



Miracles and Memories

Christmas 1998

You *could* say it's miraculous that these old arthritic bodies have withstood traveling thrice to California, twice to New Hampshire, to Colorado Springs for the LCI (Navy) Reunion, Carl's 55th high school reunion, and Dottie's 53rd. We also survived Doron's spectacular 25th anniversary celebration, our 50 years together, and driving between homes in New York and Virginia each month.

You *could* say that . . . but even more remarkable is the pleasure we derive observing these awesome "grands" as their lives unfold in a myriad of fascinating ways right before our very eyes.

You *could* say that . . . yet more wondrous still might be the birth of Noah Joseph to Ron and Cindy, our "forty-something" kids whose four cherished adopted children are between 15 and nearly 20 years old! You *could* say that . . . and we'd have to agree! This miracle baby is a very handsome, happy and delightfully appealing little guy. And we can tell you there is nothing mundane about the arrival of the 14th grandchild! We are thrilled and thankful for this unexpected blessing.

In August we experienced a heartwarming family gathering to celebrate our Golden Anniversary at Leigh and Mike's home in New Hampshire. There was an adult dinner for us with all our children and their wonderful and well-suited spouses and Carl's brother, George, at a lovely old New England Inn. It was not exactly your dignified, quiet evening but typically for our gang, a lively roast/toast occasion. In retrospect, we should have videotaped it all! This was followed by a day-long picnic/party with all the "grands" except Sean. There was swimming and computer games, teenaged girls shopping for school clothes at the Goodwill Store, and athletic events to attend; also a baby shower for Cindy and Ron, a mini 25th anniversary celebration for Leigh and Mike, and the observance of our anniversary. All of this was accompanied by lots of picture taking and great food! It was gratifying to witness the (mostly) joyous interactions among the siblings and cousins. The logistics alone that went into the success of this east coast/west coast extravaganza seems to have been nothing short of a miracle!

As for us, we are much obliged to our doctors and the Rx people who, so far, are able to keep us mobile . . . and especially thankful that *all these wrinkles don't hurt!*

"Would that Christmas could last all year . . ." is a familiar theme. Well, we appreciate your patience as we annually stretch it out for you! It is, of course, the miracle of our Savior's birth that fills our hearts with love and motivates us to stay in touch. We pray for God's peace and love to dwell in your hearts, that your resulting joy will spill over to those who need it most. Take care to smile often – it's a simple gift that will help make this world a better place.

We love you and thank you for continually enriching our lives.

Dottie and Carl

P.S. You could say that completing this epistle is a miracle as well . . . you could say that!

MIRACLES AND MEMORIES

1998



NOAH



GRANT



EMMY

God gave new life,
where we thought there'd be none.
Noah Joseph came early,
a 5 pound, 2 ounce son.
September the 9th
when we first saw his face,
our lives changed forever,
by this gift of God's grace.

Ron & Cindy Wenzinger



NOAH



EVA



ABBY'S BAT MITZVAH



WITH OUR KIDS AND "GRANDS" AND BROTHER GEORGE



LEIGH AND MIKE
SILVER ANNIVERSARY

- WITH THE "GRANDS"



OUR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY



1998