

## *Norm and Judy, 2001*

*Our newsletter is late this year. We were in Germany for most of October through February where Norm was visiting the University of Karlsruhe on a Senior Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship. 'more about that later.*

*In January, 2001, Norm was contemplating further surgery for his back problems. However, it became clear that this was not a viable option. Instead, he learned an intense physical therapy regimen that led to results that we think are miraculous. This is now a lifetime commitment to replace spinelessness with core (stomach) muscles. Biking, cross-country skiing, tele-skiing are still OK, but with some caution about twisting too fast.*

*By April, we were able to start traveling again. We went with Kevin and Clare to Deal Island on Chesapeake Bay for a family reunion of the progeny of Judy's father and his brothers. The last of Judy's uncles had died and his wife and children*

*chose to spread his ashes off the pier of the family home where that generation had grown up. This was a moving and emotionally uplifting experience, renewing connections that had been to*



*slide over the years.*

### *The Teas family reunion*

*In May, we celebrated two graduations. Abby finished her residency in Ohio and we went back there to the celebratory dinner for all of the finishing residents. It was gratifying to hear the nice*

*things that Abby's peers and the permanent medical staff said about her. After that, we celebrated Kevin's graduation from CU as the leading student in architecture. He is now at the University of Washington in Seattle, continuing his education with partial support*

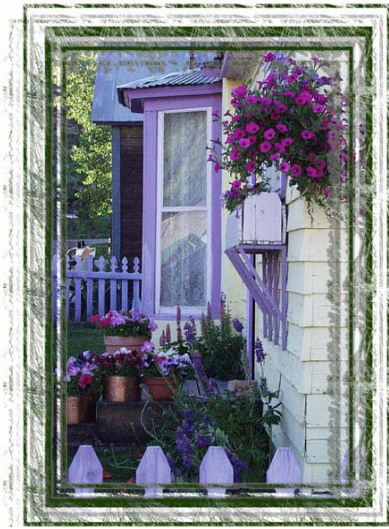


*The graduating residents*



*The graduate, mom and Clare*

## 2001 Crested Butte Wildflower Festival



Pixelditties card sample

from the school.

July found us in Crested Butte at the Wildflower Festival. Norm taught a digital photography and Judy experienced her first success at selling postcards and notecards made from our photos of the previous year. Development of the business is in progress with Judy setting up all sorts of connections for new product and production. Check it out at

[pixelditties.com](http://pixelditties.com).

In August Abby, the real doctor Bleistein, started her career in a practice in Evergreen, Colorado, a foothills community about 25 miles from where we live. You can find her on the web at

[http://www.mvp-docs.com/abby\\_bleistein.htm](http://www.mvp-docs.com/abby_bleistein.htm).

On 9/11 we were in San Antonio attending an international meeting. We were as shaken as everyone else, with various of the scenes bringing tears to our eyes as we watched the

unfolding events. By Saturday, we gave up on airtravel, rented a car and drove home.

Despite the fear-of-flying sweeping the country, we flew off to Germany at the end of September to start Norm's fellowship. My host, Peter Hubral is a fascinating person—a great scientist with strong interests in history. His administrative assistant, Claudia Payne, became a dear friend. She is well-known in our scientific community for her warmth and competence in dealing with people around the world.

Dealing with the German bureaucracy was a challenge that we learned how to overcome. We found a house to rent from a lovely couple who ultimately became dear friends. We eventually spent two wonderful days visiting them in their home city of Stuttgart. The house that we rented is in a small town called Blankenloch. We quickly learned to exploit the wonderful tram system to travel around the area. We were fortunate to have some friends from Denver, Norm and Barbara Harthill. Norm had been faculty at the Colorado School of Mines and Barbara was born in Karlsruhe, so they returned there in retirement. They were a wonderful source of advice and



Ursella and Wolfgang  
our landlady and landlord

took us on a fabulous drive along the Weinstrasse, the wine route along the Rhein River. We spent many lovely hours with them and were really thankful for their presence nearby.

