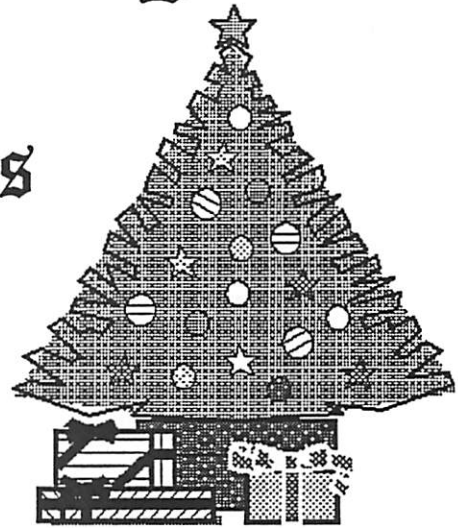
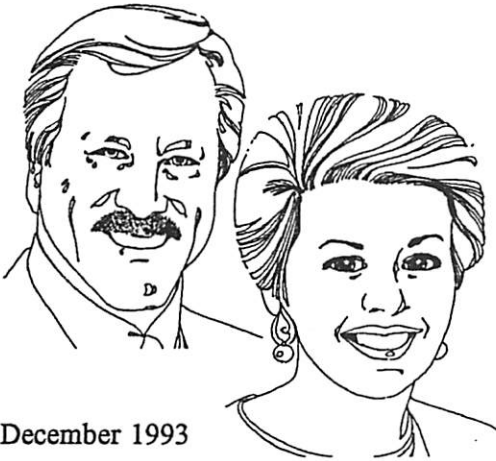


# Seasons Greetings

from  
**The Browns**



December 1993

Seasons greetings from our home to your home. It seems as though I just wrote my Christmas letter a short time ago, however since that time I seem to recall having a rather significant birthday. I was always the one to say I was only going to work until I was 50!!! As I approached that day, Gord asked me when I was quitting my job. Guess what? I'm still working. In these times anyone with a job is fortunate and I figure as long as I can still work and as long as Gord is still working, I may as well continue. Besides, there are still a great many places we'd like to travel and with me working, it's easier.

On my 50th birthday which was a Friday last December, I got up as usual to get ready for work. Gord had gone to work but left a birthday card for me. What a surprise when I opened it and read, "Don't bother getting ready for work as they're not expecting you at the office. Pack your bags. I'll be home to get you at noon - we're going to Las Vegas for the weekend." What a guy!! And what a great birthday surprise.

Gord's Mother lost her battle with cancer and passed away on January 28th. She was a brave old soldier (75 years when she died) and she is greatly missed. The entire family will miss the get-togethers at her house on the lake, her big meals and huge welcome mat always there.

Paige and her Husband, Mitch, took SCUBA diving lessons in the Spring and ever since have been doing alot of diving with Gord. Gord took his advanced SCUBA lessons this year and has added alot of dives to his log book. I usually sit on the beach with a good book and wait for them. Guess as time progresses I'll be babysitting the grandchildren!!

We had a busy Summer, but managed to get away for a 10 day driving holiday down through Washington State and then up through the Okanagan to visit relatives and friends in Kelowna, Vernon, Salmon Arm, Kamloops and Merritt. It has been a long time since we've done that and really enjoyed seeing everyone.

Gord's big five oh (50th) arrived July 5th and he decided to have a BIG party and invite everyone he knew (well almost). We invited 170 people, but since it was a long weekend in the Summer we had only between 130 and 140 as some were away on vacation. We rented a 40' by 80' tent in case the weather didn't co-operate, had games for everyone, contests, prizes, pot luck barbeque and even karaoke later in the evening. It was alot of work, but great fun. The theme and dress was "Nifty Fifties". Guests showed up with funny cards and little gifts, the best of which was probably the package containing a years supply of condoms. Contents - one condom!!

Paige and Mitch celebrated their first wedding anniversary in August and tell us that next year they plan to start a family. I can hardly wait to become a Grandmother. About time I'd say (Paige is 27 1/2 and Mitch is 30)!!

Early in September Gord and I went to Japan to visit our Japanese daughter and her family. Junko lives in Osaka and works for Proctor & Gamble (the Asian hair care products division in Kobe). She took a week off work and acted as our personal tour guide. She's a wonderful gal and we had a great time with her. It was a very educational trip and we learned alot about Japan and the culture. What made it more interesting was we visited one of the Sharp Electronics factories in Nara where they make the photocopies. Sharp is one of Gord's main suppliers. After 10 days on the main island of Japan, we flew south to Okinawa and spent several days at Manza Beach - 7th Heaven in the south Pacific. I just relaxed while Gord enjoyed SCUBA diving amongst the coral reefs and lava rock.



Thanksgiving was different this year. Gord used my birthday gift to him and signed up for a deep sea SCUBA dive off the coast of Vancouver Island from Port Hardy. Five days at sea, doing 3 or 4 dives per day with some very experienced divers. They had hoped to see whales heading south for the Winter, without success, but did dive with thousands and thousands of white dophins. He said it was wonderful and he gained a multitude of experience. While he was at sea, I went back to Regina to visit my relatives.

Paige and Mitch are still working with Gord at our Company, Basic Business Systems. Paige is the leading salesperson for large computer network systems and Mitch is in the technical side servicing the large photocopiers. They are both being weaned to take over (so "Dad" can have a small office in the corner some day and just give the odd bit of advice!!). Lay offs have been the order of the day this year and cut-backs on alot of things. It's difficult to keep everything going, but so far so good. Gord works long hours (most days 12 - 14 hours). Needless to say our vacations are always welcome.

We plan to stay close to home for Christmas and New Years. Paige and Mitch will stay with us on Christmas Eve, then Christmas Day we'll take them to the airport and see them off to Japan where they will meet Mitch's best friend and his wife who teach in Japan, then the 4 of them are off to Thailand for 2 weeks. Paige and Mitch will stop over in Japan for a week on the way back to visit our Japanese daughter, Junko, who is also one of Paige's best friends. Junko (or June as we call her) is a few months older than Paige. This may be their last big trip for awhile, so we enjoy seeing them travel when they can. One thing Gord always says is that you can lose everything at any time, but no one can ever take away your memories. How true.

This letter is starting to ressemble a full length novel, so I should close now for another year. We hope you and your family are well and happy and will have a wonderful festive season.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY 1994.....

