

Dear friends,

The New Year (2008) made its first presentation to the world without the help of the Snyders who snoozed away the midnight festivities. However, on January 1 we did make a short trek to the Denver Art Museum to see their beautiful display of King Louis collection of paintings, drawings, etc.

February started out with a luncheon reunion with Dr. Barbara Okamoto, who had made her almost yearly trek to Colorado for skiing (she was one of Ramona's 'kids' at the hospital). Then thinking the weather was in our favor, we headed out in the RV to attend an Elderhostel on wine and cheese tasting in California. However, the weather turned nasty and we got as far as Rawlins, Wyoming before they closed the highway because of the storm and large amounts of snow. Luckily (or not) we made it to a truck



stop where we sat for 3 days along with many full semi trucks that were also stranded. Knowing we could not make the Elderhostel, we called and cancelled. When the snow cleared we spent time visiting Bob's brother Pace in Utah, and then toured many locations in southern Utah and northern New Mexico, mostly old Indian ruins, the sand dunes, Indian folklore and other archeological type sites.

At home again we spent our Saturdays up in Estes Park for the bi-monthly lunch with the 'old timers'. It was especially pleasant for Ramona as many of the 'old timers' were people she had known from her Estes Park days. We also had time to attend a concert series here in Loveland.

Although we did our 'daily walks' with Inky, we decided to join Fitness 19 to keep these old bodies 'tuned up' with visits twice a week.



Bob had finished his work at Saint John school as a teacher and then 'quit' last year. But, he was asked to please come back so in November of 07 he did so on a part time basis three days a week, which allowed us time to take short trips. One was to La Junta for their big Koshare Indian Dance and Show. It was Great!

In July we decided to sell our 'non-mobile' RV that was permanently parked at a camp site up the Poudre Canyon. While it was a little over an hours

drive from Loveland, we found we weren't going up there often. But, it stayed in the family as Mark took over the rig. This month also found Bob taking our Parochial Vicar, Fr. Mbala, on a sightseeing trip to Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse, the Bad Lands and many stops in between. When they returned, Bob and I took our mobile RV and went on a short trip to Taos, New Mexico and associated area jaunts.

By 3 months pre-arrangement, Bob's last day at the church/school as their 'part-time techno-geek' was October 15. So now he is off the hook so to speak. October also found son Mark traveling to Portugal to visit Fatima.

We were so delighted to have our friends, Ben and Jackie from San Diego, visit us in November – even if only for a one-night-stand.

Loveland is growing so fast and is getting so big, (3 hospitals, lots of medical centers, a population of 65,000, 2 Wal-Mart stores, 2 shopping malls, etc.) that we decided some months ago that it was just not the town for us any more. So we took several trips to 'look around' to see if we could find a nice small town with a home within our budget and our liking. We found a very nice 100 year old home (almost as old as we are) in Sidney, Nebraska. We made an offer but it fell out of escrow as we found that about 30 feet of the foundation in the basement was crumbling. So it was back on the road to see if we could find something in an eastern Colorado town. We found a delightful bungalow-style home in Wray, Colorado. Wray is 160 miles east of Loveland with a population of 2200 (more to our liking) and all the amenities that we were looking for in a small town. The purchase should be complete soon but we won't move until after Easter some time as we don't care to fight Mother Nature, the snow, and well you know – these old bones just don't work in the cold weather that well any more. (You can see pictures of the 'new' place at: www.loveland.us/moving.html)



And so, dear friends, as we sign off on this last Christmas note from Loveland, we wish you all the merriest of holidays and a great 2009!!! (Anybody want to buy a nice home in Loveland? It's still for sale, see: www.loveland.us)

Ramona & Bob Snyder