

# Seasons Greetings

from the entire Arnold Family

Dear Friends,

Each year we think that this year passed by more quickly than any to date; it must be said even more so this past one. Once again, we have failed to make this a faux-personal merge letter; at least, by the grace of God, it got written and printed.

The most amazing event of our year has been starting our house in Descanso, California, an event some time in the making. Hap found the basic plans in 1977; Butch (AKA, Big Al) Hadzima, world famous fighter bomber pilot and sometime architect had allegedly been re-drawing them since. After fits and starts, two wells over 600 feet deep, and other bizarre events, concrete is poured, framing and roofing are up, interior completion underway; the whole enchilada to be done by Christmas, God willing.

Speaking of going up, increasing in mostly height and some weight is our youngest, Jackson. Now taller at 38 inches and only a slightly heavier than last year at 40 pounds, he is a moderate sized, thinning rapidly, by Arnold standards, two year old. His biggest accomplishment, in Hap's eyes anyway, is that he no longer shakes his head from side to side when asked if he is a good rodent. Jack is really one of the guys and loves to ride with Hap in the car or truck, particularly if his big brother is about. He would far rather be outside than inside and mud holds a special place in his heart.

William has grown to about an inch and a half taller than Dru this year and in the second year of Middle School. He has really taken an interest in school and to his great surprise is doing very well. William is still serving as an acolyte in our small Anglican Church. Although only days from dreaded teenager status, he is still the "Rodo." Joan Jeffery still brings the English comics, he still stays up too late reading them. He is a safe and trustworthy shooter, practicing often at home with his air rifle and air pistol, between trips to Monarch Flats where we shoot real guns and live ammo.

In recognition of the special talents of our current Commander in Chief, Captain Dru is now Mrs. Dru.

No wars for the Guard. Tanker School came and Hap went. Never in a thousand instant re-plays of pilot training assignments did the thought of a Stratotanker ever surface. All gnashing of teeth having subsided, much to the surprise of the "real tanker pilots", the old fighter pilots seem to have adapted quite well to the "new" jet. Hap has been to Panama, Canada, Korea, Alaska, Hawaii and Japan this year and looking to do some real traveling next year. For those of you out there on the radio, listen up for GRZLY 05.

Dru is still working the PACU (that's Post Anesthesia Care Unit to the uninitiated) at Balboa Naval Hospital San Diego. She still loves the place and again, all the thanks in the world to her Mom, Ginny Propps. for taking care of Jack while she works. Part time is a great time.

Betsy passed away in her sleep last year on Hap's birthday. She, too, was a wondrous baby rat, and she is sorely missed. We thank God for the time we had with the baby rats.

Hap's Mom, Delna, is doing very well. Only one major trip, a cruise this year; with a very enjoyable trip to Minneapolis for her brother John and sister in law Laurel's 50th Anniversary. Delna has been a big help to us with the new home under construction. For those of you who know him, Dusty is fine and sends his best. For those of you who don't know Dusty, he says buzz off.

Dru's Mom, Ginny Propps, claims to have once again deeply cut her travel schedule this year. A claim, one might note that would be somewhat more believable were she not in Sidney at the mid-point of a tour of Australia and New Zealand as this is being written. When she is home, Ginny has spent a lot of time with us. For reasons unknown to us, perhaps insanity, she seems to enjoy watching Jack when Dru works. Jack loves it, as

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do we. Her presence has made our life far easier. She is healthy and things are going well for her in Cucamonga.

Thanksgiving dinner was with Brother Bruce and wife Lorena in their new house this year. Big news in their home is a cousin-to-be for William and Jack, due early February next year. Their new house is really shaping up, inside and out; perhaps as a consequence they haven't spent much time in their condo in Isla Mujeres this year.

Brother Tuck, wife Robie and daughter Alison have been hard at work on the avocado forest that has sprouted back after the grafting exercise. Robie's job teaching Art at Valhalla High School has been going very well. Ali seems to be really be enjoying school.

Sister Jacquie and her radio station in Oakland seem to be doing well. She and her friend Becky came down to help us get started on cleaning the old house so we could put it on the market. Brave people! Jack was the most pleased to see them; this was the first time he had met either since he began to figure out there were more than Dru, William, Hap, Gram, Grandma and "Other People" in the world.

Our excellent friends from the RAF, Bob and Kay Denton, came back to visit from the UK for the fourth year in a row in October, on Hap's drill as always. This time they went north first and got to San Diego after Drill Weekend, excellent planning. Bob seemed to spend most of his time visiting local Customs agents and such, sort of a busman's holiday. We love to see them and for the record, they make the absolute best guests and tourists.

Our wonderful friends Joan and Peter Jeffery both made a pleasure trip from the UK to visit us this year. We enjoyed their visit, it helps to keep up to date with your friends, also we miss the world famous Coleman's mustard between trips.

Some sad news from the UK, we mourn the passing of our friend Norman Nugent on 30 November 1994. A friend and an institution, Norman will be sadly missed by not only his lovely wife Pamela and their family, but all of us who knew him.

The Aviation and Marine insurance and accident investigation business is doing well, the three offices are keeping busy. Given everything, travel has been light, only one office trip out of country, to a "Muy Malo" dirt strip about 300 nm south of the border in Mexico. The biggest news at the office is that Tuck finally decided to learn to use his computer and is really enjoying it. Our office hosted the annual meeting of the Organized Flying Adjusters in San Diego in September. At least from our perspective, it was a remarkable success. Many thanks to Hap's brothers, Bruce and Tuck, as well as the San Diego office staff, for both the understanding and excellent support which made the meeting go so well. Hap's Mom Delna was a big help in the Hospitality Suite and had not Dru's Mom Ginny watched Jack the entire time, things would not have gone, let alone well.

The Baron was doing well, a midnight trip to San Antonio with a return the next day was the longest trip of the year; let's hear it for Loran-Autopilot coupling and a good book. A bitter-sweet note, the Baron has been down since June with Chevron Enginitis, with an ETIC of 7 January 1995. Hap has seen more of the inside of a Cessna 172 and a Cherokee 180 than he had in mind. Right after the first, keep an ear open for N66MB.

Those of our family here on earth are all healthy and extremely happy. Once again, God has been kind to us this year, we know how very lucky we are. As we look over our Christmas list, we think of our friends, some we have seen, most whom we have not. We think of years gone by, time spent together. We wish we could have spent more time together. We wish you all a very happy and joyous holiday season. May your God be with you as ours is with us.

Best wishes and Love, Dru, Hap/Bill, William, Jackson, Rat, Zaxxon, Rex, Roy, Sabie, Horsy, Bunny, Archie, Hand Rat & Jack Brown