



Holiday Newsletter 2015

The Dills
3828 Exception Place
Escondido, CA 92025-7929

760-807-0746 (Marguerite's Cell)
760-480-9974
dill-jac@cox.net
<http://georgeandmarguerite.net/>



Dear Friends:

It is that time again and this has been a very good and busy year for the Dills. We continue to enjoy relatively good health and spending time with the grandchildren. Three big trips this year and a couple of smaller ones are covered below.

Picture on right is George and Marguerite having lunch at the Strand Hotel near Trafalgar Square in London before our cruise to Iceland and Norway in August. We killed ourselves walking all over London. George says, "we ain't a sexy couple of 69 years of age no more" so sitting and watching other people is our speed now. Our feet crill almost every night.

If you've read the news you know that California is being hit hard with results of climate change. Massive fires in Northern California, worst drought in 100 years, terrible humidity, and mandatory water restrictions. Californians have been developing water projects since the Spanish came to settle in 1769. Now with 38,000,000 people we need to move to the next level which is massive desalinization - which of course is being fought by the environmentalists as they did the Hoover Dam and the California Water Project. We invested in Solar so we can be comfortable as we die of thirst (photo at upper right is of the back of our house where many solar panels are on the roof). The project was most interesting for George. See <http://georgeandmarguerite.net/solar.htm> for info.



This newsletter is easier to read on-line at:
<http://georgeandmarguerite.net/xmasnewsletter.htm>



Ghost Ranch Trip (Marguerite & Betsy)

In May Marguerite's sister Betsy flew out for a three week visit. The two of them embarked on a two-week road trip in the Prius. George was very helpful in designing the routing and helping determine where to stay during our 2300 mile adventure.

We both enjoy staying at historic Bed and Breakfast lodgings and we found several on our route that we reserved before we left California. We didn't spend much time at The Grand Canyon as it was cold and wet. From there we went to Albuquerque where we stayed in The Spy House that played a key part in the Rosenberg investigations of the 1940s. We then went to Ghost Ranch for a four-day "Georgia O'Keeffe Painting and Writing Immersion workshop". There were ten participants who stayed together in the Casa del Sol villa on the Ranch property. We enjoyed "walking in the footsteps" of Georgia O'Keeffe as our guide led us to several of the places where she had painted some of her famous landscapes. Then we went to Santa Fe and stayed at the Inn of the Turquoise Bear. This Inn is famous for being the center of the creative and fun loving elite of Santa Fe during the 1920s, 30s, and 40s. While there we visited the Los Alamos National Laboratory an hour away where we learned lots more about "the town that never was" that was central to the Manhattan Project of WWII. Next we stopped in Sedona, Arizona and spent the day with an old friend, Janet Walther, then went on to Phoenix where we were hosted by Renee Walter, the mother of Gar's good friend Rob and also a travel buddy with the Marguerite travel group. The highlight of that trip was the Musical Instrument Museum that should be a "must see" on anyone's trip to Phoenix. View the details at <http://georgeandmarguerite.net/ghostranch.htm>.



London & Iceland Cruise (Marguerite & George)

In July we went on our pre-trip to London, <http://georgeandmarguerite.net/london.htm>, and then our cruise to Iceland/Norway, <http://georgeandmarguerite.net/iceland.htm>, in August. Going to Europe in the summer is a big mistake but we were stuck because of limited dates for the cruise to Iceland.

The highlight of the London portion of the trip for Marguerite was to visit Highclere Castle where Downton Abbey was filmed. George rented a car and we drove about 60 miles out into the country for a visit. Photo at right is of Marguerite and "Downton Abbey". Marguerite was very excited to see the home, we had tickets for months. You will see more photos on our website.

The cruise to Iceland was ant-climatic but we needed the rest very bad. Compared to crowded England, our voyage to the various islands was very serene. As you can see from our website most of the places we visited were very small with scenery limited because of the northern latitudes (we did cross the arctic circle). We did see snow and waterfalls at most every stop in early August.



