

## Christmas 2012

We are among the fortunate people who are happily and fully employed (or sort of retired and working as much as we want). Travel seems to be the interesting part of our lives, so it comes first in this annual greeting.



Jenny and Charlie

On January 22-30 we traveled to England (again). The travelogue was just finished [www.plesums.com/travel/england12](http://www.plesums.com/travel/england12) and includes London, the Southeast (Canterbury, the white cliffs of Dover), then we wandered back to the Southwest to spend several days with **Andrea**, Jenny's friend from the 1960s. We also visited Andrea's mother (hostess when she lived in England the summer of 1966) – she is now over 100 years old, and as sharp as a tack.

Our annual pilgrimage North to Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota to visit Jenny's family started April 26, with a surprise visit to Wisconsin for her niece **Janel**'s college graduation party. Then we spent time in Decorah, Iowa with stops back in Minnesota, went to the Quilting Museum in Lincoln Nebraska, and finally to the Berkshire Hathaway annual meeting in Omaha. We drove back from Omaha to Austin, over 850 miles, in one day, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Jenny's sister **DeAnn** and family live in Montana, so we don't see them on our annual trip north. We took a separate trip to Montana to visit them July 24-30. While there they took us to Glacier National Park. See [www.plesums.com/travel/montana](http://www.plesums.com/travel/montana)



Jenny, snow, late July, Montana

On August 28 we had a surprise visit by our nephew **Tim Plesums** and his family from Warsaw.



Tim Plesums family

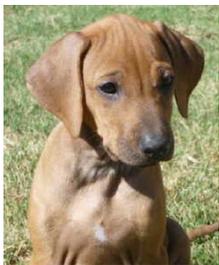
September 21-25 we visited Charlie's sister in Cabin John, Maryland (near Bethesda – suburban DC). **Rita** has become a string bass player, so we had to stay for her "big band" rehearsal in her home. We also recommend the new Smithsonian Aviation Museum at Dulles Airport.

35 or so years ago we visited Amsterdam and remembered a dirty, ugly city. We went back October 24 and were very pleasantly surprised by a clean beautiful city. Besides the city, the Hermitage Museum (a subsidiary of the one in Moscow) was great, and it also housed much of the van Gogh collection while that museum is being refurbished. From there we went on to Bruges for a couple days (great city) and then on to Brussels (ok but I don't need to go back). See the travelogue at [www.plesums.com/travel/nlbe](http://www.plesums.com/travel/nlbe)

Would anybody take a flight just to collect the airline miles? Yes. The story of our trip to Hawaii December 6-9 is at [www.plesums.com/travel/hawaii](http://www.plesums.com/travel/hawaii). And we did make platinum status (despite being retired people, with no business trips).

Charlie's father was a professional adventurer ( [www.plesums.com/travel/latvia/adventure.html](http://www.plesums.com/travel/latvia/adventure.html) ) who, among other things, went to Hong Kong to help supervise the construction of the sailing yacht **So Fong**. I was recently contacted by a German gentleman whose father had a similar job, and also sailed on the So Fong. We had lots of interesting email discussions as we compared notes.

**Jenny** continues her business providing controller or CFO services to small companies – last count was 18 separate clients. She has the luxury of not needing to deal with clients that are difficult to work with, and "fired" two clients this year. She has all the work she wants, loves sewing (quilting) and planning our trips.



Foster

**Charlie** continues to build furniture and has all the work he wants – the backlog has been shorter than in years past, but there has always been work waiting to be built.

Our son **Mark** continues to work as a database administrator for Ignite Technologies in Frisco (suburban Dallas). His wife **Stacey** continues as Director of Business Travel (sales) for the Dallas Intercontinental Hotel. Their daughter, our granddaughter **Chelsea**, has started college at Collin College. Stacey, Mark, and their new Rhodesian ridgeback puppy **Foster** visited over Thanksgiving, while Chelsea stayed home with their brindle boxer Guinness.



Pearl Harbor

*We wish you health and happiness this Christmas season and pray that you have a very Happy New Year.*

*Jenny and Charlie*