

TENNISON 2009 FAMILY NEWS

Forty-second Edition

A very Merry Christmas from our house to yours. We're frantically preparing for our bi-annual trip to California when the entire family gets together. Michigan family members are flying in on the 20th, and we hope to be there by the 21st. Already Ray is saying we won't have room in the car for everything we need to bring. Oh well.



On the Home Front

It has been an extremely busy year. Ray's mother fell in her assisted living facility and died shortly thereafter the first of February. She had been doing quite well, and even though she was 91 years old, it was still a shock. Family shared their grief at a short memorial service. Pam flew here for the funeral service, so we had a brief visit with her.

Friends, Rich and Sue, from Illinois visited in March, so we did the sights with them. We had an annual membership at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix because the glass artist, Chihuly, had his works exhibited there, and we visited with family members multiple times, so naturally we went again with Rich and Sue. The Biosphere and Gold Mining town were also on our list of to-dos.

As they were leaving, Mark was arriving for a visit after sky diving in nearby Eloy, so that was a nice continuance. It was a short but enjoyable visit.

Since our 2001 Dodge had died a terrible death on a California freeway in November 2008, we were sorely in need of a replacement, so a hybrid seemed in order. A visit to the Auto Show and conversations with our Ford employee son, Paul, influenced us to get the new Ford Fusion. Of course, we had to buy it by a certain date to get the tax credit, and the model wasn't in production yet, so we didn't take delivery until June, when we should have been on the road already. But we got to drive it when we returned in the fall and love it.

Continuing in an eco friendly vein, we decided to embrace life in the Valley of the Sun here in Arizona and installed solar panels to provide electricity for our home.

And, more sun-embracing, we added a sunroom by enclosing our rear patio with floor to ceiling glass doors and windows. It really is delightful. We have an electric heat pump which will cool

it in the heat and warm it in the cold using our solar generated electricity.

How's that for becoming Arizonans?

SQUARE DANCING

As usual we danced frequently January through March. In June we once again traveled to Milwaukee to dance at a convention there. Then we found ourselves in California in August, so we went to McCloud to dance C3a to Vic Cedar. This only means something to our square dance friends, but to put it in layman's lingo, we struggled with some really hard stuff, but hopefully came out better dancers. Now we are dancing in Mesa to two callers. One of our callers here died last April quite suddenly and is missed very much.



Other Activities

Not much new here. Genealogy Club and Wine and Dine are the two main activities we participate in here at Trilogy. I did work the Holiday Craft fair hawking the collages I do. Got a lot of interest, but still haven't recouped the entrance fee. Should have gone with something you could buy on the spot!

Phantom was in town, so we went to see it again. We missed the first opera of our season tickets because we were still in Asia, but the second one was Salome, and we witnessed the "full monty" with the dance of the seven veils. The opera was pretty good, too! Next up La Boheme

Travel

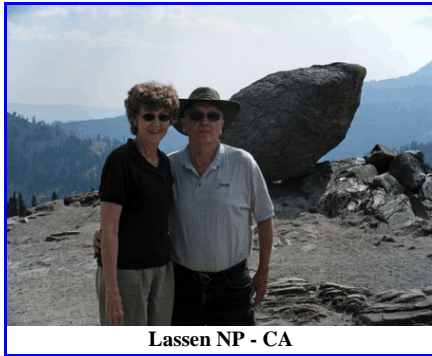
We pretty much stayed put January through April. In May we made two trips to the San Francisco area. Early in the month for grandson Rico's First Holy Communion, then again at the end of the month for granddaughter Monica's graduation from CSU. We enjoyed family, celebrations and friends on both trips.



In June when we finally left home, had to make a beeline to Milwaukee to get there in time for the AACE convention. We spent some extra time this trip in Milwaukee and visited their Art Museum just to see the building. It is fantastic architecture. If you're ever nearby, don't miss it.

Next we visited with Paul and family in Michigan to get our grandson fix. Also visited with friends Celia and Duane and Pat and Art in nearby cities.

The death of a dear friend in California altered our direction for travel, so we headed back there for a service in August. On the way we stopped in the Rapid City area and paid our first visit to Wind Cave National Park.



