

Merry Christmas, 2022



Sarah (taking selfie), Front Row: Maddie, Zach, Eve, Bodhi, Mabel, Avery, Josie, Badegech, Mika, La'akea Back Row: Jesse, Chris, Kainoa, Todd, Cori, Kent, Mary Lou, Brian, Jasmine, Ana, Paul Tice, Jake, Ben Christianson holding Grey, Kim Christianson, David Krahmer, Sally Krahmer, Tracie Tice, Mardean Tice.

It was a dark and stormy day. No, it actually was! Mary Lou and I were heading down the hill recently to attend a "Scooby Doo" play in San Rafael. Our nine-year-old granddaughter, Mabel, was in the play with speaking parts! We were pretty excited about that. Our excitement soon turned to terror. Kersplash!!! "Can you see the road?," Mary Lou asked? It was hard to see past the hood of the car. It had been raining moderately hard when we left Grass Valley, but as we got closer to the Valley, the rain and the wind intensified. We were driving down Interstate 80 in the center lane, along with about five other safely spaced cars, when a crazy driver (maybe he was just late) cut in front of us from the right lane and then zoomed into the left lane and passed the car in front of me. He continued weaving in and out of traffic. That was it! I got into the right lane and took the next exit. Before exiting, I said to Mary Lou, "I don't know about you, but I don't think this play is worth risking our lives." She was thinking the same, and we exited and parked in a parking lot to wait out the current wind blasts. We took the opportunity to call Jesse and let him know we were disappointed but that we were turning back home. Our decision was confirmed several times on the way back home, especially when we came across a car on the right side of the freeway. It was up the side of the hill, and facing traffic. Its emergency lights were blinking, and the skid marks in the mud told the story. He was going too

fast for the conditions and the corner. He must of lost control and skid up the embankment backwards. Later that day, we got snow at our house. It was a good call to abort the adventure.

We were looking forward to seeing Jesse and Eve's family. After all, we have only met Levi twice since his birth in October. They grow up so fast. Now we will have to wait until Christmas! We did visit them a few weeks earlier during their school's Grandparents and Special Friends Day. It was so fun to have Josie and Mabel show us around their school and give us an idea what their school day is like. Josie even performed with her class in a couple songs. Jesse teaches there, and it was great to see his classroom and some of the projects his students were working on.



Josie, Levi, and Mabel



Dutton



Avery, Mabel, Julia, Claire, Jackson, Gwen, Josie, Bodhi, and Taylor

Speaking of new arrivals to our family, we also welcomed Dutton to our family in August. He is Hanne and Brandon's second child and Tatum's brother (keep up! :-). That makes two great grandchildren and 17 grandchildren. I guess that makes 31 of us! We're adding grandchildren from their marriages and births that are still ongoing!

The rest of Cori's family are doing great. Chris and Cori are experiencing a little empty nest syndrome. Jasmine lives with them, but she stays busy serving at Applebee's and building her hair salon business. Badegech is attending San Jose State and loving it. She is on the cheer squad, and we have attended two San Jose State football games to watch her cheer. We went to San Diego to watch one of her games at SDSU's brand new SnapDragon Stadium with Cori and Chris. Zach lives in San Diego, so we were able to visit with him and his girlfriend, Maddie for the weekend. It was the first time Mary Lou and I had been back to San Diego since we moved, and we had a great time. We enjoyed walking through South Park where Zach and Maddie live. We even went to the Zoo, and ate brunch at a beach cafe with ocean views.

We visit Shannon and his family at his house periodically. He has moved from Fiddletown to Valley Springs. They aren't as remote or prone to forest fires as they were, but they are still in a rural area. Shannon is still a train master for BNSF which keeps him super busy with work. BNSF doesn't have very family-friendly schedules. Kaitlyn is busy with her home-based event planning job as well as keeping up with Jackson. Jackson will be two years old in January and is growing up so fast! It's fun to watch. Claire is in high school now which keeps her busy. Julia is in junior high, and Gwen is close behind. I can't believe how fast...wait, I think I've already said that.



Cori, Todd, Brian, Mary Lou, Shannon, Sarah, and Jesse

Todd and Ana live in Roseville and work mostly from home. La'akea and Mika live in Boulder, Colorado now. La'a is working for a government contractor, although we don't know what exactly he does other than it is similar to what he did in the Marines. He is also going to school to study aerospace engineering. Mika is going to veterinary school. Todd and Ana recently visited them and enjoyed the area, especially the mountains. Kainoa is living at home and exploring life's possibilities.

Sarah and Kent live in Chico and are doing a nice job of rebuilding their lives after the Paradise fire. They have bought Kent's childhood home from his parents. His parents have moved to Winters and live in Kent's father's parent's former home (you got that?). Avery is in second grade and Bodhi is in T-K. Sarah and Kent have their hands full with remodeling their home and attending their kids events.

Mary Lou and I keep busy on a daily basis with just keeping up with our three acres of heaven. In the past year we had about 20-30 logs milled into lumber by someone who has a portable mill. We got a lot of pine and cedar lumber, and oak slabs. I've built a deck partly around our above-ground swim pool so far with the lumber, and I have a lot of pecky cedar 1x8's and oak for wood-working projects. Mary Lou has been painting with watercolors again which is nice. She runs three miles a day, 3-4 days a week. She

has to keep up with all the grandchildren! We try to go on hikes to further learn about our area. We are just below the High Sierras and we feel blessed that we can look at some of them from our favorite vantage points around our house and then actually hike in the same mountains. My sister, Donna, visits for a few days several times a year and we work on our family web site. We've written down quite a few family stories and uploaded tons of pictures of our family going back to 1742 when Frederick Schweckhart landed in Philadelphia from Germany. Check it out at: swagertystories.com. We also attend many grandchildren events such as soccer, T-ball, and plays. We went to one of Bodhi's T-ball games. Try to imagine a baseball field full of 4-year-olds (with their proud fathers) wandering around and "playing" baseball. It was too cute! So, life is still good. We have an open invitation for any of you to come visit us. It happens from time to time, and we have a great time exploring our area and catching up.



Ana, Badegech, Brian, Todd, Chris, Cori, Kainoa, Mary Lou, Sarah, and Bodhi



Ana, Eve, Sarah, Grey, Claire, Gwen, Julia, Jasmine, Badegech, Hanne, and Tatum

The passing of Mary Lou's mother this past year means that without a doubt, we are now the elders of our family. Margery was just six months short of 100 years old. That was an amazing feat. We miss her, but it is hard to mourn someone who lead such a long and wonderful life. She had a very positive impact on our family.

Well, I have overdone the length of this letter, but I wanted to catch everyone up on the whole family, being as I have avoided doing so in past Christmas letters. We hope all is well with you and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

