

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS, 1993

I hope this note finds you well and in good Holiday cheer. The year was marked with many high points for me, an important one of which is that I finally sold my old house and can get on with how I'd rather live. For the short term, I have rented a really cute little half-a-duplex in Menlo Park where every square inch is the way it is because I chose it to be that way. I have a nice kitchen where I can bake, a spare bedroom where I can write, sew, and have little Katherine sleep when she and her mommy visit me, and I have a bedroom with closet space for everything from my dress suit to my wet suit and from my oxfords to my cycling cleats. I have an attached 1-car garage where my XKE lives and that I treat just like any other room in the house and I have a living room with bookcases and music where I can sit in front of the fireplace in my Mom's easy chair. While my old house was in escrow and I was moving into this place, I must not have had enough to do or enough stuff to move. REI was having a sale and while my truck was in their parking lot, an Old Town canoe leapt up on my Yakima rack and I had no choice but to buy it.

Chris is still living in San Francisco, Dottie lives in Concord, and Duffy lives in Danville. Chris is still working at Williams-Sonoma and took the Graduate Record Exam this month with hopes of attending graduate school for an advanced degree in Political Science.

Martha, Katherine, and I had many memorable adventures. We got in some skiing amid work splitting the ancient oak that fell in Martha's front yard and lots of work putting tiles on her floors. Martha and I went through about 18 scuba tanks on Maui, Molokai, and Molokini last summer. We dove among the sea turtles and through caverns; our bottom time totaled about seven hours. We got in a couple of backpacks also. The shorter one, which included Katherine, was the Boot 'n Blister trip to Deadfall Lakes in the Klamath Mountains. It was the fifth hike in seven summers for our group and included about 17 folks of whom 6 were children. Next year we will accommodate the requests of folks who want a trip closer to their homes farther south and hike to Lake Aloha in the Desolation Wilderness off Highway 50 near Tahoe. Martha and I did a longer hike this summer from Saddlebag Lake through the Hoover Wilderness, cross-country over the Sierran crest into Yosemite National Park. We hiked from McCabe Lakes down to Tuolumne Meadows and found an interesting way to get back to our car. About 4 miles from the road on the morning of the last day, Martha's nose discovered a small forest fire which we contained by cutting a line around it with our boot heels. When we got to the road later that morning, the ranger who took our report dispatched a helicopter crew to do the mop-up and then gave us a ride to our

car in the back of his pickup so we were still able to get back to daycare in Sacramento by 6:00 PM to get Katherine ("what did you do today, Mommy?").

The canoe has been quite a kid's toy for both the big kids and the little ones. We took it to the Discovery Learning Center field trip at Lake Tahoe and filled it up with small children and their parents (sharing turns, of course) and paddled around on the lake and up a small creek. We got in a couple of trips on Lake Natoma besides paddling on the bay by my house. We did a fair amount of visit travel to see family and friends this year. I made four trips to southern California to visit folks, see *Phantom of the Opera* with Martha, visit Martha's brother, and attend a niece's wedding. I made another trip to Tucson (that's thrice this year) for another niece's graduation and made a trip to a cousin's house in Eugene and a couple friends' wedding in Corvallis.

My USGS work on the National Mineral Resource Assessment is moving along well. We finished estimation numbers of undiscovered lead, copper, zinc, gold, and silver deposits and their probable tonnages and grades and are working on the manuscript. I got in some field work looking at gold, zinc, and iron deposits in the Klamath Mountains. On my way through the upper Trinity River drainage, I stopped to visit the ranger station where I worked in 1967. I went up to the fire-lookout tower and had coffee with the same lookout who was working there when I fought fires on that district 26 years ago. It was, after all, the Coffee Creek Ranger District. Back in the office, I have been asked to coordinate mineral resource assessment work for the Branch starting early next year. We gave a paper in the Spring at the Geological Society of America on the geologic map of the South Sierra Wilderness and I was invited to give a presentation on those granitic rocks at the National Association of Geology Teachers conference at Lake Shasta late in the summer. Martha joined me for the field trip to Shasta Caverns at the end of the conference. My third paper was one I co-authored on lithium and other brine minerals at the Northwest Mining Association meeting in Spokane. The National Assessment took me to Tucson twice and Spokane one other time this year. A nice touch for my year at the Survey was that I received the Department of Interior's Superior Service Award for my work on the Wilderness Program since 1987.

My new address is 1035 Florence Lane, Menlo Park, CA 94025-4903; my phone number remains (415) 321-6094 and my email address is still [mdiggles@mojave.wr.usgs.gov](mailto:mdiggles@mojave.wr.usgs.gov). We will be celebrating Christmas at Martha's with friends and family members again this year. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Love,

Mike