



Greetings one and all.

Is it me? Or does it seem that Christmas comes quicker each year? I think time is going faster. But the best things about the holidays are running into old friends and relatives you haven't seen in awhile at the local Wal-Mart, getting joyous phone calls, and visits and gaily colored Christmas cards and letters, the Christmas Parade on Broadway with its bright lights and loud music. Larry says, "The whole town was there, either in the parade or watching it."

It has been a busy year for Larry and me. We've chalked up over 5,000 miles this year, not including air and train mileage, 3,000 of those miles were in the Maritime Provinces, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. We had a great time, visiting with Larry's old boss and best friend, Norm Brown and his wife, Janis, and Ein Godin. If you are interested, there is a detailed account of this trip and pictures on <http://bible-of-lacrosse.com>.

And just recently, Larry, Michael, and I logged in another 2,000 miles starting at Branson, Missouri, where we met up with Tomaline and her friend, Paula. We went to Dolly Parton Dixie Stampede Christmas Show, great food and lots of fun. The Titanic Museum, the largest in the world, where we walked up and down the Grand Staircase and plunged our arms into a vat of water chilled to 28°. In just a few moments, our arms burned from the intense cold. We drove through the Festival of Lights Christmas display.

Larry toured his very first cavern, Marvel Cave at Silver Dollar City. He was so excited, and I keep telling him, he hasn't seen anything yet, like Carlsbad Caverns that was created when a Texas gopher got lost and was trying to find his way home or Cave of the Winds in Colorado. It was a strenuous walk down about 500 feet to something they call the Cleopatra Room. Coming out of the cave, it is more than strenuous, called the "Huff and Puff" trail. Thank goodness there was a train that takes you one-half mile back to the beginning. Needless-to-say, they can keep their Marvel Cave for my part.



Tomaline, Larry, Twyla,
Michael & Paula



Larry & Twyla



Twyla, Tomaline & Larry

Tomaline and Paula had gotten discount tickets to a new and relatively unknown show – Bart Rockett. And were we ever surprised. It turned out to be one of the best entertainments I have ever seen. He bills himself as a comedian with props. He is also a magician and ventriloquist. We laughed so much our sides were splitting and then had us bawling at the end of the show as he and his two-year-old son with arms uplifted twirled in the snow falling on the stage.

From Branson, Larry, Mike and I went on to St. Joseph to see Larry’s Uncle Frank and Aunt Marilyn. Frank is confined to a wheelchair due to his Multiple Sclerosis, but it hasn’t stopped him. He has just about finished customizing an Old Ford Panel Truck. Larry is the first of the family to visit in the 33 years that Frank has been in the U.S. We also got to visit with Frank and Marilyn’s son, Bradley, and his 8-year-old son, Jackson. Before leaving St. Jo, we went to the Pony Express and Jesse James Museum. Larry has always been fascinated with the outlaws of the Old West.



Marilyn &
Frank Power



Jackson, Frank
& Bradley



Frank &
Larry Power

Then it was on to Grande Island, Nebraska to visit Tammy. Krystal has grown into a pretty young lady at that horrible age 13 when everything is confusing, the turning point from a child to a teen. Jonathon, age 10, is also growing like a weed. Gee, I don’t envy her having two teens in the not too distant future. Life is so much more complicated now than when we grew up.

Tammy has been diagnosed with Fibromyagia – a form of arthritis. She has good and bad days. She has two parakeets which squawk a lot and are content to range freely in a small area around their cage. Kevin has two really sweet kids. Kya is now four. She has Kevin’s straight blonde hair. She counted the pips on the deck of cards, and knew the Jack, Queen and King. Jackson has Kevin’s blonde hair, too. They were so well-behaved, and Kevin is a good dad. Phillip has grown up so much and is a really good looking young man. He has his own apartment and a new car. He can’t afford insurance and car payments, too, but once in awhile (s-h-h don’t tell anyone) he drives it anyway.



Phillip, Tammy Kevin, Jonathon & Krystal



Kya, Kevin & Jackson

Tomaline is still out there on the Super Slab and logs many miles, mostly mid U.S. to East coast, but occasionally goes to the West Coast. Jarrette and Thomas have moved into an apartment nearby. Jarrette is going to have another baby, a boy this time, due around Jan 8th. Thomas is working at Excel, and is making pretty good wages. Emaryl just turned four and has decided she's big enough to sleep in her own room. She got a vanity and spent the afternoon in front of the mirror combing her hair. That is, when she wasn't taking pictures of headless people with my camera. Michael graduated from high school in May and has been admitted to Eastern New Mexico University at Roswell. He's really excited. His mom and I are so proud of him. He has come a long ways.



Jarrette & Emaryl



Principal Lisa Kersh & Michael

Rickey has a lawn care business as well as continuing real estate. He sold one house. Shane - gee they grow up so fast. He still likes all creatures great and small. He and Rickey still go lizard hunting at "the ditch". Can't wait to see him.

Larry's daughter, Sarah, works for the territorial government that serves 33 communities in the Northwest Territories. She also headed the celebrity auction, topping last year's donations. Dianne and Eugene sold their farm and moved into Oshawa. Larry's niece, Kyla and her husband, Chuck, bought a house in Oshawa. Karen and Keith are the proud grandparents of Jeremy's Jack Russell terrier. Louie had an accident while working in GM and has an injury to his foot, leg and back. He already has 30 years in at GM, but this will probably mean early retirement to him. Yipeee!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Larry has been chosen as a Director for the Brooklin Redmen, his beloved lacrosse team. With new management and coaches he's optimistic for the Redmen to eventually be playing for the Mann Cup in the new Oshawa General Motors Place arena just around the corner from his loft apartment.

Larry has been collecting lacrosse cards from 1910. Like the famous Honus Wagner baseball card, they came in cigarette packages. He has completed one set and when he finishes getting the last 8 cards PSA graded, they will be the only set of 100-year-old graded lacrosse cards in the entire world. He was able to sell 22 of his traders on eBay for \$2,200, a tidy profit for cards that cost him less than \$500 to purchase in the beginning.

The nursing home where I work had been sold to another company and I lost all my vacation time. We now accumulation time according to the hours we work. I probably will have to cancel plans for a Canadian trip in May and save it till October. Then Larry and I could fly back here together.



Sarah

While in Branson, Larry and I purchased a time-share with Westgate Resorts. By the time I retire, it should be paid for and then I will realize my life-long dream of traveling



From the balcony, the living room, dining room and the bedroom

Loved ones, I hope this finds you well.
Merry Christmas (not politically correct – who cares} and a very prosperous and happy New Year,



Larry & Twyla at Westgate Resort



Jackson, Twyla & Kya