

## **Merry Christmas!**

Yep! It is that time of year when I start the Christmas Letter and then Mark adds his commentary. So bear with me and I'll try to re-cap the year....

Mark is working at the same place, but now instead of Goodrich it is called United Technologies Corporation Aerospace Systems. He is now in charge of the design engineering quality assurance group. Sounds impressive, but we all know what a title will buy you – and he does not even like coffee.

I am doing contact work in human resources, trying to keep a reign on Mark & his soda business and doing some traveling. In fact, we just came back from Wisconsin Dells, WI where we celebrated Thanksgiving with Diana and her boyfriend, Clint. I did the regular tradition of sleeping-in, shopping on Black Friday and eating way too much.

OK ... now for the “did this really all happen this year” news ...

In January Erik graduated from University of Minnesota with a chemistry degree and is presently working for Wal-Mart in a manager position. He and his girlfriend, Lauren, are living in Burnsville.

During cold February I had the bright idea of escaping to a warmer climate. So in March Mark & I went to sunny Las Vegas to escape the cold. It was a chilly 56 degrees in Vegas while Minnesota had a warm spell of 70's. We had fun anyway seeing shows and gambling. I learned roulette. I was up \$5 but then lost it. I guess what they say is true about Vegas – “What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas.” So my money stayed in Vegas.

Our soda business continues to have a life of its own. We took on a Tuesday market at St Francis Hospital in Shakopee and a Sunday Market in Golden Valley this year. Not to mention we did special events at Crofoot Winery, Fong's Restaurant, Antique Tractor Show, United Healthcare Healthy Living, and the preferred soda for designated drivers at the Autumn Brew Review in Minneapolis. We would not have been able to do all this if it had not been for generous family and friends.

Two new things to the business: We have a new soda – Swamp Angel Voodoo Black Cherry. I believe the name came from watching too many early black 'n white monster movies. Mark has another story, but he does not want to tell me about his adventures to Lake Geneva in his youth. The other new item is our new t-shirts: a lady leaning against lamp post with caption “Glewwe's Castle Brewery ... found on street corners and in parking lots”. That caption came from .... Oh, never mind.

As if juggling five markets was not enough, Mark & I decided to visit Chicago and see Diana's new house in Westchester (western suburb of Chicago). Yes, Diana and Clint bought a house! It is a 3 bedroom built in the 1960's. Complete with pink bathroom and shag carpet. They quickly made some changes! To get to Chicago we first went to Denton, Texas. Our friends, Murray & Diane Ricks' daughter graduated from High School and we drove to Denton to celebrate and take-in the Renaissance Festival. Had a great time but a long route to get to Chicago.

Samuel, our Swiss friend that stayed with us last year for 6 months, came for a visit in August bringing a traveling companion. Guess people in Switzerland did not believe Samuel's tales. The young men went to Florida first for about a week, then to Minnesota to see the MN State Fair, Chicago for a couple of days and then to New York to see the sights. Samuel brought back many good memories of his 6 month stay with us and I was very sorry his visit was so very, very short.

My next adventure was a weekend trip with my parents, Dick and Mavis, to Branson, Missouri. We saw the Oak Ridge Boys and the Dixie Stampede Christmas Show. I would highly recommend both shows. This was my first time in Branson and I could not believe the many different show offerings. Besides the shows I enjoyed exploring the shops in Old Town Branson.

That brings me now to the end of the year. Remember to come for a visit. The coffee pot is always on, there are always bottles to drink or wash, and the soda is fresh.

**Mark & I want to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2013.**