

STAN KENICZ - L.P. from No. 17 & 4

120/11/93

The Croft Cronical

20 December 1993

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Dear

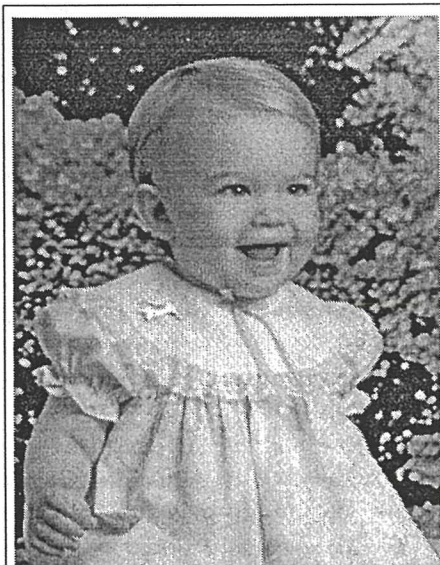
Our sincere apologies for not sending out our annual letter last Christmas. What a busy year 1992 was. All of our time was completely spent with family, interstate visitors, overseas friends and relatives. Here we are in December 1993 again virtually in the same position. As the festive season approaches, we think of our friends & family and wish you & yours a Very Merry Christmas as well as a Happy & Prosperous New Year.

1992 seems so far back and with age creeping up on both of us, we will not stress ourselves at trying to remember everything that happened. John took two flights to Western Australia in 1992 for two weeks each time to see his mother. In November of the year we motored to Sydney via the coastal roads, taking 3 days to visit friends along the way. The purpose of our trip was to attend the christening of our first grandson, Benjamin Robert Miller. It was a day to remember. As you know, our daughter Jeanette & husband Michael live in Sydney. Michael's parents, Bob & Kay came out to Australia from South Carolina, USA for the christening and a month's visit afterwards. Bob's sister Charlotte and husband Jack flew over as well from Ohio. Our eldest daughter Suzanne also flew up from Melbourne for a week.

Jeanette & Michael had fifty of their closest friends come on the day so needless to say it was a full house - especially after the outside party moved indoors due to the rain. After 10 days in Sydney we left for home with Jack & Charlotte on board. We travelled back to Melbourne via Canberra, (the capital of Australia). A few days later Joan's brother, John Twiss arrived from Perth for a two month holiday with us. Two days later after his arrival, Michael & Jeanette arrived with Bob & Kay in tow to share with us in the Christmas festivities. It was a big Christmas table with twenty-three of us gathered around. Bob Miller ended up playing Santa Claus for the kids.



1993 started out by John Croft having to return to WA in January as his mother passed away after suffering a heart attack. Then in February our youngest son Robert and his wife Paula arrived from Baltimore to show us our then newest of grandchildren Chelsea.



Chelsea Anne Croft
Born on 2 September 1992

They spent all of February with us leaving behind the snow & ice of America and arriving in Melbourne on one of the hottest days on record.

What an adjustment - fortunately no one caught pneumonia! It was good to see them again and of course Chelsea who was five months old at the time was at an adorable stage. Chelsea had a second christening here in Melbourne by the same priest who confirmed and gave Robert his first holy communion. Afterwards we all returned home with 50 guests for a grand celebration on Chelsea's behalf. It lasted all day long and into the night. Jeanette, Michael & Benjamin made the trip down to be with the family. Happy times for all but sad when it was time to say goodbye to them. We never know how long it will be before the next time the whole family can reunite.

Must mention John's highlight for the year. In

September of 1993 he was installed as "Master" of his lodge. It was a sensational night with Joan catering for 200 people - the biggest installation his lodge has ever seen.

It is a very busy year for the both of us. John with all of his responsibilities and Joan with all of the catering and social activities that have to be planned and attended to. Any spare time Joan has is spent trying to sneak away for a game of bowls which is her latest venture and preferred pastime pleasure. John of course can usually be found in his garden rain or shine when he's not at lodge.

Now for some other great news. Jeanette & Michael have had another family addition, another son and brother for Benjamin. He was born on the 13th of October just a few hours after Joan arrived in Sydney to help with the situation. Smart kid, he waited for the babysitter to arrive for Ben!

The newest addition brings the



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total to five grandchildren for us. Christopher John (John in honour of his grandfather Croft) weighed 8lbs-3oz at delivery and is growing quite rapidly. Jeanette was home after just one day in hospital, needless to say, she is doing well. Ben is 17 months old and loves his new little brother. He is quite gentle with him - he has quite a sweet and kind nature (we're probably a bit biased on that one though). Jeanette and Michael have been busy little bees, selling their home and buying another in a lovely suburb in St. Ives which is closer to the city than their Camden home was.

They have enjoyed the



*Christopher John Miller
Born on 13 October 1993*

neighbourhood so much that they bought the home next to them as well. They'll be moving from #3 Kilpa Place and into #1 Kilpa Place early in the new year. At #1 Kilpa, they'll have a sauna, inground pool and billiard room along with a guest room. So if you're ever in Sydney look them up as long as your not allergic to dogs, cats or kids! They have also expanded their photography business and now have interests in Queensland and Tasmania as well as Sydney. Good luck to the success of their business!

Joan had a month in Sydney and John went up for 10 days. Jeanette needs all the help she can get because she really does have two babies on her hands and with the help she gives Michael in the businesses she is the perfect example of that old cliché "a woman's work is never done". John kept himself busy pulling out excess garden beds and laying out new lawns and generally cleaning up the large block their house is on. He seemed pretty happy with the achievements of his hard work - Michael made the comment, "John, I hope I'm successful enough so that I can retire early and work like a slave in someone elses garden just like you". Their place is looking pretty good and after just barely getting finished in time, John flew back home for a rest (Wrong, John doesn't know what rest is!)

Suzanne & Ross are still doing well in their carpet business and are looking forward to a well earned break up in Queensland after Christmas. On the way back home they're stopping by Jeanette and Michael's to see their newest nephew as well as Ben. Ben just adores Suzanne and laughs at anything she does. When the two of them get together the whole house ends up in hysterics.

Our eldest son John and his wife Merrilyn seem to be midstream in starting a new venture. Young John is very involved in his fishing hobby and goes deep sea fishing at every opportunity for Black Marlin and anything else he can catch as he has to report every Saturday morning on his radio programme and newspaper article "Where the fish are biting". He keeps us in fresh fish - no complaints. Danielle our eldest grandchild started school this year and has enjoyed every day. Melissa the younger of the two began attending Kindergarten and she too enjoys the daily activities.

In the past two years their has

been so many disasters in the world, apart from the world economy with so much unemployment in every country - the civil wars in Yugoslavia, floods in Europe and America along the Mississippi, hurricanes in Florida, earthquakes, fires in California, North Sea oil rigs - where are we heading? Stop the world I want to get off! Still I guess we should count our blessings and thank God for our health and wonderful children.

We wish you all the best. Do try and come and see us in Australia sometime, otherwise we will just have to take off again and come & visit you! We thank you for your friendship and hope to see you again soon.

With kindest regards & affection,

**Happy
Holidays!**

John & Joan Croft

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MELBOURNE
AUSTRALIA