

Dear Friends,

December, 1998

Our biggest stories this year start with the letter "H". In March Joe had a routine physical exam and found out he has heart problems. It is called atrial fibrillation. The upper chambers of his heart beat very rapidly. He was immediately put on blood thinner to reduce the possibility of a stroke and he couldn't even take a sip of alcohol for some months. In June his heart was successfully converted with an electric shock back to normal rhythm. However, a week ago it went out of normal rhythm and he is back on blood thinner and will have to have another shock. Somewhat based on Joe's medical challenge, Joe has decided to retire from Hewlett Packard in September of 1999 after 33 years (he might work part time as he enjoys his work). We have decided to move to our orchard land (where we have 100 apricot trees) near Hollister, California (about an hour from Cupertino) and build a house. It is a very exciting project as we have 5 acres in the country that we have owned for over 20 years. Judy has been looking at houses and house designs for years and we are getting closer to a final house plan. Judy even took a side trip to Nashville, Tennessee this fall to look at a house she saw in a magazine. It is a 1½-story house with lots of porches and windows that face in the direction of a beautiful mountain called Santa Anna. Joe, with the help of his cousin Bud Travers and brother in law Tom Tefft traveled 250 miles to central California 4 times to take apart several old, weathered sheds and an old water tower. He has enough wood to build a barn. Much of the wood is 75-year-old redwood.

In September we traveled to the island of Kawai on Hawaii. Kawai is a rather rural island and we enjoyed hiking, snorkeling, kayaking and even a helicopter ride. We flew into the world's wettest place that is a crater that gets over 500 inches of rain a year.

In November Sacred Heart Community Service moved into a brand new 6.5 million dollar building debt free. Joe has been on the board since 1972 and was president during some of challenging building project years. Sacred Heart partnered with Habitat for Humanity and sold/traded enough land that Habitat was able to build 5 houses. Joe got to meet Millard Fuller, the founder and president of Habitat, at the groundbreaking ceremony. Sacred Heart helps the poorest of our valley to gain self esteem through education and job skills and also helps with the necessities of life like food, clothing, medicine and housing. We have thousands of dedicated volunteers. Joe is so excited he skips when he visits Sacred Heart.

We traveled to Hotchkiss, Colorado for a Tembrock family reunion at Joe's brother Bill and his wife Kathy's orchard in June. We played volleyball, croquet, hiked, saw ancient petroglyphs, and did some white water rafting thanks to our daughter Amy and Mike's raft. We also traveled home (Minnesota) in August. We attended a Heimenz reunion (Judy's mom Sadie's family). We also spent some wonderful time staying at lake cabins. Judy is still very busy with her photography work (especially around Christmas time). She loves people and has many satisfied customers. She plans to move her business to Hollister and worries a little whether she will have enough business.

Our oldest daughter, Becky and her husband Dave live in Roseburg, Oregon. On our way to visit them over Labor Day weekend we jet boated 52 miles up the Rouge River in Oregon, stayed at Paradise lodge (only accessible by boat) and spent a night in the Honeymoon Cabin. It was wonderful. Mary and her husband Todd live near by. Mary has been asked to be part of the teacher negotiating team. She is getting her exercise in masters swimming. Todd had several parts in the musical "Fiddler on the Roof". He was excellent. Amy and her husband Mike live in Boise, Idaho. She works for Hewlett Packard and has just finished two round the world trips introducing a new printer in the last 6 weeks. Because some parts weren't available, she had to go back to The Netherlands for a final leg of the trip after being in Boise only 3 days. We are spending four days in Idaho after Christmas cross-country skiing with Amy and Mike and we will be spending nights in a yurt (a yurt is a tent with a floor and hopefully some heat). Joey and his wife Belinda live north of San Francisco in Novato. Joey is doing construction work. Every day he says he learns something. Much of the work is manual labor, so he is very trim and is always eating. Our foster child, Nick, moved back home with his mother and brother last January. He's a handsome kid with lots of friends. We keep in touch as he only lives a couple blocks away. Our cousin, Nikki, finished her two-year degree at De Anza College and moved back home in June. She is going to San Jose State studying to be a teacher, is working two part time jobs and is doing great. For the first time since we have been married we have no one living with us. It's really nice.

Have a blessed holiday,

Joe and Judy Tembrock