

HOLIDAY GREETINGS 2006

In February Mary and Brita Tate had a terrific 8 days in Dominica and Guadeloupe. Dominica, is English speaking and the scenery is spectacular. Two nights at the Fort Young Hotel in Rosseau and four nights at the lovely Papillote Wilderness Retreat. Pirates of the Caribbean II and III were filmed on this lovely island.

They also took a ferry to Guadeloupe for 2 days. It is French speaking and very depressed but Carnival was extremely colorful and festive.



In mid March we flew to Los Angeles and visited La Brea Tar Pits and the beautiful Getty Museum building. We then took a whale watching trip from Ventura to the Channel Islands, and saw a number of humpback whales and thousands of dolphins. We stayed at the Cliff House in Pismo Beach and took two tours of Hearst Castle at San Simeon.



Next a night at Carmel and visited one of our favorite spots, Point Lobos, to see sea lions and otters. We even saw a bluebird. Also drove the 17 mile drive around the Monterey Peninsula. We then spent four days with the Sondergeld family: David, Shelley, Owen, and Kyle in Daly City.



In early May, after six weeks in Naples, Florida, we flew to Durham, NC and visited with Karla, David, Zachary, and Erin Principe for four days. This was our last trip to NC as Karla has accepted an English teaching position in Somers, CT. (The Principe family moved to West Hartford, CT this summer.) We then rented a car and drove to Wilmington, DE. We visited Winterthur, New Castle, Wilmington Art Museum (where we saw a Liza Myers, of Brandon VT, exhibit), Wyeth paintings at the Brandywine River Museum at Chadds Ford, PA and of course Longwood Gardens. We spent the night at John and Betty Moran's lovely home in Bethlehem, PA and then toured a "Show House" that Betty did a magnificent job of coordinating all the work for this fund raiser for the Allentown Art Museum.

At the end of May we went on an 8 day tour of Iceland. We took a City Tour of Reykjavik where about two thirds of Iceland's 300,000 people live. The next morning the tour bus for Scanam World Tours met the 12 of us in our tour group. We did a counterclockwise tour of the island, logging 1200 miles in 7 days. We enjoyed the beautiful scenery: the Foss (waterfall), glaciers, a glacial lagoon, mountains, lava, geysers, whale watching, many sheep, sod houses, eider ducks, the Icelandic Horse, and the terrific Blue Lagoon, the most famous hot spring in Iceland



We continue to spend at least three months (January, April, and November) at our condo in Florida, the summers at Beebe Pond, and traveling. Mary still swims across the lake with the turtles and Don goes to bridge tournaments. Don has sold all of the 230 books he had printed on The History of Hubbardton, Vermont and plans to have a slightly larger version printed in 2007.

Our family is healthy. Although healthy, Don dislocated and broke his right thumb in January and had a left shoulder replacement at the end of October.

We wish you all a wonderful holiday season and look forward to seeing friends and family who come to Vermont to enjoy the wonders of the season and the winter ahead.



Gray, our wonderful cat, died on October 3rd.

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