Another highlight of our early time in Germany was a drive to Strasbourg, necessary for us to get some pages added to our passports at the American Consulate office there. This is a lovely town with a well-preserved old-town area.

The end of October found us in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil,



The Harthills

for an international geophysics meeting. This is the center of black culture in Brazil with fabulous music, dancing and food incorporating African and Brazilian flavors. The old town area, Pelourinho, is a treasure. We planned two tours for our second week in Brazil. The first tour was in a Brazilian back country equivalent Yellowstone.



Strasbourg



Largo de Pelourinho, Salvador

Unfortunately, Judy fell and broke her ankle on the back side of a strenuous hike on the first day; we were simply unprepared for the difficulty of the hike. It then took us four days to get back to Denver, with surgery the day after. Transportation started with a steep downhill ride for Judy in a hammock suspended on a pole, carried by four local people working in pairs. Then, a bus ride



Back in Salvador

back to the small town of Lencóis, a flight on the once-per-week plane to Salvador the next day. There, the owner of the agency that sold us the tour package, with her husband behind the wheel, chauffeured us to a hospital for X-rays, then to a hotel. It was a three flight trip back to Denver over the next two days with an appointment with the surgeon a few hours later. Fortunately, Judy had reset her ankle right after the fall. The surgery and the healing process went well and she is back to normal.

Judy returned to Karlsruhe in mid-December and Kevin and Clare joined us soon after for the holiday season. We went to Rothenburg, Munich and Füssen,



the latter to see Neuschwanstein, the fairyland castle of Mad King Ludwig that inspired the Disney castles.



Prague

In January, we went to Prague. We stayed at a B&B near the Academy of Sciences. On the one hand, the heating was marginally adequate; on the other hand, there was no hot water in our

shower, requiring that we walk down to a lower floor through an icy hall to take a shower. We would have left for a better hotel if not for George, the charming man who was running the B&B for his daughter while she was away. On our first day, he took Judy on an all-day tour of old Prague while Norm was at the Academy. Thereafter, he sat with us over breakfast every morning where we had delightful conversations. We just liked him too much to leave and we fell in love with Prague, resolving to return for a more extended visit in warmer weather.

*We attended the performance of an international renowned puppet version of Mozart's Don Giovanni and a wonderful string quartet concert in an old marble church. There are typically a dozen concerts to choose from every night in Prague.*

*We also went to Trieste, but at the time of a once-in-a-decade fog that cancelled flights all over northern Italy. However, we did manage to see some sixth century architecture as well as an Etruscan catacomb.*

*In February, we took a drive along the Alsatian wine route as far as Kolmar, really only a few hours away from Karlsruhe. We drove a backroad that rolled through vineyards with towns only about 4 km apart. All had old village gates and some amount of their ancient walls still in place. This is an ideal area to return for a bike ride in nicer weather.*

*Our last trip in Germany was to Berlin to attend the Project Review for Peter's consortium project. We stayed an extra few days to tour and attend some theater. We went to the Jewish museum which presents a history of the Jews in Germany. The building itself is architecturally exciting and the exhibit is extensive. We thought that the coverage of the holocaust, while*



*accurate, was relatively smaller than we would have liked. Ironically, the most interesting new architecture is in the former East Berlin, where there are many areas ripe for renovation and renewal. The Sony Plaza near Potsdamer Platz is a work in progress with the present state being very impressive.*

The castle at Heidelberg

*We spent our last night in Karlsruhe with the Harthill's at our favorite Italian restaurant. The waiter, another new friend, gave us a bottle of wine as a going-away present. Then, on our last day, we were in Heidelberg enroute to Frankfurt for our flight home on February 28.*

*Despite a slow start, this turned into a wonderful experience that has left us looking forward to our return next April. We feel enriched for the people we met and the places we visited.*