



Christmas and New Year's Greetings 2007

Another good year with a few more milestones – Elmeda retired in April and we've both started drawing Social Security. I've been out of Kodak six years! We've both been active and in good health.

We took a Caribbean cruise in January, sailing from Ft. Lauderdale to Antigua, St. Lucia, Grenada, Martinique and St. Thomas. While in Florida, we visited my cousin Anne Lindenmayor and husband Dick. Then in July, we toured Germany with our friends Paul and Carolyn Gorski. We met Matthew and Wibke in Cologne and spent a couple days there with them, split up to cruise the Rhine and tour the Romanic Road, then joined them and Wibke's parents for the second week. We toured a number of cities and towns together and stayed several days at their home in Hanover.

We've heard the key to staying young is to keep learning and building new neurons. While music has always been a big interest in our relationship, both of us are seriously challenged in making music. We can't even dance. Early in the year, we agreed on an instrument, the Hammered Dulcimer, which we both liked. We each have one and are taking lessons at the Eastman Community Music School from the premier professional dulcimer player in the area, Mitzie Collins. I doubt we'll be making many public performances any time soon but it has been a good growth experience for us.

I've continued teaching wine making courses at the New York State Wine and Culinary Institute in Canandaigua, various adult computer and digital photography classes at Schroeder High School in Webster, and continued my literacy volunteer work. The local winery I was consulting on has been licensed and I am now a professional (so to speak) winemaker. We should have about 1200 gallons of wine going by the end of the year and expect to open our tasting room in May. It was another great year for wine competitions – a Gold in the Finger Lakes International (a professional competition), six gold medals at the State Fair and two in the AWS National. As a professional, I won't be able to enter the Fair or NY competitions anymore so it was nice to go out in style.

Elmeda has converted the large "bunk room" upstairs into a quilting studio and purchased her dream quilting machine, an HQ16, a large sewing machine on tracks with bicycle type handles. She can quilt a queen size quilt in an afternoon. Her goal is to complete more projects and use up the ever growing (fabric) stash. The picture above is one of eight small quilts done as a family project. It made a dent in her stash and was good practice using the HQ 16 for fancy quilting.

Mark is still running his electrical business in Mooresville, NC. In their spare time, he and Tracey have continued making enhancements to the grounds of their house.

Matthew and Wibke bought a house on Genesee Park Blvd in Rochester within walking distance to Strong Hospital where Matthew works. They have spent much of their discretionary time repairing and remodeling. Wibke is in her second year at the U of R Warner School and is teaching several courses at RIT.

Michael is still working for ITT Corporation testing satellite payloads but will be leaving in January to begin a PhD program in Aerospace at the Univ. of Colorado.

Aaron has finished a full year of long haul truck driving for Swift company but the time on the road was difficult. Here's now driving locally for a Temp-to-hire company and watching for a suitable position.

My own web site is sadly out of date, but my intention is to have it current by the time you get this, so check it out at www.elmeda.com.

Wishing everyone the best of holidays,

Jan and Elmeda