

Some Christmas messages from family and friends

During the holiday season we received letters and cards from various family friends, and want to share them with the rest of the family. We will start off with a message from Gerard LeGrain, from London. Gerard is the son of Grandma's older

*Jan 03
Dear Uncle Frank and Aunt Liz,
I am ashamed to be late than usual
This year I have the (now) excuse that I*

*With best wishes for Christmas
and the New Year
had not noted your new address in recent
Xmas letters.*

*We are all well - our three children
(Michelle 29, Mike 26, Patti 22) have all
found the nest. Took between sadness and
excitement
love to you both Gerard*

sister, who married a French citizen in the diplomatic service. They were stationed in San Francisco prior to WW II.

Gerard visited us occasionally in the past, and

was in San Diego when Richard and Liz were married.

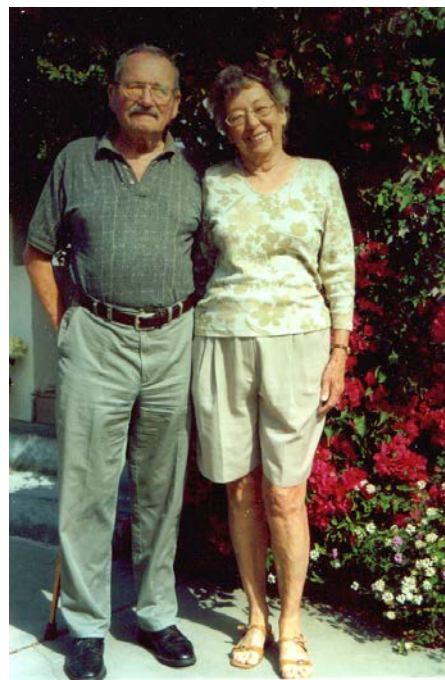


We also received a greeting from the Michael Merica family, from Vista. Michael is the son of Grandma's oldest brother, Romulus and his wife, Isa. Some of the family met Isa when she has visited her family in Vista. You may recall that Isa had throat cancer surgery some time ago, and now cannot speak. However, Michael reports that she is doing well otherwise.

We also heard from Lucy Savino, who was Grandma's college roommate back in Dubuque University. Lucy was the bridesmaid when Grandpa and Grandma were married, in Fremont, Ohio, on December 28, 1946. We enjoy hearing from Lucy every Christmas.

*Dear Edith and Frank,
Thank you for keeping in touch. Am pleased to have the new address. I hope the move is a blessing for you.
I, too, need to move. My brother died a couple of years back. I'm still very brokenhearted. The loss has been devastating inspite of wonderful help from my sister and brother-in-law.
May you and your family enjoy the holy season. Lucy*

We also heard from our old friends Jack and Margie Dulin, who



now are retired and live in Palm Springs. They were our next door neighbors back in Lafayette, Indiana, when we were attending graduate school at Purdue University. Jack and Margie also are the Godparents of Margaret. We look forward to seeing them when we visit the Palm Springs area in June.

Next, we have a photo of Grandma and Grandpa enjoying our annual senior fitness class annual Christmas dinner at Mimi's



restaurant in Mission Valley. (see page 2)



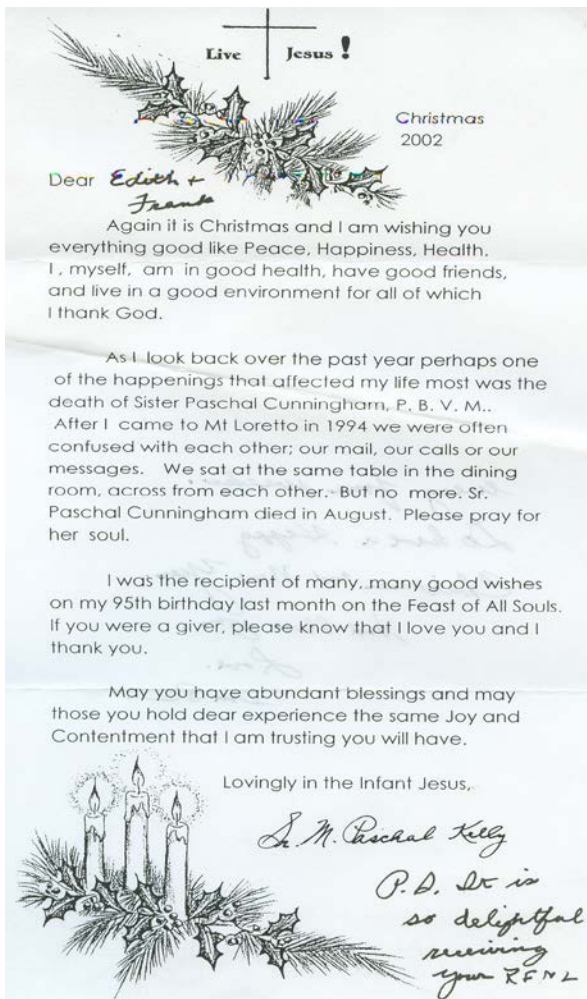
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Catch the News

February, 2003



We also received a Christmas letter from Sr. Mary Kelly, Grandma's friend from her days at the University of Dubuque, as follows.



