

Season's Greetings 1990  
442 SHIPLEY ROAD LINTHICUM, MD 21090

Well, it's been an interesting year for us.

As you can see, we've moved. We're now living in a 37-room mansion that formerly belonged to the deposed Emir of Qatar. The rent is within our budget, but taking care of the 192-acre grounds is running us all a bit ragged.

There have been some family developments. Don's sister-in-law Yvonne gave birth in October to sextuplets: four girls and two boys. They've decided on the names Mary, Terry, Kerry, Peri, Larry, and Bert. Thomas' Great-Aunt Ernestina died in July...but you know how Thomas is, he walked in and laid hands upon her, and she just sat right up and started singing "God Save the Queen." You should have seen the look of surprise on Great-Uncle Seymour's face! We're still laughing about it to this day.

We've each had some progress on the career front. In August Renfield got tired of being Chairman of the Board at IBM, so he sold his controlling shares and went to work in the mail room. Would you believe it, he's already on his way to his second ten million! Thomas is working steadily now on a series of assignments for a government agency whose name we can't reveal. He gets to travel a lot, and some of the stories he tells at dinner are most amusing. Don's writing career continues to flourish: under his "Stephen King," "Danielle Steel," and "Tom Clancy" pseudonyms he's pretty much got the publishing world sewn up.

Of course there have been developments on the schooling front. Renfield spent the summer in Tibet studying under the Dalai Lama; he made the Honor Roll several times, and he's looking forward to being canonized as a Buddhist saint early next year. Thomas turned in his dissertation and earned his doctorate in April...this makes number twelve for him. He's particularly pleased in this one, since the languages of medieval Herzegovina have always been a passion of his.

We had a number of interesting vacations. In February the three of us hiked the Great Wall of China and then finished up with a little scuba diving off the Great Barrier Reef. June saw us in London for our annual dinner with the House of Lords. And in early November we travelled to Virginia to research the mating habits of the mutant blind albino cave-dwelling cow. Right now we're all getting geared up for our upcoming trip to Mars for the start of the Nix Olympica skiing season.

Renfield got a new car. Actually, it was quite a good deal...the former owners abandoned it, and all we had to do was bring it back home. It's a 1971 Lunar Rover, and although it doesn't get great mileage, it sure turns heads in the parking lot!

As you can imagine, we've picked up a few little knick-knacks over the last year. Renfield's comics collection continues to grow -- he now has sixteen copies of *Action Comics* #1, and his complete run of mint-condition *Batman* comics is threatening to drive us out of house and home. We also picked up a dozen new Cray computers, a complete set of Volkswagens from 1944-1979, and not one but *three* Holy Grails.

We're almost out of space, so let us close with our most sincere wishes that your New Year will be as happy and prosperous as our 1990. May God bless and keep you (we'll mention it to Him next week at our usual Tuesday brunch).

Yours,

*Dan, Thomas, and Don*