

Dear family and friends,

December 23, 2004

Well, it has not been a quiet year in Santa Rosa (paraphrasing from Lake Wobegon). Our most special event of the year was the birth of our newest grandchild, Nathan Roller. Mary and Frank blessed us with a bit premature little Nate on July 24th. He has a nice round face and loves to smile.

We finally got the building permits for our new house August 24th. We are awestruck at the speed the house has gone up. Judy found one of the most beautiful locations in the county and our house is nestled between 4 large, heritage valley oaks with an intermittent winter stream that flows by the kitchen and dining room. The house and garage are completely weather proofed as the roof, siding, windows and exterior doors are all complete. We just decided on the cabinets, interior doors, lighting and communication wiring this week. Our current move in date is April/May of next year. Judy's brother, Don Brandl will help us install red oak planks (5 inches wide by 8 feet long) on most of the first floor. We have ordered the wood from Northern Wisconsin. Don used the planks for his cabin and they are absolutely beautiful.

In June our entire extended family less one celebrated my Mom's 90th birthday in Ogema, Minnesota (current population 143). We traveled to New Orleans and Idaho in April. We went on a bayou trip and saw many alligators. Also we visited several antebellum (before the civil war) plantations. One of the plantations was the origination of the "Tar Baby" story. Our daughter Mary needed a babysitter for a wedding she was attending on the Big Island of Hawaii in October. Lots of great snorkeling. Joe went on a night diving trip and was so close to giant manta rays that he could almost touch them. They were lured to the boat area by lights in the water.

In December we celebrated my Brother Bill and Kathy's son Luke's graduation from Colorado University in Boulder. Joe's Mom has attended all the graduations and planned to attend but she was just diagnosed with cancer. She was so sad that she couldn't attend. All her children will be visiting her in January.

All 18 of our extended family were here for Thanksgiving (Mary has 2 step children). A few minor challenges as our car was stolen the week before Thanksgiving (since recovered) and our refrigerator failed two days before Thanksgiving.

After 37 years at HP and Agilent, Joe retired in March. He had a fun retirement celebration at Sacred Heart Community Service in San Jose. All our family, our group from St. Joseph's, many co-workers, and friends from St. Joseph's and several non profits attended. Joe enjoys the retirement privilege of a little nap in the afternoon.

In mid year Joe was diagnosed with adult macular degeneration in one eye. A couple months ago he experienced a hemorrhage in the same (possibly related to the blood thinner he takes for atrial fibrillation). Fortunately, medical science performed another miracle and with two laser treatments his vision is much improved.

Joe is very excited about our land (4 ½ acres). This spring he planted 25 fruit trees, blueberries, and raspberries and a small garden. He is starting planning for an expanded raised-bed garden, nut trees, a rose garden, and table grapes. He also is planning to start taking wine making classes at the local junior college with the possibility of planting a

small vineyard and making wine. Then there is landscaping including a croquet/volleyball court. Joe is starting to get involved in our most wonderful parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our pastor from Sri Lanka is a most inclusive person.

Judy has been extremely busy finalizing the design of our new house. She has been planning this for 10 years and now it is happening so very rapidly. Our general contractor now knows that he is dealing with the eye of a photographer. We now realize that everything has to look right. He is an excellent builder and only occasionally gets a bit ruffled as he says he has too many inspectors (the county, us, our son Joey the builder and Judy's brother Gary the builder). Both Joey and Gary were at one time going to be the general contractor. Judy enjoys digital photography (Photoshop). Our grandchildren are very blessed as Judy has a large album for each child. She continues to do professional photography (on a limited basis) and she is the secretary of the local professional photography association.

Becky and Dave's son Josiah from Oregon now talks (in fact, he talks all the time). He doesn't say "J's", so Joe is "Grandpa O". Dave's college football team, Linfield, lost to Joe's college football team, St John's from Collegeville, Minnesota. St. John's went on to win the National football championship for Division III football. Dave had to pay off a few debts.

Mary and Frank's son Nate is a very happy baby. Mary sometimes isn't getting enough sleep, but maybe she doesn't realize yet that comes with motherhood. Frank's sons, Ryan and Will are enjoying little Nate. Ryan is a senior in high school and college is on his mind. Both boys are excellent water polo players. We just stayed at their home in Cupertino on our way to Santa Cruz to celebrate another Christmas with our parish group that started in Cupertino (we have been meeting almost monthly for almost 30 years).

Amy and Mike from Idaho have 2 girls, Rachel and Emily. Rachel cut her hair a week before they arrived for Thanksgiving and our family picture. Fortunately a trip to the barber and a short hair cut solved the problem. Emily can crawl lickity split forwards as well as backwards. Awesome Mike installed a new computer for Joe. He also setup a high speed DSL line and a router. We love it.

The reason we moved to Santa Rosa was to be near to Joey and Belinda and their girls, Kate Lynn and Anna. Katie is a gymnast. She loves to swing from bars. Anna is so cute as she points at something that she wants and then says "pless". Totally irresistible. That was the best decision that we've ever made. (Several years ago Judy woke up during the night and wrote down 37 reasons why we should move to Santa Rosa and presented them to Joe the next morning).

In our opinion, the worst thing that happened this year is electing a president and world leader that has no apparent interest in our very fragile environment.

We hope you will visit our new home later this year at 241 Royal Court, Santa Rosa, CA 95401.

Joe and Judy Tembrock