

December 2001

Happy Holidays to our family and friends –

Another busy and happy year has gone by. Uneventful in terms of personal “news” since all of the kids are graduated and partnered up with great people. No new grandchildren, but four wonderful little boys will do just fine. Henry and Mary have the same jobs. Everyone is healthy. What more could we ask for? Perhaps we could ask for world peace...



We spent a lot of the year traveling. Mary traveled for work, and to visit kids. Henry traveled to visit kids and to visit his father and aunt in New Orleans. And then we did fit in a few San Diego Spirit soccer games. I don't understand why the airlines aren't doing better, we certainly did our part! So here is a quick rundown.

left to right, front row: Jeffrey, Harold (Henry's dad), Robert, Henry
middle row: Samuel
back row: Howard (Henry's brother), Julia, Mary, Aaron, Catherine
(Chicago 6 Oct. 2001)



Stephen and Anna

✧ Stephen and Anna are nearby in Oak Park. Stephen is busy at Argonne and has recently taken on a new project to help with the design of a new building at the complex. He is the only person we know that spends more time in airports than we do! Anna has taken a new job at the Tribune Foundation. She is assisting in distributing foundation grants, and after September 11, she has been especially busy. She also continues her art. We get to see them on a semi-regular basis, as schedules permit, and that is always a treat!



Nathan and Jenny

✧ Jenny and Nathan share their time between Bryan Texas and San Diego. Nathan is in graduate school at Texas A&M, studying clinical psychology. They have him seeing patients and teaching drug rehab in a local prison already. Jenny is working half time at a pet store and half time training. She heads back to San Diego for the second year of soccer late March. When he is finished with classes in the spring, Nathan will join Jenny in SD for a few months. They bought a great home in Bryan ... they needed the space for their “children”, two cats and a dog.



Jacob and Zane

✧ Jeff and Julia, Jacob and Zane are in St. Paul. Jeff's regular job is with the Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC), a student loan guaranty agency. He is also venturing into the legal world of bankruptcy for borrowers whose loans were guaranteed and doing some pro-bono work. In addition to his regular job, Jeff was elected to the board of the Twin Cities Co-ops Federal Credit Union. As a “perk” of being on the board, he was sent to a convention of Credit Union attorneys in the Bahamas, just in time to sit out a hurricane! Julia is enjoying a new job with the Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services. Jacob is 9 and Zane is 7. They are both at neighborhood schools that they like very much. We don't see them often enough because they spend many of their holidays with their father in Nevada.

✳ Robert and Catherine, Samuel and Aaron are in Madison, WI. Robert continues to rack up the publications and proposals at the University. He does a lot of guest speaking; GMO's (Genetically Modified Organisms) must be a hot topic. He also serves on the Internal Review Board (IRB) that approves all medical protocols involving human patients at UW-Madison. Catherine stays busy with the house and caring for two very active little boys. Samuel is in the second grade and he and Robert are quickly advancing through their Karate belts. Aaron will be two in January and what a treat! He brings a new standard to the definition of "cute".

✳ Henry is doing QA (which I still want to say is Qualitative Analysis from my years in Chemistry – it's Quality Assurance) for technology products at Scott Foresman, the textbook publisher, along with various database projects, CD generation and Web projects. Being an educational publisher, a program crash or hang is a serious error in our products but a missing comma is a catastrophe. It is my intention this year to improve my Web site and update it on a regular basis. If you want to keep up with us during the year, check out www.streiffer.net.

✳ Mary is still at the EPA, and is in the process of finishing up a three-year effort to identify high quality areas in the Midwest of the country. Too bad I only get to sit in my office and collect information about them instead of visiting each one individually! Our plans for the upcoming year include a reunion for the White family that should take place during the summer to celebrate Jean and Larry's 60th wedding anniversary. Coincidentally, Henry and I will be celebrating our 25th! Who would have bet on that one!?!?

✳ We have recently made an offer on some property in Beverly Shores, Indiana on which to build a retirement home some day. Beverly Shores is very similar to Chicago except it has 703 residents, it's surrounded by State and Federal parks, has 50 foot high sand dunes, and it has deer running all over. Stay tuned for next year's letter to see if the sale actually goes through.

✳ For those of you who remember our cats, Grits and Ashley...Grits is resting in peace. After 16 years and two shots a day for diabetes, her kidneys failed. Ashley, at 20, is still hanging in there. We monitor her progress daily.

We hope your upcoming year is filled with peace and love. In these uncertain times we want you to know that our friends and family are cherished and loved.

Mary and Henry

P.S. Please excuse the lateness of this holiday greeting. It is not that we were procrastinating (too much) but we had trouble with color copies!