



Rocky's Holiday Gazette

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They Grow Up!

Our grandson Jeremy is now in High School! He will turn 15 in January, and can't wait to start driving. We are real pleased with his desire to do well in school—he has a B+ average in his classes. We used to help him a lot with his homework, but now that he is studying Biology and Geometry, we find it harder to know how to solve his problems. Fortunately, he is pretty good about getting his homework done by himself.

Of course, Leonor still is very helpful to him in getting papers and projects



The braces come off in a couple of months. **FINALLY!!**

organized. You know how it is—papers and projects are a “girl thing”.

Yet Another Visit from the Frenchies

It happens about every other year—the French side of my family swoops down on us, spends a few weeks visiting us, then swoops off to return to life in France, leaving us with hundreds of fresh, new, happy memories and as many photos.

This was one of those years. JoAnn, Zoe (16), Ian (14), and this time, Charles-Elie (2 1/2), arrived here in mid-July. After a couple of weeks visiting here and there, we all converged on Sunriver. We had two homes there (ours, and a

rental next door), filled with me, all three of my girls, their kids, Susie and Dave, and other friends and relatives who dropped in for a two or three day visit. I think there were 13-15 there for the whole time, and 5-6 drop-ins.

We absolutely had a ball! Doug and I walked to the local coffee-house each morning to start the day (while most others slept in), then Kelly and I would take a bicycle ride for an hour or two. Some went on a river canoe trip, some swam in the local pools, we all took turns cooking dinners, and we just enjoyed the family fun and fellowship.



My lovely girls, Kelly, Jennifer and JoAnn



My kids, nieces, nephews, grandkids, and a dog. The big people are Zoe, Ian, JoAnn, David, Kelly, Brook, Carly, Nick, Jennifer, Carisska, and Mason.

At the end of our stay in Sunriver, Pierre arrived for his vacation. Zoe and Ian flew home to vacation with their dad, while JoAnn, Pierre and Charles-Elie drove across the northern part of the USA to Chicago, visiting such places as Yellowstone Park and Mount Rushmore on the way.

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Mexico (this is in Puerto Vallarta) sure beats the weather we've been having recently. We had snow and sub-freezing temps the week before Thanksgiving! Very unusual!

Milestones

Somehow, I just never have felt “old”. Oh, yes, my muscles, bones and joints are sore and tired more than they used to be. And yes, it takes me longer to recover from vigorous activity (like a long tennis match). And yes, even not-so-vigorous activity takes a toll more than it used to. But still, I've never believed that I was anything near “old”.

But when my mailbox became deluged with advertisements to sign up for this Medicare Part B supplement or that one, it started to sink in. Gawd, I'm almost 65 years old!

I'm not yet ready to start drawing Social Security, but Medicare is definitely a benefit I need to subscribe to. So, I applied for Medicare last week, and will start coverage on Feb. 1. Wow...

Tennis Highlights

Many years ago, 15 or 20 years I guess, I started playing tennis tournaments with my friend, Gary. He and I seemed to match up pretty well, and for over 10 years, we were a dominant doubles team in the Pacific Northwest, normally ranked #1 or #2 in our age group in the section, which includes Oregon, Washington, Alaska, part of Idaho, and part of British Columbia.

In addition to the skills we have, we are both big guys—over 6 feet tall—and both have a weird sense of humor. Several of our friends and opponents started calling us Rocky and Bullwinkle, so one day, we decided to appear at a tournament as those characters. I wore my Rocky the Flying Squirrel leather flying helmet and goggles, while Gary wore his Bullwinkle the Moose antler hat.

As happens in life, priorities change. Gary was busy helping his daughter do a major remodel on her home and tennis took a back seat. Then he and his wife bought a place in Palm Desert and were gone much of the year. I



Rocky and Bullwinkle—Palm Desert Tennis Club Champions!

teamed up with another partner, and Gary and I remained good friends, but seldom played tennis.

Then, it came! The phone call.

Gary said that his tennis club in Palm Desert was going to have a member/guest championship, and would I play as his partner. It took me all of a half-second to say yes!

So we spent a week with them in their Palm Desert home in March for the tournament. Of course, we had to resurrect Rocky and Bullwinkle for the occasion. Not only did Rocky and Bullwinkle return to the court, we were successful in winning the championship!

Now we are hoping to defend our title in 2011.

(Oh... Nope, we don't wear the headgear during play...)