



Holiday Newsletter 2005

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Dear Friends,

2005 has been a year of travel for us and Marguerite logged about 50,000 frequent flyer miles in the process! This keeps her in the Executive Premier rung of United's program with nice benefits. Thanks to these benefits George gets to go on a free ticket if Marguerite goes someplace on business that George wants to see. On a sad note, during the summer Zeusie-dog got more and more infirmed with arthritis and old age (he was 14.5 years old) and was put to sleep. We and Apollo miss him and things are not quite the same without his bark and growl. Zeus was also George's connection to his second wife, Kathy, who will be gone 13 years this December 20.



Marguerite's part-time job continues to be a pleasure for her and the project is on schedule and going well (see website at: <http://ntcc.ucsd.edu/>). Her participation in "Ballet for Seniors" has been on hold due to travel, but she promises to get back with the program in January. It is good exercise with a nice group of folks. George continues to play tennis each week with his buddies and spends a lot of time on the computer planning trips for us both, as well as keeping up with world affairs. George has put on a lot of weight this year, in part because of a prolactinoma, a benign pituitary tumor. He is taking pills that seem to be shrinking the tumor and hopefully the body too.

Gar is doing well and was recruited away from Oakley by PacificSunwear (PacSun is in hundreds of mall stores) in early 2005 to be their Director of Investor Relations. He now works in Anaheim, lives in an apartment in Irvine, and has joined a sailing time-share for a wonderful 36' Hunter -- he sails several times each month, most recently to Catalina for his birthday with several friends. Gar and Marguerite have been to Port Angeles, Washington, a few times this year to the "cabin in the woods" that his father, Crawford, left him. While there, they enjoy the peace and quiet of doing very little besides eating lots of seafood and drinking good wine. In July we had the Fifth Annual Milestones Celebration dinner party for Gar and friends (20 folks for 4-course sit-down dinner -- Betsy and Marguerite's "waitpersons extraordinaire" women friends helped cook and serve!)



Marguerite's Birthday Sail in Newport Bay

"On the road again..." took us to:

- New Orleans in March -- Marguerite spoke at a nursing conference and spent an AM in New Orleans Cooking School learning to make very high calorie Southern dishes! We then went to Little Rock for the Clinton Library -- well worth a visit and very new and modern -- and wended our way back to the Big Easy via Vicksburg and other Southern towns en route to the NOLA airport to come home. So glad we saw that great city again before Katrina and Rita did their devastation.
- In May, Marguerite and her sister Betsy took their mother, Jessica, to Venice and London for a week. Unfortunately, Jessica had an attack of sciatica a couple of weeks before we left, so needed a wheelchair while we were there -- quite an adventure in Venice with the canals -- the three of us would get to the bottom of a bridge, look helpless with the wheelchair, and each time several nice Italians came forth to lift mother over the bridge! We bought a Nissan Murano in March, and on this trip we went to the island of Murano and looked at their famous glass works.



- In June, the annual meeting for APIC (Marguerite's professional association) was in Baltimore, so George went along and we "did DC," including the new monuments, as well as drove to Betsy and Brent's cabin in the mountains outside Asheville, North Carolina. George had never been to the cabin, so it was a new experience for him. While in Asheville, we visited Kathy's cousin, Dr. Jim Tyson, in Brevard, NC. George and Kathy were married in Brevard in 1977. We also spent several hours at the Vanderbilt Biltmore Mansion in Asheville – beautiful!!



- In July, Marguerite was invited to be the keynote speaker for the Japanese Nurses Association Infection Control Conference in Tokyo. Betsy went along on this trip and we spent 5 glorious days at the Imperial Hotel being pampered! (George had been to Tokyo and decided to pass on the long plane trip). We also took several local tours, including one evening for dinner and Kabuki Theater. On that tour with us were the daughter and former wife (in photo on the right) of Tommy Sands, a singer from the 60's!



- In August, we and our friends, John and Barbara Warner, had an adventure together that included a visit to Fairbanks and the Iditarod dog training school, a Holland America 7-day cruise to see lots of glaciers, a visit to Gar's cabin in Port Angeles, and on the way to the airport a tour of the Boeing Plant where they make 747s. The picture to the right shows us (George is taking picture) in Sitka with our ship in the background. It was a lovely trip with lots of trees, water, glaciers and too much cruise food!! George especially enjoyed talking with a young woman who has run the Iditarod several times, and also got to play with the doggies!



- On October 1, George's sister Marie was married to Gus Bonaminio in Boise, Idaho. We drove over with Apollo in our Murano, and had a lovely time visiting with George's mother, Florence, and lots of family. The wedding was beautiful – very traditional in the old Catholic Cathedral downtown. On Sunday after the Saturday wedding, the family and close friends spent the afternoon at the Bonaminio home eating lots of traditional Italian food and drinking wine made by Gus and his family. Marie and Gus have bought a home near downtown Boise not far from where George's mother lives. Photo of skinny Georgie and Marie.



- At the end of October, Marguerite made two trips to Atlanta for CDC work. On one visit she saw her college roommate, Gretchen Turner, with whom she traveled to 13 countries in 8 weeks when they graduated from Vanderbilt in 1964! Gretchen was recently widowed and has invited Marguerite to be her travel companion on a trip to Dubai, Thailand, and Viet Nam with her daughter and son-in-law who are international journalists stationed in Dubai. If all works out, that will be another adventure for a couple of weeks in February or March!! Georgie does not do hot jungle places, so is glad to stay at home.



The end of the year brings the holidays, a visit from Marguerite's mother Jessica who loves the Lawrence Welk Christmas Show, lots of good food, and remembering friends and family who are no longer with us. We hope you and yours will celebrate the holiday season with happiness and memories of good times past, as well as anticipation of a full and fruitful 2006. We especially look forward to a visit or two with Betsy & Brent's first grandchild – Anne Delafield McCaghren born to Neville and Dune on October 26, 2005 in Boston. The photo is of Betsy and Anne when she was about one week old – a truly beautiful baby girl! Betsy and Brent are now both retired and planning to move from Florida to Asheville during 2006.

You can view our adventures on our website: <http://members.cox.net/dill-jac>

Marguerite and George and Apollo