Highclere Castle aka
Downton Abbey

Japan Trip (Marguerite & Her Travel Buddies)



Tokyo Garden Group Photo

This year Marguerite's trip with Gretchen Turner and their travel buddies was to Japan for two weeks in October/November. There were 8 of us who knew each other or knew of each other and 8 others whom we got to know during the trip. The trip was very active with lots of walking and one day included a visit to the temple near the top of a mountain that required going up 200 very uneven steps with few railings! Most of us took a stick at the bottom and carefully wended our way up and down without mishap. The highlight for Marguerite was Hiroshima. The A-bomb museum was very well done and sad but we learned a lot about the Japanese perspective on the war and this tragic event. We also visited a couple who delighted in telling us about Japanese customs. We were not wild about some of the unusual foods but we tried them nonetheless. For details on this trip see: <http://georgeandmarguerite.net/2015japantrip.htm>

Teaching Misty to Sew

Misty, our good friend and masseuse, wants to teach her daughter (Izzy) how to sew. So George signed up Marguerite to teach Misty how to sew and Misty's job would be to teach her daughter how to sew. We worked with Ron Martin's Sewing Machines Plus <http://www.sewingmachinesplus.com/index.php> company to get her a new Serger and Misty can use Marguerite's many exotic machines as required for embroidery and unique stitching. Misty has also acquired a standard sewing machine from a friend. Misty has a granddaughter due in January whose name is Lucy. Many sewing opportunities for Misty and Izzy.

So far they have added drapes to Misty's home, made children's costumes, and a few dresses for Misty.



Marguerite Jackson Award

Marguerite has been giving the Marguerite Jackson Award for Professional Nursing Excellence for over a decade. The Award was established when she retired from UCSD in 2003. View award info at:

<http://georgeandmarguerite.net/jacksonconsulting/>

Twelve outstanding nurses have received the award and two have been elected to fellowship in the American Academy of Nursing and are now FAANs: Marlon Saria (Awardee 2006) and Judy Davidson (Awardee 2014, photo on left). In mid-September 2015, Marguerite attended the Induction Ceremony for Judy, whom she co-sponsored, and she and Judy's husband Dan (a nurse perfusionist) were among the 500+ attendees to see Judy inducted into this prestigious organization. Marguerite became a FAAN in 1991 and is now an emerita member. She stopped by Washington, DC en route from Florida where she visited with her sister Betsy and met Betsy's new grandson, Henderson Lee McCaghren.

Aunt Marga Died

On August 18, 2015, Marguerite's aunt (her mother's twin sister for whom she is named) passed away at age 94 in Gainesville, Florida. Marga (as she was called) was a nurse who had a very active career that not only included being Director of Nursing for several hospitals and a nursing school faculty member but also a camp nurse, cruise ship nurse, and nurse for the Inuit Peoples in Alaska when she was in her late 70s. She visited San Diego and Escondido many times over the years. Marga is survived by her daughter Peggy and Peggy's husband, two siblings (ages 92 and 84), and many nieces and nephews and their children. Over Labor Day weekend Marguerite went to Florida to go to the memorial service with her sister, Betsy. You can see them at happier times on a cruise in Australia and New Zealand in 2007: <http://georgeandmarguerite.net/kiwi-oz.htm>



Grandchildren

The grandchildren continue to bring us great joy. Grandpa George and Crawford share a love for popcicles that are always in the freezer when he visits. Grandma EE goes back and forth to Orange County quite often. The family spent August in Long Island with Chand's family and both came back great swimmers. EE enjoyed Grace's 6th birthday party at their school and one of the children wished for her that "her teeth would come in good!" For Halloween, Grace wanted to be Sibella (daughter of Dracula) in a purple dress and purple wig! Crawford was to be Dracula but he changed his mind to be Tin Man, so he was both at different times. EE and Betsy made over a dozen Halloween costumes during her visit in October. We've done lots of exciting things together this year that you can see on our website: <http://georgeandmarguerite.net/grandchildrenphotos.htm>

Marguerite and George