



Happy Holidays 2007! Just a few notes from the Willeys to keep in touch . . .

We're a bit late with cards this year, as we spent the first few weeks of December in Hawaii with friends Jerry & Betty Copeland. We were in Maui the first week: the guys golfed, the girls shopped and we all went on a sunset cruise and saw the beautiful Ulalana stage show. From there, we flew to Kona and stayed very close to where Jana and her fiancée Mackenzie moved in October after their life-changing experience when Jana donated the majority of her liver to her uncle to save his life. She is now fully recovered and they both are working and happy and we had a most lovely visit. While Jana and Mack aren't planning to get married until 2009, Jana's sister Beth was married in September, so the girls are both doing well, as are John and Marnie and our one San Diego grandson David. With these new marriages, do you suppose more grandchildren in the future might now be possible?

This year, we joined our many friends as Timeshare owners. We bought into the Shell Vacation Club in San Francisco last year and as a reward, they sent us to Oahu earlier this year, where we were convinced to buy more "points, " and to take another free trip, this time to Napa, where surprise!, we purchased even more points.. Truthfully, we have enjoyed our membership, staying in Kona at a Shell facility, and taking several overnights in Palm Springs on our way to and from Phoenix. For next year, we have reserved another week in Napa in May and a condo on the beach in Kauai in June to celebrate our 20th anniversary. We're not sure we couldn't have done as well on our own, but time will tell over the next few years.

Other trips this year included a fantastic cruise from Istanbul to Athens with fellow wine-enthusiast friends Jack & Bev Marlowe. We saw incredible ruins in many ancient areas and also enjoyed the modern tourist attractions in Athens and on several Greek Islands along the way, including Rhodes, Corfu, Mykonos, and Santorini. What was perhaps most surprising though was a stop in Dubrovnik, Croatia, which has now recovered from its history of Communist rule and the bloody war with its neighbors.

There was much sad news this year, as we lost my half-brother Jimmy in February, our dear friend Diane Kistler in March and our dear Marlys, the mother of Ron, Linda and Su, quite suddenly in July. Regretfully we were not able to drive up to San Francisco for Jimmy's service due to previous commitments. Diane's celebration of life was attended by a lot of ITT folks we hadn't seen for a long time, Pam gave a beautiful remembrance and Paul had put together a slide show of all our good times together, so it really was a celebration of Diane. Our quick trip to Phoenix in July was quite moving in many ways. However, now the kids are now looking forward to the holidays with much sadness, knowing how much their mother loved Christmas.

As for the rest of the year, it was pretty much business as usual. We were kept quite busy with Barbara and her painting and activities with the Lompoc Valley Art Association and Dick with his golf and activities with the Village Country Club. Dick is still caring for the bluebird boxes each Spring, and Barbara is still busy with her various websites. And, of course, we still enjoy wine tasting with friends and family. Su & Lindsay and Ron, Kel, Syd & Tay both made trips out this year, which was great and they, as well as Linda, Tim and the kids are planning to come next year which we look forward to. We also had a surprise visit from Barbara's cousins Shirley & Dennis Cooney, which was really nice! Finally, Barbara turned 65 this year, so we are now both officially old, but still having as much fun as ever.

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and a beautiful 2008!

With Love,

Dick & Barbara Willey