

Christmas, 2002
The Sienkewicz Family
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We are fortunate to have no earth shaking news to report this year. None of us was hit by a car. None of us won a Nobel Prize. None of us won the lottery. Rather, we seem to have had a quiet, routine year. Anne continues to find her job at the American Red Cross in Galesburg a mix of satisfaction and frustration. Much of her time is spent dealing with people who have no funds for things like essential medications and power bills. Sometimes the Red Cross can help and Anne feels happy. Sometimes it can't, and then she comes home unhappy. She has taken up knitting again.

Meanwhile Tom finds lots of things to keep him busy at the college. He is seeing more students who want to become Classics professors. That pleases him, of course, but he is especially happy with those who are expressing an interest in teaching Latin in high school. Believe it or not, there is actually a real shortage of qualified high school Latin teachers right now. Tom, in fact, is active in an effort to establish an annual National Latin Teacher Recruitment Week beginning in March, 2003. In October Tom hosted the Illinois Classical Conference on campus. Arranging the conference was a lot of work, but Tom felt that it was well worth the effort to bring on campus high school Latin teachers from across the state. Tom has actually been to Europe twice this year. In January he took a Monmouth College group to Rome for four nights and was pleased to see so many more open archaeological sites. He got to see several things not open the last time he was in Rome (in 1994!), including Nero's Golden House and the new exhibit of artifacts from the Museo Nazionale in the Palazzo Massimo (The frescoes from the House of Livia are a must see!). Another new thrill was the opportunity to walk across the arena of the Colosseum. Tom was back in Europe in July, this time with his niece Tracy San Filippo. They did a whirlwind tour of London, Paris, Nimes, Nice, Florence, Pisa, Siena, Assisi, and Rome (in two weeks, believe it or not), with a high school group from the Chicago area.

Marie is now in her second year of veterinary school at the University of Illinois. She has still been working part-time as a librarian in the Veterinary

School Library, but plans to give that up next semester. Julia is a second-year Art History graduate student at the University of Illinois. She hopes to finish her masters this spring and then move on towards doctoral work, most probably in the area of nineteenth-century American art. The girls are sharing a little house in Champaign with two dogs they adopted from the Veterinary School. One, Ellie Mae, had been a blood donor for many years. The other, Red Bone, had been used for chemotherapy experimentation. Besides the two dogs the girls also have Marie's two cats as well as Julia's parakeets and her turtle Piglette who gets bigger and bigger every year. Her shell is now about 12 inches in length. This fall Tom had to buy a major pond pump to circulate the water in her tank.

Richard is in his third year at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. He is enjoying his classes at Lawrence so much that he would like to spend five or even six years there taking a wide variety of courses. He is now an East Asian Languages and Cultures (i.e., Japanese) major and is talking about minors in Music and in Philosophy. Last summer he housesat for the girls while they were traveling and worked for a pizza parlor. For several days in August he even sold pizzas at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield! This summer, however, he hopes that Lawrence will send him back to Japan for a few weeks.

In May we had a visit from not only Aunt Frances and but also Aunt Gloria, who was visiting Monmouth for the first, and we hope not the only, time. Then in June Tom traveled back home to north Jersey for his niece Theresa Gallo's graduation from high school. This was a landmark event because her mother Toni has now moved from Clifton back to California and Aunt Frances has also moved down to live with Eddie near Atlantic City. So the Clifton era is over.

All of us but Richard made the annual migration to Maine for two weeks in early August. We mostly swam and visited with Anne's folks but were also pleased to have Anne's Aunt Bernie and her husband George Worthy visit from California for a few days.

For the first time in many years we were all home for Thanksgiving and celebrated with a meal at home, although Anne spend the morning stirring gravy for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. We hope that this holiday season brings you joy and peace.

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