

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

From Don and Mary

2000

Our lake is frozen over, early this year, as Vermont is cold. The December sun shines obliquely, giving a muted lovely wintry glow. We have gathered winter berries, cedar, pine and evergreen boughs to decorate our home. So we light a fire in the fireplace to warm our cold fingers and toes and then we relax and enjoy, and pet our cat, Gray, who is always very pleased to have us return here to visit him.

We continue to spend almost six months at the lake in Vermont and about four months at our condo in Naples Florida, where each day we get our fill of tennis after a brisk two mile morning walk. Don plays duplicate bridge every day but Sunday when we spend the day visiting friends and family, and going on nature walks or boat trips. He became a Life Master in 1998, a Bronze Life Master in 1999, and won more master points this year than in the previous 2 years combined. In Vermont, Mary is still an avid swimmer, a turtle (by swimming across the lake all summer daily) and exercising in the swimming pool at the college in Castleton when the lake is frozen.

In late February we spent a week skiing with David and Karen and their families at Lake Tahoe and, as per usual, staying at Chinquapin, on the lake in North Tahoe. We then stayed with our good friends Stan and Harriet Joseph for 10 days in Sun Valley, Don's favorite ski area.

In May we went to Equator's Amazon Basin for a week visiting the Achuar Indians, primitive people only discovered 30 years ago. At one village, Don impressed everyone by hitting a gourd 50 yards away with a dart from a blowgun on his first try. He modestly declined a second shot. Our 8 days in the Galapagos Islands were spectacular. The seals, iguanas, and birds (we particularly loved the blue footed boobies) were so unafraid that you could get very near them. We made many new friends on the ship. Then off to Peru for a weeks visit to Inca land at Cusco and Machu Picchu, where unbelievable scenery unfolded before our eyes. The political problems are vast in each country, corruption runs rampant as the economy and health and education systems are broken.

Our favorite pastime continues to be the enjoyment of our children and grandchildren. Karla had a daughter in March 2000, Erin Salvia Principe, so that improved the mix to 3 granddaughters and 6 grandsons. All of our children and grandchildren came to Vermont this summer for fun, catching frogs in Opa's frog pond, fishing, swimming, sailing, playing tennis, sitting in the hot tub, and roasting marshmallows on the camp fire.

Mary threw a party for Don on his 70th birthday in mid November at the Naples Bath and Tennis Club. All of our children and most of our grandchildren were able to make it. Also, Don's brother Ralph, cousin Dulcy Stark and husband Richard, friends from the Tennis and Bridge Clubs, skiing friends (the Josephs and Friedlanders), and friends from Vermont (the Gralds, Masons, and Dellamontes) helped celebrate.

We wish you the happiest of holidays and a wonderful peaceful New Year. Keep in touch!

The Sondergelds

Eagle Rock Estates
469 Birch Road
Hubbardton/Brandon VT 05733
802-273-2251 (2245 FAX)

Naples Bath and Tennis Club
1518B Oyster Catcher Point
Naples, FL 34105
941-434-5840

<dsonder@worldnet.att.net>