

Christmas Season 2008

Dear Family and Friends,

We've had quite a year mostly happy. Don and I are both getting older, but holding up quite well. I say that now after attending my University of Rochester 50th class reunion and seeing a sea of white hair and classmates in wheel chairs, canes, walkers etc. I have never been able to accept old age, but after going to the reunion, I realize that I'm doing pretty well. So that was a benefit of the reunion. Don is doing very well and also enjoyed seeing my old friends and his. We went to Rochester on October 16 the height of the Fall tree colors which were beautiful. We've actually gotten used to Colorado Fall with beautiful mostly yellow leaves with a hint of orange some years and forgotten what we were missing by being out here.

Last year we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary a year early and went to China. This year we actually celebrated the anniversary by having a real family reunion at my sister's island in the St. Lawrence River. Zena and her husband and Don's sister, Lorna and her husband and one friend joined our three children and all of our grandchildren for the event. We celebrated on the Island for one week. It was wonderful to hear 15 happy voices and no arguments for one entire week. That was a great event.

We now have three teenage grand-daughters and two younger than teenagers. Teenagers are certainly different from when we were growing up and even when our children were that age. John's wife, Sue, finished her LPN degree and is now finishing up her BSRN degree. She has been very dedicated and doing a good job. Our daughter, Mary, is now ready to finish college and become a teacher. She's a bit late in starting, but enthusiastic about her future. John is still working with the railroad and Marcus is still an engineer with a water purification company and he has a woman friend who has received a 100% rare approval rating from the entire family. So we are hopeful. The grandchildren are all doing well. Liz is a senior in high school, Zena is a sophomore, Dana is in eighth grade, Kyle in fifth grade, and Jessica is in third grade. Everyone seems to be happy and active and telling their grandparents little about school.

Don and I have been working very hard (especially Don) in the political scene. The last few weeks before the election were the most difficult. We were very nervous and worried, but all of our candidates won fortunately. Otherwise there would have been four families vying for the one extra house my sister owns in Canada! Obama has a lot of work to do both in the U.S. and abroad but I think that he will surround himself with good people. Anyway, we're hopeful.

I have been very involved with our Gunnison Valley Animal Welfare League. We have new officers and are hopefully finally making some progress on getting a shelter. We are putting up a temporary building (shed) to house all of our adoptable animals. But at the moment we are fostering five cats (plus our Max) - three upstairs and three downstairs. That's a lot of cats! Hopefully, that will end soon. Don is grand master and lover of all of the cats and I get the litter box job!

We hope that you are all doing well and have a happy, safe and healthful Christmas and New Year. Let WORLD PEACE AND LOVE reign!.

Fondly,
Don and Margaret McLeod

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