

DECEMBER, 1997

H--Happy Holidays from Boulder, CO where the national media services have put our beautiful city on the map (a year old mystery!).

A--As we get ready to change the calendar to 1998, it's "wow what happened to 1997?" The pages of 1997 are filled with many happy memories and many things for which to be thankful.

P--Particularly we are grateful to Dr. Christian Barnard who had the vision to explore saving broken hearts and pioneering heart surgery. After having trouble on his walks, Alan was diagnosed as needing five by-passes and underwent surgery on March 24 (Kevin's birthday). Having an excellent team of heart surgeons at Boulder Community Hospital to take care of one's plumbing truly is a big plus. After a four-day hospital stay, he was happy to recuperate at home. AND--you know who became nurse-maid, chauffeur, and now a low-fat dietitian. Diane's father underwent by-pass and valve replacement surgery just three weeks prior to Alan's, so Kevin and Diane did get acquainted with Boulder Community.

P--Prayers, phone calls, cards and flowers reminded us how blessed we are to have wonderful family and friends whose support can't be measured!! Alan counts his membership in the "zipper club" a plus because of a new lease on life.

Y--Yes, the Spring calendar pages were filled with many local and Colorado Sons of Norway Lodge activities, the District Barnløpet (cross-country childrens ski race), arranging for the Stoughton, WI High School Norwegian Folk-Dance performances in Boulder (excellent!!) and our Bridge Club of 35 years.

C--Could it be 45 years that we've celebrated Christmas together? To mark this anniversary, we packed our bags in June and headed Northeast stopping enroute at Alan's nephew, Doug and Kay Walters in St. Joseph, MO and the class and alumni reunions in Grant City.

Highlights of our month-long tour were: Fayette, IA to see Kevin's sculpture on the Northern Iowa University campus; Toronto city tour; Quebec old city walking tour; driving through the world's longest covered bridge; the beautiful countryside everywhere; driving over the newly opened Confederate Bridge to Prince Edward Island; "Anne of Green Gables" museum; the restored Louisberg Fort museum near Halifax, Nova Scotia; Peggy's Cove and fishing village; Campobello, New Brunswick (Roosevelt's summer cottage); Hyde Park, NY--Vanderbilt and Roosevelt homes; a re-visit to Lancaster, PA; the arch in St. Louis, MO; a visit with Barb's sister, Anita and Bob Cox in Salina, KS; AND, if you are bored going through Kansas, take off at Lucas to the "Garden of Eden" and at Victoria to the Cathedral of the Plains.

H--"Happiness is being a grandparent". Eight year old Kelsey does have a special place in our hearts. She is active in sports activities, girl scouts, practicing piano and excelling in the academics. She keeps Mums stretching to stay taller than she is --AND, Bop is a favorite game player.

R--Rejoicing for Kevin for his continued success as an international artist of painted steel, stainless steel or bronze indoor and outdoor sculptures. The plaque at Fayette reads: "Kevin Robb shapes pieces of steel into graceful forms, creating a work of art that brings a feeling of life and quiet energy to an outdoor space. A wonderful sense of intimacy is created for the viewers as they observe the large, flowing shapes held firmly into positions that defy gravity".

Their yard has also been called "The Garden of Eden" but, it is a beautiful display of sculptures and landscaping at 7003 W. 35th Avenue in Wheat Ridge, CO. He can also be found on the Internet--www.KevinRobb.com. Our parental buttons have been popping!!.

I--It's off to work in the health field for Diane where she is enjoying marketing health services for Milestone. Overseeing the continuance of the remodeling of the house, helping with the landscaping and yard work (enjoys her lawn tractor) and Kelsey seem to keep Diane's plate full.

S--So, too, are we excited about Craig's unique artistic creations of wood which include windows with small objects. The acceptance of his art work in juried shows and the sale of pieces has him getting his feet wet in the art world. He enjoys his work as an assistant to an art professor at the University of Denver.

He can also assist Kevin at welding and sanding steel sculptures. Would Grandpa Thompson, who started Kevin welding, believe his grandsons now?

T--To Santa Fe we did journey in August where we found Scott/Zsolt getting ready to set up a piano studio in downtown Santa Fe (no more traveling to student's homes). He just completed his series of hand bound books and poetry (by Zsolt). His hopes are to let a publisher print future works. As with all author's copyrighted works, his are in the Library of Congress. Hart continues to find working at the college with the Head Start Program a challenge and rewarding. We enjoyed time together in Madrid and at a living farm museum West of Santa Fe (put on your list of 'to do!!).

M--Music helps fill Barb's plate as she enjoys hearing students performances and seeing them learn to appreciate music. When they want to play everything they've learned on the Christmas recital, it is exciting and a good reason NOT to retire. Barb is grateful that her mother, Grandma Pearl, at 92, is healthy and happy at the Prairie View Care Center in Limon.

A--Ah, yes--Stan Boreson sings "I just go nuts at Christmas, but, dat Santa Claus he sure has fun filling dos stockings vit da right gift. And...like Ole and Lena..ve do enjoy dos Lutefisk dinners even dough someone fills his belly vid dos meatballs and da lefse.. Oh..Uff-da!!!

S--So from our house to your house, we send our best wishes for a New Year filled with Happiness, Health, and Love of Family and Friends. .

God Jul og Gødt Nyttar

Barbara and Alan

P.S. We are spending a few days over New Years Eve with Alan's sister, Clydene and T. C. in Tucson, AZ. From Lander, WY, they winter in Tucson.