. Back home, it was business as usual for John and Tom while Heather worked on prairie restoration. I enjoyed gardening, bicycling and my association with the LVV and other civic groups.*

Bicycling in Keystone, Colorado - October, 2002







"Ashcroft is sending 1,000 meter<sup>2</sup> of drapery."



Drink bottled Chianti!



Shopkeepers admonish: "Don't touch the fruit!"

Grappa?



With our friends, George and Marcia Smith, we took the train to Florence but rented a car for our travels through the beautiful Tuscan countryside.

In Cinque Terre, we rendezvoused with my cousins Larry and Carol - both artists familiar with Italy and its heritage. By chance, we met yet again - in Lucca.

TV antennae, roof gardens, laundry drying, schoolchildren, cats, cats, cats!

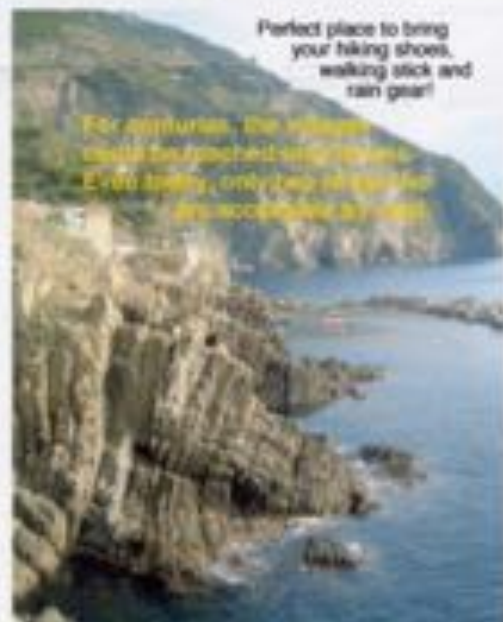
Flower and fish stands, shops,...

Terraced olive groves and vineyards.

Steep, narrow, stone pathways.

Lush vegetation.

All the boats were hauled ashore in anticipation of an incoming storm.





## In Other News.....

Happily, travel works both ways. In the summer of 2002, we were the beneficiaries of a visit from Ruby Coleman, a Kiwi friend we met while walking through a secluded forest in New Zealand. Ruby charmed the locals with her proper speech and demeanor, knowledge of horticulture and native wisdom.



In addition, my brother, Bob, and his wife, Bonnie, visited Columbia during their annual trek from Cape Cod to the Midwest. We enjoyed bicycling along the beautiful Missouri River trail.



...catch any Cod?"



"An Evaluation of Native Species Success in a Savanna Restoration" was the title of the thesis Heather completed for her M.S. in Forestry.

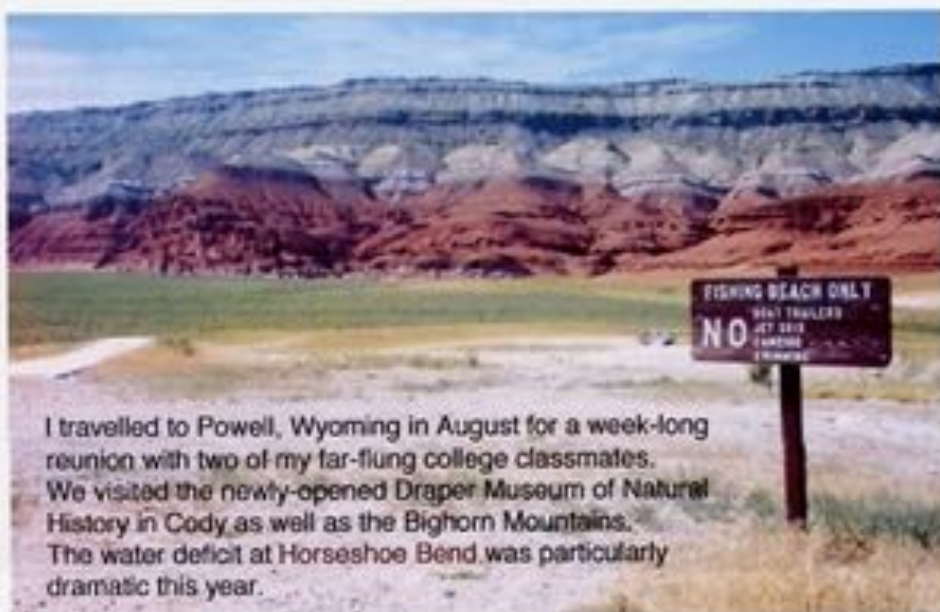
This year, Tom took - and passed - the day-long examination to become a registered professional engineer. He is now E2002003396 and can be sued for malpractice.

John's major accomplishment for the year was recovering rapidly from surgery for a blocked carotid artery. He now makes regular visits to the pill factory.

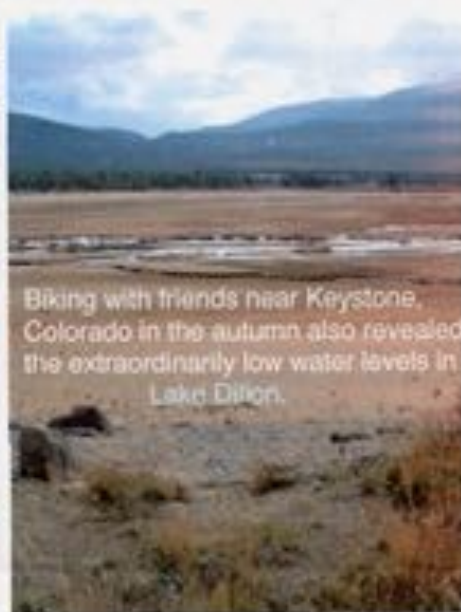


Tom also received the 2002 Warren A. Kramer Award from the Missouri Section, American Water Works Assn. for a technical paper he presented at their annual conference.

Finally, although not a member, Tom has been selected by Rotary International to spend a month in Japan as part of their exchange program.



I travelled to Powell, Wyoming in August for a week-long reunion with two of my far-flung college classmates. We visited the newly-opened Draper Museum of Natural History in Cody as well as the Bighorn Mountains. The water deficit at Horseshoe Bend was particularly dramatic this year.



Biking with friends near Keystone, Colorado in the autumn also revealed the extraordinarily low water levels in Lake Dillon.

In addition to our warmest wishes for this holiday season, we hope the New Year will bring you perfectly formulated allotments of sunshine and rain, warmth and coolth, love, good health and...







CHRISTMAS



2003

## HAPPY NINETIETH, CARRIE!

We capitalized on Aunt Carrie's 90th birthday - and Thanksgiving - to bring the Hainish/Lippold/Clever/O'Connor clan together for a family celebration.  
(From left: Joni, John, Heather, Carol, Larry, Carrie, Tom, Agnes)



We hope you enjoyed another year of peace and happiness surrounded by those you love and that the New Year will bring you, your family and our world still more tranquility and comfort.

There are those among us who are very fond of "findaword" puzzles. See how many holiday words you can find on the grid we created.

...do you have to know how to spell?



Brother, Bob, with his sister.

S	A	G	E	S	S	A	N	T	A	O	N	I	C	I	C	L	E	S	T
N	H	A	W	I	N	T	E	R	F	M	A	N	G	E	R	L	M	T	S
O	R	O	3	G	Q	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	S	E	U	D	O	O
W	B	M	E	N	L	H	J	I	G	R	I	N	C	H	C	B	A	C	H
F	R	L	S	E	E	O	T	E	L	T	S	I	M	Y	H	A	R	K	P
V	I	O	I	X	E	G	G	O	D	A	N	C	E	R	E	Y	V	I	S
C	R	G	W	X	A	F	O	A	G	T	M	E	T	K	U	P	I	N	E
7	H	L	A	M	E	C	L	D	M	E	R	R	Y	J	F	R	V	G	K
S	U	P	M	A	C	N	D	H	P	E	S	O	J	E	R	A	T	S	P
C	H	R	I	S	T	I	N	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	D	A	Y
R	I	A	P	E	G	G	A	H	B	C	T	E	R	M	N	A	V	E	R
O	A	N	H	J	W	H	I	I	C	H	Q	M	3	A	K	I	M	B	L
O	N	C	O	M	E	T	T	M	A	R	I	A	U	N	I	N	O	E	L
G	H	E	L	A	L	B	T	E	R	M	L	R	X	U	N	T	O	Y	W
E	O	R	L	R	E	M	E	S	O	C	B	Y	K	A	C	N	O	G	B
E	L	U	Y	Y	D	F	S	X	L	R	G	M	A	L	E	I	U	H	A
V	I	N	D	F	I	R	N	C	S	H	E	E	P	H	N	C	6	O	L
N	D	A	N	C	E	R	I	G	N	O	V	E	N	A	S	K	U	S	S
L	A	M	B	E	R	G	O	S	F	I	E	L	D	S	E	V	E	T	A
M	Y	R	R	H	D	1	P	Z	Y	C	C	H	P	L	O	D	U	R	M

View our answer at [www.h2oc.com](http://www.h2oc.com) or e-mail us at [joni@h2oc.com](mailto:joni@h2oc.com)





In the spring, Tom toured Japan as part of a Rotary International exchange program. In addition to sampling Japanese family life and hospitality, his group visited temples, shrines, schools, hospitals, research labs and manufacturing facilities.



Tom also managed to squeeze in tours of water and wastewater facilities, including the revolutionary Toto toilet.



"On a clear day..."

This enormous wastewater plant was constructed on an artificial island in the middle of a (formerly) highly polluted lake. Despite the heroic effort, it is now just a polluted lake.



The kids learn some English; "poop" was lettered on the blackboard.

Manhole covers (inlaid) have become an art form in some regions.





I bicycled, recycled, balanced the LWW checkbook, practiced Pilates and performed numerous acts of domestic bedizening.

I also frolicked with H.S. friends at a reunion in Galena, IL.

• • bedizening? bedizening? you'd have to see it!



In the autumn, I joined friends to ride the beautiful New River Trail near Blacksburg, VA.

• • What's new? about this 'ol river!



Having bicycled to the Hartsburg Pumpkin Festival, Missouri Governor Bob Holden chats with Mayor Nancy Grant and an unidentified Missouri taxpayer.

• • How does a town of 100 get 25,000 people to come to a Pumpkin Festival? maybe they came to see if the Governor could ride a bike!

• • she certainly uses lots of long Latin words. Heather worked to identify seeds, weeds, and grasses on Missouri's native Paleybrush Prairie.



John and Tom continue their water work; removing bacteria, radium, methane, arsenic, ammonia, chlorinated organic matter, sulfide, hardness and other stuff from drinking waters.

• • We don't want to stuff in our water!



As President of the Columbia Art League, Tom handed out checks to award-winning artists.

• • ... looks like she's going for the duck!

In 2004, we hope you, your family, dear friends and our entire world will find happiness, love, and true peace!





May the New Year bring *Peace* to you, your loved ones and the world!



Corps of Discovery mania reigned as a reenactment crew retraced the oar strokes of 1804 up the Missouri River which is a lovely bicycle ride from our front door. The Meriwether Lewis and William Clark expedition crew included 27 men, one woman and a Newfoundland retriever, Seaman.

200 years later, we are still travelling and discovering the world around us.



© 2004 Howard Derry



Heather, hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park, discovered that a backpack increases in weight with elevation and time of day.

Heather also received a Sustainable Agriculture Research grant to embark on a journey to explore optimal ginseng production in Missouri forests.

*Continuing to learn. Learning Tom  
wasn't really so good for you!*



Tom, on a month-long Rotary Study Exchange to India, discovered that, if a sacred cow is dozing in front of the town's telephone booth, one shouldn't disturb it merely to make a call.

*But you have no mail!*

Home in Missouri, Tom, as President of the Columbia Art League, got to play Santa to outstanding local artists.

*Del, Del, Del - 'tis the season to buy artwork!*



Water system operator training in India. Tom demonstrates Missouri pumping techniques to amusement of Indian women.



In spring 2004, some friends and I journeyed to Florida to visit a friend who just happened to have a house on a secluded beach on the Gulf.

*Feeling the birds was an art novel!*

Autumn found me with my friends in Wisconsin. We were amazed by the artists and captivated by the cranes as we biked the Mississippi River bays and discovered the simple Amish lifestyle.

*Simple?*

*Doing without seems pretty complex to me!*

Tom and John continued their never-ending exploration of water & wastewater treatment systems as H<sub>2</sub>O/C Engineering journeyed through its tenth year.

*Autumn colors in the Elroy-Sparta, WI Trail*



*Sometimes one bicycle is all you need!*



John & I, on an "our winter-their summer" trip, discovered portions of the mystical Lord of the Rings country on both the North and South Islands of **New Zealand**. We enjoyed visiting Kwi friends in Christchurch, Palmerston North, & Katikati as well as treks with friends in Peel Forest (native bush), Abel Tasman National Park and on the beaches of the Bay of Plenty.

During our Missouri summer, we resumed our explorations of the Canadian Maritime Provinces (**Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick**) as well as **Quebec Province** and **Montreal**, most of which we had never seen before.



We rented an Alamo car in Halifax, drove to Pictou and boarded Hector, a replica of the ship that brought a desperate band of starving Scots to Nova Scotia. On to the rocky, tree-lined shores of Cape Breton where the Acadians were reuniting and recalling the travails of Evangeline & Gabriel, the fishermen were repairing their lobster traps and the tourists were shopping & visiting the Alexander Graham Bell Museum in Baddeck.



We ferried to **Prince Edward Island** to see potato farms, light houses, sand dunes, a wind turbine farm & museum. In Charlottetown, we enjoyed a wonderful production of Anne of Green Gables. Confederation Bridge took us on to **New Brunswick** where unique rock sculptures, waterfalls and tidal flats of the Bay of Fundy awaited.



...and there was so much more to enjoy and discover along our journey -- ferries, fjords, botanic gardens, art museums, lovingly restored old cities, buskers, good food, entertainment, hospitality, warm friendly people...

We hope you, too, will seek and find the joy of discovery in the New Year!



