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Seasons Greetings from Suzanne, Rod and Kevin:

We are still in New Jersey this holiday season, and it looks like we will remain for a few more years. Rod likes his job at Bell Laboratories where he is getting the opportunity to get paid for playing with computers of all sizes. This past year has been a learning experience for him as a software oriented person, since he has been doing more work at the system integration level, thus having to deal more with hardware than he has in the past.

The only new activity for Rod this last year has been an Explorer Scout Post sponsored by Bell Labs which started up in the spring. He is one of the advisors, meeting with a group of 20 to 30 high school age students interested in computers 3 times a month. They are learning to program in BASIC on Rod's department's VAX using the UNIX operating system.

Suzanne is no longer at her job in the Union Beach school system due to loss of the federal grant paying her salary. She is now firmly in place as a board member of Kevin's school, busy with all of the details necessary to keep the school physical plant running smoothly. She even fixes doors after break-ins. She has become the school's computer expert, recommending and buying the equipment, conditioning the space and installing it. They have a VIC 20 already and expect to have an APPLE II installed by New Years.

Suzanne is also busily involved in painting again, as well as photography. She did the photography work for a catalog for Pinchpenny Miniatures, a mail order "venture" she has been helping a friend with. Her artistic sensibilities were finally sufficiently offended by our second bathroom to cause a state of remodeling there, so we now have a new or newly painted "everything-you-can-think-of-which-goes-in-a-bathroom".

Kevin has turned his artistic talents to making money this year by using a button making set received for Christmas last year. He has sold handmade buttons to schoolmates, friends, and even an advertising agency needing fast service. With some of that money he has purchased a VIC 20 of his own which he is learning to program. His main object is art or video games, but he enjoys being an "expert" at school. He is getting tired of button making, but is still trying to raise money for a trip with schoolmates to Canada this spring. He was lucky to have his grandparents visit just in time for the school play last spring in which he played a truly nasty Mr. Smee in an adaptation of Peter Pan. The dress rehearsal was recorded by Suzanne on video tape for posterity, including the complete collapse of the set caused by one of the Indians leaning on the first in a row of cardboard trees.

The family trip this year was a little different from past experiences. We usually camp by tossing a tent in the trunk of the car

and heading for a campground. This year we "camped" by visiting a "camp" in Maine for a week in August. This "camp" was somewhat better equipped than our usual picnic table and flat spot for tent. Three full meals a day were served in the dining room, there was maid service in the cabins, and ice delivered to the cabin each evening before the cocktail hour. The camp was on the shore of a lake in the woods, discovered by friends who went with us and have kids Kevin's age. It was very relaxing. In July, the family went with Rod to the ACM SIGGRAPH convention in Boston. Kevin was particularly impressed by the evening presentation of the new computer graphics, especially the animation. Kevin and Suzanne visited museums during the day while Rod was attending the conference.

Previous summers' isolated trips to Great Adventure convinced the family that season passes were in order this year and they were obtained and used by Suzanne and Kevin. Rod, unfortunately, did not gain much use from his due to the limited amount of carefully hoarded vacation time available to him. He did manage to experience the first 15 minutes of a rock concert held in the outdoor arena, something he would have never tried were it not already paid for. At the end of the 15 minutes, using the sign language appropriately used by the prematurely deaf, he managed to convince the rest of the family to leave before being vibrated off of the end of the bleacher seats by the low frequency notes.

We wish you a happy holiday season and a fruitful new year.