7 Harbor Road Morganville, NJ 07751 December 25, 1994

Seasons Greetings from the Peases:

The "P" in Pease is for procrastination - the "Christmas Card" is late once again. You would think we could get one done in time for a change, but as usual it waits until there is free time at the end of the year. The only incentive this time to get it done before the end of the year is to use up the 29 cent stamps before they reach their expiration date.

Expiration dating seems to be in effect for old computer programmers as well. In spite of Rod's careful attempts to avoid any physical exertion in his first 47 years, year 48 was the year the waranty ran out and he experienced the thrill of a kidney stone. It was either that, or a cleverly devised plan by Clinton and his whole administration to teach a single conservative voter the need for comprehensive health care reform. Luckily AT&T still seems to believe it needs his services, so he was far better off than those without any insurance. Rod continues to work on the same project as in 1993, writing programs to support telecommunications systems provisioning. He carefully avoided having to visit Mexico City to help install the first prototype of the system, so he still has his wristwatch. Another member of the team was not so lucky, losing his in an armed robbery in a fast food restaurant. AT&T did replace it 6 months later during an awards ceremony, but he had an interesting excuse for a late arrival at meetings for a while.

Kevin graduated Trenton State College at the end of the Fall semester in 1993, even though his parents had to wait until early 1994 to see the diploma, and until May 1994 to see him go through the formal graduation ceremonies. Right now he is looking for work as a Graphic Designer, but not having a lot of luck finding a permanent employment. He has worked several temporary and freelance/ independent contractor jobs, but what he really wants is a full time job so he can afford to get his own place and become independent. Resumes will be supplied on demand to anyone with even the slightest chance of providing a lead to a full time job.

Suzanne was elected State President of the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners this year, so things are even more hectic than usual. She feels now that she has to run not only her business, but every other woman's business in the state. That wouldn't be so bad, but she shows inclinations now of moving into the national level. This means more frequent trips around the country, and more bean soup and chili for the men who have to stay at home, while she eats at the Four Seasons in NYC with the "NAWBO Corporate Sponsors". Rod did get one free meal out of it, as he was invited to her investiture as state president. You can picture the event - sixty five women and one bearded programmer in "the suit" (real programmers only need one, in case they lose the job and need it for the next job interview). He got a lot of strange looks from the waiters as they served dinner.

Ampersand Graphics continues in spite of Suzanne's political aspirations. She still has one part time employee, but a different one than at the beginning of the year. The one which was trained moved to a job with full medical benefits - something Ampersand Graphics can't afford. The firm now publishes several newsletters, so monthly and quarterly mailing deadlines are now added to our calendar. She also pushed the limits of Corel Draw by attempting to create a complete nautical map of the Virgin Islands, which brought her existing hardware to its knees. She did have fun working on banners for a trade show, using her new vinyl cutter attachment to replicate logos in a 4x8 foot size in multiple colors.

Family vacations were minimal this year - seldom were two of us free at one time. Suzanne has visited San Diego, San Fransico, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. on NAWBO business and in the coming year has trips scheduled for Houston, D.C., Raliegh/Durham, and Denver. Suzanne and Rod did managed a couple of days camping (in the rain)in Pennsylvania at Hickory Run State Park and a week visiting relatives in Louisiana. Even there, Suzanne managed to spend some time to try to start up a Louisiana chapter of NAWBO. Keeping his priorities in order, Rod concentrated on food during the visit, managing some real pit BarBQ and some good home-made Cajun gumbo.

Best wishes for a happy 1995!

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