

*We wish you a very Happy 2007 Christmas Season
And a Healthy & Prosperous 2008!*

Carol and I are still very happy together, even after 52 years! But, I have Sad News: We sold our Motor Home and Tow Car this year. Our life has changed in a big way. We bought a new Buick and some luggage. So, we will still travel when possible and hope to see you in the coming year.

I also have Good News, though: I recently had cataracts removed from BOTH of my eyes, and I look forward to new glasses and improved vision!

Charly continues to live here. It is helpful for us to have a live-in Paramedic! She revised both her best-selling EMS books this year. They are guides used by paramedics and EMT-basics to practice for certification exams. Charly's currently working on ideas for NON-EMS books – books that will earn her far more money!

Drew is a Full Bird Colonel in the Air Force Active Reserve, but has been working in Iraq as a civilian expert. He was in Baghdad last X-mas, came home in April, then returned to Iraq in September. He will be home for X-mas this year! Drew, Annabeth, and Anna worked very hard on their Colorado Log Home last summer. They plan to finish the inside before he goes back to Iraq again, in March of 2008. In Baghdad, Drew works for a "think tank" headquartered in the Pentagon; the Institute for Defense Analysis. We don't know what he does, and he can't tell us!

This year, in addition to her work as a Pharmacist and piano teacher, Annabeth has been working as an accompanist for Papillion Jr. High. Their daughter, Anna, is 13 now and is still sitting in the Principle Cello Chair of the Omaha Jr Youth Symphony. (She studies cello with the Omaha Symphony's Principle Cellist.) Anna also sings in a choir and takes horseback riding lessons, tennis lessons, and Chinese language lessons. Carol and I see them as often as possible.

Kim has had a Great Year! She took a job with the Eyecare Specialties company, and began training to be an optician. A month later, she was promoted to Director of Human Resources and Patient Relations. (They recognized her special personality as having a positive influence on fellow employees and patients. Everyone loves her!) Her company has four locations in Lincoln, and one in Beatrice, Nebraska. She's getting great pay and finally has Health Benefits again.

Kim's daughter, Jennii, is engaged to be married in March. Kim's son, Pat, is attending Southeast Community College in Lincoln, and working for a Pizza company. He occasionally helps us out by doing odd jobs around the house.

Kim's husband, Dave Merrill, is still the Executive Director of a company that provides housing and training assistance for developmentally disabled individuals in southeastern Nebraska ("Region V"). He has two sons & a granddaughter. He and Kim love the restored older home that they own, here in Lincoln. They also love to dance (take TANGO lessons!), and Dave plays guitar & Dobro with a local group. Their group made a CD this year, and Kim sang backup harmonies on it.

After leaving his 14-year position as "Joint Venture Partner" with the Outback Restaurant corporation two years ago, Steve worked as a Vice President for "Mo's Restaurants" – a company based in Milwaukee – for several months before quitting them to pursue creation of HIS OWN restaurant concept: the "VEGAS GRILL"! By becoming independent, he and Jodi have their necks on the block, big time! VEGAS GRILL is a casual bar and grill with a Las Vegas theme: Ann Margaritas, Dean Martinis, a Fat Elvis burger, Mama Sinatra's Spaghetti, and the like! The first opening of a VEGAS GRILL will be in Houston, and is scheduled for late August of 2008. Steve's goal is 60 VEGAS GRILLS in 6 years! Keep your fingers crossed!

Steve and Jodi's daughter, Taylor, became a Freshman at Arizona State University in the fall of 2007, and was accepted to the Alpha Phi sorority. (She wanted to be a Tri-Delt like her Grandma, Carol, but ASU doesn't have a Tri-Delt chapter!) Their oldest son, Erik, was accepted (& awarded a scholarship!) to the Savannah College of Art and Design this fall. Erik and Taylor both love their schools. Reed, Steve and Jodi's youngest, is in the 10th grade, and works long hours at one of Steve's old Outback restaurants. He'd like to someday play for the NBA. If he ever grows into those huge feet of his, he may make it!!!

We are looking forward to a great 2008, and would very much like to see you sometime! Although we no longer have our Motor Home "apartment," if you can visit, you'll still find a comfortable place to stay with us! Give us a call if you think you might be heading our direction: (402) 489-6124

Love & Best Wishes!

(Carol & Ray!)

Email Carol & Ray anytime, c/o Charly: c-d-miller@neb.rr.com