

HAPPY HOLIDAY GREETINGS
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Dear Friends and Family:

As usual we are late composing and mailing our Christmas letter. However, I know that it is impossible for us to just send a card. There is so much we want to tell each of you, and we also look forward to hearing about what has happened to you during 1998.

Tracy came down with something in January which really laid him low. He was really sick, but the doctors could not find anything wrong with him--no infections, etc., etc. By Spring he was somewhat functional again, but was still dizzy and just felt underpar. In late summer, he was sent to a balance clinic--and they diagnosed the problem as an inner-ear problem, and one they could, fortunately, fix. He went into the clinic dizzy and came out not dizzy. File that away in your medical files. If this happens to you get to a good ear man *first*. We are both doing a bunch of exercises to improve our balance--the therapist at the Clinic says if everyone over forty would do these exercises faithfully, they would never fall and break bones when they were old. Now they tell us. Want a copy of the exercises?

We had a fun family reunion this summer in Alpine Utah, at "The Inn by the Creek". All members of the family were there and the weather was great. Most of us got together again in November when Tracy Jr. married Helen Gardner Van Orman. Second marriages for both of them. But have you ever heard of the bride and groom cooking a Thanksgiving dinner for their wedding guests? They are a unique couple in many ways, and we wish them the very best. All of a sudden our family increased substantially.

We were invited back to Schenectady this summer, when the G.E. Research Lab established a display in the Schenectady Museum relating to man-made Diamonds. We didn't get to see the few remaining former Schenectady friends, but it was good to go back to our old stomping grounds.

Tracy is still trying to juggle tree farming with science. Neither, probably, get enough attention to be productive, but it keeps him busy.

Our older grandchildren are growing up and getting married. We have now graduated into the great-grand parent status as we have two new great-grandsons dangling on the family tree.

I have just been listening to the US Congress ratifying the decision of our President to bomb Iraq. It seems inevitable that there always seems to be enemies to our freedom which keep our lives far from serene.

Prophets ancient and modern indicate that this will not end until the Savior returns to bring peace and stability to a troubled world.

We, like the shepherds and wisemen of old, stand in awe of the great gift of Atonement and Eternal Life which Jesus Christ offers to all of us. He lives. And he loves us. As Handel reiterated in his masterful "Messiah": "Wonderful! Counselor! The Mighty God! The Everlasting Father! The Prince of Peace! "

May our Heavenly Father's blessings be upon you and upon your house throughout the coming year, is our sincere Hope.

Tracy and Ida-Rose