For those of us old enough to remember that:

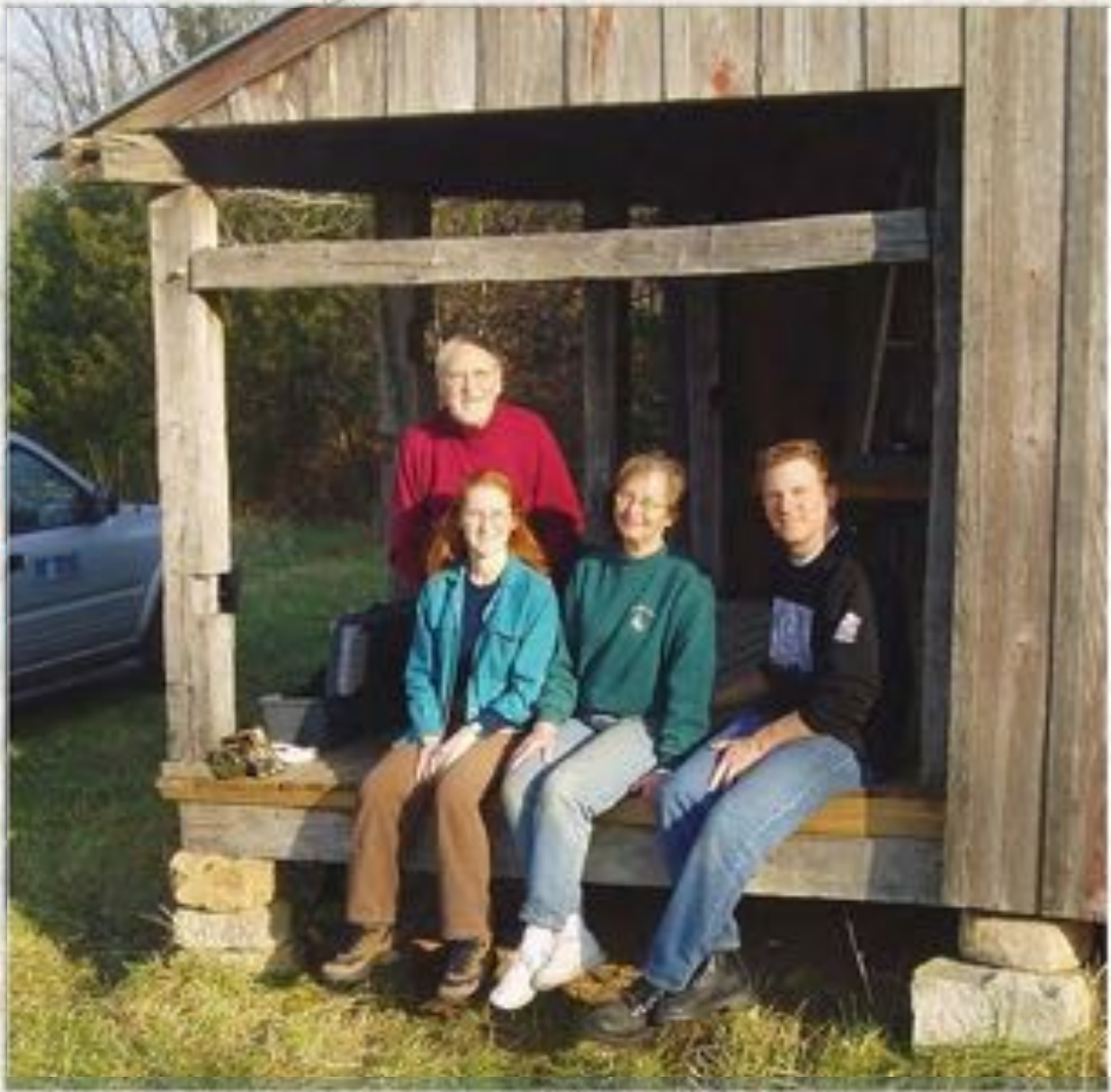
"we have met the enemy..."

Pogo





*Merry Christmas 2005*



Lost Cabin - Boone County, Missouri



In the *spring*, John and I flew to NYC for his **Golden** Cooper (re)Union.

*"50th? - It's my first!"*

In addition to reminiscing and recalling with classmates things that may never have happened, we saw some

**Shows:** Avenue Q, Hairspray,  
**The Blue Man Group**

**Museums:** Metropolitan, Whitney, Frick, Guggenheim, Museum of Modern Art, Heller Gallery (Glass),

plus the unique "Ashes and Snow" photo exhibit in a gallery on Hudson River Pier 54. *"Pier 54, where are you?"*



We lodged in Greenwich Village; lunched in Soho (Happy Mother's Day!); enjoyed wonderful spring blossoms in Central Park and Rockefeller Center; took the A-train; gawked at bright lights of Broadway, visited ground zero; and vowed to come back very soon, perhaps, for John's **Copper** reUnion.



Missouri Botanic Garden

In May, we had the good fortune to host guests from New Zealand, first from the South Island, then, from the North. This gave us the opportunity to revisit Missouri ourselves.



*"...for the 'Advancement of Science and Art?'  
What kind of Union is that?"*

**Peter Cooper's Free Public Forum:**  
**A. Lincoln spoke here...**  
**"Right is Might!"**



*Peter Cooper drank here...  
...no women were allowed...  
until one owned the place.*

*"We were here before you were born"  
"151 years and ale is well!"*



*Central Park reservoir, skyline;  
trees and flowers in profusion.*



Tom took a break from to travel to London, a well-earned vacation

**H<sub>2</sub>O'C  
ENGINEERING**

water engineering Paris and Ireland for

-- and to attend a very special birthday party!



As part of a mentoring program, I volunteered as mentor for 4th graders. Enchante and I enjoyed our hour together each week.





Heather plants ginseng with Tia, planter's little helper.

Heather gave a presentation to the 13th National Small Farms Conference on "Using Valuable Shade-Loving Native Plants (in this case, ginseng) for Diversification and Expansion of a Forest Farming Operation."

As President of the Columbia Art League, Tom enticed supporters by establishing a recurring pARTy at the gallery. Local artists spoke and were honored while potables and delectables were consumed.



We were especially pleased this year to have my mother, after 60 years in her Batavia home, move to a lovely retirement home only a few minutes from Tahoe Court. Mom has adapted exceptionally well to her new home and neighbors.

"Gram's even gaining weight!" "Aren't we all!"

The Cape Cod Clevers visited all of us for an early Thanksgiving celebration - with turkey and all the trimmings.

In a re-enactment of our 'old ladies' bicycling trip two decades ago, two 'now-20-years-older' friends and I travelled to Holland to 'bike the dike' in Friesland. As a special bonus, we added 11 days in Sweden to our itinerary.

Holland: canals, bicycles, windmills; Sweden: lakes, forests, boats



*Once again, we are pleased to send our warmest wishes for a Happy New Year!*





# Merry Christmas 2006

We trust this past year has been another wonderful and exciting year for you and your family – and that you will share these precious holidays with those you cherish the most.

My 91-year-old mom enjoyed coast-to-coast family visitors this year. From Mass, her son, Bob, and his wife, Tamarie, and from Calif., nephews, Larry, and wife, Carol. \* We're in the middle!



John and Tom continued consulting through H<sub>2</sub>OC Engineering. They were excited to be hired to design a radium removal plant.

\* Who can we get to take the radioactive sludge!

This year, I visited good friends in Battle Lake, MN.

\* -- near the origin of the Mississippi, it is 1,475' above and 2,552 curvy miles to the Gulf of Mexico!

I also attended my Batavia High School 50th Anniversary Reunion. My classmates were more fun than ever. \* Remember when...





We were increasingly drawn to the Missouri countryside as Tom undertook to make our log cabin independent of utility-supplied power and water. He installed solar panels and electrical storage to power lights and a water pump. He also installed facilities for collecting and piping rainwater into the cabin. Meanwhile, in the forest, Heather continued her cultivation of ginseng and berries. But, the most unexpected development was the beautiful, sturdy outhouse John Leigers built as a 2005 Christmas present to the family.

*\* -- not one family in a million gets a new outhouse for Christmas!*

*\* The privy will outlast the cabin!*

*\* I doubt we'll ever fill her up!*



*Century-old log cabin and year-old pit privy*



*Tom and his dog, Zain*



*Vintage root cellar with deep roots*



*Berries, bittersweet, persimmons feed the birds*



*Stock (now deer) watering pond*



*Duckweed and reflections*



## Log Cabin (approx. 120 years old) at end of 'Lost Cabin' Road







The most exciting event of 2006 for us was the Sept. 15 marriage of our son, Tom, to Diana Moxon, a lovely, lively, intelligent woman born in Preston, England.

Someday, you may hear Diana's delightful accent. She contributes to the BBC Radio "Word of Mouth" series.

\* I have an accent?

\* Diana did a Mizzou campus interview piece on 'soda' versus 'pop'!

\* I say 'Pepsi' or 'Coke'; or sometimes, 'Dr. Pepper'!

Heather and her fiancé, John Leigers, continue to enjoy life together. Heather helps John with the lighter part of his construction work while John helps Heather with the heaviest aspects of her 'Sustainable Agriculture Research grant'. Together here with 'Bia, they enjoy one of Columbia's loveliest snowfalls.

\* Nothing like a record snowfall to get everyone into their cars to drive to the Mall to enjoy the spectacular winter view of the parking lot!

\* Really? What did you buy?



For our part, we continued to enjoy biking, gardening and an eclectic assortment of community involvements.

eclectic assortment of community involvements: mentoring, pilaticizing, theatrics, fortnightlying, leagueing, museeing, pARTying, ...

\* If Stephen Colbare can coin new words, why not us?

\* How about "Chocolate is my favorite!"

We hope you, also, will find Joy and Love in your personal assortment of family, friends and community involvements in the coming New Year! -- and for all,

**Peace on Earth!**

# Merry Christmas 2007

May the New Year bring *Peace* to you, your loved ones and the world!



The April marriage of our daughter, Heather, to John Leigers highlighted the events of our year and brought new joy to our family life. A skilled carpenter and builder, John pursues his own busy practice.

Heather also accepted a position with the University of Missouri Plant Diagnostic Lab where she gets to identify plant parasites and diseases. The position allows her to continue coursework and study.

*"...give us your tired, sick plants,  
— yearning to be disease-free!"*



As executive director of the Columbia Art League, Tom's wife, Diana, hosted the 49th Art in the Park. She is now raising money for the 2008 move of the Art League Gallery into the historic Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts, currently under restoration.

Tom continues to operate H:O'C Engineering - designing a radium removal water plant, training operators, and giving presentations on the history of wastewater (aka, sewage) treatment.





*It was autumn down south when we vacationed in New Zealand in March. We started in Christchurch and migrated toward the sun (north) by choo-choo, Cook Strait Ferry and autocar to visit Kiwi friends in Palmerston North and Katikati.*

Akaroa Sunset - Banks Peninsula



World's Fastest Reel Mower



Kiwi Friends



Land of Long White Cloud



Aotearoa



One Lane (nogs) - two-way



*It was also autumn when we vacationed up north in Wisconsin in October. We encircled the Baraboo/Mineral Point/Spring Green/Dodgeville region which hosts an extraordinary annual Fall Art Tour featuring the open studios of working artists.*

Potter's Studio - National Historic Register



potter, painter, sculptor  
quilter, weaver, jeweler  
glassblower, printmaker  
tile maker, woodworker  
leather artist, blacksmith  
canoe maker, goldsmith  
photographer, illustrator  
calligrapher, papermaker  
furniture, woodcarver  
stained and fused glass  
bead boxes, mixed media

---isn't brewing an art?



Cinderella & her Prince at Circus World

*Thereafter, we ventured further north to enjoy the vibrant colors of Door County.*



This year, our family suffered the loss of Aunt Carrie at age 93. Carolyn Lippold was sister of my mother, Agnes Clever, who, at 92, remains active at The Terrace Retirement Home in Columbia. [Carrie is seen here with her first car.] The death of one who is loved and admired is an important reminder of the value of a good life.



#### Boxing (St. Stephens) Day - 26 December

Twix the Day after Crispness, when all the rich folks  
thought about gifting to some poorer blokes.  
Merchants gave food and some Masters gave cash,  
and all gathered round to have a big bash.  
Christmas-boxes in Church - all stuffed with their stash,  
were opened to needy ones desperate for hash.  
Tradespeople, servants, wife and the poor (even)  
were feted with gifts in the feast of St. Stephen!  
But all were reminded as their Lords faded from sight,  
don't take this to mean that you have any right!

*The onset of each New Year not only prompts a retrospective,  
..but spurs anticipation of events to come.*

#### 2007 Retrospective:

John and Heather's Nuptials (and Parties)  
Our Twelfth St. Swithun's Day Celebration  
Our Forty-First Christmas Greetings Letter  
Missouri Football Tigers ranked #1 -- for a week!  
See the Tigers in the Cotton Bowl! New Year's Day

#### 2008 Anticipation:

Our Forty-Second Anniversary --a gift of real estate?  
My Seventieth Birthday --send a card on January 25!  
John's Seventy-Fifth --open a 88th on February 11!  
Tom & John's Book on Water Treatment Plant Performance  
Evaluations and Operations --who has time to read this?

With our warmest wishes for a New Year filled with love and the joys brought by peace, family, friendship, good health, good food, and all of those things that can make you truly happy!





<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4H7TgAOneKI>

# 2007 Report

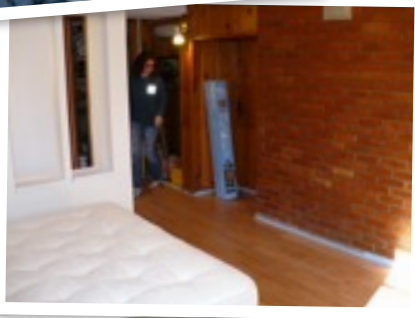
## My cushy-ass life

Everything's peachy! I have a wonderful wife, family, friends, home, neighbors, dog, fish, a couple cars, no boss, a television you could land a helicopter on, and a cell phone that takes pictures and makes waffles. I drive my 185-pound self around willy-nilly in a 2,700-pound vehicle. There are a vast array of stores that I can drive to and get pretty much everything I could possibly want, short of haggis. I can get on a plane and be pretty much anywhere in the world within a day. The electricity is on 99.99% of the time, and it's so cheap that I run a refrigerator all winter. The best drinking water in the world is piped directly into my home, and every morning I take a dump in it. Then it goes away! There are millions of people working for pennies making all sorts of crap for me, and other, better-paid people making sure that I won't get my head stuck in it or get sick if I eat the paint off it. Yep, it sure is easy being me.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W48RcjeXjIY>

And the best part of it all is that I truly appreciate every bit of it, 'cuz I know that all of this fun, crazy shit can't last forever.



## *The New Guest Suite*

For your visiting pleasure, we now have a fully-functional guest suite, complete with a cushy-ass queen-size bed. There was a large opening between the bathroom and bedroom, but upon further review, we decided to block that off with a slab of styrofoam and a picture. So now it's safe to visit as couples while pooping as singles.

## *Springtime*

Good times. Planted some fruit and nut trees at the cabin. They're mostly dead, but maybe I'll have an apple and a sorry little almond in a few years.

Snippy came out and passed inspection for two more years of that crazy bullshit.

Rusty and Becky handled Cinco de Mayo flawlessly.



## *Deutschland, Uber Alles*

As part of a Rotary program, I helped host a cultural exchange team from Germany. I'd like to think that they had half as much fun as I did.

Video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecJoR7Joq4o>





## *Chicago*

Ben moved to Chicago, and we immediately visited while Celtic Fest was in full swing. Cabers were tossed, sheep were herded, harps were struck, bagpipes were squawked, dark beers were transformed to clear pisses, but there wasn't a haggis to be seen.

## *Wedding*

### **O'CONNOR STYLE**

My sister Heather and John Leigers were legally wed by Matt Mehmert, who read from Darwin's "The Origin of Species."



## *Family*

Diana's dad, Ron Moxon, visited all the way from Preston, England.

Sadly and shockingly, Columbians lost our Queen Mother, Betty Brown, in 2007. Long live the Queen.





### *Viva*

Everyone should go to Vegas at least once and no more than five times. Craig and Shana renewed their vows at the Graceland Chapel with Elvis presiding.

Video at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWaEhFW6bDk>



### *We're Gettin' the Band Back Together*

Not that we're buying a bus or anything, but a few of the Rufus guys have been getting together as *Stinkin' Refuse* or *The Jerry Wagner Quintet*, or *Don and the Gay Apparels*.



### *Rotary Water Project*

As the International Project guy in my Rotary club, I was able to add a very tiny bit of cash to the lives of a bunch of schoolchildren in Bhatkal, India. We funded a project that supplies treated drinking water to a school.



## *Summertime, and the Living is Cushy*

### **FLOAT ON**

The Fourth of July weekend was campground-style cushy. A little rain was no match for tons of food, gallons of booze, and acres of big-ass tarp.



Video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXVXwWPuo6M>

## *Art in the Park*

### **ART ON**

Diana ran the show at Art in the Park. I ran the Gator. The \$15,000 featured musical act was The Grass Roots. Yeah, that's what we said, too.



Diana is the local media darling, having appeared in every form of print, radio, and television that we have.

