



Christmas and New Year's Greetings 2008

Life continues to be good to us. We've both been active and in good health, even if we are on social security – good grief – another year or so and we're looking at Medicare!

The big news for me has been my winemaker job at Young Sommer Winery. It's owned by friends Herm and Wilma Young. The tasting room opened in May and the wines have been very well received. We've already gone through our 1200 gallon first year production and are rushing further batches. We expect to double our production this coming year. Beyond that, I'm teaching Digital Imaging, Basic Computing, and Winemaking classes at various locations and continue as a Literacy Volunteer, working with the Hispanic community here. I also maintain web sites for several non-profit organizations and tend to my gardens.

Elmeda continues to enjoy retirement. For the past year, she has finished 1 – 2 quilts a month in addition to other works in progress. The HQ 16 is earning it's keep. She's also started volunteering at Pines of Peace, a local hospice.

We're still working hard at our hammer dulcimers. We've taken two group lessons and a number of private lessons from Mitzie Collins and we went to a weeklong Dulcimer camp in West Virginia in April. We're still novices, but it has been a good experience from a mental development standpoint.

In August, we were able to exchange our time-share in Orland for a larger condo that we shared with Elmeda's niece Natalie and her family. Her two girls are 8 and 12 and we really enjoyed seeing them experience the sights in Disney World. In September, we visited Mike in Denver, then spent a week and a half touring the National Parks in southern Utah – Bryce, Zion, Canyon lands, and Arches. In the Christmas card picture, we had just hiked 2 ½ miles up the Virgin River bed in Zion Park. Where we finished, the gorge was less than 100 feet wide and the walls over 1200 feet high.

Mark is still doing electrical work in Mooresville, NC but business is really slow. Matthew is working full time in the Burn/Trauma Unit but in addition, Strong is sending him to the U of R Simon School for an MBA in Health Administration. Wibke is doing her student teaching for her English as a Second Language certification at Schroeder High School in Webster. Michael is now in a PhD program in Aerospace at the Univ. of Colorado. Aaron has been driving locally for a Temp-to-hire company for most of the year but the economy has hit him pretty hard also so he's watching for other suitable positions.

My own web site is again sadly out of date, but my intention is to have it current by the time you get this, so check it out at www.elmeda.com.

Wishing everyone the best of holidays,

Jan and Elmeda