

HOLIDAY GREETINGS 2007

Family We see more of Karla and her family as they now live in West Hartford, Connecticut (as does Amy) and closer to the house they own on Beebe Pond in Vermont. In April Eric was listed as one of the 10 people who have made a significant impact in the annuity market. This fall he resigned as Vice President of LIMRA and accepted a position as Director of Retirement Marketing at Black Rock in Princeton, New Jersey and will move into a new home in Princeton early next year. We returned from Florida in mid February and found 30 inches of snow. So, Karen and her gang came to Vermont to ski. Caitlin complained of a stomach ache while skiing at Killington. That evening she had her appendix removed at Porter Hospital in Middlebury.



At right: Karla, Karen, & Amy

Cousins In February we had lunch at Dulcy Burton Stark's home in Ft Myers Florida. Sister Doris Burton Bell was there plus 85 year old brother Art Burton and wife Irene. This summer Art and Irene celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

At right: Dulcy, Irene, Art & Doris



We usually see Don's cousin Dulcy in Ft Myers three times a year. However, her twin sister Doris recently moved from Clifton, Virginia to a lovely apartment also located at The Lexington Country Club, so we can visit both of them.

Eastern Europe We traveled the last two weeks of June with our friends Bev and Jack Grald. We enjoyed three days in beautiful Prague in the Czech Republic followed by a bus trip to Bratislava in Slovakia for lunch and on to Budapest in Hungary for 2 days. We then boarded the M/S Aria a wonderful river boat (410 feet long and 38 feet wide) that carried 129 of us on the Danube. We sailed at night and went on guided sightseeing trips in cities along the way: Vukovar in Croatia, Belgrade in Serbia, Veliko Tarnova and Arbanassi in Bulgaria (where we saw fields of sunflowers), and thru a canal to Constanta, Romania's chief port on the Black Sea. In Prague we saw many beautiful buildings and visited the old and new Jewish cemeteries. Budapest was lovely with Buda on one side of the Danube and Pest on the other. The most beautiful part of the Danube was thru a section called the Iron Gates with high cliffs on both sides of the river. From Constanta we took a 4.5 hour train ride about 150 miles to Bucharest, Romania. The Danube, historically the boundary between countries, has seen many wars. Recently, in the war resulting from Croatia declaring independence, Vukovar fell to the Serbs in November 1991 after a three-month siege and the Vukovar massacre took place. Survivors were transported to prison camps. The town of Vukovar was almost completely destroyed. We now better appreciate the war torn history of these very small countries and the horrible life under communism, which ended not too long ago.



August 3, 2007 We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with dinner and dancing at the Mountain Top Inn in Chittenden, Vermont. There were 70 family and friends that attended. The head table contained most of our wedding party: Don and Mary, Don's brother and best man Ralph, ushers John (and Connie) Towne, Bob (and Lee) Goode and Bob (and Mary Lou) Vose with Ann Smith (Dave McDonald's daughter). Dave McDonald one of Don's best friends and an associate from The Hartford and daughter Ann also sat at the head table. Our family gave us a lovely picture of Beebe Pond taken from Eagle Rock, 700 feet above the lake. Each of the many little squares in this unique picture contains a picture of our family.

Thanksgiving In November we flew from Florida to San Francisco to have Thanksgiving with David, Shelley, Owen, and Kyle. The following Saturday David treated Don, Mary, Owen, and Kyle plus Ken Davis to a boat trip to the Farallon Islands, 28 miles off shore. We started from Fort Mason on a catamaran, going under the Golden Gate bridge. A great day. We saw sea lions, elephant seals, many birds and two orcas. Don stayed an extra week to play in a National bridge tournament. He continues to be a bridge junkie and became a Gold Life Master reaching 2500 total master points mid year. This year was his most prolific ever, winning 444 points. The last of the 230 copies of Don's book, History of Hubbardton, have been sold, so he had 260 copies reprinted in July of this year.



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 is busy as president of the Lake Beebe Property Owners' Association, while Don goes to bridge tournaments.

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.

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