

Bah Humbug!

Opps, I mean Merry Christmas... On the other side of this letter you will find our Christmas letter for 2002. Those never made it out the door last year, at least to my (Mark's) mailing list. Sally was much better at it. Not that you were exactly sitting on the edge of your chair waiting for my letter anyway. So if you read that side first and you could not figure out what was going on, now you know. If you are reading this side first - well, you will be less confused.

The big news this year was of course the brush fire in October. For a complete report, look at my web site <http://www.silogic.com> . As a short summary, the fire, which burned 375,000 acres got to within about ½ mile of our house. We were evacuated for about 24 hours. 312 houses burned to the ground in the community of San Diego we live in - Scripps Ranch. Over 2200 houses were lost county wide. There is still ash falling from the sky every time the wind blows.

I (Mark) left my job at AMCC in January of 2003 and I am now either retired or between jobs. I'm not really sure which. About 4 months after I left, the entire design group that I was in was laid-off.

For Sally's combined after tax-season and birthday trip this year we went to Moab, UT and Durango, CO. In Durango, we rode the Durango & Silverton Railroad and in Moab, we visited Arches National Park. For a blow by blow account, again check our web site.

We bought a tent trailer last summer and have been spending time camping. A tent trailer is a step above a plain tent and I think we are getting too old to be sleeping on the ground. Our first trip was with Sally's daughter and family. We went to Yellowstone National Park - a first for me (Mark).

Sally is still running her tax practice. She had cut down a lot, though, and only works full time during tax season from February to April. She spends the rest of year playing with her four grandchildren.

My (Mark's) main time waster over the year has been genealogy research. Both of my parents were born in Italy and had lost track of most of their ancestors. Well I found them. The Internet has been a wonderful way to send out information and find people. I've found at least six cousins, including two in Italy, that we never knew about. You can read more on the web site. Look for the DiVecchio Family and the Frazzini Family Genealogical Pages.

We went back to visit Mark's parents in Aliquippa for Thanksgiving and will be spending Christmas here in San Diego with Sally's family.

If you haven't sent me your email, please do and we'll bore you with trip reports all year long.

Mark and Sally 21 Dec 2003

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