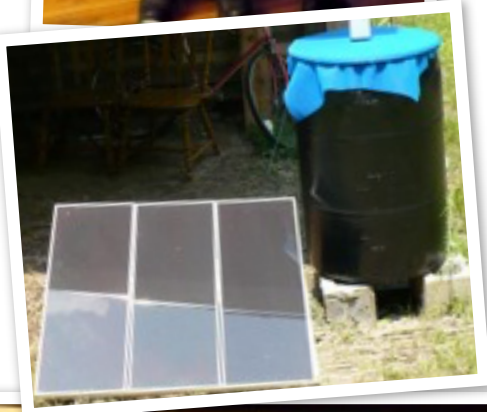
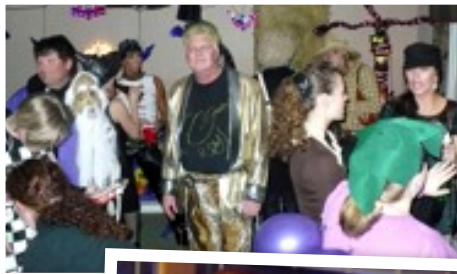
Video at: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=TCv9EbiAB8M>

## *Roots, Blues, and BBQ*

### **ROCK ON**

Boone County Bank put together a fantastic music festival that turned downtown into a full-blown rock'n'roll extravaganza. With bicycles, Shake's cups, and a strategically-located refrigerator, we were able to avoid the 'blues bucks' and 'kiddie-coral beer bin' bullshit.





## *Seeing the Light*

Last year doom boxes, this year LEDs. Here are 44 in series, providing a respectable amount of light for less than two watts. This'll come in handy at the cabin or when things are less cushy in general. Or for a cool tiara or Halloween costume.



## *Halloween*

We availed ourselves of all the fun and unique things that Halloween lets you get away with doing.



## *The Cabin*

### **OFF-GRID CUSH**

The cabin is sporting solar panels, rainwater collection, and indoor plumbing. Very cushy by historical standards. By Diana's, not so much.





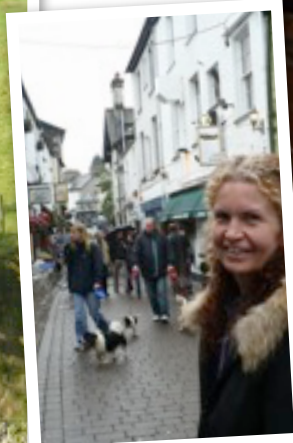
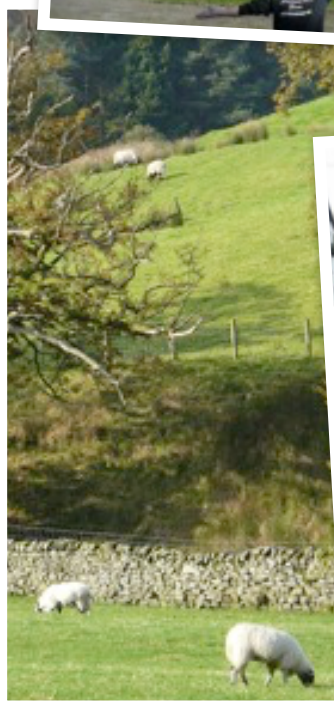
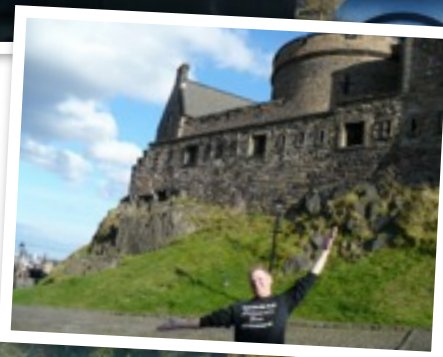
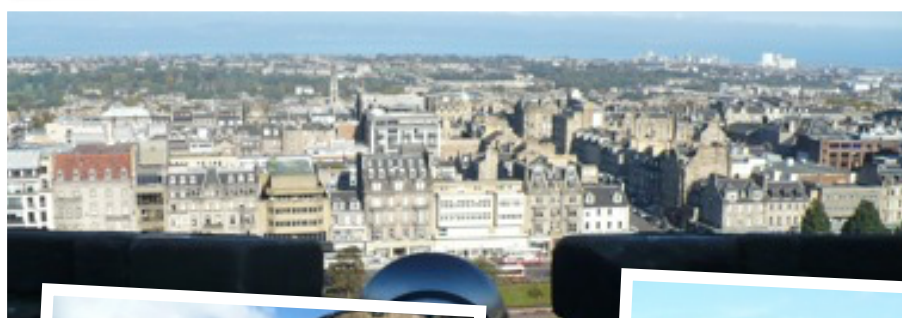
## UK 2007 Tour



This year's UK excursion took us to Edinburgh, Scotland, in addition to Preston and

London, England.

Haggis, neeps, and tatties.  
Scotch. Castles. Tea.  
Museums. Galleries.  
Beers. Rugby. Weak dollar.  
Spamalot. Moxons and  
Barbers.





## Missouri Tiger Football

### THE BEATING OF THE JAYHAWKS

As if it wasn't enough that Tiger football consistently gives us excuses to get together and drink, this year we got to get together, drink, and yell a bunch.

## H<sub>2</sub>O'C Engineering

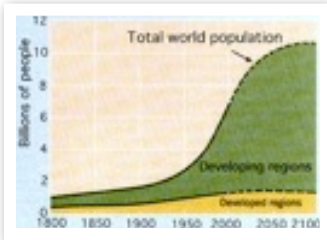
My dad and I continue to work together, doing consulting engineering, water plant operator training, and generally making it up as we go along.



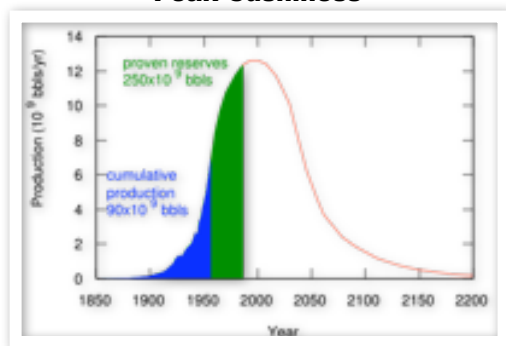
### Global Cushioning Reserves



### Global Cushioning Demand



### Peak Cushiness



## Peak Cushiness

It's been a tremendously cushy year, and we're looking forward to another one. However, there are those who warn us that we are approaching peak cushiness. As the graphs show, the earth's supply of raw cushioning materials is being depleted, while the world's increasing population is exerting a higher cush demand.

May your world be comforting and resilient in 2008, and may your cushiness be sustainable.

Spongy Love,

Tom and Diana



# 2008

We hope all of our friends and loved ones will enjoy a  
Happy, Merry, Great, Joyous, Wonderful, Mirthful,  
Vivacious, Festive, Gay, Spectacular, Gleeful, Jocund,  
Cheerful, Wondrous, Stupendous, Jaunty, Awesome,  
Incredible, Fabulous, Blithe, Jolly, Phenomenal,  
Stunning, Sprightly, Hilarious, Extraordinary,  
Remarkable, Astonishing, Miraculous, Amazing, Joyful  
Holiday Season, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, New Year,  
Boxing Day, Winter Solstice, Alamo Bowl, & Noel.

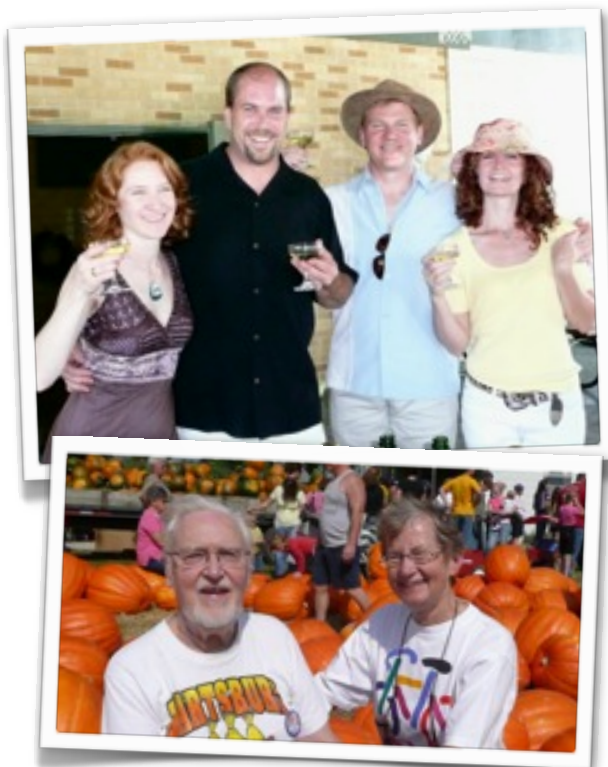


Heather, John, Tom, Diana ....and the Elderly People

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

from the Old'Connors





Hartsburg, MO pop. 108  
Pumpkinfest attendance: 20,000

In addition to his involvement in community affairs, Tom continues to manage the projects of H<sub>2</sub>O'C Engineering. Along with John, he has co-authored a book on Water Treatment to be published by John Wiley & Sons.

*John Wiley says it will be ready in February.*



Agnes Hainisch,  
Batavia High School, Class of 1933

In March 2008, attended by loved ones, including my brother Bob, who came from Massachusetts, Mom died peacefully at age 93. Her older sister, Carrie, died the previous year, also at age 93.

A memorial service was held in Batavia, IL for her many life-long friends and relatives, including two of her high school classmates. She was buried in Batavia alongside my father, Lynn.

Our family has enjoyed another year of good health and happiness, along with a measure of sadness.

Heather's husband, John, has been designing and building decks (his favorite task) and pergolas, repaving drives, renovating kitchens and bathrooms.

*Ready for Happy Hour?  
John just installed a bar in their basement.*

Tom's wife, Diana, as Executive Director of the Columbia Art League, vigorously solicited contributions for installing the Columbia Art League Gallery into the newly-restored Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts.

*Join CAL & support the Arts*

This year, Heather expanded her research activities at the University of Missouri. She was invited (hired) to participate in a plant research program that involves applying newly-developed analytical techniques.

*"They don't always work..."*



*photo booth, 1965*





*Twenty-First Century Four-um at the Second Century Roman Forum*



*Colosseum, 80 AD (eighty-eighty?)*



*The Village of Charlwood has no streetlights, so small THE STREET needs no other name.*



In November, we collected my 70th birthday present which was "a fun, exciting, no-expenses-paid" trip to England with Tom & Diana, where we remet her father and brother and met other friends and relatives while feasting on delicious food, tasting tea (with milk, of course), and running through raindrops. Since we were nearby, we traveled on to Rome to visit our artist cousins, Larry and Carol. More fabulous food, "drinks well" wine and sunny skies. I could go for a milestone birthday every year.



*Garden Walk, Champaign-Urbana Master Gardeners, 2008*

*Came close to needing a canoe as friends and I biked along the flooded Fox River in Illinois.*







Aided by 'Bia, Heather plants ginseng in Missouri forest as part of her research project.



# 2008 Report

## Good Times

### The Grail

For a long time, I've tried to give original, local art as gifts, and I always got out the handmade bowls and shit for special events. So I thought I "got it."

Recently, my friend and local claymaster, Karsten, kindly gave us a couple of his lovely, handcrafted mugs. Naturally, we put them in the cupboard where the mugs go.

One morning, I'm standing in the kitchen, drinking out of some generic mug with "[Team Building Exercise '99](#)" printed on it, and it instantly becomes painfully obvious how horribly wrong it all is.



I get Karsten's mug out of the cupboard, transfer my tea into it, and start pulling all these old generic mugs out of the cupboard and into a paper bag to be Freecycled.



And there I am in my moment of clarity. I don't need a whole cupboard full of two dozen crappy mugs from a huge ceramics factory in Asia with a bunch of bullshit printed on them. I just need one really cool mug, handmade right here in Columbia by my artist friend, that I use every day.

I'm extremely pleased with myself for about a minute, after which I am disappointed in myself for my preceding decades of cluelessness. Hope you've already [Found Your Grail](#).



I played some music in 2008--just just enough to have a little fun and get into a little trouble. I was the orchestra director and guitarist for [The Full Monty](#) at Columbia Entertainment Company. Brian and Sean capably anchored the rhythm section.



Thanks to the Numbers and the power of the Shell Blanket, The [Roast](#) was on over Memorial Day weekend.

2008's [Saint Patrick's Day Party](#) was more documented than usual.



We picked up Scott from the Full Monty cast, and he joined Stinkin' Refuse for a few local appearances. But we always made him stand in the back of the picture.



Diana and I were able to sponge off Ben and Molly in Chicago and soak up some good times there.



I've basically quit drinking soda, and since I had some lying around, I discovered that if you put yeast in soda, you get booze. Also, two-liter bottles can take a ridiculous amount of pressure without actually exploding.





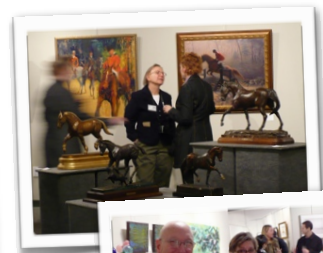
John and Nick and I tore off my old redwood deck and built this sweet new cedar deck. Zain digs it.



We got a big-ass grill so that we could have a big-ass deck party. We might do that again next summer.

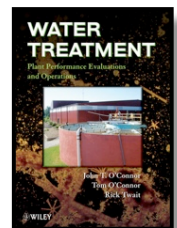


Efforts to increase the cush factor and feather the post-apocalyptic nest at the cabin continued, with the planting of fruit and nut trees. And more diddling around with LEDs and solar panels.



Diana continued her heroic efforts with the [Columbia Art League](#)--stabilizing the organization financially, pulling off another fabulous Art in the Park at Stephens Lake, and moving the operation down the street and into the newly-renovated Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts.

My dad and I continued with our consulting firm, [H2O'C Engineering](#). We bundled a bunch of our studies at Bloomington, IL into book form, and [Wiley Interscience](#) published it. I expanded our scope from water into renewable energy, doing some work for the [National Biodiesel Board](#).



Through Rotary, I helped bring [clean water to the village of Chandanwadi](#) in India.



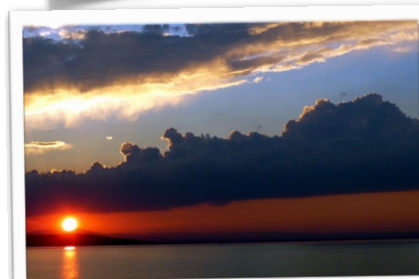
John and Heather had another great Halloween party, filled with participants. Diana was a little white lie, and I was [Brian the dog](#).



Matt made us this redonkeydiculously cool kitchen island. Made it. All by himself. Out of trees and shit. Maybe he bought the handles, but I wouldn't be too surprised if



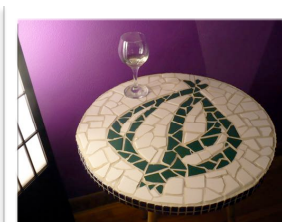
he mined the ore, forged the metal, and nickel-plated those bitches himself.



Diana and I saw Obama speak in Columbia a few days before he was elected President. Probably a coincidence.

News was too painful and annoying to take directly in '08, so we assimilated it via The Daily Show and The Onion, which [foretold](#), [monitored](#), and [summed up](#) the Bush presidency perfectly. And of course, [this classic](#).

I made this Onion logo table and emailed this pic to The Onion, but they never replied. I guess they get that kinda stuff all the time.



We enjoyed several trips this year--I went to Vermont, and we had a nice, relaxing trip to Texas, but our big outing was to Italy and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.





In celebration of my mom's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, we took my folks on the trip and visited all the family in Preston and the Barbers in London.



We did a bunch of the tourist stuff-- museums, the polka dot boat that doesn't have dots anymore, the London Eye, shopping, tea, fish and chips, pints of cask ale, Spamalot, the Lake District... and I was excited to see this moai from Easter Island, since I enjoy his [comic strip](#).



