

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

From the Finches and Margaret Holloway
Fred, Joan, Darlene Ellie, Cricket, Trish and Bambi

This has been a very busy year and we can't believe it's almost over. Mother moved to Georgia December 28th, 2010. She moved to an independent retirement apartment in Villa Rica where she stayed until September. She had numerous falls and finally ended up in the hospital and rehab for almost a month. She was diagnosed with "Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus," or water on the brain. It has been the cause of her falling for several years but had not been diagnosed until now. She falls

backward, not tripping or going forward. She is now in an assisted living facility near where I work and we spend the lunch hour together. She has help when she needs to get up and can eat in her room if she desires or go to the dining room. They have a lot of activities, music being her favorite.



We celebrated Mother's 88th birthday in July with all of the family. This was her first time to see her great grandchildren and she sure had a great time.

David, my friend Mellie and I took the boys to the Atlanta zoo while they were here and other than

the heat it was a wonderful day. Hope it will be warm enough to go back in November. (It was... see next page)



We lost our Tillie in April due to a stroke; she was 14 years old and then Sadie in May with a fast growing tumor, at the age of 10.

Darlene is doing well. She enjoys her TV and copying out of the Bible and various other books and flash cards. I give her all the cards after Christmas and she makes scrapbooks with them. Her health seems to be holding with nothing more than an occasional headache or snuffle. She has her daily routine and is very content.



Fred is still semi-retired, doing websites and taking care of the dogs and Darlene. We haven't been able to take any trips this year except a day trip to Ellijay to enjoy the leaves in the mountains and buy apples. We made apple sauce and Fred tried his hand at apple butter and pear butter. Yum! Fred is having a lot of pain in his knees and has regular shots to alleviate the pain. His back is better than before the operation a couple of years ago.

I am still working at the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, but am looking toward retirement in 2013. I work with a good bunch but have so much more that I would like to do. I do not have the energy to do everything I want and also work.



We have all of mother's things in our garage where I go through things and separate some for donations and keep a very few items. As mother is a keeper of papers, I go through and get rid of recipes, old news papers etc. I am thankful Mother has kept all her cards since the 1940's so I can see things from our aunts, grandparents etc. Also read my own letters from the time I got married in 1963 until now. So much there I had forgotten about little "Davy" and Matt.



I went to visit David's family in March when Lynn and I both celebrate birthdays and again in May when we celebrated David and Henry's birthdays. I visited again for a week when Lynn was in the hospital in August. I got to meet Henry's 1st grade teacher and see his school. Henry is 6 years old now. Ben and I had a good time. He is such a happy boy and a joy to be with. I wish I could spend more time with them. I am so thankful that we are only 6 hours away.



Fred Says, "I keep busy with websites, DAR newsletter and minor jobs for the Chamber. I am looking forward to Christmas and the new year. I hope you will all have a happy holiday season and a good start to the new year."



We had a wonderful Thanksgiving with our family. David, Lynn and the boys arrived on Wednesday night. I got the turkey in the oven and we went over to visit mother on Thursday. Of course then we came home and stuffed ourselves and napped

Friday after Thanksgiving, Joan and the kids went to the Atlanta Zoo. Fred stayed home and went to Wal-Mart on Black Friday! It was a breeze. He parked up front and there were almost no people in the store. The food side was empty of people, and it was a pleasure to be able to shop without the crowds. Then he came home, and cleaned up the kitchen, took the turkey off the bone and generally had a nice afternoon. The zoo was not crowded either and we had a good time. Fred and Henry had a great time building with Lincoln Logs and playing with hot wheels.

(Fred) Today is Saturday... Henry was up early. He waits until he hears me move around then comes up the stairs to join me. We watched Curious George (the movie) on TV then when CG2 came on I bailed to my office to work on this. I hear David arising... more later. We went over to visit with mother and came home for lunch and to celebrate Ben's 3rd birthday. We had a wonderful time.



Fred and I are so thankful for our lives. We celebrated our 32nd wedding anniversary in Oct. We have our aches and pains and have had some heartache along the way, but God has blessed us beyond measure. As I read the poem every Thanksgiving "I am drinking from the saucer because my cup has overflowed". We have a new church that we attend together, with wonderful people. We live in a beautiful country and even in the hard times we have so much to be thankful for. Our prayer is that all our friends and family stay well and happy. Have a wonderful Christmas.

Joan and Fred