

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Century, and Millennium to all our friends and family. I thought I mention the millennium thing because everyone seems pretty hyped about it, but to me its just another day. Sunrise Sunset, you know, same old same old.

Seems like so much has happened this year and yet I'm finding it hard to think of what has gone on. Memory lost that's it, it seems to get a little worse every year but not to worry yet, it will start coming to me in just a moment.

Ah yes, the house. It has now been two and half years since we started this project and the light is starting to shine at the end of the tunnel. Tomorrow the carpet is coming and will be installed throughout the upstairs, leaving only three rooms down stairs to complete. Oh boy what VP (Geoff's acronym for Visual Progress). We hope to have it on the market by Feb. It truly has been an experience and we hope that someone with a special need will be able to buy this house to help them better to function more independently. We're not quite sure if we'll go on to do another house or not, I think it will depend on what kind of housing we find when we start to look, but we're open to doing another remodel even though most think we're crazy, us too for that matter.

Geoff hit a milestone of 50 years on the 9th of Dec. He will now be five years away from being a senior citizen. (He'll get me for that one). He is still at Pacific Rim Imports as the IS Director. Between work and the house he certainly stays busy and we all look upon him in awe at all that he is able to accomplish in a week. Believe it or not even with work and the remodel and some consulting on the side, he has a new hobby selling things on eBay the computer auction. He really gets a kick out of it and with his finds, he has been able to make quite a few dollars doing so. His seller name on eBay is "getfit4less" and he's found a real market in used exercise equipment.

Timmy graduated this year and is now 19. He spent 10 weeks during the summer and fall with an organization called Northwest Youth Corp. based out of Eugene OR., working out in the woods clearing and cleaning camp sites and trails. He came home looking quite like a Neanderthal man with his long hair and beard, but had a great experience and has grown in himself quite a bit. He really enjoyed it and has plans to eventually go work on an organic farm in Costa Rica for a few months and then join Americorp for a year working with communities that need help. While he's home he is working to save money to help achieve these goals. Once he finishes Americorp, he plans on finishing his college education at Evergreen College in Olympia, WA., and then join the Peace Corp.. He definitely knows what he wants to do and goes after it.

Jenny is 8 and grew 3 1/2 inches this year, she is now the same height Timmy was at age 10. I keep telling her to stop growing but she just won't listen. She's growing up so fast and with Timmy now on the verge of leaving home I'm not ready for her to catch up to him. I know she has a ways to go but it still feels to fast for me. Dance lessons keep her busy and her new sport of jump roping is on the docket at the beginning of the year.

As for myself, life keeps moving on much the same way as it has year after year. Not to say it isn't interesting just that at this age (I swore I would never get this old) responsibilities keep things on an even keel or do they? My Dad has moved back to the Northwest and has just moved into an apartment in Tacoma near my brother Andy. With his move from Arizona (my friend Laura and I drove the U-Haul up ourselves), then moving again his stuff to Tacoma from our house in Bellevue, helping Laura move from her house in Issaquah to DesMoines and then us in the near future, I have seen and will see too many moving trucks. I wonder if I should consider changing professions.

We said goodbye to three of our family members the end of last year and the beginning of this year. My grandma of 97 years, my Uncle Chuck and my Aunt Liz went to be with the Lord. We sure do miss all of them.

A new member joined our family this year, a baby kitten we now call Snikerdoodle. She is a riot to watch and we have had countless hours of fun with her here. Slinky our queen kitty is not however as ecstatic as we and has given all of us the cold shoulder since Sinkerdoodle arrived. Barney our very old dog has actually shown some life with her here and they play together off and on. She pretends to swipe at his nose and he pretends to try and eat her, then she rolls on her back and he nuzzles her with his nose. They're so cute.

For pictures of our family, pets and the house, as well as prior-years Christmas letters, go to <http://www.scn.org/~bc420>, the Hazel's Web page.

Well we bid you adieu for the end of this year, century and millennium and wish you all the very best for your new year.

Geoff

Fran

Timmy

Jenny

Barney our age old puppy

Slinky our queen kitty

and last but not least

Sinkerdoodle our baby