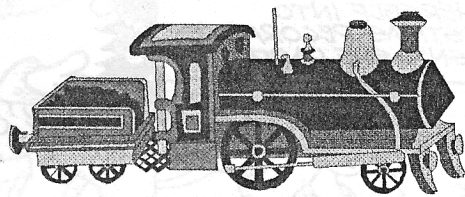


MARLER



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 6

DEC 1996



Well another year gone by already. This year both a lot has happened and not much has happened. Let me try to explain.

Like always we will start where we left off last year: December 1995. On 6 December we found out that Kristy was pregnant and that I would be going to Bosnia within two weeks. We were both thrilled and upset at the same time.

Five helicopters from my division, 1st Infantry Division, had been tasked to fly the four star Admiral who commanded IFOR. My battalion commander explained that we would be rotated after six months.

Kristy and I decided to have Christmas early (notice I did not say celebrate). We purchased a video camera and began taping the beginning of the pregnancy.

The day before I was to fly off to Bosnia, Kristy began to have troubles and miscarried. I was allowed to stay behind while Kristy went into the hospital for her surgery. She was released on Christmas Eve.

Trying to raise our spirits and salvage the holidays we went to Garmisch, Germany, a military ski resort in the Alps. Neither of us skied but it was nice to get away. Because we were trying to make the most of the time we had left together we did not totally deal with this second miscarriage.

Kristy went back to work full-time at her new job as a Transportation Counselor right after the new year. On the 12th of January I flew to Bosnia. Not too long after I arrived the possibility of rotations disappeared and we were told to expect to stay the whole year.



With this new news and the recent loss Kristy realized things were too much and sought counseling. By late February it got so bad that by early March I came home on leave to help.

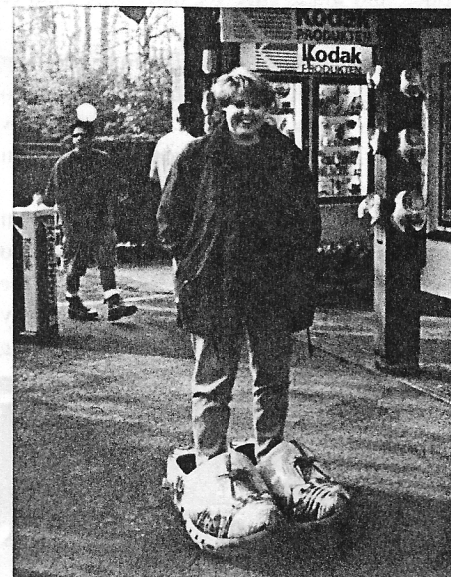
We went to visit Kristy's family in Maryland and to start the healing process that we had put off. While in Maryland we went to Busch Gardens Amusement Park.

Upon our return to Germany we began genetic testing to check and see if there was a particular reason for the miscarriages. We would have to wait until late May to find out that genetically we are both healthy and the miscarriages are genetically unrelated. At that time Kristy was put on medications to help build up her system so she would be ready to try when I got home later in the year.

As it we didn't have enough to worry about Kristy turned 30 in mid April. "Luckily" I was able to be here to watch this catastrophic consequence in a woman's life. To help her through this I tried to raise her spirits by spoiling her rotten in the gift department.

Unfortunately I had to return to Bosnia within the week. In my absence Kristy tried to keep busy by seeing Europe. First Holland, then Poland, and the Czech Republic.

In Holland, Kristy attended the tulip festival. She was amazed at all the brilliant colors they came in. She loved Amsterdam, the windmills, and found the people to be very friendly and gorgeous. I still have to go verify this. The highlight of the trip was the canal ride within the city.





CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In early May she went to Poland. She found it to be very gloomy & depressing but was able to purchase a local favorite: Polish Pottery.

Later the same month she travelled to Prague. The city had incredible architecture and a fantastic canal dinner cruise. Her favorite memory of the trip was of her and two girlfriends wearing huge stupid hats and receiving strange looks. "What, you've never seen tourists before?"

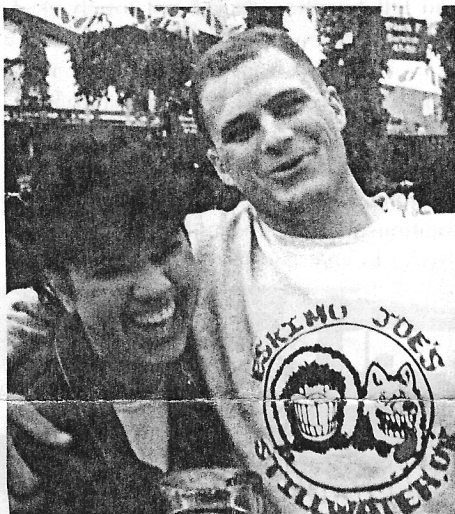
Although our 8th Wedding Anniversary was in late July, we celebrated when I returned for R & R on Aug. 7th. I surprised Kristy by taking her to London for a week. It turned out to be the best vacation we've ever taken. We stayed in a 4- star hotel next to Victoria Station (the hub for public transportation). We travelled by double decker buses, taxi cabs, the Tube (subway) and took a boat tour on the Thames River. We saw Westminster Abbey & Cathedral, Buckingham Palace, Tower of London, Big Ben, London Bridge, Tower Bridge (what everybody thinks is London Bridge), Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square, Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, Tower of Terror, Scotland Yard etc. We visited a nightclub, a few pubs and made sure we had some Fish & Chips.