Serendipitously, we were at Westminster Abbey on Remembrance Day.

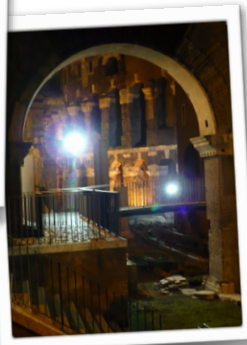


We flew to Italy on my birthday (hence no party this year), where we met up with my second cousin, Larry, and his wife Carol, who have an apartment there.

Rome is a great city to just screw around aimlessly in--easily walkable, great people-watching, and wondrous sights are constantly springing up on you. The food is great, but it's pointless to eat the pizza if you live in Columbia.



We visited a bunch of the classic tourist sites, including the massive bird flock of Castle Saint Angelo and the corresponding world's-most-shat-upon Volkswagon.



So... that was fun. Hope you are having a great 2009. I'll get to work on next year's report right away.



Lots of Love,  
Diana and Tom



# Season's 2009 Greetings

*We send our warmest wishes  
along with our hope that  
the future with a peaceful world*



*for the New Year,  
mankind may yet secure  
for those we love and cherish.*



## A Tale of Three Cities



Heather and I celebrated her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday with a trip to our Nation's Capitol. There we met friends from Blacksburg, VA, and College Park, MD to lunch and share historical and scenic adventures with.



In the summer, John and I boarded Amtrak for a pleasant journey to the Second City. We enjoyed Millennium Park and the new wing of the Art Institute. After many years, we reprised the architectural boat tour only to discover a new, revitalized River Walk.



This autumn, John and I returned to The Big Apple for *The Cooper ReUnion* and the unveiling of its acclaimed new building. We managed to visit some museums, see some shows, shop at Macy's, and join the throngs visiting Ellis Island.

*Welcome, huddled masses!*



## H<sub>2</sub>O'C Engineering

**John and Tom** continued consulting for water utilities. They were most excited to be awarded a contract to develop a long-range plan for a progressive community seeking to move toward sustainability by reducing its carbon footprint and becoming energy self-sufficient using alternative energy sources.

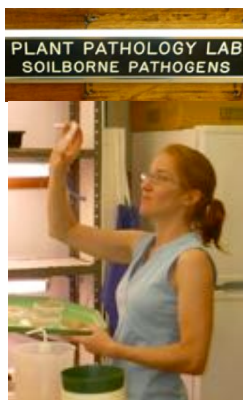
However, their new book on **Water Treatment** is only slowly ascending to the best seller's list.

● ...very slowly...



When not outside gardening, **Heather** spent much of her time in an MU lab developing intricate new techniques in an effort to confer novel and (hopefully) desirable properties to plants.

● Have you tried giving **Audrey III** a few drops of your blood?



**John and Heather** were often found outdoors; camping, hiking, backpacking, wading, and, occasionally, running from disturbed and disgruntled bees. When not in the woods, **John** was could be found working with wood to create exceptional decks. His renowned construction skills were in constant demand.

● When can you fit us in?

**Diana and Tom** cultivated Columbia's art lovers, hosting receptions at the **Columbia Art League** and organizing the annual festival, **Art in the Park**. In her role as Executive Director, Diana has become a local media spokeswoman for the arts.

At home, even as Diana exploits her English gardener's genes, Tom confounds her landscape with curious experimental energy & rain harvesting mechanisms.

● He has reduced their electricity use by 80%.

● She seems to be enduring it pretty well.



Avid gardeners and denizens of the local farmer's market, all four relish cooking fresh produce and creating culinary works of art.

● What's for dinner?



Meanwhile, **John** has quietly embarked on new endeavors including:

reading books (He joined [The Book Guys](#) reading group.),  
drinking wine (with the [Friday Afternoon Drinking and Carousing Association](#), and  
playing with the computer while leaving all the hard engineering work to Tom.

- *Oh, ...and did I mention doing crossword puzzles and solving Cryptoquotes?*



#### **As for yours truly,**

I continued volunteer work with the [Columbia Art League](#),  
the [League of Women Voters](#),

- ... *this year, our chapter celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> year.*
- ... *you need to get some younger members ...*

and mentoring a 4<sup>th</sup> grader.

- ... *now, that is really fun ...*
- ... *also, a good way to find out if you are smarter than a 4<sup>th</sup> grader ...*
- ... *or not.*

I also continued my schooling, taking [lifelong learning](#) classes.

- ... *and I hear she's a really tough grader ...*

For exercise, I bicycled on our beautiful converted railroad trail (logging  
my highest annual mileage) and continued Pilates & aerobics classes at  
[Columbia's Recreation Center](#)

- ... *our local school for flabby abbys ...*



***We are grateful for another wonderful year with our family  
and trust that your heart has also been filled with wondrous  
and memorable experiences shared with your loved ones ...***



***We sincerely hope that the New Year will bring you more fun  
than a fistful of balloons.***

# Season's Greetings

**We again send you our Sincerest Wishes for a  
Festive 2010 Holiday Season and a Happy New Year**

**We trust this year has been another wonderful and exciting adventure for you and your family  
and that you will come together to share these precious holidays with those you cherish most.**



Chicago Blackhawks win 2010 Stanley Cup

**Trains** carried us to Chicago, while **planes** flew us to Colorado vistas and to historic '*Mediterranean worlds*' that were very new to us.

**Bicycles** carried us to nearby destinations along Missouri's scenic Katy Trail which also provided many opportunities for nature photography.



This past year our family enjoyed a happy mélange of fun parties, impromptu celebrations, trail bicycling, eating, walking, exercising, gardening, book reading, play-going, volunteering, mentoring, and hosting friends; all blended with photography, art, entertainment, and travel.

We enjoyed visits from brother, Bob, and sister-in-law, Bonnie, as well as from the *Bikin' Babes*, dear friends from Missouri, Illinois, and Virginia who have biked together for 25 years at locations around the globe.





After much research and skillful planning by Heather, we undertook to travel to *Sicily* and *Spain* this past spring.



Larry, Heather & John Leigers, Carol, John at the intersection between our venerable apartments on the island of Ortygia, Siracusa. Age and moisture caused our apartment entryway to collapse.

In April, Heather, the two Johns, and I rendezvoused with our San Francisco artist cousins, Larry and Carol Lippold ([larrylippold.com](http://larrylippold.com)), in Siracusa, Sicily. They shepherded us along the well-worn stone-paved streets of Ortygia, through farmer's markets and museums, and otherwise provided wonderful guidance, interpretation, home-cooked cuisine, and companionship.

Good weather, comfortable accommodations, friendly hosts, fascinating historical sites, followed us through our Sicilian journeys to *Neapolis*, *Noto*, *Ragusa*, *Lipari*, *Taormina*, and *Catania*. Only the volcanic eruption at Eyjafjalla Glacier created a small ripple in our travel plans.



Heather selects fresh fruits and veggies at the Ortygia Farmer's Market.



Short Keeper of the Tall Gate



John and Heather at the Botanic Gardens in Taormina, near Mount Etna.



Us, on the Aeolian Island of Lipari

From Sicily, we flew to *Barcelona, Spain* for the culture and museums, then, to *Sitges* for the sun, sand, and surf.



Tree Huggers of Barcelona







# Ortygia, Sicily

## Farmer's Market

Fishmongers

Octopi

Squid

Nut Vendor





## Oddities and Ends



It appears I became a 'professional' artist by selling my first photo entry, *Autumn Leaves*, in the Columbia Art League Member's Show at its November 2010 opening reception.



When called to Rome on a consulting assignment, Tom was delighted that Diana was able to join him. Still, he claims her shopping cost more than the flight.



Our old log cabin became a shooting location for an independent filmmaker. You've probably heard of *Winter's Bone*? This wasn't it.



Tom continued working on and lecturing about water as *H<sub>2</sub>O'C Engineering* entered into its 17<sup>th</sup> year ([www.h2oc.com](http://www.h2oc.com)).



John & Heather could often be found hiking Missouri trails and traversing its clear streams.



With good friends living in downtown Chicago, Heather & John, Diana & Tom, John & I, alternately, visited the Windy City for entertainment, culture, ...., pizza & beer.

We hope that you have also enjoyed another year of happiness and simple pleasures,  
always finding it possible to laugh at the human comedy along the way.

We believe that examining and enjoying fragments of the treasures of days past  
adds to the nostalgia and appreciation of what our lives have been.



*the O'Connors*





**We offer you our Heartfelt Wishes for a  
Myrrhie 2011 Christmas and a Happy New Year**

**We hope this year has been another wonderful adventure for you and your family  
and that you will gather together to share these precious holidays with those you cherish most.**



This past year our family enjoyed Missouri's outdoors by trail bicycling, hiking, flower and vegetable gardening plus, for Tom, designing and building energy conservation projects. Again, autumn was particularly beautiful.



Our travels took us to the mountains of Colorado with hiking and biking buddies; to Newfoundland on a Road Scholar program; and to New York City for a long weekend. Back home, we were fortunate to host friends from New Zealand, Illinois, Alabama, Virginia, & Minnesota, plus our kin, Bob & Bonnie, from Massachusetts.



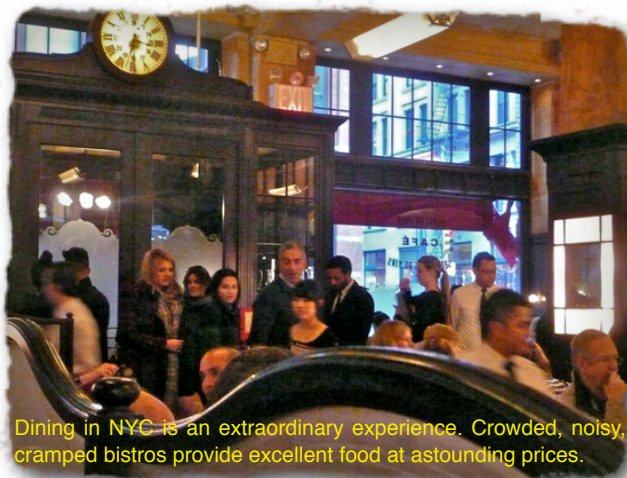


In Greenwich Village, *New York's Finest* guarded us along with the artists, musicians, terrorists, onlookers and generic loiterers occupying Washington Square Park



Christmas lights in Zuccotti Park

Downtown, the World Trade Center site and Memorial were essentially off limits to civilians, while the police alone constituted a street crowd. Nearby, the protesters occupying Zuccotti Park, looking much like your average NYC subway crowd, were surrounded by barricades breached only by a police-monitored entry/exit point.



Dining in NYC is an extraordinary experience. Crowded, noisy, cramped bistros provide excellent food at astounding prices.

**Diana arranged our expedition to *The Big Apple* as a surprise gift for Tom's 45<sup>th</sup> Birthday.**

Although the Times Square and Rockefeller Center crowds were at near peaks, we did find some measure of refuge at the Museums of Modern Art (MOMA) and Natural History.



We visited **The Great Hall** in **The Cooper Union** where **Mark Twain** was the first speaker.



In John's view, the greatest improvement in New York was the conversion of the old *High Line* Rail Line to a linear park. "Whoever conceived of this generous gift to New York's walkers, birders, joggers and tourists should be awarded a Nobel Prize."



View of the Manhattan Bridge from the Brooklyn Bridge





Along with Sandi, my friend since childhood, plus a coachload of *Road Scholars*, we toured the charming fishing villages of **Newfoundland**. We ate codfish and drank beer brewed with water melted from glaciers. We recommend the trip, but suggest you dress for weather.



John & Tom consulted, conducted operator training and lectured as *H<sub>2</sub>O'C Engineering* entered into its 18<sup>th</sup> year. You can access some of their more whimsical slide shows at <https://communities.acs.org/blogs/h2oc>



John, as TVs Dexter, at his and Heather's wild and "WEIRDLY" wonderful Annual Halloween Costume Party.



Both excellent cooks, Heather & John serve a main dish at the XVI Celebration of the Feast of St. Swithiun.



This autumn, a gaggle of giggling girl friends made our way to Keystone, Colorado mainly to gab, gawk, and gobble. We also hiked in the snow.



I regularly bicycle the Missouri River Trail. To enjoy an early Thanksgiving dinner, we rode 16 km to Boonville. Some of us even biked back, turkey in tummies.



This spring, John undertook the arduous task of reroofing our home. It is beautiful and we are now set for the next fifty years. We will update you in our 95<sup>th</sup> letter.



*We trust you have enjoyed yet another year of life's simple pleasures, always finding it possible to smile at our human comedy along the way.*



# Season's 2012 Greetings

We trust that this year your journey has been serene as you sailed through placid waters with a fair wind at your back. We also hope that the Holidays and the New Year will bring you to ports where you will find peace and take your comfort among family and good friends.



Our little crew remained steadfast as we enjoyed another year of peace, happiness and contentment.

With Heather's assistance, her husband John brings comfort and beauty into numerous Columbia homes.

*Renovations for comfort and joy comfort and joy ♪*

Tom and Diana's newest creative activity takes the form of a series of whimsical newspaper columns chronicling their efforts to conserve and reduce their household energy use. *Energy independence in 2013!*

Tom and John continue to consult with Missouri and Illinois water utilities, providing operator training and evaluating system performance and efficiency.

*For fun, John also contributes to the American Chemical Society website on water and wastewater chemistry and technology.*

As in past years, I continue to bicycle, exercise, volunteer and serve as secretary for the Boone County League of Women Voters. *Campaign finance reform! Now!*



Despite adverse weather, Heather and John again brought forth a beautiful and productive native grass/flower/garden crop.



John and I were content to attend plays and concerts plus offer 'granddog-sitting-service' while the 'kids' were traveling.  
*"Remember to take plastic bags on your walk."*



While Tom ministered to H<sub>2</sub>O'C Engineering, Diana continued to direct the Columbia Art League.  
*"CAL was founded in 1959!"*



Tom created a local stir as he built Columbia's first **solar panel pergola**. The *Power Couple* now sells enough energy to the City to offset any power that they purchase.

"The solar panel warranty guarantees 85% rated output after 25 years."

Diana & Tom are avid gardeners. Record summer heat revealed which vegetables were hardiest. "In addition, there is almost no grass to mow."

Thanks to our kids' gardens, we were treated to *fresh from the vine* produce much of the growing season.



This summer, we journeyed to

the Missouri Botanical Gardens (St. Louis) to enjoy their spectacular display of illuminated art.

The **Chinese Lantern Festival** was creatively presented as  
**"Art by Day,** **Magic by Night."**



The **dragons** were constructed of porcelain plates, saucers, cups, ..., whereas the **globes** were crafted of fine silk.

The illumination after nightfall caused the daywatchers to retrace their steps for yet another 'artventure'.







Missouri Botanic Garden: Chinese Lantern Festival - 2012





## Tall Ships

A trip East brought me to  
Baltimore Harbor  
where the

## Sailabration

attracted tall ships and  
singing sailors from  
around the world in  
commemoration of the  
bicentennial of the  
War of 1812.

O, say can you see, ♪



*In August, with friends, I traveled to Norway to board an  
icebreaker for a once-in-a-lifetime Arctic Circle adventure.*

*"Svalbard was icy cold, but is rapidly melting and may soon become  
a winter vacation destination."*



With Heather & John, we returned to the Missouri Botanical Gardens  
in for their wonderfully creative December Christmas Show.

"We did a little shopping, too!"



Homesite along fjord in Norway

We hope that, in the coming year, each day  
will bring a new adventure into your life, whether  
you take a trip to a remote Pacific Isle or an  
uplifting visit to your local art gallery. We believe  
that adventure is more in the spirit of one's  
enterprise than in an exotic location.

Finally, we trust that our nation will finally find  
the courage to ban weapons that cruelly ravage  
the lives of our children and their families.

