

Dear Friends and Family,

Christmas 2000



Well, it doesn't seem possible that it is time again for our annual Christmas letter. The year 2000 has been a very happy but busy one for us. We hope it has been a good one for you also.

The first three months of this year blitzed by so fast we're not sure what all we did. In January, Mark and a partner incorporated a new travel marketing firm which markets leisure travel products on the World Wide Web at <http://www.LetsGoToSea.com>. In February, Mark found a week in Atlanta to get some more computer schooling.



In April our family pet, Pierre, Prince du Chamonix (Petey for short), went on to doggy heaven. We've come to the end of the year and still find ourselves thinking fondly of him whenever we come across another black miniature poodle.



In May, Michael graduated from the University of North Carolina (UNC) with a degree in economics. Michael's grandparents from Virginia were also in attendance. He's been working locally with the YMCA and staying with us for now to save money for getting out on his own. He has a wonderful new woman in his life, Rachel Vogelpohl whom he met this summer while they were both working at the 'Y' in Chapel Hill.

Our son-in-law Ross also graduated in May from Appalachian State University (Michelle's alma matter). His degree is in Computer Information Systems. Ross and Michelle have since moved back to an apartment in the Raleigh area where Ross found a position at CISCO Systems and Michelle a position at Cotton Incorporated. They've just signed a contract on a new house in Cary, NC and they'll be moving in right after Christmas. We couldn't be more proud of all our children and we're very pleased to have them all so close by.



In early July the Meyen clan gathered in Northern Va. to roast Grandpa Meyen on his 80th birthday. Mark and his sisters pulled off a surprise gathering of about 30 of Grandpa's friends and family.



In Mid-July we enjoyed a cruise on the Inside Passage from Vancouver, Canada to Anchorage, Alaska. Along the way we dropped anchor in Sitka, Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Hubbard Glacier and College Fjord. Our ship, The Mercury was just great. The dining was first class all the way and our cabin was super! One afternoon we were able to look out our cabin window to see a whale going by. In Ketchikan we were inducted into the Klondike Explorer Gold Diggers Society.



Probably the biggest event of the year was our move to a new home. As you may recall from last year's letter, we were looking for possible retirement locations. After much discussion, we decided to give the Raleigh area another 5 years or so. Ann decided she didn't want to spend another 5 years at her present address so we began looking at new homes. In February we found a new neighborhood we liked. In March we picked a lot, settled on a floor plan and began building our new home. In May we sold our old house and were promised our new home would be ready on July 27th. NOT!.... The new house wasn't done on July 27th. Thanks to our wonderful real estate agent, Olivia, we were able to move into one of our builder's spec houses for three weeks while he finished our home. On August 18th we moved into our new home. It was a lot of work, but we are now settled and very happy with the final results. Ann never realized just how much "GOOD STUFF" she had until it ALL had to be packed up and moved.



Due to our move across town, Ann decided to change schools. She is now working at Durant Road Elementary. It is a year round school just two miles from our doorstep. Being a year round school, it will allow us to take vacations at other times besides just the summer. We are planning a to take a 15 day escorted tour to Europe next May while Ann is tracked out. For more details on that

see:<http://www.LetsGoToSea.com/Europe2001> .Our goal is to see as much as we can of this big blue marble before our knees give out.

In late October Mark attended another cruising convention in Miami. He climbed aboard and inspected 12 different cruise ships that all plow water from the port of Miami (a cruise junky in hawg heaven). While there he also attended a trade show to get more acquainted with some 400 different tour and resort operators. In mid-November Mark

spent another week in Rockville, MD attending some more computer schooling (he's been working on a certification program for web designers).

For Thanksgiving we stayed home and Mark's mom & dad, Michael, Michelle & Ross and our local friend Betty came to share the holiday meal with us. Mark & Michael both took sick and much of their holiday weekend was spent in recovery. Still it was nice to have family home for Thanksgiving.

Time to close... Ann's starting to drag ornaments down from the attic and they'll all need putting up. As ever, we hope this finds you and yours enjoying good health, prosperity and God's gift of salvation this Christmas Season.



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year,

Mark & Ann

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