

JERRY and DEL's CHRISTMAS LETTER 2015

Dear Family and Friends,

It is hard to believe another year has come and gone. Our square dance schedule and Del's many other activities make the time pass quickly.

The CALLERLAB Convention was wonderful as always; this year it was in Springfield, Mo. We catch up on the latest news from our square dance caller friends worldwide and meet new friends as well. Heading south to Branson, MO we took in five fantastic live shows in 3 days. Branson is wonderful, with amazing talent and showmanship, too bad nobody told us to beware of the timeshare folks. We found out the hard way, and their tactics at the "presentation" become very hard sell indeed.

In Texas, we visited with Shaun and Sarah, Jerry's son and Granddaughter. In New Mexico we visited Jerry's brother, Howard and his wife, Rosemary. We also stopped in Littleton, Colorado, near Denver, to spend time with square dance friends, Jim & Judy Taylor. Jerry's sister, Lois and her husband, Ben were next in Wyoming, then into Nebraska to see Jerry's brother, Fred and his wife Kay. Our family visits wound up in the Chicago area with Del's brother and his wife, Bob and Georgiann.

RV trip highlights:

- Visits with family and friends are always front and center, our routes are planned around them.
- Santa Fe; the galleries at Old Town and Canyon Road, a mile long street, sheer delight for an artist's eye.
- Being snowed in on Mother's Day in Cheyenne, Wy.
- Spending a week in Colorado Springs Air force Academy Campground surrounded by beauty and solitude.
- Touring the Terry Ludwig Pastel Factory, conducted by the very gracious owner himself.

One of our square dance leaders, Aileen Picheco, did all the leg work and pulled together a class for Jerry to teach. It is his greatest gift to teach new people and it is mine to assist him. We are proud of our new Sunday dance club and how enthusiastic and proficient they are becoming!

Our Thanksgiving Reunion Cruise is still fresh in our minds. We left Port Canaveral and cruised to the Bahamas. Including us, there were 15 all together. Jerry's sons, Kelly and Shaun came from Portland, OR and Tyler, TX respectively, along with our granddaughter, Sarah, who is very proud of being 11 years old. Bob and Georgiann drove down from Illinois. (You may remember their "Big Fat Greek Wedding" from last year's letter; Bob tells us, since passing their one year anniversary, he is now officially off probation.) Del's daughters, Pam and Leslie came with their spouses; our two oldest grandsons, Tyler and Jordan came with their brides. We all had a wonderful time in spite of some rough seas.

Once back in port, everyone came to our house where Deron and his boys, Kyle and Nolan, joined us for the afternoon. In this way, Del's kids/grands, got to meet Jerry's kids & granddaughter, something we desired for a long time! During a late afternoon trip to the beach, Sarah bravely went into the ocean, not just to wade, but to actually sit and let the still heavy waves wash over her. And, bless her heart, Sarah made not one complaint about how cold the water was! At evening time, Kelly fixed us a wonderful feast of crab legs and shrimp. Somewhat later that evening, it warmed our hearts when Sarah piped up and said, "We should come here more often!"

This year's travel plan includes the east coast, starting with CALLERLAB in Norfolk, VA, angling over into Maryland, Ohio, and Michigan, including the Upper Peninsula, then down thru Wisconsin. We may not get much further west this year than Iowa, where we will attend meetings at the National Square Dance Convention.

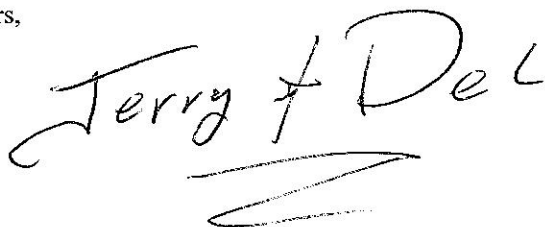
We noticed this year people are very receptive to using or responding to greetings of Merry Christmas and God bless you. Maybe there is more awareness of the stifling effect of political correctness and the detrimental effect it has had on our lives. Think of the miracle which is Christmas! How poetically God expresses his love for us by the actual words of Jesus himself:

"How often would I have gathered you together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you would not." Mt 23:37.

"For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Mt 7:8

Family becomes even more precious with each passing year. We are so thankful to God for his goodness and provision for us. We ask for his protection and consolation upon you, our family members and friends and upon ourselves; may we never take our dear Lord's blessings for granted. May Christ be born anew in our hearts today and daily.

Love and Prayers,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry & Del". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom of the letter, below the "Love and Prayers" text. There is a horizontal line drawn underneath the signature.