

December 1995

Seasons Greetings!

December already! - Can't be! That's one disadvantage of living in the South. No hints in the form of snowflakes or snowfalls that Christmas will be here soon. Yesterday I was bicycling in shorts on a rails-to-trails path near here and temperatures were in the high 50's and today I'm composing a Christmas Letter ??? (Yes, I know, am I bragging or complaining? Little of both I guess. Although as the years pass by, I seem to appreciate more and more the blessing of not having to deal with snow on a first-hand basis.)

Several milestones occurred in our family this year. In May and June, Lori realized her ambition to become a Physical Therapist. She graduated from Tennessee State University in Nashville and is now on the staff of HealthSouth, a rehabilitation hospital in Columbia, South Carolina. We had left some of her furniture in storage in Nashville as she completed her last six week clinical and interviewed at various hospitals here in the Southeast. On Memorial Day we returned to Nashville one last time to retrieve the furniture and help get her settled in Columbia. Now, six months later, I'm happy to see that real world work pressures have not dimmed her enthusiasm for this work.

David was lucky enough to meet Linda Owen, a wonderful young lady while working at Wachovia Bank and Trust in Winston Salem. As reported in my last Christmas letter, he relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina in June of '94 to go to work as a Programmer Analysts for First Union Bank. Linda also moved to Charlotte to work as a Sr. Technical Consultant for Broadway and Seymore, a company that develops application software for the banking industry. They were married on October 14th, at "The Little Church on the Lane" a Moravian Church in Charlotte NC. Lori was also part of the wedding party as a bridesmaid. We're very happy for them, and pray that God will abundantly bless their marriage.

And Joyce..... As I also reported last year, Joyce and K-Mart parted company in the fall of 1994. I'm sure she wonders how she could have managed this year, had she still been employed there. Both Lori, and Dave and Linda are about three hours away and she has made frequent trips to both Charlotte and Columbia; first related to Lori's relocation, and then David's and Linda's wedding. She and Lori managed to again collaborate on Christmas shopping again this year with Joyce staying down there for a three day spree a couple of weeks ago. I can't complain - Lori agreed to help with my Christmas shopping (do it for me?) at least one more year.

And me..... I still lead a quiet life except for the diversion of an annual late summer, motorcycle trip. This year the destination was a "Rider Rally" in Kalispell, Montana, but the high points were Waterton Park (the Canadian part of Glacier National Park) and the Rocky Mountains of north central Colorado which I had not seen before. Trail Ridge Road (47 miles between Estes Park and Grand Lake) is the highest paved road in America and most of it is above the tree line - tundra. The highest point is 12,183 ft. What a trip on a bike! Don't miss it.

Work at Siemens continues. We had yet another reorganization in October. I and all of the Technical Support group are back part of the Johnson City engineering group. Instead of management of hot line services, I have responsibility for developing service and support capability and revenue. A large part of that will be the development of additional packages and system configurations which increase versatility and capability of our core TISTAR and PCS control system products. It is more hands-on and technical, and I'm enjoying the new viewpoint and work areas.

That's pretty much the highlights of 1995 for us. A busy year that went by much too quickly!

We continue to be thankful for the blessings we have received and look forward to 1996. We sincerely hope that you and your family have a wonderful Holiday Season and a Joyous New Year.

Don and Joyce