12/97

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Retirement continues to be enjoyable even though perusal of my 1997 calendar shows the year to have been very similar to '96. My health continues to be stable.

I still do volunteer work for the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council (NRC) on the modernization of the National Weather Service. This project is due to wind down by early 1999. In late January-early February I traveled to Irvine, CA for the NRC and Long Beach for the annual meeting of the American Meteorological Society. I also went to Boulder, CO in June and Cape Cod in September for the NRC.

Personal travel increased a bit in 1997. In March eight of us wine and food lovers rented the fully staffed "Quinta da Bacalhoa" (a one-star attraction in the Portugal Michelin green guide) located about 40 miles SW of Lisbon, near Setúbal. It was originally built in the latter part of the 15th century and restored in the 1930s. It has several "pictures" assembled from handmade tiles, including the oldest figurative panel in Portugal (1565). San Francisco and Napa Valley areas received me for a week in April. I had good visits with relatives and friends, and much good food and wine. The "French Laundry" restaurant in Napa Valley is particularly outstanding, but one must reserve at least a month in advance! July-August I returned to Boulder to help my friend Stan Ruttenberg refinish wood paneling in his house in preparation for selling it; they plan to move next summer to a new retirement community in Boulder. We had plenty of entertainment on the side: Shakespeare, Aspen and Colorado Music Festival concerts, and good food with much good wine. Stan is trying mightily to reduce his wine collection in preparation for the move to smaller quarters. Finally, 9/23-10/10, I made my annual pilgrimage to the Cartwrights' in Geneva and nearby Swiss and French attractions (the latter including one Michelin ☆☆☆ and three ☆ restaurants, two of which were new to me). This was the last time Gordon and Kathleen will be hosting in Geneva; they have just moved to the U.S. West Coast, a major change, especially for Gordon who moved to Geneva in 1965; it's the end of an era.

All is well with Peggy, Molly, Martha and their families; the grandchildren are "growing like weeds." I'll be with Peggy's family Christmas Eve and the whole clan will get together at Molly's on December 26.

The boat is still on the market. With the help of my French friend, Pierre Morel, we sailed several weekends last summer and he will be here next summer.

HERE'S WISHING YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR IN 1998!!