

HOLIDAY GREETINGS 2009

David, Bonnie and the Whigmaleerie Gang

THE DICKENS, YOU SAY?

It wasn't the best of times, but let's all hope this was the worst of times we'll see. Like the rest of the world, we had our share of ups and downs this year. We hope for you and yours a much better New Year!

Among this year's biggest news, Bonnie finally graduated! After attending the Mihaylo College of Business and Economics at CSU Fullerton for two years while working full time, she received her Master of Science in Information Technology in May and was honored with an Award of Academic Achievement for her 4.0 GPA. And like so many other new graduates, she is job hunting. As a result of state budget cuts, she was laid off in July after eight years with the California State University.



Graduation Day

For the first part of the year, the economy made us not just "Boomers", but "Boomerang Parents". Cutbacks at Q's company made him give up his WeHo apartment and spend a few months with us. He found another place in Van Nuys, but is still looking to solve the old L.A. problem of high rent and long commutes. But we all survived and our nest is comfortably empty once again.



MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE RANCH...

In February, we found a great deal on some used pipe corrals and arena fencing near Edwards AFB. David single-handedly (both-handedly?) dismantled everything, then with some local help, loaded it on a monster rental truck and hauled it to Lockwood. With a newly discovered cervical spine problem, Bonnie supervised and offered moral support but wasn't much help with the lifting. Our friend and ever helpful contractor, Armand, is storing it all for us until we can grade and install it.



David the deconstruction engineer



MORE LOCKWOOD NEWS

Hoping to have water by this fall, in June we had Armand trench for electricity from the meter to the well and for water pipes from the well back to the tank. We even brought our special “cat scanner”, Blaze, to inspect the work. At the time, Kitty Blaze was on exotic human antibiotics for infections resistant to everything else. She was lucky she got sick before Bonnie got laid off in July! Blaze hasn't quite run out of lives, but the pump, wiring and the rest will have to wait for now.

But before we had to stop work, we got the electrical conduits and stub-outs in, and started grading for the paddocks and arena. Now all we need is that economic recovery we're all waiting for.

THE OAK RESTORATION PROJECT

We still have oaklings! After almost two years, we were surprised to find we have almost twenty oak sprouts left. Some could just about be called saplings! Having made it through two summers, we're hopeful they will continue to grow, if critters don't munch them. We had no acorn crop this year, but will see if neighboring oaks have any to replant this winter. And whenever we get the water in, we'll run irrigation to start planting the sycamores!



From tiny acorns... a growing Valley Oak

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The trench inspector and her assistant



Stub outs for electrical and water conduits



The future ring and stable yard

WE WISH VERY HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL!