*We wish you a Merry Christmas ♪*



# Merry 2013 Christmas

*May love and laughter light your days and warm your heart and home.  
May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam.  
May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures.  
May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours!*

*An Irish Proverb*



**Summer 2013 found us in warm, sunny Ireland.**

*"We don't normally stock sunscreen!"*

*'RoadScholar' introduced us to Irish dance, song, theatre, literature, farming, fishing, weaving, geology, history, cuisine, humor, story-telling, poetry, limericks, and their legendary Irish hospitality.*

*"The scenery wasn't bad either ..."*



**In Columbia, Heather & John continued to work to make homes more beautiful and functional while Diana & Tom strove to help people appreciate fine art and clean water.**

**All cultivated vegetable gardens and enjoyed the benefits of rich harvests for their culinary pursuits. Diana & Tom even built a coop and raised chickens.**

*"We average about 2 eggs per day."*

**H<sub>2</sub>O'C Engineering, now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, still consults for municipal water utilities. "Conserve more water!"**

**As member of Columbia's Water & Light Board, Tom also advocates for conservation and expanded use of solar photovoltaics.**

*"Both make economic sense, are non-polluting and keep money in our community."*

**This year, my family bought me a lighter bicycle that I enjoy riding on the Katy Trail with friends. I still exercise, volunteer, and work with the Boone County League of Women Voters.**

**John & I partake of many of the cultural opportunities that Columbia affords.**

*"Where to this evening?"*



Warm, sunny, green, friendly Ireland - 2013



**Our October Adventures  
O'riginated in  
Columbia, Missouri**



**Crystal Bridges Museum  
of American Art,  
Bentonville, Arkansas**

**William Jefferson Clinton  
Presidential Library,  
Little Rock, Arkansas**

**Giant City  
State Park,  
Illinois**



**Museum of American History  
with Sunny & Chuck Marek of  
Vestavia Hills, Alabama**

**An Autumn Tour of  
the Southeastern U.S.**

*Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama,  
Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina,  
Tennessee, Kentucky, and Southern Illinois*

**Fort Sumpter,  
South Carolina**



**Middletown Place & Magnolia Plantations,  
South Carolina**

**Wall Doxey  
State Park,  
Mississippi**



**Tennessee-Kentucky  
Land between the Lakes**



**World's largest Aquarium,  
Atlanta, Georgia**

**Cotton Exchange  
Savannah, Georgia**



## Here Comes the Sun ...☺

Tom designed and installed solar panels while we were on vacation this summer. Our modest 1.5 kW system sits quietly atop our garage pumping electrons into our home whenever it is light outside.

Columbia's Water & Light Dept. graciously facilitated our project by providing a healthy rebate and installing a 'Solar' electric meter; one which records both energy 'purchased from' and 'returned to' their grid.

*"The panels come with a 25-year warranty."*



*We hope that in  
the New Year  
you will find  
peace and take  
your comfort  
amidst a loving  
family and  
good friends.*



**John's 80th Birthday Celebration, Columbia Art League, February 11, 2013**

*"I plan to live forever -- so far, so good." Steven Wright*

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# Merry 2014 Christmas

*We hope you have enjoyed another eventful and exciting year with your family and good friends - - and that you will again share these precious holidays with those you cherish the most.*



## This year, we toured **Alaska**

### **by Alaska Railroad**

**Fairbanks** 'land of the midnight sun'

**Denali National Park** moose, bears, caribou, Dahl sheep, ptarmigan

**Talkeetna (Natl. Historic Site)** museums, ranger station, expeditions.

### **by UnCruise Ship-(Inside Passage) Ketchikan to Juneau**

**Tongass National Forest:** fjords, waterfalls, muskegs, seaplanes

**Glacier Bay:** whales, skiffs, kayaks, eagles, salmon, wolves,...

*"We found Alaska to be a sunny, exciting wonderland."*





## Seattle, Washington

In June, we flew **West** with Diana and Tom to experience Seattle's fish- and flower-filled *Pike's Place (Farmer's) Market (1907)*. We rode the *Seattle Center Monorail* to the *Experience Music Project*, the *Chihuly Garden & Glass Museum* and the *Pacific Science Center*.

## New York, New York

September, we headed **East** with Heather and John. *Times Square*, *Central Park*, *MOMA*, *Top-of-the-Rock*, a twilight cruise of Manhattan, *Hell's Kitchen* eateries, reunions, & *Lincoln Center ('the Met')* were only part of our agenda. However, while the 'kids' viewed the spectacular *People's Climate March*, we took refuge in *The Cloisters*.

*"We find trips to America's great cities exhilarating, educational & refreshing; not to mention, fattening & expensive."*



Fortunately, two of those great cities are in Missouri. So, we journeyed to the **City of Fountains, Kansas City** to enjoy the ambiance and cuisine of *Country Club Plaza* as well as to view the *King Tut* exhibit at Union Station.

*"I think he's dead ..."*

Our trips to **Saint Louis** usually take us on leisurely strolls through the magnificent *Missouri Botanic Gardens* & the *Saint Louis Museums* in Forest Park.

*"Do we have time to smell the orchids?"*







Quiet Park in Center of Manhattan and Lunch at MOMA

## Winter's Flowers

Heather was surprised and elated when her '*winter penstemon*' was judged *Grand Prize Award* winner at *Columbia's Photo Vision Competition and Exhibition*. It was the first time she had entered a photo contest.

*"... should I quit now?"*



## H<sub>2</sub>O'C: Water - and Solar - Engineering

With Tom assuming most of the 'heavy lifting,' as John characterizes it, John now proudly claims to accompany Tom on their water plant forays. On most days, both can be found at their computers - Tom tending to business while John indulges in electronic reminiscences with old friends.

## Exercise, Advocacy & Entertainment

I continue to take full advantage of Columbia's renowned system of trails for biking and hiking as well as its exceptional *Activities and Recreation Center* for Pilates and exercise classes. Serving on the board of the *League of Women Voters* remains a pleasure as it, increasingly, serves vital roles in our burgeoning community.

John and I both regularly enjoy our multi-college town's eclectic menu of theatre, music, concerts, film festivals, and special events.

*"... the really hip content keeps us up-to-date and young."*



## Beautiful Homes - and Garden

*John Leigers'* artistry was largely expressed in his innovative designs for home improvements. Also, along with Heather, he has developed an extensive vegetable garden that provides hearty feedstock for their healthy gourmet cooking.

*"... is this stuff kale or chard?"*

## Water, Sun and Sustainability

Tom has oriented *H<sub>2</sub>O'C Engineering* toward a new horizon. Earning certification as a *master electrician*, he designs and manages installations of photovoltaic systems. He has had a busy year as recognition of the necessity for and good economics of accessing solar energy has grown.

*"...these systems are scalable, simple, and profitable."*

## Columbia's Art League Advocate

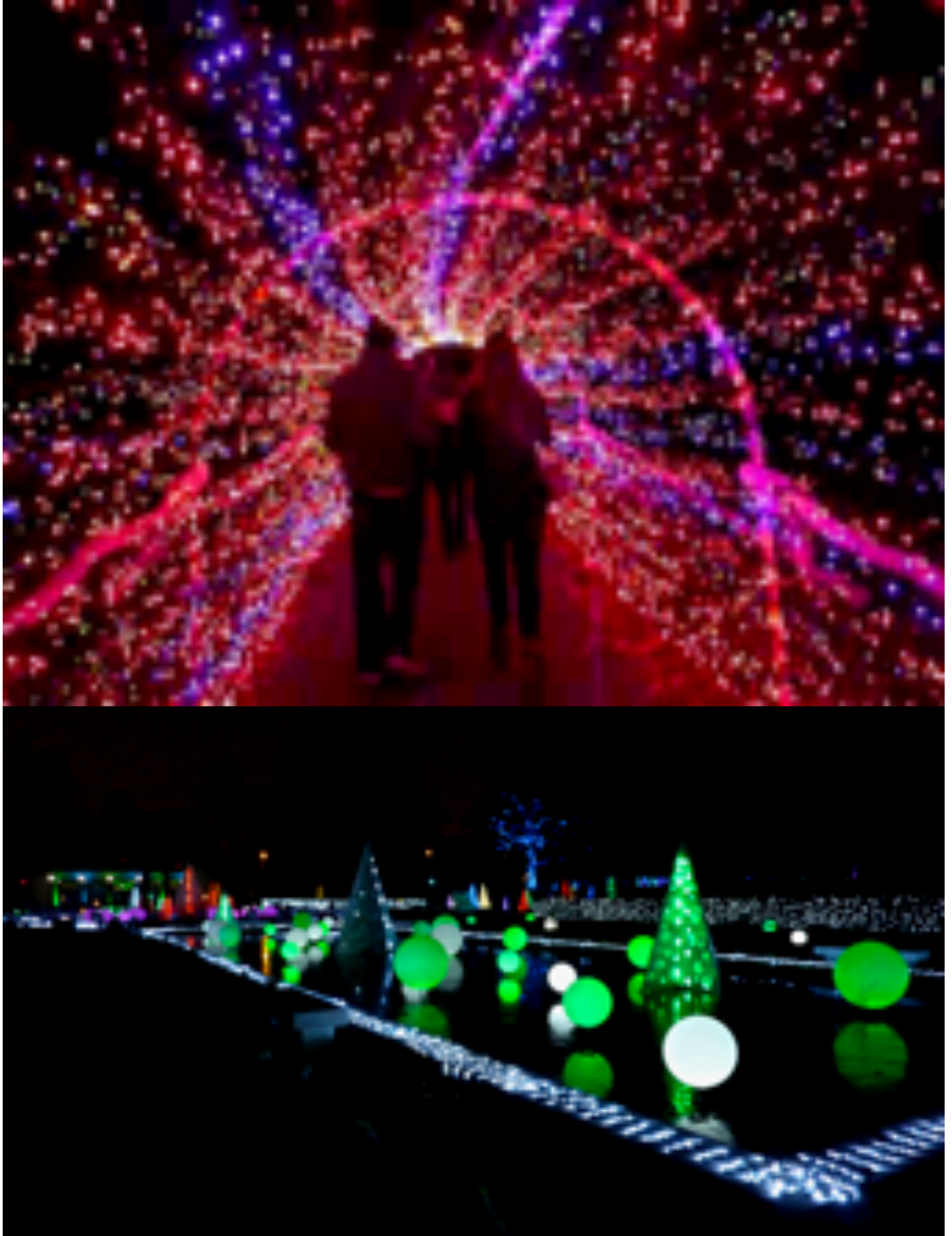
Increasingly, *Diana* has become the face and, on radio, the voice of Columbia's artistic community. Next February, in the Capitol Rotunda in Jefferson City, Missouri's Governor will present Diana with the *Missouri Arts Council's Arts Organization of 2015 Award* for the Columbia Art League.

Diana also continues to rein in (some of) Tom's initiatives in his pursuit of household energy independence. Their exchanges are chronicled in their *Power Couple* columns that appear twice-monthly in the *Columbia Daily Tribune*.

*"... No way! ... Are you listening to me?"*







*Saint Louis Botanic Garden - Winter Display*

# A Golden 2015 Anniversary

*We hope you have enjoyed another eventful and exciting year with your family and good friends - - and that you will again share the New Year with those you cherish the most.*



## Grand Canyon

At long last, in our 49th year of peregrination, we journeyed to Sedona, AZ en-route to the Grand Canyon. We rode the rails through Verde Canyon and, then, to the south rim of the Grand Canyon.

## San Francisco

Having not fallen into the Canyon, we journeyed on to a city in northern California located on the tip of a peninsula surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay. Known for its hilly landscape, year-round fog, iconic Golden Gate Bridge, cable cars, and colorful Victorian houses, it is also home of our renowned family artists, **Larry and Carol Lippold**.

As part of our brief stay, we toured the Stanford University campus and Art Museum where Larry was teaching a drawing class..





## *Iceland, Greenland*

The summer of 2015 allowed for an exciting trip with dear friends to Iceland and Greenland (pictured). The numerous waterfalls, thermal features and green Icelandic landscapes were visual treats.



### *A European Tour*

*John and Heather* undertook a well-earned and wide ranging vacation trip that encompassed Amsterdam, Venice, Rome (where they rendezvoused with Larry and Carol, our artist cousins at work), and, finally, Barcelona.

*"... We wouldn't mind doing that again!"*

### *A Cow's Valve says "Moo!"*

As John's timed walks around our local lakes increased substantially over the previous year, he was diagnosed with 'acute aortic stenosis.'

*"... We didn't know what that was either."*

John underwent open heart surgery in December and recovered in time to celebrate our Golden Wedding Anniversary on January 15, 2016.

### *Singapore & Sri Lanka*

Alternately, *Tom and Diana* elected to celebrate her milestone birthday with a gala party in southeast Asia. Friends from around the world gathered to join in the festivities.

*"... This is no way to lose weight!"*

### *A Plan for 2016*

With John's recovery and continued optimism for the future, we have planned a trip to Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Russia for this coming summer.

As everyone knows, all of us must live life to the fullest while it is still possible.

*"Love and fond wishes to all our friends and family for a wonderful 2016."*

***The O'Connors***

# Merry 2016 Christmas

*and a Happy, Healthy and Joyous New Year!*



*Inside the Kremlin Walls - Church of the Nativity*

## **Our Golden Anniversary Travel Celebration**

To celebrate our *50 years of marriage*, we decided to learn about Eastern Europe: *Poland, the Baltic Nations & Russia*.

### **Poland:** Krakow, Auschwitz, Warsaw

We toured famous universities and libraries as well as Holocaust sites, churches, graveyards, museums, castles, shops, tourist attractions & innumerable pubs & restaurants.



*Copernicus' Armillary in the Professors' Garden at Jagiellonian University (est. 1364), Krakow*

### **Lithuania:** Vilnius, Klaipeda, Curonian Spit

*John's maternal grandmother emigrated from Lithuania in 1871.*

Artfully orchestrated by Overseas Adventure Tours, our 16-member group enjoyed expert guides, stunning scenery, efficient travel, plus superb accommodations and cuisines.

Throughout the trip, the pastoral countryside appeared green, wooded, productive & attractive.



*Mural on rear of barbecue restaurant, Vilnius  
After 50 years of communist domination, Lithuania, fearing Russian intervention, is now a NATO stalwart.*





*Trakai Island Castle*  
 Lake Galvė, Trakai - 14th Century  
 capital of Lithuanian Duke Vytautas



### **Latvia** Riga, Central Markets

We shopped in Riga's sprawling *Central Markets* located within converted German Zeppelin hangars. Built in the 1930s, they are now a UNESCO World Heritage site.



### **Estonia**

tire chair at  
 the ultra-  
 modern  
 KUMU art  
 museum,  
 Tallinn

After a  
 half-century  
 of Soviet

repression, the economies of the Baltic nations are steadily recovering, enabling restoration of medieval sites plus dramatic new high-rise construction to modernize the landscape.

