

TENNISON 2008 FAMILY NEWS

Forty-first Edition

A very Merry Christmas from our house to yours. We are settling in for Christmas celebrations with family and friends and looking forward to the New Year of 2009.



The outgoing year of 2008 has been good to us. We are both healthy and active in things we enjoy. We celebrated our 70th birthdays and our 50th Anniversary with lots of pomp.

The family convened in Seattle on August 7th and 8th to board Celebrity's Infinity on the 8th for an Alaskan cruise. Our friends the Francis' and Perry's joined us for the trip, so we were eighteen in all. I think I can safely say a good time was had by all. Those seeking activities found plenty to do, and those seeking to veg out were able to do that also. We all gathered for dinner each evening and rotated between two tables.

Except for the rain in Ketchikan, the weather was wonderful. Celebrity is one of the cruise lines that still has formal nights, and our anniversary fell on one such elegant evening, so we took lots of photos of our group. Ray and I participated in (and won) the "Not-So-Newlywed Game" on shipboard, and that was a hoot!



Then about a month later we returned to California where we renewed our vows at a Mass, and our children had a lovely party for our friends there. Friends from grammar school, high school and college were able to attend. It was a very special time.

SQUARE DANCING

As usual, we danced our toes off January to March here in Mesa. Then we traveled to Milwaukee for a convention in June. Dancing resumed after we returned to Arizona this fall, so we are now back into the swing of things here.

And other activities

Our bridge, Wine and Dine, computer classes and genealogy classes keep one or both of us busy. Ray drives to Tucson to see his mother, who is now in an assisted living facility, about once a week.

Travel

Aside from our cruise to Alaska, traveling was limited to where Camelot, our motorhome, took us. After our stop in Milwaukee, we visited Paul and family in Michigan to get reacquainted with then three year old Keegan. Next we visited Duane and Celia, friends in Flint, Michigan. Then when our credit card was compromised by some illegal online charges, we visited with our friend, Carol, in Oregon, Illinois awaiting the arrival of new cards.

Our westward journey from there had us aiming for the Seattle meeting, but we managed stops first in Rapid City, South Dakota where we visited Wind Cave National Park—a first for us. Then we drove to Glacier National Park in Montana and spent a week touring its sights. An earlier try to visit had been deterred by a forest fire in the park. After our cruise we spent some time with friends, LouAnn and Roger in Washington at their lovely home on the Hood Canal.

Our Offspring

are all healthy and doing well.

Lloyd keeps busy at all hours of the day and night with his business and animals.

Mark had an offer he couldn't refuse and accepted a position at the Omni Hotel in San Francisco. He moved back to the Bay Area in July. He is renting his condo in San Diego, partly due to the housing market and partly because he might return there in the future.

Pam is a classroom teacher, a before and after school tutor, a union rep, and I'm not sure what else. All I know is it will be good to see her at Christmas, because she never slows down normally.

Gail is still traveling a great deal with her job. She seems to be on the road even more than Ray was when he was working. She is settled in her new home now.

Bev and Rick are as busy as ever with friends, travel, tennis, golf, kids school and sports events. Right now they are skiing with the family in Utah after leaving Arizona.

Paul and Robyn have a busy lifestyle with their home, work, and activities, to say nothing of having a busy almost-four-year-old. Keegan does keep going and going. The Energizer Bunny could take lessons from him.



Paul, Bev, Mark, Pam, Gail & Lloyd

Our Grandchildren

Monica, I can hardly believe, is in her senior year at CSU in Chico, CA. She will be graduated from there this May. She worked at the day camp in Walnut Creek as its director last summer, so that kept her busy. Ever her mother's daughter, she spends a good deal of time daily at the gym.

Selina is in Middle School. Where did the time go? Her 6th grade activities find her an active Girl Scout, a volleyball player, and a basketball player. She attended camp in the Sierras this year and loved it. And grandma received an oil painting in the style of Georgia O'Keefe.

RICO is a busy second grader. He goes from one activity to another with the rapidity that only an eight-year-old can accomplish. His avid interest in sporting events has enhanced his reading experiences (he reads the sports pages daily) and his math skills (figuring out percentages in sporting events) He is trying to get his parents to take him to as many baseball stadiums as possible, and is getting to quite a few.

While we don't see nearly enough of four-year-old, *Keegan*, we certainly enjoy the times we do have with him. We visit there in the summer and then enjoyed our week on the cruise ship watching him experience new things.



Rico, Selina, Keegan and Monica

So in closing we hope you had a wonderful 2008 and a very Merry Christmas. We wish you a healthy, happy and a stupendous New Year!



Love,

Joy and Ray