Lassen NP - CA

Westward we visited Rocky Mountain National Park (our first time there), the Garden of the Gods, the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP, Arches and Canyonlands NPs, Great Basin NP in Nevada (another first), and finally Lassen NP in California where they were still smoldering from a forest fire.

So we square danced in McCloud and headed into the Bay Area for a visit with friends and family before returning to Arizona to get ready for our cruise.



In September we flew to Anchorage where we departed on our cruise to Asia. We visited Russia, Japan, China, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Singapore, and finally Thailand where we spent five days in Bangkok..

This is a photo of us in the Cambodian temple, Ta Prohm, where *Lara Croft-Tomb Raider* was filmed. The Cambodians were quick to point this out.

We have loads of photos, but I haven't even got it written up on our web page yet. SOON, I hope. It was a really fantastic trip.

Our Offspring

are all healthy and still working, which certainly isn't the case for many people these days, so we count our blessings.

Lloyd's business and animals keep him busy but near home. Mark commutes to San Francisco either by car by BART, depending on the day. He hates the commute either way. He travels for business and pleasure and still jumps out of perfectly good airplanes.

Pam's job and numerous social activities make it impossible to reach her most of the time. She is always going or coming to or from somewhere.

Gail's work has her on the road as much as her father used to be, or perhaps more. Driving or flying off, we never know where she will answer her cell phone.

Bev, Rick, Selina and Rico are a blur of activity. Kids activities, Bev's activities, Rick's work or family. Good thing we have cell phones these days, or I'd never speak to anyone.

Paul and Robyn are fairly Michigan bound, but activities with Keegan, the water and Robyn's family nearby keep them hopping.

Our Grandchildren

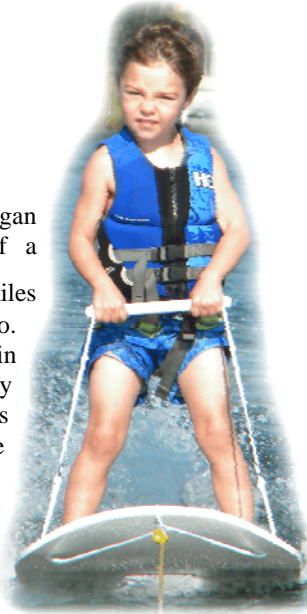
Monica, was graduated from California State University in May and is now attending certification classes at St. Mary's Collage in Moraga while working and living at home. She loves her student teaching, and Gail swears she has no social life outside of school activities.



Seventh grader, *Selina*, likes to sample life. She won awards for scholarship and as a distinguished student, took a high ropes course in the Sierras, plays volleyball and basketball, skis, paints and is a Girl Scout, and an apple-pie maker extraordinaire.



In third grade this year, **RICO**, is still the avid sports player/fan. He made his First Communion in May and looked like the perfect angel. His heart lies with baseball, but his soccer prowess is coveted by multiple coaches. Basketball isn't neglected by him either. He and Grandpa have very serious discussions on sporting events.



Our summer visits to Michigan don't give us nearly enough of a **Keegan** fix, but with all the miles between us, that is the best we can do. He will be five in January and is in preschool, but since he is already reading proficiently, the school part is only for the social activities. He learned to water ski after we left this summer, so we missed that. He does call and wish us various greeting throughout the year.

We are looking forward to spending time with the family while in California. It would be nice to have them all at our home in Arizona, but, unfortunately, the logistics just aren't possible very often. So, we take what we can get. When one or more come to visit, we consider it a bonus.

As I said earlier, overall it has been a good year. I was not well earlier in the year and losing weight, but they performed every imaginable test and found nothing causing it. I got over it and have gained the weight back - darn! Ray's crohn's disease doesn't cause him any problems, so we are happy about that.

God has been good to us and our family, and we are forever grateful for that. We wish you the same in life. We're entrenched here in Arizona until May, so if you're in a cold climate, come on down and visit. We'd love to have you.

So it comes time again to wish you the very happiest of holidays. May the blessings of the Christ Child be yours this Christmas, and may health and happiness be your constant companions in 2010.

Love,

Joy and Ray

