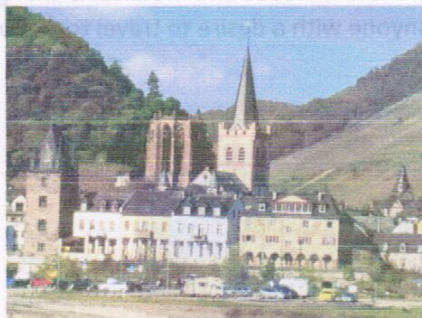


Merry Christmas and Happy 2018!

2017 was a year of change for the Colorado Eckles as we sold our veterinary practice in January. Although Sandy misses the people and pets of the clinic the sale has afforded us the luxury of time and freedom that we have not had for the past 30 years.

The first consequence of the sale was that we spent the first 6 months finding and purchasing two condominium rental properties north of Denver to replace the real estate that was sold with the veterinary practice. The result was that we are now landlords but with a management company handling the headaches and both properties fully rented it is a "job" that still affords us lots of freedom.

We then began work on our "bucket list". With 30 years of "things we want to do when we retire" the list is long and varied! In April we spent 10 days on a river cruise in Europe from Switzerland to Amsterdam, Netherlands. It was a fun trip and we found the history fascinating, loved the castles and cathedrals and enjoyed the small ship experience. At the end of the cruise we spent several days in Amsterdam – saw the beautiful gardens in full spring bloom and learned to watch out for all the bicycles! We spent time going to several horse farms in the area and then two days in Liverpool, England, visiting the horse broker we bought two horses from 7 years ago. We found a 3-year-old German Sport horse and a 4-year-old Dutch Warmblood to buy which were subsequently shipped to us in July.



Having the time and opportunity to ride her horses has been a priority on Sandy's list and as Milo says, "she can now ride 5 hours a day, 7 days a week instead of only 5 hours a week". With 2 show horses and 2 new young horses to work with (and one retired "pet") she is busy, tired and blissfully happy.

Milo finds himself trying to keep up with the "honey do" list that is always present on 40 acres as well as being on the "call Dad" list for our girls' homes. He enjoys singing with several choral groups in the area and just finished with the Parker Chorale Christmas program and the church "Messiah" production. He also is actively involved with a front range group of Tesla owners, and has made several trips in his Model S Tesla including a trip to the Black Hills this summer. Although a trip to the production plant in California is still on his list he was able to attend the unveiling of the Tesla semi-truck and new roadster in Los Angeles last month.

Our girls are both doing well, and we are tickled that they are in Colorado so that we are able to see them often. Jennifer is now a nurse R.N. working on the cardiac floor of a large trauma hospital in

Denver. She recently adopted a new family member, Bozeman, a young rambunctious pup to share life with her other 2 dogs, Dax and Huckleberry. Laura is a part time student at CSU in Ft. Collins and works part time in a substance abuse center. She has a special interest in psychology and autistic children and has a patience and ability that continues to amaze us



Summer brought a trip to Wyoming to see the total eclipse – a truly amazing experience that everyone should see once in their lifetimes. We also embarked on a hiking and biking program throughout the summer to prepare for our trip to Peru and Machu Picchu in September. We went with a group of 9 and guides from REI, stayed in some wonderful places in the Andes, ate great Peruvian food and climbed the mountains at Machu Picchu. It is a magical place and the clouds and mountains change constantly so the view is never the same. We would encourage anyone with a desire to travel to explore that part of the world.



In October we were lucky enough to be able to arrange a trip to Princeton, New Jersey to visit Milo's sister, Doreen and her husband Arlo. Milo's other sister, Mary, met us there and we were able to catch up on some great family time.

We are blessed to spend the Christmas season here with our children and their friends Sofia and John. We will miss our two canine friends, Pounce and Kahlua, that we lost this year but will still share the holidays with 7 dogs. We thank God for health, family and friends and hope that 2018 brings all of you joy and love.

Milo and Sandy Eckles