### **Russia: St. Petersburg** St. Isaac's Cathedral., the Hermitage

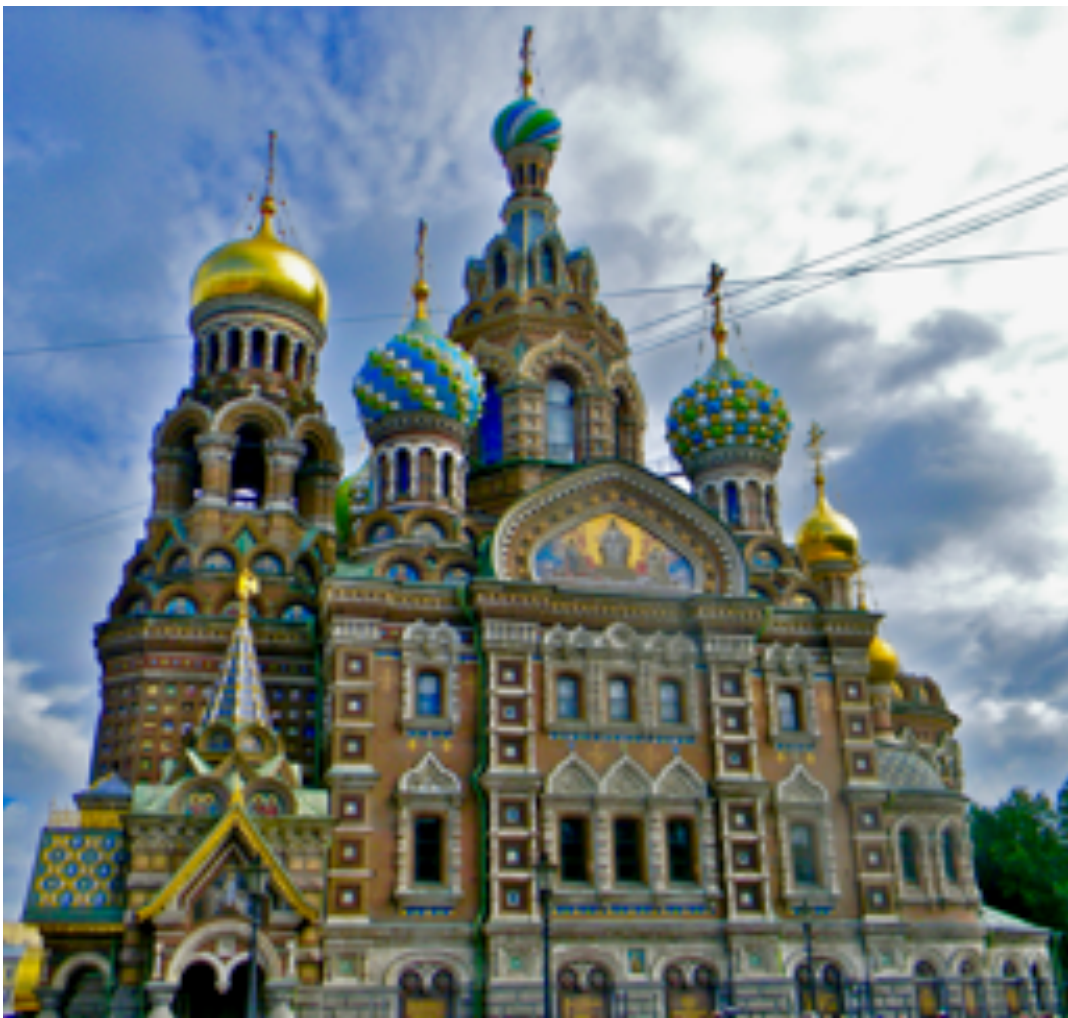
Churches and castles seem gilded from floor to their highest ceilings. So, as you gaze upward among an enrapt throng of camera-wielding sightseers, beware of pickpockets.

### **Russia: Moscow** Red Square, GUM (now, a shopping mall), the Kremlin, Tretyakov & Pushkin Art Galleries

Comparing his visit to Soviet Moscow in 1988 as part of a HUD technical exchange, John was astonished at the kapitalistic metamorphosis of the now business- and tourist-oriented enterprise. The Soviet Union has ended and, for a fee, thousands of tourists now scramble within the once feared Kremlin walls daily, taking cell phone selfies and pausing only for Putin's helicopter landing and passing motorcade.

... nearby, Bentley, Ferrari & Maserati dealerships beckon Russian oligarchs.





Saint Petersburg, Russia - 2016





## Viet Nam

Tom also celebrated a **Golden Anniversary** this year. For Tom's 50th 'natality', Diana arranged for friends from around the globe to congregate in Viet Nam. While they enjoyed parties in posh resort hotels, they sometimes stayed in comfortable and convenient local Vietnamese Airbnbs.

... It was refreshing to shop and mingle in town with the Vietnamese (Kihn) people .....



## Colorado & Chicago

Avid outdoor enthusiasts, John & Heather journeyed to Colorado this autumn to visit a friend's animal farm, indulge in scenic treks and breathe the brisk Rocky Mountain air.

*Once in a lifetime?*

Visiting friends in Chicago, John was invited to attend a Cubs *National League-Championship Series* game at a wildly raucous, beer-fueled, Wrigley Field.

*Alternately, Heather sipped wine with the girls.*



Back home in **Columbia, MO**, life remains placid and serene as Heather and John collaborate to keep apace of their cascade of home renovation projects throughout the city.

Focussed on energy and conservation, Tom has added solar system design to the demands of water quality engineering - even as Diana continues to promote Columbia's arts scene.

... with love and tender help so close by, the Old'Connors remain well-cared and well-provided for.

Finally, as in years gone by, we hope that this holiday season and coming year will bring you joy, happiness and contentment in the company of dear friends and loved ones. Ultimately, we believe, these are the best rewards that life has to offer.

Also, at this time of year, we look forward to having you share a few personal stories of your journey through life. We treasure each card, letter, phone call and electronic message.

... however, while we toot, we don't tweet.

*John and Joni O'Connor*

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# Totality!



# 2017



# Solar Eclipse



*This year many wonderful things came to us - right here in mid-Missouri. Dear friends from Illinois & Virginia, as well as newer friends from Spain, journeyed to Columbia to help us celebrate the rare, fleeting (< 3 minutes), & inspirational total solar eclipse of 2017.*

*"It was a wonderful celestial adventure."*

*The solar eclipse provided an opportunity for the 'Biking Babes' to gather from Batavia, Illinois; Blacksburg, Virginia; and Columbia to ride a section of the Katy Trail. Our first ride, when some were first meeting, was in The Netherlands, 32 years ago (1985) when we dubbed ourselves the 'old ladies'. Karen, Sandi, Marcia and I regrouped to mount our metal steeds and pedal to an idyllic rural luncheon venue.*

*"My butt hurts!."*

*"I'm getting hungry!"*



*In 1985, the 'old ladies' 'biked the dike' along Friesland's 'eleven cities'."*

*"The Heineken's brewery was en route!"*

*"Rain gear wear was de rigueur!"*

*November brought my brother, Bob, and his wife, Bonnie, from Cape Cod to Columbia for a festive family gathering. They reunited with local friends, toured the Art and Archeology museum, attended a local theater, and...*

*"... prepared an extraordinary & memorable family dinner!"*





Tom and helpers even installed panels on our 130 year old log cabin. *"Now, we can enjoy music, telly & hot water!"*

## *H<sub>2</sub>O'C has gone Solar!*

Tom has expanded our environmental consulting firm in an exciting new direction this past year with an increased focus on solar system design & installation. Bolstered by local rebates from Columbia's Water & Light Department plus federal tax incentives, homeowners are increasingly realizing that solar energy is a sound long-term investment.

*"It also increases a home's market value!"*

<http://www.h2oc.com/sample-page/solar/>



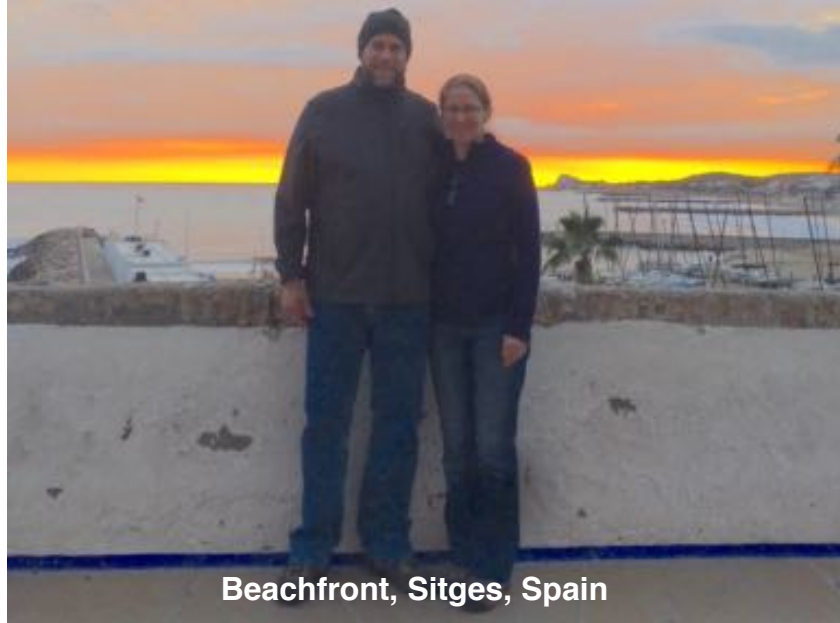
## *Sure and Andorra!*

Enamored of Iberia, *John and Heather* have embarked on a December trip to *Sitges, Spain* en-route to an exotic vacation in *Andorra* in the Pyrenees.

*"Andorra enjoys the world's seventh-highest alcohol consumption per capita (13.8 liters)."*

This past year, J&H have labored together on a wide range of home remodeling projects. Some of their handiwork can be admired at:

<http://www.johnleigers.com>.



Beachfront, Sitges, Spain



*Magic Trees* illuminate many of Columbia's winter snowscapes.





Diana and Tom host a **Saint Patrick's Day** party annually which features Corned Beef and Cabbage, Irish soda bread, home brewed beer and other notable Irish potables. ***Sláinte!***

John and I continue to enjoy theater plays; dance & music performances; art festivals; museum & botanical garden experiences.

John also continues his monthly escapades with his *Friday Afternoon Drinking and Carousing Association* and *Book Guys* groups. ***"After FADCA, I need a nap!"***



*Diana (center) is pictured with CAL Board members and staff.* <https://columbiaartleague.org>

## ***Columbia's Mayor Proclaims!***

In recognition of her contributions to our artistic community, Columbia's Mayor, Brian Treece, read a proclamation designating February 17, 2017 as ***"Diana Moxon Day"***.

For a decade now, Diana, has served as Executive Director of the Art League - and organizer of Columbia's major arts cultural event, 'Art in the Park' ***"14,000 this year."***

Despite many accolades, Diana has decided to turn the reins over to a new Executive Director at the end of 2017.



***"Love and fond wishes to all our friends and their families for a wonderful 2018."***

***The O'Connors***

***For resolute friends, our 51 previous Christmas letters may be viewed at:***

***<http://www.h2oc.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/18-Christmaslite.pdf>***



Happy Festasolsthannukwanzmas and Happy New Year from HoJo, y'all!!

For the very first time, we're doing an end of year recap. In 2017, this is what we got up to.

In January, we gathered in the spirit of fighting the good fight.



Spent some time working at the little slice of heaven known as the Lucky U Ranch (a.k.a. Chad and David's place). Enjoyed having some time with Mae, a girl who was exuberant as they come, all the way into her golden years.



Said farewell to Meg Poche (of KOPN and other local notoriety) with a none-too-somber ceremony befitting her larger-than-life personality. Don't let the photo fool you; it was a packed house full of very big love. Megaritas, Megorobilia, and memories.



Got into the spirit of True False with Tina “Smo” Smothers, who came down from Chicago as a first-time festival attendee and totally killed it with her short film at Gimme Truth (also doing a great job breaking the ice for Bryan Babylon's initial stint as host). She also introduced us to her sweetie, the hilarious Will Thimes. Great times! Truth!!

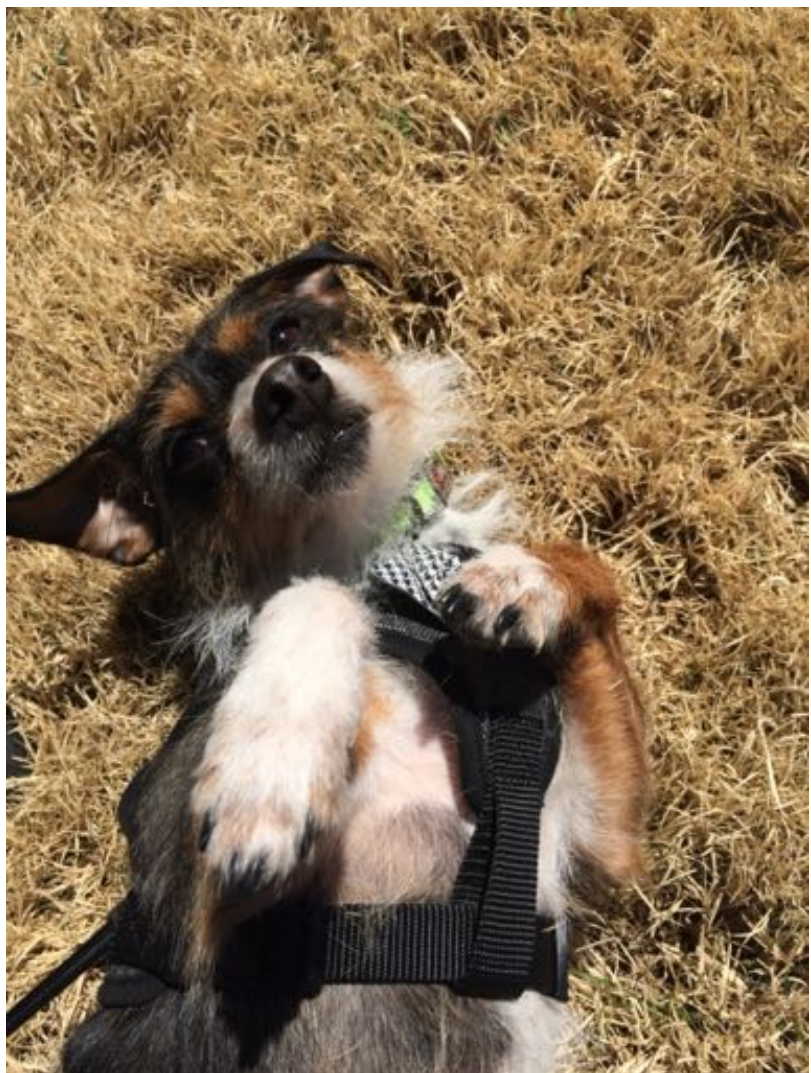




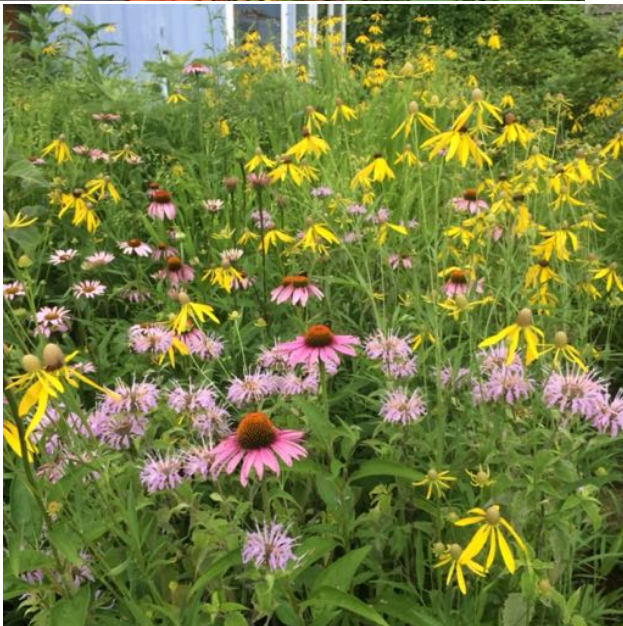
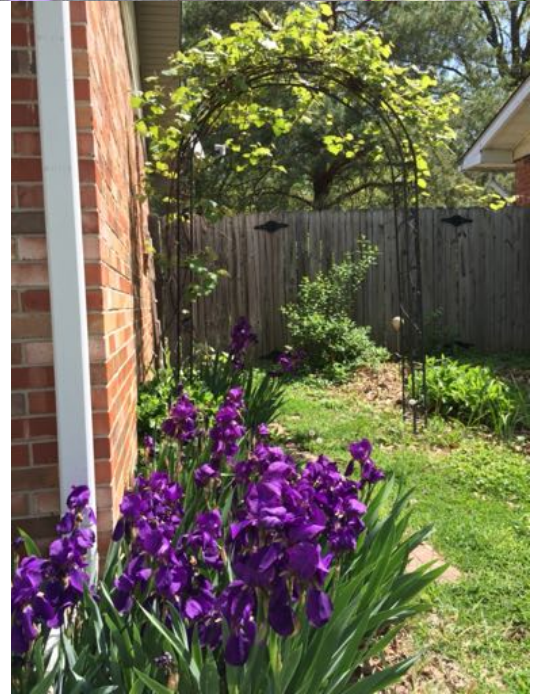


Took care of little Mr. Norman, my dog-walking charge. He and Rosie are besties. Beasty besties.

