

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM COLORADO!!

2019 was a busy year for us – we still haven't figured out how we ever had time to work since our days in retirement are so full.

In March we checked off a trip from our bucket list to the Galapagos. We had visited the Inland Passage in Alaska with National Geographic and were impressed with how knowledgeable they were, so we chose to go with them on this trip as well. Traveling on a small ship (only 48 people) allowed us to interact with the other passengers and we met many nice people as well as were able to get up close with the wonderful animals that inhabit the islands. We visited the islands of San Cristobal, Espanola, Floreana and Santa Cruz and marveled at the playfulness of the sea lions, the gentleness of the giant land tortoises, the fierce look of the iguanas and the beauty of the islands themselves. It is such a unique place that we would love to go back again sometime.



For many years Sandy has wanted a full-sized indoor dressage arena to ride her horses out other wind and weather and this year she finally got her wish. We had a 70' x 210' built with wonderful sand and rubber footing and she spent the summer riding our 4 dressage competition horses six to eight hours every day. Milo did all the water and electrical work himself as well as fencing the new outdoor arena which kept him busy and out of mischief. The workload was made easier by his new toy – a John Deere tractor – which has been a blessing.

In August we took a trip back to Aplington, Iowa, for Milo's high school class reunion. Most of his classmates made it back for the party and we had a wonderful evening catching up on their lives and remembering the "good old days". The trip also gave us a chance to spend time with Milo's sister, Mary, and her family and see how much farming has changed since we were last home.



Our oldest daughter, Jenn, who is a R.N., is now working in the I.C.U. and recently got an early Christmas present by being able to work days instead of nights. She has taken on a huge load by going back to school for her doctorate in nursing while working full time but still finds time to enjoy the outdoors of Colorado. Our younger daughter, Laura, lives in Ft. Collins where she is a part time student and works as a manager in a drug rehab facility. She got engaged this year to a wonderful young man and we are excited to have John join our family next year.



Our four-legged family continued to grow this summer with the addition of a deaf 8-month-old Border Collie. She is a bundle of energy and her deafness has presented challenges getting her attention when she is running outside. Our daughter, Laura, has a young deaf dog as well and our family seems drawn to dogs with problems, so we are all used to dealing with their demands. It keeps us all busy and humble.

Our fall has been spent giving away clothes, books, etc. and working at going through boxes of "stuff". Sandy had a shoulder replacement surgery this fall (having dislocated it and torn the rotator cuff in a fall from a horse last year) and it seemed like a good chance to spend the down time going through papers and boxes. Sadly, we won't be able to do any skiing this year, but we are looking forward to a visit from our Australian friends, Ray and Jen, when they come out to ski in February. We are planning a trip to Costa Rica and the Panama Canal on a four-mast sailing ship in March and possibly a trip to Alaska next summer. At the top of our list, however, are wedding plans for Laura and John - probably in the fall. We are truly blessed with wonderful family and good health and thank the Lord for all he has given us. We wish everyone a glorious Christmas shared with those you love and a 2020 full of joy and peace.

Milo and Sandy