



# ROCKY'S HOLIDAY GAZETTE—2003

From Rocky, Leonor, and Jesse

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## Santa Lands in Paris—in an Airbus...

One of the (many) disadvantages of having family nearly halfway around the world is the cost of sending Christmas gifts. In past years, I would package up the gifts for JoAnn and her family, trot down to UPS, and send the gifts—at a cost of \$100-120. Well, okay, I could get organized and send them in early November and save, but I'm just not *that* organized.

So, this year (2002) I decided instead of spending that much on UPS, I'd just take the gifts over in a

suitcase. January Airfares are pretty low, so I headed out on Jan. 10 (2003) to have Christmas in Paris.

It was a very good decision! I only stayed a week, but it was fun (and cold! See photos!)



## 2003—Notes of an Observer

2003 happened while I was watching, or not. Here it is almost Christmas again and I'm late starting this letter (hmmm, I think I've seen this movie before!).

I'm not sure if time flies faster as I get older (ugh! there's *that* word again), or if I just move slower! I had a real good idea after I finished last year's letter: Start early in the year and do a little at a time. So I did. I did the "Santa Lands in Paris" article last January—then promptly forgot to keep up! So much for

good intentions...

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.

So what did happen while I muddled along in a stupor? Everyone got a year older—except my wonderful Uncle Art (my Dad's brother) who passed away at age 95. What an amazingly long life he lived! I miss him.

I traveled to Paris in January (and soon in December, too), to Boston in July, to Yuma in August, to Jackson, Miss., and New Orleans in October and Puerto Vallarta in November. Leonor went to Yuma to visit her mom in January and July, and with me to Jackson, New Orleans and Mexico.

Leonor is anxiously awaiting her first Social Security check this month, while my business continues to runneth over—my primary client is a lumber company—back to my early experiences in Hood River!



### ...Twice!

Gee, that was such a good idea, I just had to do it again!

This has been a pretty rough year for JoAnn and the kids. Her divorce from Jean-Louis just dragged on all year. He remained in the house until November, so there was tension there all year long. Now that he has

moved out, the tension is finally relieved. It isn't all over yet—the house isn't sold and the divorce isn't final, but...

I figured Zoë and Ian would need to have a bunch of presents under the tree, so I've decided to go just before Christmas. I leave on the 16th (2003) to celebrate with them and return on the 23rd so I can also have Christmas here.



# Some Memories from 2003:



Father and son boxers in a Paris shop window.



Carly is busy making Play-Doh pies for her Grandpa Rocky.



Jeremy helping Nana stuff the Thanksgiving turkey.



Leonor and I in Yuma in August.



It's ME



At our favorite restaurant in Puerto Vallarta with our friends, Jim and Bev.



We took Jesse and Jeremy to Sunriver for their spring break. Jesse is 13 and Jeremy 8—and they aren't fighting!



My Senior team in Jackson, Miss., holding the national First Place trophy. We didn't win it, we're just holding it...



Zoë and Ian in January, 2003, at school. I went with JoAnn to pick them up at lunch and after school.



Doug and Jennifer



With my doubles partner, Vern, and his wife Darlene. We were wine tasting on our way to a tournament on the Oregon Coast, and had packed our lunch. The fine folks at the Schaffer Vineyards set a table for us inside. Soon after this picture was taken, the power went out, and we finished our "picnic" by candlelight!



Leonor (left) and her Super Senior tennis team at the Northwest Sectional Championships. They came in second...



I went to my 45th year High School class reunion in Hermiston, and got to see lots of old friends (here I am hugging former girl friends, Nicki and Judy)



Nick's first day of school—first grade. He takes after me—he is the smartest kid in his class! (I used to be pretty smart)



Leonor's mom and step-dad.



Jesse and Jeremy's little sister, Tabitha.



This little guy visited us all summer long, and still, in December, comes by every day. Looks like he is planning to winter here!



Here is Jesse on a snowboard and Jeremy on skis. Jeremy says he is going to learn to snowboard next year!