

# JERRY and DEL's CHRISTMAS LETTER 2016

Dear Family and Friends,

'Tis the week after Christmas, and all through the house, the AC is running 'cause we live in the South!  
Forgive us, dear folks, for being so slow; like Santa's reindeer, time flies so fast, don't you know!"

Jerry had hip replacement in October, and is doing extremely well. We are so thankful to God, and of course, to all those involved with his care! Del is proud of how adept he is putting socks on with the "sock thingy" and using the "Grabber" to help him dress. Jerry is now considering a new career - - MYTHBUSTERS is hiring! Having watched all 240 episodes, some several times over, we feel he is eminently qualified for a position.

Happily, we will be getting back to our two square dance clubs later this week. Jerry still does his committee work with CALLERLAB and ARTS, and helps out a local organization. Del is continuing her art work and church involvement. A sample of her art work is on the back of this letter, as most of you have never seen it.

Our younger grandsons, Kyle and Nolan, spent 2 weeks in Panama, with their mother and their extended family. Our 2 oldest grandsons, Tyler & Jordan, lost their other grandmother recently, and Del's kids lost their Uncle Charles. We miss those and other family and friends who have passed during 2016.

When Del hurt her back in the spring, Jerry attended CALLERLAB in Norfolk, VA, alone. After Del's recovery, we started our annual extended RV trip in March. Our ultimate goal was the Michigan Upper Peninsula.

Highlights of the Trip;

- "The Island Creamery" Chincoteague VA, miles out of our way, but simply the best ice cream anywhere!
- Philadelphia Museum of Art - Del's favorite art museum; she could spend days there
- Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg, MA & Our Lady of Good Help, Green Bay, WI.
- Gettysburg, PA - we spent one beautiful spring week exploring and resting here!
- Calling a square dance with Larry and Paula Cole in Indianapolis.
- Amish country in Shipshewana, IN. - Del's mom would have loved using horse and buggy transportation.
- Visiting church friends in Traverse City, MI. We got an up close and personal look at a deer camp and buffalo herd.
- Mackinac Island (Pronounced "Mackinaw"), the only transportation is bicycles, horseback or carriage. This is the home of the Grand Hotel and where the movie "Somewhere in Time" was filmed.
- Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes, like small mountains, carved out by glaciers during the Ice Age.
- A very nice visit with Bill's (Pam's husband) parents, now snowbirds to Florida during the winter.
- White Fish Point Maritime Museum, memorial to the Edmond Fitzgerald, a freighter that sunk during a violent storm over 40 years ago becoming the watery grave of its 29 crew members.
- Visiting Del's Brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Georgiann, near Chicago.
- The ARTS(Square/Round Dance Assn.) Meeting, Des Moines, IA, our westernmost point this year.

Michigan itself, was quite wonderful, and quite cold. Del resigned to being cold, even Jerry admitted to it a time or two! We marveled at the great expanse of the 5 mile Mackinac Straits would ice over in winter where it not for the icebreakers. Water, maritime exhibits, and whitefish are everywhere, great eating and fresh from the lakes! Our one regret this year is that we sorely missed seeing Jerry's family on this trip, but we are so glad to have finally experienced Michigan.

Other highlights of this trip, this year, and every year, are the people we meet. Even the briefest encounters, can bring us great joy. We pray that God's peace and comfort will be yours throughout the year as He comes daily, and even minute by minute into our lives. May you encounter God and the infant Jesus in the silence of your hearts; we hear Him only in silence or in the gentle whisper. 1 Kings 19:11-12 Ponder the goodness brought into the world by our Judeo-Christian heritage; the poetry and wisdom of the prophets, the timelessness of the 10 Commandments, and the lessons of both Old and New Testaments. Lord, help us to repent, to forgive and to spread your love in the world.

May God Bless us all!

*Jerry & Del*

