

December 31, 2000

Hello to Friends and Family!

This year, we spent Christmas with relatives in Massachusetts, so I didn't get the cards out on time. It's New Year's Eve day as I write this. Richard and I will be attending First Night later on, but I get ahead of myself. Let me recap the events of the year 2000.

Scott graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo (SLO), in December 1999 and was commissioned back into the Army as a 2nd Lieutenant. He was stationed in Ft. Jackson, SC, where he spent the bulk of this year.

Richard and I spent the first six months of 2000 fixing the boat and the house. We had bought a new, smaller engine for the boat which is diesel instead of gas. Because of the change in fuel and size, however, it meant other things needed to be fixed and we never did get it all finished this year. Mostly that's because we had decided to get the house on the market as soon as we could, sensing that it would be a good time to sell (we weren't really ready to move yet, but we decided we'd figure it out). Richard wanted the house to be perfect and, when we finished, it surely was. It was quite a project. The most interesting part was the painting. I wanted to pack our umpty-zillion belongings by giving away what we didn't need or want and then

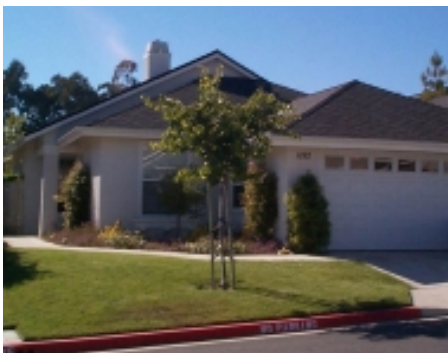


Richard swearing Scott in at Scott's commissioning



The Painter's Mess!

Monday mornings, stay over on our boat there during the week, and then



The new house in San Luis Obispo

packing in an organized fashion. I then called some painters to see how much they'd charge to paint the outside and perhaps the inside of the house. One told me he'd lower his bid if he could start right away on the inside (the weather was still really rainy) and that his guys would help move the furniture. Dumb me: I said okay. The guys were very nice and moved everything—into massive piles in the family room! The house sold quickly and we prepared to move to the house in San Luis Obispo in July. Richard (still working in northern California) would commute from SLO early

Monday mornings, stay over on our boat there during the week, and then drive back down for the weekend. He planned to retire in January so we knew we could get through six months of this, though we didn't like it.



Richard at the boat

Morgan and his roommates found another house for the fall quarter and Morgan moved there in August. In September he started back to school at Cal Poly as a Junior, still an English major as he couldn't switch to Chemistry. He started working with me part time then, and his help became invaluable as the year progressed.

In September, I started tracing the genealogy of Richard's family further (my mom had made a good start on his family tree and

had done much of ours). When I stopped to print trees for Christmas gifts, parts of his line were back to the middle ages in France and England and Morgan's and my lines went even further. One interesting note: I discovered that, through our French-Canadian ancestors, that Richard and I are 8th cousins, twice removed! He says this is grounds for divorce but hasn't made good on that threat yet. The genealogy is online at: <http://www.wordsworthusa.com/personal.htm>

Travis and Craig bought a house in Pittsburg, CA (in the East Bay region of Northern California). They found one that needed fixing and are in progress of renovating it. The house is at the end of the rapid transit line to San Francisco where they are both still working: Travis in IT for Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction and Craig as an office manager for Sumitomo Bank.



Morgan

Richard and I flew back to Massachusetts for Christmas and stayed for a week with his sister, Joan, in Woburn. Scott had recently transferred back to Ft. Bragg in North



Richard and Scott at Joan's house in Mass.

Carolina and was able to fly up to Massachusetts to join us there. He'd never met most of his relatives and suddenly found himself with approximately a dozen cousins, three aunts, three uncles, and about 16 nieces and nephews! We had a good time and enjoyed seeing them all again. We enjoyed the cold and the snow but were glad to return to sunny California and home after it was over.



Travis above and Craig below (taken at our old house)



Gale and Richard sharing a Christmas kiss

I have continued to have a good year with WordsWorth and the move hasn't seemed to affect the business. Richard will officially retire from Beckman Coulter on January 2, 2001. He asked that they not do a traditional retirement ceremony for him, as he wanted to do it differently: he gathered two large



and several small groups of people and recounted to them the things he felt they had done to contribute to his success at the company. His boss did present him with a plaque, he received several nice cards and letters from co-workers, and a set of bookends made from a centrifuge rotor cut in two. Several people have asked me how I'll

handle his being home all the time. My answer: I'll love it! I have been looking forward to having him here for six months and can think of nothing I'd like more.

Our door is always open if you are ever out this way. We'd sure love to see you. I've included our new address and phone numbers below, along with our email and web addresses. If you have an email address, please drop me a line—I find I stay in touch much better this way and I'd love to write more often.



Richard being presented a Meritorious Service Award at Beckman Coulter

Love and Happy New Year!

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