Dog bliss us, every one!







Of course we enjoyed working and playing in the garden.



We did some good work to beautify and improve people's houses.





Enjoying friends, family, nature and its bounty, volunteering.







Said goodbye to Daniel "Pants" Rowden, who was a firestorm of joy, drumming, creativity, sweetness and fun. He shall be missed.



Enjoyed the Missouri River community, with its natural beauty and the occasional appearance of great bands like the Campfire Cassettes coming through on their way back to LA.



At about the same time the great solar eclipse swept across the country, we were installing solar panels on our roof. Fortunately the solar outage only lasted 2 minutes or so.







Celebrated the marriage of nephew Brian to our beloved Kelsey.

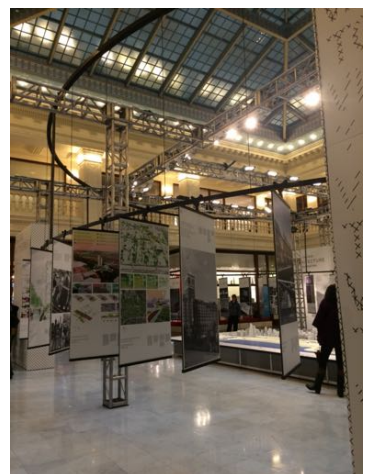
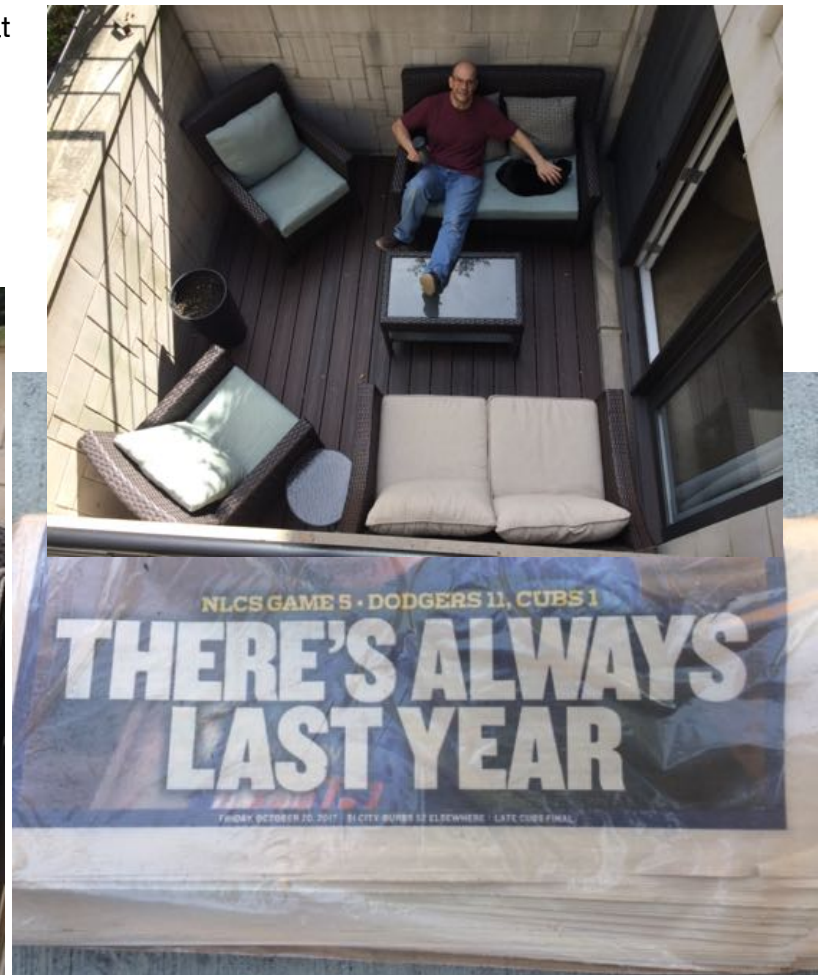
While in Arkansas, took the opportunity to check out Crystal Bridges art museum in Bentonville, AR. Wow!

Dressed up as our true selves for Halloween, when the veil between worlds is thinnest.



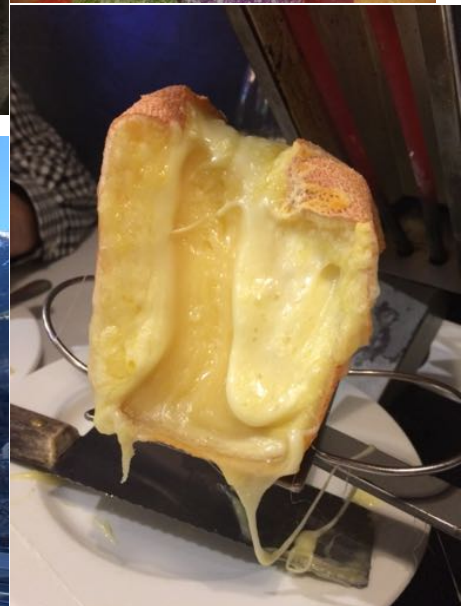
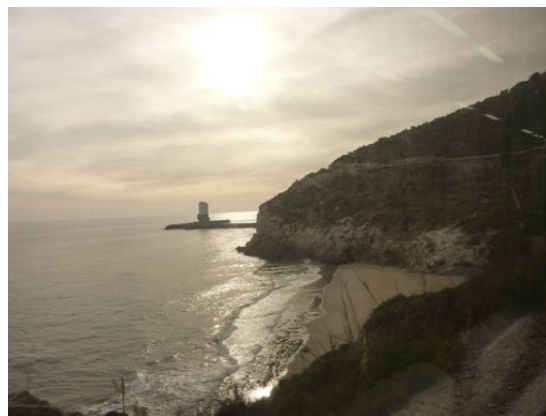


A small project for Chicago friends allowed us another opportunity to enjoy all this great city has to offer. It's always fun to see wonderkitties Seamus and Charlotte the great sock huntress.



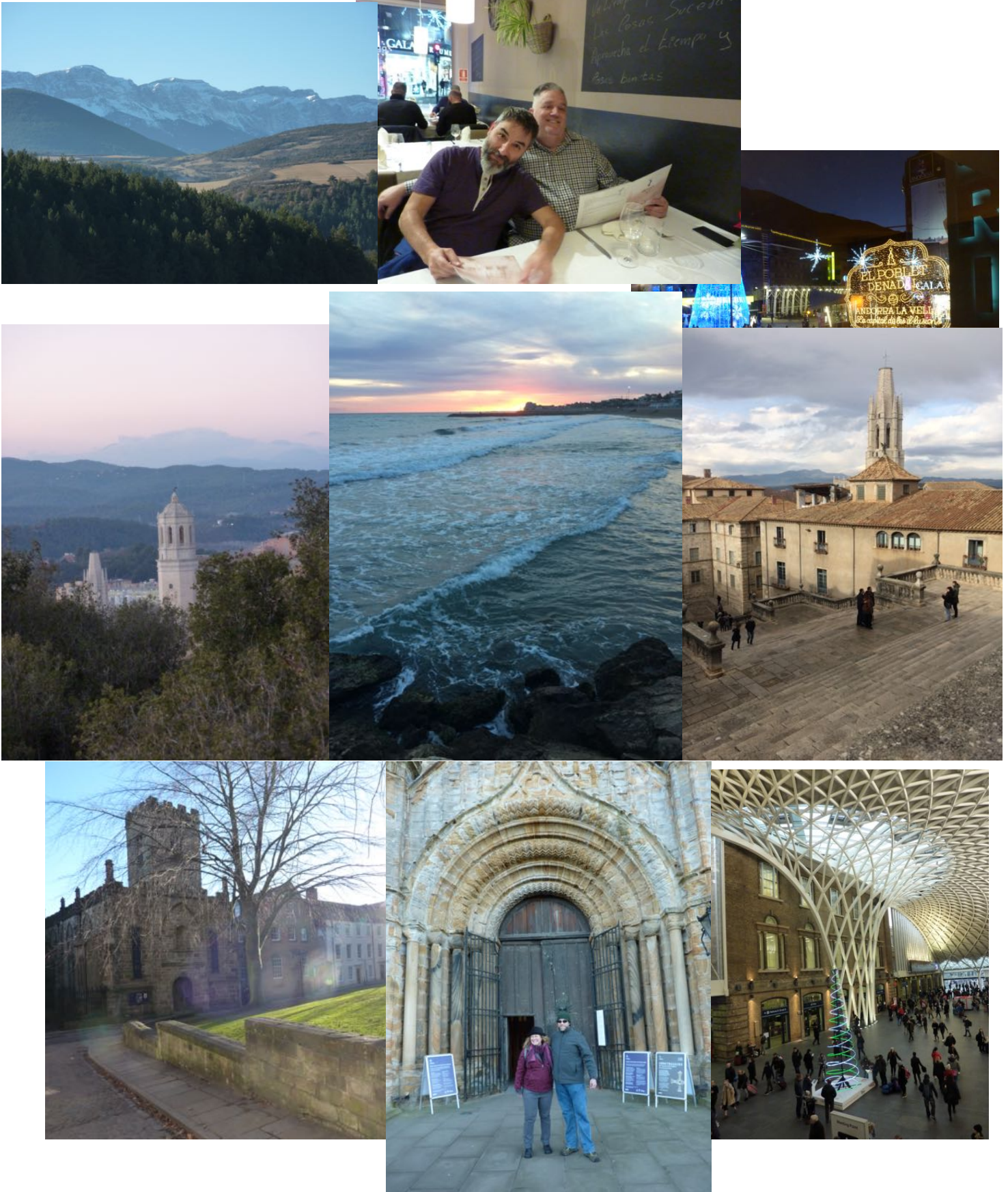


At year's end, we plotted to escape the everyday for a while. We visited Catalonia (Barcelona, Sitges, Girona in Spain), the tiny nation of Andorra nestled in the Pyrenees, and the town of Durham England where our friends Kim and Peter make their home.





Mountains, the beach, great food, astounding works of architecture and of course wonderful friends old and new made this 11-day whirlwind trip truly special.



Love, peace, and presence to all. Looking forward to another trip around the sun and to the adventures we will share with you.

NAMASTE



# Our Love and **2018** Warm Wishes

*We trust you have enjoyed another eventful and exciting year with your family and true friends - and that you will once again share the coming New Year with those you are fondest of and cherish the most.*



**2018** was another special year for our family. To help Joni celebrate her **80<sup>th</sup> Natal Day** - and **52<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary** - our family set out to explore the wonders of central coastal California. We toured Carmel, Monterey, Pacific Grove, and Big Sur, drove the Pacific and Central Valley highways, and settled in Los Osos, Morro Bay where we connected with our California cousins, Larry and Carol.



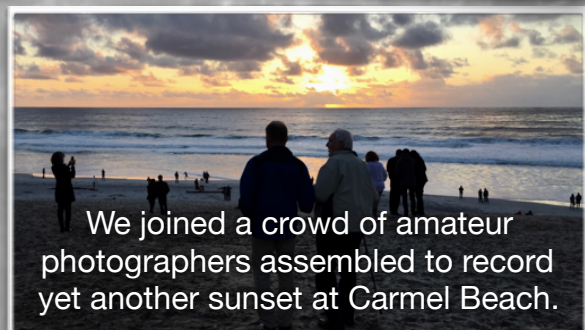
Joni tried on  
Forrest's shoes  
in Monterey.



The southern Pacific Redwood forest  
is reportedly in decline.



Diana surveyed the Monterey Bay fleet.  
All the boats looked alike - expensive.



We joined a crowd of amateur  
photographers assembled to record  
yet another sunset at Carmel Beach.





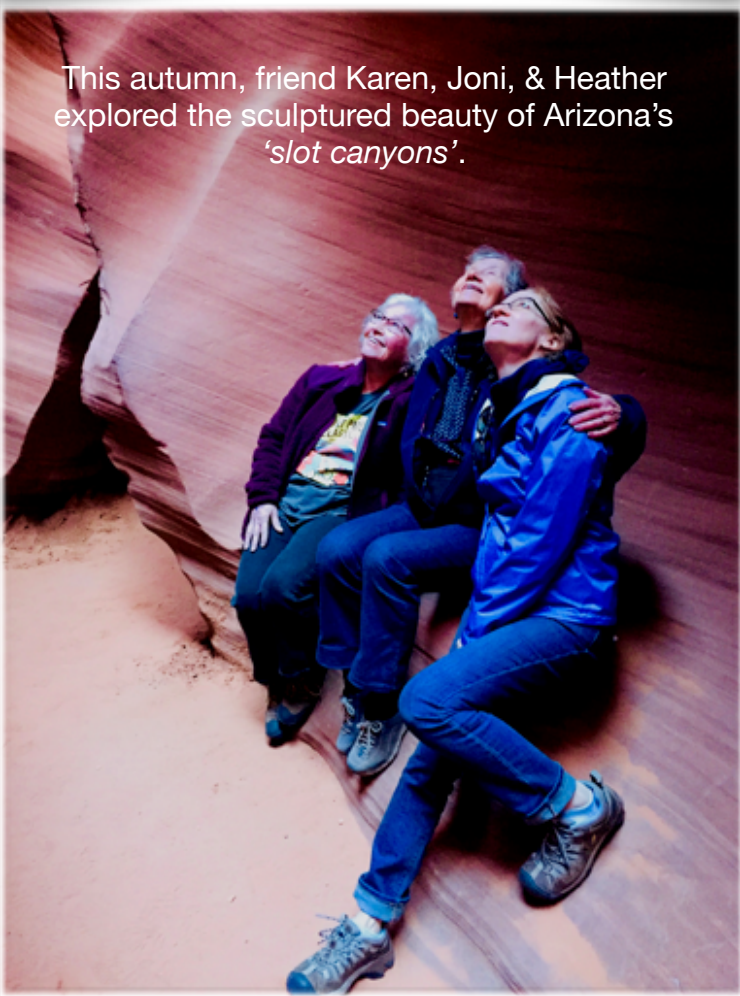
John O, Joni, Tom,  
Diana, Heather, John L  
after luncheon at Big Sur.



Our Los Osos 'Getaway'.



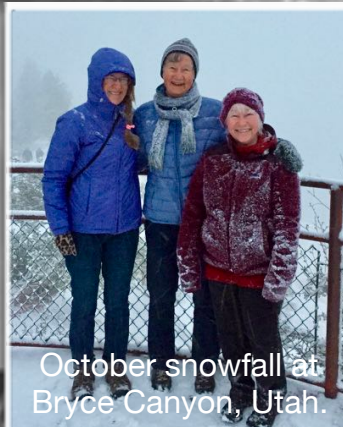
Tom & Diana  
in the redwoods  
forest.



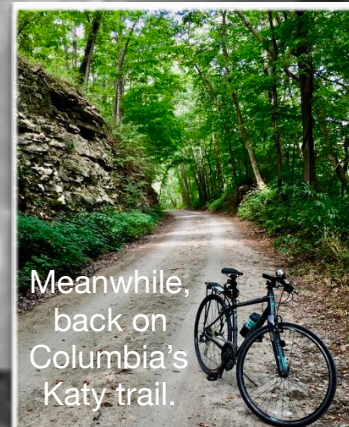
This autumn, friend Karen, Joni, & Heather  
explored the sculptured beauty of Arizona's  
'slot canyons'.