I returned to Bosnia on Aug 20th. Later in the month Kristy went to the Nuremberg Fest and to a brand new Theme Park (Warner Bros.) in northern Germany.

In Sept., Kristy's best friend from High School (in Hawaii) came for a two week visit. Suzee and Kristy spent the 1st weekend in Paris. Although Kristy had been there before, she enjoyed doing

the city again. The Eiffel Tower was just as breath taking the 2nd time around. They cruised the Seine River and drank wine at a little outdoor cafe. So chiel.

I returned from Bosnia for good on 2 October, just in time for me and the ladies to hit Octoberfest in Munich. Talk about a party, or at least a LOT of drinking. You have to see it to believe it.



We were like the Three Musketeers/Stooges depending on what we were doing.

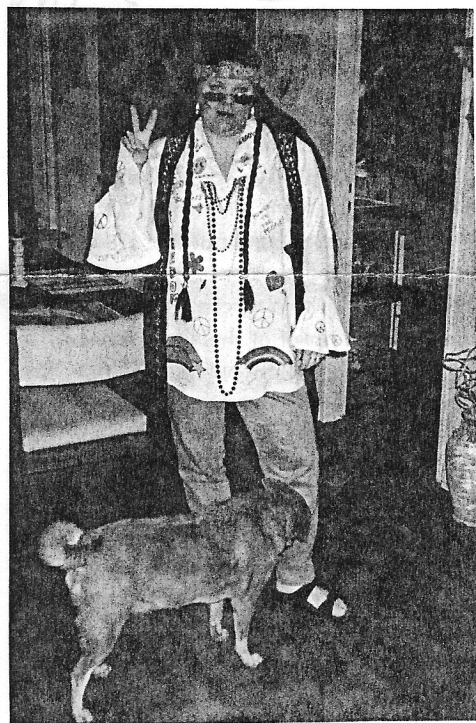


Although we hated to see Suzee leave we had to let her go so she could get ready for her upcoming wedding and more importantly her reunion with her fiance who had been at sea for the last six months. Welcome home Brian.

Soon after Suzee left I turned 30. Kristy bought me a newer used car because my other one was beyond repair after sitting unused for most of the year.

My battalion has been identified to go to Bosnia to cover the withdrawal of the 1st Armored Division who has been there for almost a year. So with almost everybody gone, it is fairly busy for all of us left behind. At least I am busy.

Because of all the things going on we didn't have our annual Halloween Blowout. Kristy did dress up as a hippie for work and we handed out candy that night.



For Thanksgiving we plan on going back to Garmisch in the Alps. This time I will definitely hit the slopes. I will try to find some wild horses to drag Kristy onto the slopes.

We hope to have a nice, relaxing old fashioned Christmas at home this year. But you will hear about that next year.



FAMILY MATTERS

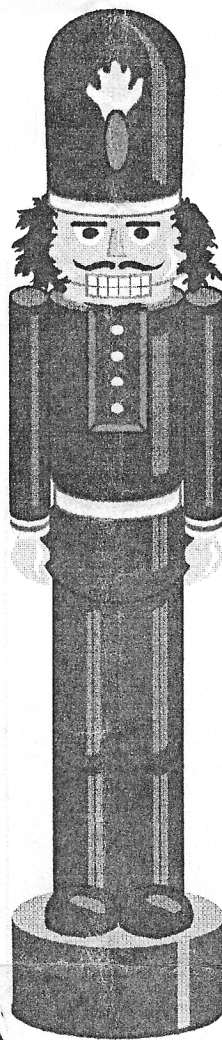
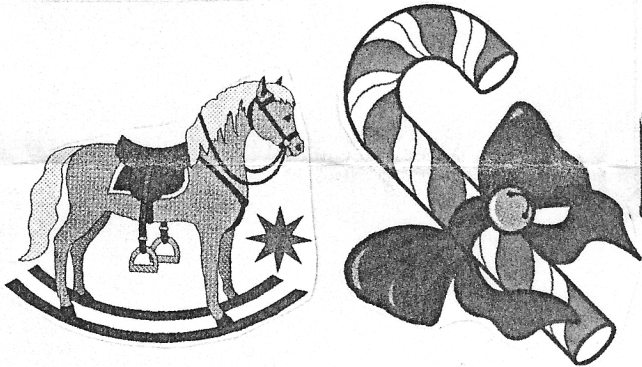
LAPPIN Jim & Mary Mary spent all of her free time landscaping her yard and had our Grandma Streeter for a months visit. Jim celebrated his 50th in July. He played golf when not helping Mary in the garden & went to Canada on business.

