

*May Peace be your Gift
at Christmas and your Treasure
through all the Year*

20th November 1991

Here it is that time of year once again. The cat and I are spending an evening at home keeping each other company, while Gordon is in Mexico for a week with Paige (partly on business & partly pleasure). We're looking forward to a nice normal Christmas at home this year, after last Christmas when Gordon, Paige & I drove up to Kelowna & on our way home hit black ice, landed in a very deep ditch & nearly totalled Gordon's car. Fortunately none of us were seriously injured & the car could be replaced.

Paige managed to purchase her own place in January & is now a happy home owner. She's enjoying it & has it decorated very tastefully. Every year Paige gets her Dad an adventure for his birthday (1st was a hot air balloon ride, 2nd was an ultra-lite flight, 3rd was a white water rafting trip) and this year the 2 of them went bungy jumping. Not me, I just video taped the whole thing. No way would I jump off a bridge that is 140 ft. high. They enjoyed it (said it was a real rush). Heaven knows what's next.

We spent Summer around home, but did finally go to Whistler for a long weekend. Believe it or not neither of us had ever been to Whistler before & we live so close. We're not skiers, so that explains it I guess, however, Summer was a great time to go & touring around up there on mountain bikes is enjoyable.

We have now found good homes for all our horses & as our German Shepherd died in the Spring, we're down to 2 cats. Quite a difference in the feed bill. Now the pasture has been bulldozed and turned into lawn, so Gord thinks he should install a gas pump in the middle of it to fill up his lawn mower!!

Holidays this year were a great adventure. Paige & her boyfriend, Mitch, went to Japan in September to visit friends & our "adopted" Japanese daughter who went back for the Summer. They had never been to south east Asia before & found it very different from other places they've travelled, but thoroughly enjoyed it.

Gordon & I spent 25 days in Indonesia. The first week we travelled about 1,400 miles around Java (I'm sure we saw every Buddhist & Hindu temple, rice pattie, tea & coffee plantation, volcano that was there, but it was very interesting). Next we flew to Borneo where we travelled mostly in various types of boats as the roads are few & far between. The highlight was a trip on a river boat 400 km. up the Mahakam River (the Amazon of Borneo) to visit the Dayak Tribe who were once head-hunters, and in search of fresh water dolphins & orangutans in the wild. For over a week we never saw another white man. We did see dolphins at a distance, but only one orangutan which local villagers had captured. Our river boat suffered a broken propeller on the return trip, but after being tied up at the edge of the jungle for nearly 3 hours,

it was repaired & we arrived safely back to semi-civilization. From Borneo we flew to Bali & spent a week there, 3 days in Singapore, then home. This is our second trip to that part of the world (Thailand 2 years ago) & we're anxious to go back. The people, culture, history, etc. are so interesting. The Religion is interesting as well, as 95% of all the people in Indonesia are Muslims, except on Bali, where they are almost totally Hindu.

Speaking of going back -- we are. We're so excited. Gordon & I have been asked to take a tour to Thailand in February (if everything materializes, which it appears to be doing). The group we went to Thailand with is run by a local family & they have talked us into taking one of their tours. Actually it will be a glorified babysitting job I'm sure. They make all the arrangements, all we have to do is meet the people taking the trip at the airport. Gord will take half of them & go to Hongkong for 3 days - I will take the others & go to Toyko for 2 days, then we will all meet up in Bangkok and from there tour Thailand. In each country a local guide will meet us & will be in charge of the group while we are in that particular country. We go along having all our airfare, accommodations, meals & expense paid. Good deal eh? It should be interesting.

Once Paige & Gord return from Mexico, he has a 3 day business trip to Toronto, then that should be it for travel this year. I'm still working full time & just in the last few weeks the lawyer I worked with for 17 years in Richmond has joined the law firm I work for in Langley. Paige is still working with her Dad & doing a wonderful job. I think he's probably grooming her to take over one day.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & THE BEST TO YOU IN '92