Heather gives  
scale to a large  
hoodoo.



October snowfall at  
Bryce Canyon, Utah.



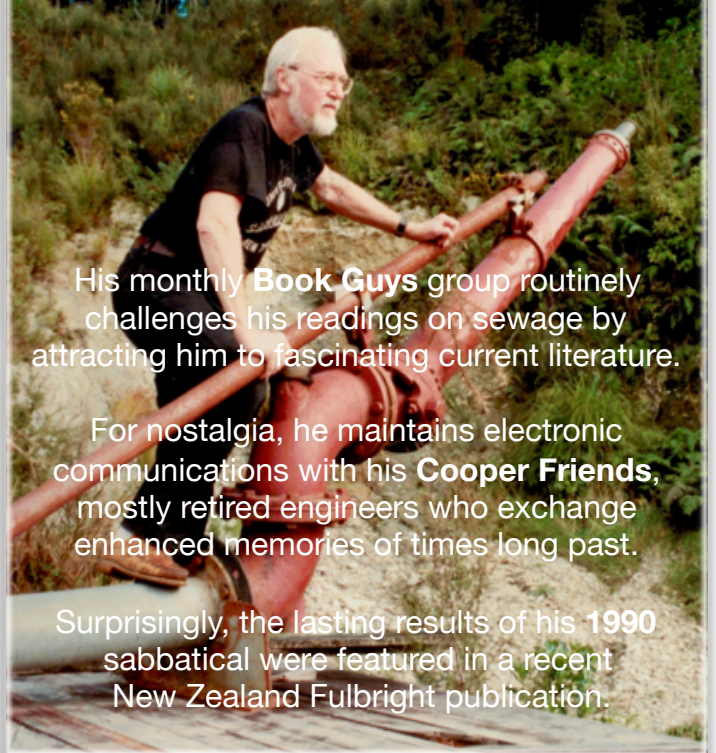
Meanwhile,  
back on  
Columbia's  
Katy trail.



Joni was recognized for her long and dedicated service to the Columbia/Boone County LWV.



John continues to enjoy his **FADCA** (Friday Afternoon Drinking and Carousing Association) as the group discovered new watering holes.

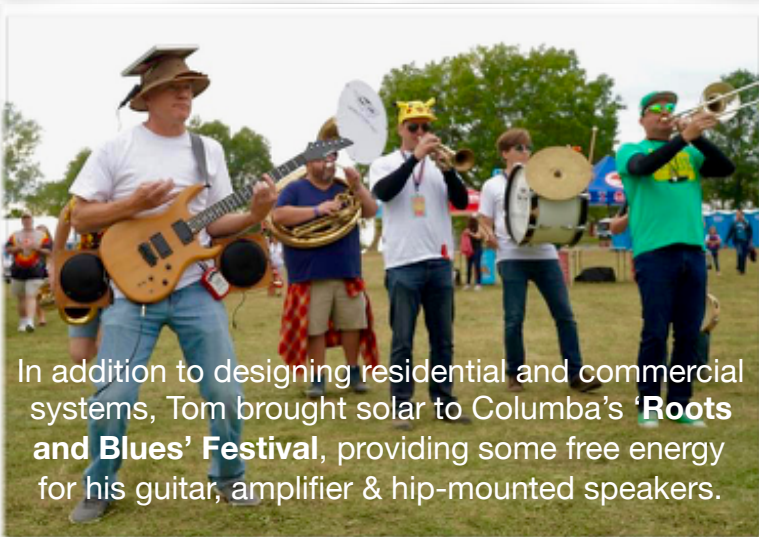


His monthly **Book Guys** group routinely challenges his readings on sewage by attracting him to fascinating current literature.

For nostalgia, he maintains electronic communications with his **Cooper Friends**, mostly retired engineers who exchange enhanced memories of times long past.

Surprisingly, the lasting results of his 1990 sabbatical were featured in a recent New Zealand Fulbright publication.

In addition to designing residential and commercial systems, Tom brought solar to Columbia's '**Roots and Blues**' Festival, providing some free energy for his guitar, amplifier & hip-mounted speakers.



After years of service, Heather is relinquishing her Board and Secretary positions for our local community radio station, **KOPN**.

Diana's affiliation with **KOPN** is hosting a weekly, hour-long review called '**Speaking of the Arts**'. She interviews artists of all stripes from Columbia's local art scene.

You can hear her here! <https://www.kopn.org/programs/speaking-of-the-arts/>



*As ever, our fond wishes go to all our friends and their families for a wonderful 2019.*

***The O'Connors***

*All 52 Christmas greetings may be seen at:*

<http://www.h2oc.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/18-Christmaslite.pdf>



# *With Love 2019 from Tahoe Court*

*It is our fervent hope that you have enjoyed yet another happy and peaceful year in the comforting embrace of family and cherished friends.*

Our 53<sup>rd</sup> year of family life was largely centered in and around our peaceful home where anniversaries and birthdays were celebrated; flowers and heirloom decorations rotated with each season; and distant friends and relatives welcomed to reminisce over past adventures.



## **Family Home Cooking can be both Fun and an Art Form**

**Heather** excels at cakes, breads, & creating desserts. 'This special cake was for Joni's 81<sup>st</sup>.'  
**Tom** prepares stir-fry using fresh vegetables from the family gardens. 'He also brews beer.'  
**John** is a meat-loving grill master who supports local greengrocers. 'No onions, please!'  
**Diana** could wow the Great British Baking Show with her Yule Log. 'and Brussel sprouts?'



## Welcome to Columbia - and Tahoe Court

From the West (San Francisco), we welcomed artists Carol & Larry Lippold (our cousins). They attended Columbia's annual *Art in the Park* and visited the studios of local artists.

From the East (Cape Cod), we hosted Bob & Bonnie (brother & sister-in-law) who readily took to the local, ever-growing, biking and hiking trail system. *'Lots of trees here.'*

In town, John continued to celebrate with his *Friday Afternoon Drinking and Carousing Association (FADCA)* buddies. *'disorganized talking & organized drinking since 2009.'*

Mexico City, Mexico Heather and John Leigers once more escaped to exotic locations; this year, Mexico's capitol city and the Monarch butterfly gathering grounds.



## Taking Care of Business - & the Arts

John and Heather continue to conspire to renovate and beautify residences, indoors and out. One can view their handiwork at <http://www.johnleigers.com>

Tom directs H2O'C to advocate for, design and install residential solar systems while Diana applies her talents to preparing for her hour-long *Speaking of the Arts* broadcast on community radio <https://www.kopn.org/programs/speaking-of-the-arts/>. Diana also curates art displays for a bank & serves on the boards of KOPN & a local theater group.







Butterfly & Insect feed atop Heather's Zinnia



Tom's 51 kW Commercial solar installation



### 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The founding of the Columbia-Boone County League of Women Voters in 1918 predated the formation of the national LWV.

Joni served as president of this active chapter from 1985-1989.

### Columbia's 2019 Holiday Parade

featured suffragists 'Votes for Women' as well as Tom's Mobile Funk Unit. 'Go Chiefs!'



As ever, our fond wishes go to all our friends and their families for a happy and safe 2020.

**The O'Connors**

All 53 Christmas greetings may be found at:  
<http://www.h2oc.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/18-Christmaslite.pdf>



# Pandemic 2020

*It is our fervent hope that you have survived and, hopefully, even enjoyed a happy and prosperous year in the midst of global tragedy and economic turmoil.*

Our 54<sup>th</sup> year of family life was largely confined to our home, garden and arboreal surroundings. Birthdays and anniversaries were celebrated, often, outdoors. Flowers and heirloom decorations were still rotated with each season. However, distant friends and relatives were absent and missed.



In '20, we learned to  
travel less;  
shop from home;  
avoid gatherings;  
meet friends on-line;  
acknowledge truly  
essential services;  
worry about health;  
sanitize and mask;  
maintain cable and  
phone services;  
eat more salads;  
drink more spirits;  
and stock up on TP.



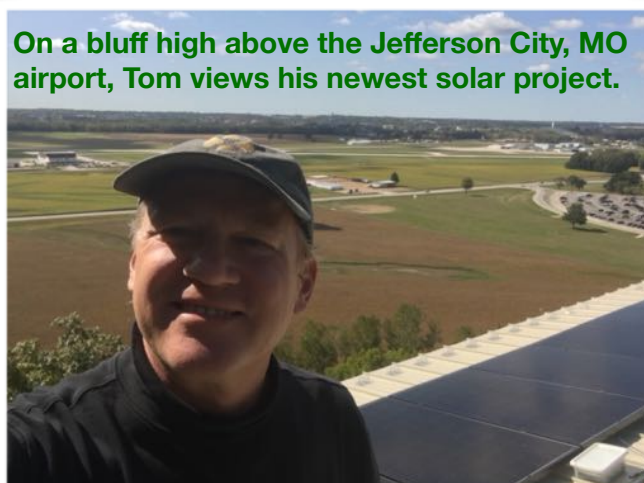
Thanks to Zoom, John continued to pontificate with his *Friday Afternoon Drinking and Carousing Association (FADCA)* buddies. 'disorganized talking & organized drinking since 2009.'





Keeping watch for garden-marauding rabbits and squirrels, Tom and Diana enjoy outdoor dining on their solar table.

"Is this table grid-tied or stand alone?"



On a bluff high above the Jefferson City, MO airport, Tom views his newest solar project.



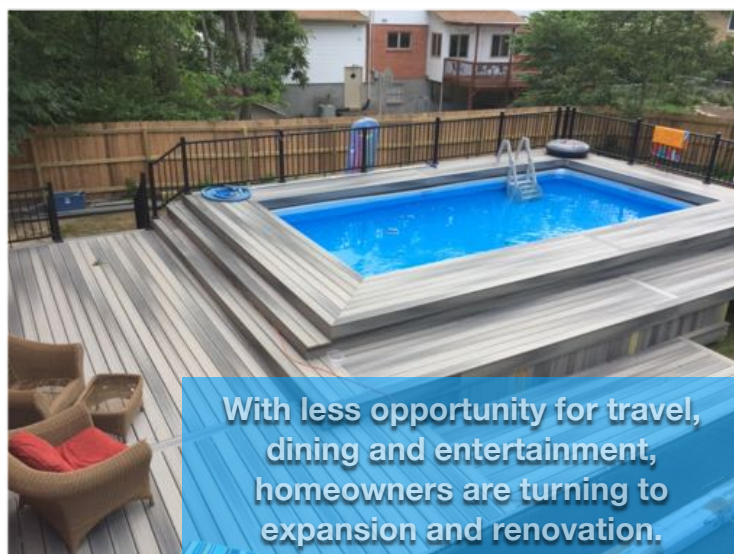
Inveterate campers and hikers, John and Heather's regular outdoor activities were affected less than most.

Long Branch Lake, Eagle, MO

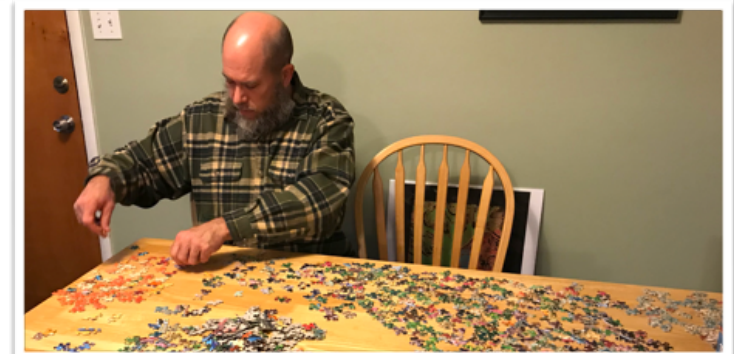
"Rosie enjoys these outings!"



**Podcasting in a pandemic**  
Diana's weekly Speaking of the Arts broadcast interviews became outlets for many sidelined and dispirited performers in the Arts community.



With less opportunity for travel, dining and entertainment, homeowners are turning to expansion and renovation.



Diana's weekly *Speaking of the Arts* broadcast interviews became outlets for many sidelined and dispirited performers in the Arts community.

<https://www.kopn.org/programs/speaking-of-the-arts/>



**In 2021, will we, as a nation ....**

Confront disease and economic decline?  
Reject cruelty and favor compassion?  
Repair defects in our flawed governance?  
Rekindle our environmental commitments?  
Reestablish friendships with former allies?  
Reward workers essential to our welfare?

**Will we continue to ....**

Shop, study and communicate virtually?  
Learn to adopt new methods of learning?  
Minimize non-essential travel & meetings?




*As ever, our warmest wishes go to all  
our friends and their families for a  
saner and safer 2021.*





# Season's Greetings

**We trust you are well and ready to enjoy yet another  
Festive Holiday Season and Happy New Year 2022**



Thanks to sensible precautions and timely vaccinations, our family has had a healthy and truly enjoyable 2021. With particularly favorable weather throughout the year, we enjoyed local jaunts, trail rides, and outside dining activities. Most important, we enjoyed the company of visiting friends and family from California, Massachusetts and Urbana, Illinois.

O'ConnorvirUS: *How the  
O'ConnorvirUS calmed, first,  
America, then, the world.*

[http://www.h2oc.com/wp-content/  
uploads/2021/02/OConnorvirUS-1.pdf](http://www.h2oc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/OConnorvirUS-1.pdf)

## ‘Zoom’

entered our lexicon and quickly became our on-line portal to Osher Life Long Learning classes, library, civic groups, and LWV functions. For John, it fueled his rendezvous’ with his *Book Guys* and *FADCA* buddies.





Tom continued to design and install solar systems for local clients.

I enrolled in numerous classes via Zoom, continued working with the LWV and took many bicycle rides with friends into December.

Moving to nighttime broadcast, Diana interviewed artists, musicians, actors, writers, directors, composers, vocalists, - and undertook to mount a fund-raising campaign for Columbia's community broadcast station.



John O. enjoyed discussing books and the news of the day with his cohorts.

In addition to creating an exceptional garden, Heather managed scheduling and business affairs for John's construction company.

John L. redesigned and reconfigured households to make them more attractive and functional.  
<http://www.johnleigers.com>





Tom harvests Morel mushrooms ...



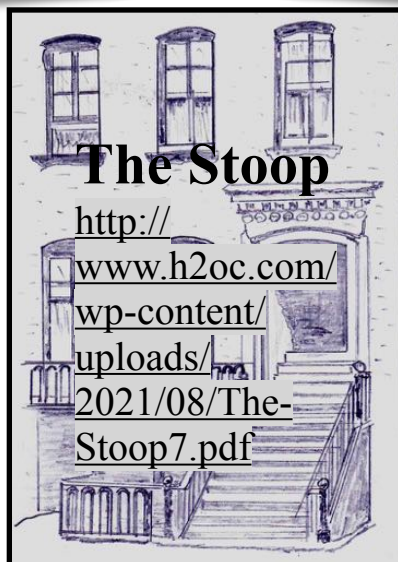
... while Diana tends their chickens.



Experienced hikers and campers, John Leigers and Heather toured beautiful Wisconsin this summer.



and who baked three delicious pies for Thanksgiving dinner?



Drawing: David James

So fill to me the parting glass And drink a health whate'er befalls  
Then gently rise and softly call Good night and joy be to you all.  
But since it fell into my lot That I should rise and you should not  
I'll gently rise and softly call Good night and joy be to you all.

**The Parting Glass, 17<sup>th</sup> Century, sung at Irish Funerals.**

*As ever, our fondest wishes go to all our friends  
and their families for a joyous and safe 2022.*

***The O'Connors***