HINKLE Jonathan & Kerri Kerri substituted at the local elementary schools & taught at Sylvan's in the evening while Jonathan worked as a supervisor in the repair section at his computer/xeroxing business. They vacationed in California during summer.

MARLER Lucille Lucille has a new companion; Honey (Boxer dog) She vacationed in Santa Fe, New Mexico with her sisters in late Sept.

MARLER Kelly, Natalie, Nicholas, Garrett & Payton Kelly added more stores to his KFC business. Nat works at a bank when not raising 3 children. Nic ventured in sports this year. Garrett enjoys spending time at Grandma Lucille's. Payton has grown like a weed and is learning to walk.

MARLER Randy & Tracie They moved back to Enid so Randy could manage one of it's KFC stores. Tracie continues her education and has decided to earn a degree in Early Education.



DEAR ANN LANDERS:

Why do normally intelligent people take leave of their senses at Christmas? I refer to individuals who compose interminable chronicles of the year's activities, have them mimeographed and proceed to send the drivel to everyone they know. Isn't this the height of arrogance? What makes these people think anyone (save a special few) is interested in wading through all that stuff?

For several years, we've been receiving family newsletters, and I've had it up to here. It galls me the way everyone paints such a glowing picture of affluence and success. I have a fistful of Christmas letters from all over the country and will lift a few sentences from each to illustrate the point.

"Dear Friends: What a wonderful year we've had! Jim was named vice president of the bank, so we celebrated by buying a Mercedes and taking a trip to the Orient. In addition to his Boy Scout work, Jim served as chairman of the United Fund drive. He is still on the hospital board and president of Kiwanis. Just for

laughs, he played the lead in a little theater production last June and everyone said he was better than the star who did it on Broadway. His first love, however, is still conservation. He continues to work hard as chairman of the Committee to Fight Dutch Elm Disease.



ANN LANDERS

"After completing my term as Junior League president, I swore I would take life easy, but it seems I am more involved than ever. I accepted the vice presidency of the garden club and am still active in the Daughters of the American Revolution. Our church organist became ill, and they asked me to substitute, so I accepted. I ran the rummage sale for the Eastern Star again this year and

managed to squeeze in a course on flower arranging that was offered by a Japanese exchange student.

"Jim Jr. won his letters in football and basketball. He is on the all-star debate team and placed third in the national oratory contest. We were surprised when we read in the paper that he had won \$100 in an essay contest sponsored by the American Legion. He has already been accepted by Harvard. Debbie was elected president of her class and homecoming queen. She is almost

as tall as her mother! Our wee Betsy is quite a little horsewoman — won a blue ribbon in the show at Grosse Point." And so it goes — until you could gag.

Next year, Ann Landers, I'm going to send a newsletter to all the people who have been sending ME newsletters. It will read something like this:

Dear Friends: We had a perfectly rotten year. Hal was passed over for promotion again, so he got mad and quit. He hasn't lined up a new job yet, but he looks in the want ads every day. In the meantime, he is drinking like a fish.

Hal Jr. was defeated for homeroom monitor. He flunked French and will have to go to summer school. Billy has not had a haircut since August and had to hock his guitar to pay for repairing his Honda, which he wrecked.

Jane is protesting something and shaved her head two weeks ago. Her father is not speaking to her, which is just as well because I think she is deaf from all that loud music. My mother-in-law's annual two-week visit in May turned into two months, and my migraines got so bad I had to go back into therapy.

As I write this, the whole family is down with the flu, and I don't feel so good myself. We hope next year is better. It couldn't be worse. Love

— MARY

How I Spent my Winter, Spring, Summer & Fall Vacation

When I first arrived in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia we were living in Zagreb, Croatia. The conditions were outstanding considering. We lived in metal containers, had hot showers, and a good dining facility. We would fly from Zagreb to Sarajevo to support the admiral and return at the end of the mission. Although we were always nervous about getting shot at, we had no problems.

While Croatia is pretty flat, Bosnia-Herzegovina is really mountainous. The scenery is very impressive if you don't look at the blown up villages.

When I returned in April we had moved to Tuzla, Bosnia. Living on the air base was not as good as in Zagreb, but still better than normal. Flying an admiral is interesting. You get to see and sometimes meet people you see on TV. The most interesting probably was Woody Harrelson, the actor from Cheers. He was in Sarajevo filming a movie with Marissa Tome. He came by the IFOR headquarters and spent several hours with us at a party. I didn't have my camera so you will have to believe me on this one.

Although I did not particularly enjoy being in Bosnia there were some benefits. I flew about five times as much as I would have had I stayed in Germany. With all this flight time I learned much about the Blackhawk and even became a Pilot In Command. While in Bosnia I received several additional pay incentives and my paycheck was tax free. Between that and Kristy's job we were able to pay off all our debts. And finally I will receive a couple ribbons and medals for being there.

HAVE A GREAT 1997 !!! ♥, J&K