Finally, we received a full report on Christmas in South Carolina from Aunt Eloise, plus some family news, as follows.

January 17, 2003

The January issue of the Riel Newsletter came yesterday. You and your family certainly celebrate Christmas in a joyous round of parties. It is always exciting to get the newsletter to read all about the family's activities. It is hard to realize how fast the grandchildren are growing up - which means our generation is aging right along with them!

Our family was all together for Christmas day. Susan, Jason, and Alex came up from the beach; Stacy, Andy, and Maribeth came from Orangeburg, and Scott from Charleston. It was a great time, with Alex and Maribeth stealing the show. Alex still is into transformers of which he received, I think, 14, all Japanese manufactured. Maribeth loves the Ittsy Bitsy Baby Doll, and of course she comes with clothes of all kinds, furniture, and accessories. Maribeth's very favorite thing to do is paint, so she got an easel with lots of paints and brushes - and a splatter sheet to take care of the overflow.

I went back to the beach with Susan's family, and we were there for the balance of the week. The weather was gorgeous, and though a tad cool, but great for walking on the beach, and collecting shells.

Jason was elected to the York County Board of Education, and he is very much interested in the political arena. It would not surprise me at all if he should run for an office

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again. Jason is still holding forth as a history professor at Winthrop College. Susan has tenure as Professor of Library Computer Research. Alex is in fifth grade, and is quite talented in art.

Debbie is still teaching at Thomas Sumter Academy fifth and sixth grades English and History. She loves teaching. Dave has had the best year ever in his construction company. He is lucky when so many construction companies are folding.

Stacy and Andy are expecting another little girl in May. We are all looking forward to a new baby in the family. Andy likes his work as Assistant Minister at Orangeburg First Presbyterian Church.

Scott finally decided he had had enough schooling, and with two degrees under his belt, he now is working in Charleston. He has many friends in Charleston, and you know, Frank, it is a very beautiful city. He also likes his work.

My health is back to normal now. However, last June I contracted a fierce case of shingles. Take my advice and never have shingles! It is very painful. I didn't break out until the 12th day, and although the doctor was sure it was shingles, he hesitated treating me until the bumps appeared. The shingles lowered my resistance to disease because I caught a cold. I had not had a cold in twenty years, and had forgotten why it was called a "bad cold". So I am happy to report that I am fine, still working, and enjoying life.

I hope you and all the family have a very happy and healthful New Year.

With love, Eloise

PS - Please thank all your children for the Christmas Cards and especially for the pictures! You have a great family.

Done! And thank you for all the family news contained in your letter. Our congratulations to Stacy and Andy on the new daughter. We hope you can send us a picture when the new one arrives.

Brett working at Oscar's in Mission Valley

Recently, Francie told us that Brett had a job working at the Mission Valley Oscar's. With advice from Francie we

picked a time when he was working and showed up to check out his performance. As you can see from the above



picture, he was doing a great job.!

Twins as picture hangers!



We continue to settle in at the new condo, and recently Listy and Birdy volunteered to hang the eight family pictures that once were located above the bar in the old family room. As you can see, they did an outstanding job, and the eight family portraits now have a new home on the wall of the staircase.

Bedroom cabinet problem solved!

Since the time we moved in Grandma and Grandpa have been trying to locate a narrow cabinet which can be used to store downstairs cleaning equipment, especially a vacuum cleaner, a broom, dust pan, etc. We searched various furniture stores to no avail, and mostly were told that there was no such thing. We saw several with the right geometry, but always with a fixed shelf half way up. We were told

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that the center shelf was needed for stability. We finally solved the problem at Home Depot, by buying one with the right dimensions, but unassembled. We simply left out the center shelf, and found that the finished cabinet had ample



stability, at least for our purpose. As you can see in the above photo, the cabinet fits perfectly in the space between the bed and the closet wall, and already is full. Thank goodness, another problem solved, with much help from Ed.

Grandpa enjoys another birthday

As promised in early December, Francie and Lyle got tickets to the popular Mel Brooks production "The Producer", and invited Grandpa and Grandma to dinner and the show. We dined at the 94th Aero Squadron restaurant, overlooking Montgomery Field. After a great dinner we took off for the downtown Civic Theatre, and enjoyed a great performance. It was a fun evening and we thank Francie and Lyle for this birthday treat.



Some more condo improvements

With much help from family members we continue to upgrade the new condo. In the top photo Listy and Birdy redecorated the guest bathroom. They did a fine job, as you can see. In the second picture we see Bob G. installing a safety handle beside the bathtub in the master bedroom.



Listy volunteered Bob for the job because she said that he had already installed one at home, and had all the necessary tools. The key tool was a tile bit to drill the necessary

starter holes in the ceramic tile. He commented that it was easy to drill ceramic with the right bit. Unfortunately, the condo tiles were the wrong ceramic, and it took about an hour plus a lot of perspiration and a few choice comments before all six holes were drilled. Once the drilling was done the rest was a snap, and the result was a first class installation. We were so glad to finish the job that we took off for lunch.

