

Our very best holiday greetings to you all! We hope you all have had a wonderful 2007 and are enjoying the festivities for another splendid New Year!

Last December we hosted a Christmas party in our home for our friends and work associates at the church and school. It was catered, so we could participate and be 'guest' hosts.

Bob and I celebrated our 5 years of wedded bliss by renewing our vows on Feb. 10. Our good friend, Fr. Thuerauf conducted the service, which was extremely small—Father, Bob and me, and Mark who walked me down the aisle and was the "witness". Such a lovely time!

In March, Bob and I flew to San Diego and joined a small group to go south to Baja California, to study the flora and fauna of Baja, Mexico, plus **pet the whales** in their winter habitat. We both had several chances to touch and pet the baby whales with mama always looking on. Bob even picked up a small hitchhiker - a single whale louse that attached itself to his hand - yuck! We had such a wonderful time!!!



Late April saw Mark and me studying Spanish in El Rito, New Mexico. This was a class offered by the University of New Mexico at their north branch. We had fine teachers, but, alas and alack, out-of-sight out-of-mind! Neither of us is fluent enough to carry on a conversation!

In June, Bob completed his teaching assignment at Saint John Catholic School which he began last year. He opted not to renew his teaching contract and became a work-at-home fellow again. However, late in November the school and church asked that he **please** come back as a part-time technology support person. So he's now back to work 3 days a week at Saint John school and church.

We had made reservations earlier in the year to go to Medjugorje, Bosnia again, and Mark was going with us. Unfortunately, the night before we were to leave, I became quite ill and had to cancel. However, we did talk Mark into going alone.



In August we had a wonderful treat when we traveled to the Spencer Theater in New Mexico to see Vicki Lawrence in person. What a great comedienne she is! Of course, she included her "Mama" routine, too! We even took some time on the way home to stop and see some historic places like Ft. Union on the Santa Fe trail, in New Mexico.

August sent us the sad news of the death of one of my former neighbors, Joe Silva, in Los Banos, and it prompted me to catch a plane to visit with Ana, Joe's widow. Only stayed 4 days but it afforded me time to also see a few of the friends I had left there when I moved to Colorado.

I thought it was right nice that everyone celebrated my birthday this year! (OK, so what if it was on the same day as Labor Day.) On “My Day”, Bob loaded up Mark, Inky and me in the RV for a train ride through the Royal Gorge—complete with a gourmet dinner served in the vista-dome. We had such fun!!!



Later that month Bob and I took the RV northeast to Chamberlain, SD, located right on the mighty Missouri, to attend a Lakota-Sioux Powwow! Fascinating! We were gone about two weeks, where we visited Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse monument, the Bad Lands, Wall Drug, a Norwegian style Chapel in the Pines, Ft. Fetterman, and more before and after the Powwow. Upon returning home, our “Mini” was winterized and put to bed until our next trip.



In October, Bob began a 6-week class on making stained glass. (His birthday present from me.) What fun he had—and we now have a beautiful window hanging of a buffalo’s skull in our “Indian” room.

Last month, we were afforded the opportunity to attend a concert performed by 5 Russian cellists. What a thrilling performance that was! And in November we attended another concert in a local series: “Moments to Remember” with music groups from the 50’s and 60’s. There are three more concerts scheduled in 2008 that we plan to attend. Oh Boy!

Throughout the year, we participated in the biweekly Saturday Estes Park breakfasts when we could join the ‘oldsters’ that I knew when I worked in Estes. This made for a nice visit and a lovely mountain drive up Big Thompson Canyon each time.

We even had a few weekends to spend at our ground-attached non-movable RV “Maxi” retreat in the mountains next to the Poudre River.



So, you can see what a wonderful fun-filled year we did have! (I didn’t even mind turning 83 this last September!)

May you all have a beautiful, happy, and blessed Christmas season with much cheer and good health. We send you our very best wishes for this year and next!