

414 Harbor Road
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Seasons Greetings from Suzanne, Rod and Kevin:

This year saw the sixth anniversary of our move to New Jersey with little present prospect of a change to a more temperate climate. In spite of efforts by the Justice Department and the courts, Rod remains with the same employer, both in name and charter. Now he has to call it "AT&T Bell Laboratories", but not much else has changed. The major impact on him this year has been the opportunity to provide more evidence in support of The Peter Principle, since his promotion on April 1. (Note the date, carefully selected by upper management to convey the maximum message.) The project he was working on had grown until it was too big for a single group, so it split into 2 groups.

Rod has continued as Advisor to Explorer Post 240, redirecting their interest this year into graphics. His department has moved back to the Holmdel location, making it easier for the explorers to use the equipment, especially the graphics work station which is the departments "product".

Suzanne is now a Vice President of the board of directors of Kevin's school. She has volunteered a lot of time at the school trying to drag the teachers and staff into the computer age. As usual, her greatest success in computer education was with the students, not the teachers. She has also become an expert in how to attain a building permit and variance on a shoestring budget, while directing a grant the school recieved to do some "Solar Energy" work on the building. Ground breaking for their new solarium should be any day now.

Suzanne added another 30 feet of poured concrete driveway this summer; only 30 more to go until we reach the street. She also built a monument to the immortal grape in the back yard. Rod had a couple of grape vines climbing up an old TV antenna he stuck in the front yard. This year we got grapes for the first time, so it was time to move on to bigger and better things. It is amazing what \$500 of pressure treated lumber can do to make a couple of grape vines feel better. (Actually, the structure is a deck, complete with porch swing, which incidentally has some grape vines growing over the trellis on top.)

Suzanne's newest venture is a computer consulting service for people who are scared of personal computers. She wants to really get started after the first of the year, but has been spending time learning both computing and the complexities of setting up a small business. She now feels that she needs an IBM compatible computer, so we may soon become a 3 computer family.

Kevin is still in The New School of Monmouth County, in the equivalent of 7th grade. He has done some work on his VIC 20, but uses it mostly for video games after his allowance is spent on his weekly pilgrimage to the video arcade. His art work continues, some of it being used by Rod to demonstrate the capabilities of his graphics work station. Kevin went on a trip to Canada this spring with his class. They flew to Montreal, took a train to Ottawa and then Quebec, then flew home. He enjoyed the independence from his folks, and his folks enjoyed a few days together in a "resort" for couples in New York state.

Suzanne's brother Don spent a couple weeks with us this fall, and we took to opportunity to see several New York plays and do a little sight seeing. After viewing Manet's showing at the Metropolitan Museum, Suzanne has decided to become a member, encouraging more frequent trips into the city. Rod dislikes the city, except for the book stores, so trips to the art museums are usually scheduled for week days while he is at work.

The family trip this year was a combination of a trip to Louisiana to see relatives and five days spent at a "dude ranch" in North Carolina. Yes, dude ranches seem to exist almost everywhere. This one was very nice, being located on the saddle of a mountain and sharing one border with the Smoky Mountain National Park. There were lots of trails to either walk or ride, and plenty of just plain peace and quiet in a beautiful setting. After one half-day trail ride, the older folks decided they had a "better idea", and stuck to hiking.

We hope you have a good new year.

Rod, Suzanne, & Kevin

