



WOW! 2004 has almost faded out of the picture and I'm still trying to get a note off to our special friends to extend the greetings of the holidays! We so appreciate all your notes and letters—it is fun catching up on where you are and what you are doing! Keep it up!

Bob and I had so enjoyed our last Mississippi cruise; we decided to take another in mid-January. It proved itself again, and we were blessed with good weather and good times. We renewed our wedding vows in a ceremony performed by the captain of the American Queen! Upon our return to New Orleans, we stayed at the beautiful Fairmount Hotel (originally the Grunewald and later the Roosevelt, built in 1893) for a few days so we could “tourist” the town—even ate shrimp at “Bubba Gump’s” in the French Quarter. Driving home, we stopped overnight at the old (National Historic Registered) Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Now there’s another step into yesteryears (122 years to be exact, built in 1882)! The latter part of January we were delighted to have Jackie and Ben, Bob’s good friends from San Diego, with us for a few days.

In March, my old high school, St. Mary’s Academy, had a “Day at the Zoo” so Bob and I went and Mark joined us. Lowsy, I hadn’t been to the Zoo since I was a kid! Quite the place!

April saw Bob and me trekking over the hills to Ouray to see friends there and enjoy the town reputed to be “The Little Switzerland of America”. What a gorgeous place! The last of April Mark and I took a couple of days to spend at our rig up the Poudre Canyon. Deelightful!

June saw Bob, Mark and me chugging east into Kansas to visit the famous Pioneer Museum at Minden. It took us 3 days (and could have spent much more time!) seeing all the Museum has to offer. When we got home we sent them several old cameras and Mark sent one of the first ‘personal computers’. They were delighted to add these things to the Museum.

SMA (St. Mary’s Academy) held their Golden Grads luncheon in June at the Denver Country Club. It was the first time I had attended any of these luncheons and had to really dust the cobwebs to call to mind some of the gals I’d not seen since I graduated in ’42! My good friend, Judge Ollie Marie-Victoire, who lives in San Francisco, was presented an “Outstanding Graduate” plaque. As she had not been able to come, I was pleased to accept the award for her.

In July Mark had the excitement of a flight on an old B-17, which was at our airport briefly. Bob and I toured through the plane and I was amazed at the small space for the humans in that plane! It was this month that Bob finally



surrendered to the pleas of St John the Evangelist Catholic Church and School to work full-time for them. He had been donating his services for months, but finally decided to go full-time. His work hours are 5 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, leaving Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for any activities we may plan.

In August our niece, Dee, and her husband, Bill, from Memphis, visited us for a few days. It is always a pleasure having them and wish the distance wasn't so great that they couldn't come more often. I also did a dumb trick by falling off a 2-step ladder onto cement. This caused a concussion, open head wound, and a TMJ. Finally, after three months the dizzy spells are gone and I'm ready to climb another ladder (which Bob won't let me do!).

By the end of October, Bob had mostly finished our new room addition in the 'garage'. We took the back 14 feet of our connected garage and made it into a fun room with TV, surround-sound system, extra closet space and lots of other 'goodies'.

October 2 was a fun day...Unbeknownst to Bob, his entire family (7 people) drove from Utah to have the annual family birthday party here at the house. Pace, his youngest brother, and I had been slyly working out the details for the surprise—and surprised he most certainly was! They arrived at 4 p.m. and it was like Christmas with everyone opening their gifts! Then, at 6 p.m. the caterer arrived with the dinner, which was delicious, after which the "gang" left to go to their motel.



The first weekend in November found us on the road to stay at another 'old hotel', The Occidental in Buffalo, Wyoming. This one is a bit older and younger than the Plaza in Las Vegas. How can that be? Well the first hotel was a log building built in 1880. However the stone hotel we stayed in was built around 1908 and boasts having had such guests as Buffalo Bill Cody, Calamity Jane, Butch Cassidy and his gang, Teddy Roosevelt and more.

Mark had to work on Thanksgiving, so Bob and I decided to eat at home. Bob cooked yummy turkey thighs (we both don't care for the white meat), and we had the usual trimmings. Mark will be with us for Christmas, however, and will make his famous clam chowder for Christmas eve; and we will have a scrumptious rib roast on Christmas Day.

Didn't mean to be so "wordy", but my fingers loosened up and I couldn't get them to calm down.

May we both take this opportunity to extend our most sincere and warm wishes to each and every one of you for a happy holiday season and a prosperous 2005!

Love,

*Ramona + Bob*

