



Rocky's Holiday Gazette



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In A Nutshell...

Wow, here it is, almost Christmas again and I haven't written this letter yet.

I'm not sure if time flies faster as I get older (ugh! there's *that* word again), or if I just fly slower! It seems like only days ago I was preparing my Christmas letter. — Oh, yeah, I was, then my computer crashed and I'm doing it again! Like I always caution my clients: Save, Save, and Save some more.

Honestly, this year has gone by so quickly! We've

been so wrapped up in work, tennis, travel, and most of all, grandkids, that one season just seems to blend with the next before we know it.

In a nutshell, my tennis this year was marginal due to injuries; we traveled a little again; my programming business remained quite busy; Leonor's post office kept her more than busy enough; and the grandchildren — we now count two on Leonor's side and five (and a half!) on mine

— remained very much a central focus of our lives.

Plans for next year? We're going to "Re-". Fix up the house. We will drastically cut back on our activities so we can re-carpet, re-build the decks, re-roof, re-tile, re-paint, and all those other "re"s that we've been ignoring all too long.

Stuff you might want to read:

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Here I am competing at Roland Garros Stadium in Paris at the French Open. Amazing how I look like Andre Agassi from this distance!!

Jennifer & Doug Expecting #2 in May

Little Nicholas is going to gain some understanding of the word "share" next year. Doug and Jennifer have announced the pending arrival of a new little brother or sister just in time to celebrate Cinco de Mayo with us.



Tennis, 1998

My tennis "career" this year took a slight pause. I played in the National Senior Indoor Tournament in February in Salt Lake, but not well enough to win any prizes. We went to the Beautiful Oregon Coast in March to play in a NW tournament. My partner and I beat the #1 and #2 seeds to win that one. And that was about the end of my tennis season! I got my first ever case of Tennis Elbow in late May while vacationing in France. At first, I thought I injured it playing against Jean-Louis, but I really



Ouch!

believe it came from lifting my very heavy suitcases before and during the trip.

I did play with the Senior team that I had played with two years ago. It hurt, but I managed to play enough to help our team qualify to go to the Nationals in Palm Springs. My elbow was improving as summer progressed. Then one month before the Palm Springs trip, I took Jesse (now 8 and big enough for the BIG rides) on a BIG roller coaster. I obviously gripped the lap bar too

tight in my panic, because when the ride was finished, my elbow hurt again! And still isn't healed! So my case of suitcase elbow became roller-coaster elbow. I went to Palm Springs with the team anyway, and managed to win all my matches (thanks, Vern, for being such a great partner!), but, alas, the other team members weren't quite so lucky. We lost a couple of squeakers and were eliminated before the



News from France

We had the pleasure of visiting JoAnn and her family again this year. We went over during the last week in May to visit them and to watch some tennis at the French Open. Since JoAnn and Zoë have birthdays on June 3, we helped them celebrate. Ian's birthday is in July, so we also did a little pre-party for him. A real highlight of the visit



Zoë enjoying Nana Leonor's necklace. She's

was a trip to Disneyland-Paris. The weather was more like ours here in Tacoma – cool and rainy – but it sure didn't detract from the kids' (and our) enjoyment.



Here's Ian enjoying "Small World" at Euro-Disney.

After our week in Paris, we (just Leonor & I) headed south to a very small village, Lizant, where we spent the next week at an old hunting lodge, kind of a bed & breakfast plus.

We visited prehistoric cave paintings, saw Cognac being produced, tasted wines in centuries-old wine cellars, and drove to the west coast and saw the Atlantic Ocean (that's backwards!) ...



Nana Leonor and Grandpa Rocky enjoying Zoë and Ian At Euro-Disney.

And from just North - in Bothell

Bothell is a suburb of Seattle – only about an hour drive from here, yet it is amazing how far that seems! Although we talk on the phone often, we just don't get together often enough.

Doug and Jennifer live less than a block from the Gil-



Helping Mommy celebrate the big 30th birthday!

man Trail, a many-mile long biking and hiking and walking path in and around Seattle. We like to throw our bicycles on the car and go up there on a nice sunny day, hook up Nicholas' kid trailer onto Daddy's bike (Grandpa would do it, but Doug is younger and stronger), and pedal to the winery or brewery nearby for

Late word has it that the new arrival in Doug & Jennifer's Bothell home will be a GIRL!

lunch.

At home, Nicholas, barely 2, likes to recite and identify his ABC's and read simple words! Amazingly

bright little guy, reminds me of *me* at that age!

Here's his Merry Christmas wish to you...



Leonor's (but I claim them, too!)



conversations with him, to share in

Jesse turned eight this year, and has undergone an amazing transformation – from a little boy to a big boy! I've really enjoyed being able to

his learning experiences, and to just "be there" for him. Third grade seems to fit him – he's doing well in school this year.

His little brother, Jeremy, is at that wonderfully cute age – almost 3. I'm convinced that the "Terrible Twos" is only in the eyes of parents, because every one of my grandkids has been especially cute at that age. The process of learning



about life and "How do I fit in?" is such fun to watch. We took him to Yuma to

visit his Great-grandmother (Leonor's Mom). Traveling with a two-year-old renews my admiration for young traveling parents! Where do they get all that energy, anyway???

