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# A NEW YEAR 1996 GREETING MARILYN & GUY

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December 1995

Another new addition to the ranks of the grandchildren this year: **Hanna Christine**, born August 5th to **Cheryl** and **Scott** (the same birth size as Scott, 7 lb 7 oz); she now weighs in at 13 lb 6 oz! Hanna was greeted by her older cousins with a "*Hurrah, the girls are winning six-to-one!*", to which one of the fathers replied "*The boys aren't even in the race!*". **Jessica** (9 1/2) & **Ashley** (7 1/2) have taken up music, studying the flute and African drums, resp. (to lead the girls' victory parade?). Jessica enjoyed a week at Girl Scout camp this year, without becoming homesick! **Chelsea** (2), shows signs of a strong, independent personality (big surprise!), and is undaunted by her older sisters, controlling the family TV for her *Barney*. **Kimberlee** (9) and **Kaitlyn** (4) have both enjoyed brother **Kevin** (1 1/2) this year. Kim is thriving in school; she enjoyed being in the school Christmas Pageant this year, is taking riding lessons, and likes to invite her friends to join her for an afternoon with Nana's doll house. **Kaitlyn** also enjoys the doll house, and plays with a great deal of imagination and inventiveness. She

has learned to tolerate the routine of finger pricks and insulin injections, and has done well this year, with one setback requiring hospitalization to put her system back in order after a bout of influenza. **Kevin** is on the edge of developing a vocabulary, and generally getting into and onto everything. He has found that he fits nicely into the furniture for the girl's large scale dolls, not necessarily to their delight.



We (**Marilyn & Guy**) enjoyed trips to Korea/Taiwan and to California, with reunions with long-time friends on both trips. The trip to California included an afternoon in San Francisco to see *The Phantom of the Opera* (again!). Marilyn and her mother, **Mary**, had 8 days of country music in the many theaters in Branson, MO while Guy was on a trip to the UK; they went to 2-3 performances daily and are ready to return! Mary redecorated her entire apartment during the year, between her many activities. Guy's mother, **Wilma**, visited her newest great-granddaughter (Hanna)

along with all the other Pittsburgh area "greats" (and their parents) during a visit to Pittsburgh in September; she and Mary were able to attend a performance of the Pittsburgh Symphony in the refurbished Heinz Hall. As is apparent, both are in good health and active.

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**Susan** has put a lot of energy into the redecoration of their home this year, occasionally bringing **Carmon** (and even ol' Dad) into her projects. **Carmon** has been busy with his responsibilities as the Chair of the Art Department, and with his own art; he has organized a Graphics Conference to be held at UWV in '96, and was one of two faculty recognized for outstanding research (i.e., art) in the College of Creative Arts. **Susan** continues to volunteer as the art coordinator in the local elementary school, arranging monthly visits by artists, as well as being a *Storyteller*; among other activities.

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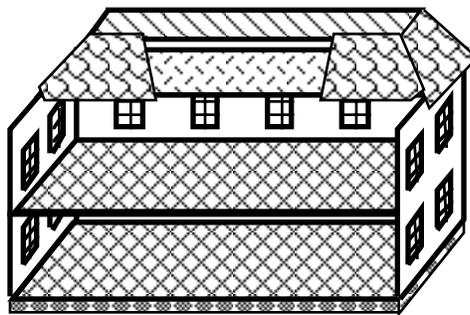
Life continues to be full, and complicated, for **Sandra & Neil** and their family of three. Sandra works in the

delivery-room and as a home-visitation nurse for *Birth Place*, while operating a business on the side renting breast-pumps to new mothers, and taking a class toward her nurse-midwife degree. Neil is working to expand his business as a private investigator, while juggling the family-caring responsibilities with Sandra. They took time for a week-long camping trip to Shenandoah Park and environs this summer.

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**Cheryl & Scott** spent an anxious 9 mo. waiting for Hanna to appear, and then found their lifestyle had undergone a more abrupt change than they had imagined possible. Still, Hanna has treated them to an easy first few months, sleeping through the night early on, and with a pleasant personality. While adapting well to parenthood, Cheryl & Scott turned their home-improvement energies to a redecoration of Hanna's room; done in bright colors and a tropical fish motif. Cheryl's mother has taken on baby sitting for Hanna three days per week as Cheryl returns to work (easier than Hanna, but not as much fun!).

**Marilyn's** number-one activity is being *Nana* to seven grandchildren. She and **Guy** fulfilled one of Marilyn's childhood dreams this year with the construction of a large doll house, which she graciously shares with her grandchildren! The house provides 5,840 sq. in. of floor space on two floors & attic (7 ft long x 5 ft tall) for its fourteen 7 inch tall residents and nine "children" (plus three horses, three pigs, one goat, three Swiss cows (with bells) and sundry dogs & cats in a detached barn). The children attend school in a nearby one-room school-house, with desks and chalk board. The interior of the house is accented by new and vintage pieces from Susan & Sandra's doll house, ca. 60's (furniture by *Nana*), with wall paper to match, and dimmable lights on all levels. Santa has been a fixture on the roof-top during the months preceding Christmas.



Marilyn continues as a Deacon, responsible for floral arrangements in the sanctuary, flowerbed design and care, and seasonal decorations. That, plus her teaching in Japanese flower arranging keep her (almost) out of mischief.

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Jack & Jean and Alexandra Montooth visited Pittsburgh in early November for an extended weekend. It was their first chance to see the results of Mary's redecoration efforts. They had to share the bedroom with the granddaughter's "American-Girl" dolls (18 in tall) and furniture--yes! these are in addition to the residents of Nana's dollhouse (the girls have nine of these dolls between Morgantown & Pittsburgh). Kaitlyn is convinced that all of these dolls have a full life in her absence, and will telephone Nana to ask: "Nana, what are the dolls in the doll house doing now?", to which Nana gives a long reply (maybe she agrees with Kaitlyn!). At least we can be happy that the dolls are quiet in their activities when their "mothers" are not in residence, and they don't eat too much either!

Finally, here's wishing you a

HAPPY & HEALTHY

1996

AND BEYOND

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Marilyn  
&  
Guy

