



# *Season's Greetings* from Dick and Barbara for the 2003 Holiday Season!

(Most of the events described below are illustrated in an online family photo album to be found at [willeyweb.com/albums](http://willeyweb.com/albums).)

This has been another good year of retirement, filled with interesting activities & travel experiences. Our activities continue to be centered around birding, golfing and wine-tasting, with a smattering of good theater and lots of fulfilling friends & family visits. Additionally, while Dick has finally retired for good, Barbara has tried to continue to do a bit of consulting on computing projects while working even harder to learn to paint in oils. In fact, she even sold a couple of her paintings! Travel has taken us to the tropical paradises of both Hawaii and Tahiti this year, interesting both in their contrast and similarity. Compared to Hawaii, Tahiti is still calm and peaceful, though, according to the Tahitians, probably not for much longer. Also, while we were thrilled to have lots of new life-birds in Hawaii, we found surprisingly few birds around in Tahiti, something we found a bit disturbing. Our other travel experiences included Easter and Thanksgiving trips to Phoenix to visit family and special friends Pam & Paul Maciaz, and a summer trip to San Diego, where we spent a week in a beach condo, and visited with family and our good friends Don Belter & Rose Snow.

Perhaps the best thing about this year was that most of our family came to visit us here as well. Linda, Ron, & John all came and Su had just come late last year. We had some great times taking grandkids around our area! We also saw our friends Pat & Joe Yokobosky and Don & Diane Kistler several times. We also saw Don & Diane together with our friends Linda and Dave Zivich and Dave and Marcia Vener at our yearly football parties. And we had a very special visit this year from Jerry & Betty Copeland, who came out for our big golfing event, the Mackie Tournament in July. They had just purchased a 36 ft. motor home to replace their beautiful home in Victorville, and they parked this right in our driveway! You can bet that made our neighbors curious, and what a great week that was, especially nice since we had just enjoyed two beautiful weeks in Hawaii with them. We had fun reminiscing while sharing all the photos we had taken. Oh, yes, and Dick and Jerry won some good money in the tournament!

Our Ornithological Oenophiles (birding wine-lovers) had our usual wonderful wine-tasting experiences, including Pinot Noir, Zinfandel, Cabernet Franc, Sauvignon Blanc, Syrah and Rosato tastings over the year. And we had great meals with each event as well how else do you really enjoy good wine? And because we held several of these events at our home this year, we ended up with a pretty nice Spring Yard. On our own, we had fun wine tasting this Spring over the Vintner's weekend, and also on trips with Dave & Marcia, Don & Diane, and Gerry & Dolly. One of the best wine events of the year was with Plam Vineyards where we got to watch the Rancheros on their yearly ride and visit briefly with our good friend Jeff Modic. Of course our birding adventures were lots of fun, too -- especially our yearly Lake Cachuma boat trip, Duck Club field trip, Figueroa Mountain walk, weekend at Mt. Pinos, and Central Coast Birding Rally. And this year, Barbara also had fun working with John Ayres on upgrading the web site for the Central Coast Birding Trail.

We became more involved in our Village Country Club this year when Dick was elected as a member of the board. And under the direction of the new club manager, club events became more interesting and Barbara's maintenance of the club website became more active and visible.† We attended a couple great wine dinners and will be doing New Year's Eve there as well. Unfortunately, though, even with new golf equipment, and some serious lessons, Barbara has still not learned this great game. I guess she is naturally just so much better with abstractions (i.e. web pages) than the real thing!

**And now, let us wish you the very best for this holiday season and an especially Happy New Year!**