



Merry Christmas 2008

For the Willeys it's been the best of years and the worst of years. On the down side, we lost a couple of dear friends earlier in the year and then both Dick and son Ron have had to battle, at least successfully for now, different forms of cancer. On the brighter side, we had some wonderfully special trips this year. We went to Kauai for our 20th anniversary and flew daughter Jana her fiancée Mack to join us. Then in September we went to Kona, where Jana and Mack are living, for their beautiful wedding. Su, Linda and Ron joined us and we had a wonderful family vacation. Other great trips included a jaunt to Costa Rica with Caravan Tours – highly recommended! One of the best tours we've ever done.

We also did trips to Colorado Springs to visit with Jerry and Betty in their new home, to Paso Robles with Su and Lindsay, to Napa with friends Tonya and Bill Schultz, and to Arizona for a family Thanksgiving. The latter trip was preceded with a week in Sedona. This included an enjoyable train ride on the Verde Valley Railway, a fun visit to the Wildlife Park, and a nice viewing of Red Rock Fantasy Christmas displays. However, on a pleasant birdwalk in Red Rock Canyon, Dick lost his balance on a precarious rock coming off a footbridge, and fell headlong into Oak Creek. The trip leader guided us to Urgentcare where the Doctor stitched up his split finger and told us that the X-rays showed a badly fractured right wrist. This has prevented Dick from enjoying many of his normal activities, like golf for instance, but the Santa Barbara specialist we went to when we got home said the wrist is healing well, though he will still have to wear his brace a few months.

Meanwhile, Barbara has continued with her painting and web-making activities, at least until the holiday season came upon us. If you visit our website, willeyweb.com, you will find Barbara's latest efforts. Although we finally took down the out-dated website developed back in 1995, we now have recent family photo albums, including the Kauai, Kona and Colorado Springs trips, and a page showing Barbara's paintings.

This year, we also continued enjoying our many wine-related activities, including a recent trip to Paso Robles for the Christmas Open Houses. We now have a library of over 400 wines, and we would certainly welcome your visits, so we can share these with you. We also continued to enjoy the local Theater productions, including the recent Palm Springs Follies and the "White Christmas" presentation in Santa Maria, which was most beautifully done and really put us in the mood for the holidays.

Here's hoping your holidays are wonderful and that you have a Happy 2009!

With much love to you and your families, Barbara and Dick Willey