Greetings From Dear Ol’ Schenectady
By Betty

Greetings too, from dear ol’ Alfred and Betty. We hope all of you folks are healthy and happy. Sorry I missed writing you last year. Jimmy did a super job in my stead, and now, I’m back and ready to update you on our lives.

In this edition of The Meyer Chronicles, you’ll hear about our family from the youngest, our grandson, Matthew, to the oldest, Alfred, and everyone in-between!

You’ll learn of major events in our lives over the past year, and some not so major.

So sit back in a comfortable chair, pour a cup of your favorite beverage and enjoy The Meyer Chronicles – 2002.
Matthew
(our grandson)
By Betty

Matthew is growing like a weed. Muscularly (is that a word?), he has developed really well and is able to do just about everything for his age. Early on it was discovered that he had some slow muscle development, but now, the doctors are really pleased with his progress.

Matthew is 6 1/2 years old and is in the 1st grade at Zoller School in Schenectady. He’s doing well in his class work. In his first reading and spelling tests he earned a grade of 100% in each. We are so proud of him!

Matthew says he wants to be a Rock ‘N’ Roll performer when he grows up. Judging from the way he likes to dress, I believe it! When he gets ready for school, he puts his shirt on backwards and one or two outlandish combinations of pants. Susan explained to him, “Matthew, if you go to school like that, the other children will make fun of you and laugh at you.” His reply was, “I like it when people laugh at me.” He’s a real “Class Clown”.

In September, Matthew joined the “Caring Kids Club.” Caring Kids is a group of youngsters who draw pictures and send cards to the ill and home-bound. What a nice way to teach the young ones to care about other people. God bless their little hearts.

Matthew also joined the Children’s Choir at church and loves it. He still takes tap and ballet dance lessons and enjoys every minute of it. He’s a genuine “ham”. So you see, he keeps Mom and Dad (Susan and Danny) busy attending all of his activities.

John Henry
(Mr. Personality)
By Betty

John has been busy working full time nights on stage at his Karaoke gigs. Over the summer, he also worked for a tree cutting service during the day.

John also sells merchandise on occasion at Flea Markets and Craft Shows. He has a nice variety of gift items for his “JM Specialty Merchandisers” endeavor.

Oh! I almost forgot! Recently, John was mentioned in a local publication. Metroland is a weekly newspaper that ranks area restaurants and entertainment each year and gives awards for the best of the year. John’s Karaoke Shows were ranked as the best in the area. Congratulations, John, that’s quite an honor.

All that hard work has been paying off for John. Recently, he bought a 1992 Ford Taurus. It’ll be much easier to get around with his Karaoke equipment now.

Susan and Danny
By Betty

Susan is still working at Union College in the Registrar’s Office. Like Matthew, Susan likes to “chirp”. She enjoys being a member of the choir at church, and is also a member of “The Octavo Singers” a group that sings mostly classical music.

In December, Susan and Danny traveled to New York City with some friends. They saw the sights and went to the Christmas Show at Radio City Music Hall. And, of course, they went shopping! It’s always a fun trip for them.

Danny is working at Hannaford, making sure that everything is “Spic and Span”. He has many responsibilities there and is appreciated by his co-workers and management.

Danny is also a member of the “Toastmasters Club” and has earned multiple ribbons for speeches he has given. He really enjoys the group.

Recently, Susan and Danny toured NBC Studios in New York City. Part of the tour allowed them to see the set of Saturday Night Live. As a bonus, they were treated to watching Robert DiNiro and Harvey Keitel rehearsing for that nights show!
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**Jimmy**

By Betty

Jimmy, like Billy, is a world traveler. His trips last year to Australia and Thailand were wonderful.

I wish I could have been the flash on his camera; I'd have seen the beauty of the countries he visited.

More on Jimmy later, in “The Scotia Report”.

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**Billy**

By Betty

Billy was home for a visit this year, and since the visit was near his birthday, we celebrated both Billy and my birthdays at The Picnic Palooza 2002.

Billy is doing very well with his translation service. He has many prominent customers, including Microsoft and BMW. He does a lot of travelling back and forth from Thailand to America as well as other parts of the world. He leads quite an interesting life.

He was able to come home for Christmas last year, which was the first time he was home for the holidays in many years. It’s always great to see him and listen to the interchange between all of our four kids.

Sureerat, Billy’s wife, doesn’t like to fly; even more so since 9/11; but we hope to visit with her some day.

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**Betty**

By Betty

Now it’s grandmas’ turn. Thinking back, 2001 is kind of fuzzy. I guess the fuzziness is due to my health situation. Most of the year 2001 was spent in and out of the doctors office for various ailments. (That’s me; dear ol’ grandma) I’m painting the wrong picture of myself. Actually, I don’t feel old at all. Yes, I have aches and pains and down days just like everybody else, but through it all, I’m young at heart. Into each life some rain must fall, but how we handle the rain is what really counts. I’m thankful that the Lord has given me a sense of humor and inner peace and joy. Proverbs 17:22 says “A joyful heart is good medicine.”

Speaking about rain, in April 2002, a hurricane hit us. (not really) Our hurricane was facing the reality that I would need some temporary care in a nursing home. Mentally, I’m alert, but physically I need extensive physical therapy for my legs.

Before entering Glendale Home, I prayed, “Lord, I don’t know what’s in store for me, but whatever it is I’ll be content.” And I am! Glendale has bent over backwards to supply all my needs. I’m really comfy here. I’ve made many friends amongst the nurses, aides, physical therapists and occupational therapists. Also, family and friends have been very faithful visitors.

My therapy is coming along very well, and hopefully, in the not too distant future, I’ll be returning home.

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**Halloween at Glendale**

Therapists: Joel & Steve & guess who!

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**Matthew on Halloween at Glendale**

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Now grandpa’s on stage. He’s doing fairly well in the health department; also being on his own, but he misses my presence. He’d awaken in the morning and find an empty bed instead of me. I think he’s getting used to it but looks forward to my return.

A few bright things have occurred for Alfred during the past year or so. He had never graduated from high school, but served in the army during the war years. Recently, veterans who were in WWII and never received their high school diplomas were awarded them in a ceremony at local high schools. Alfred was included in a group at Niskayuna High School and proudly accepted his diploma.

Also, The Office of Military Affairs contacted Alfred. They were beginning an oral history of WWII. Veterans were interviewed and recorded on video tapes. I’m glad Alfred took part in this program. I learned some things; how he felt about his war experiences, etc..

Another thing that lifted his heart was something Jimmy did. He took a special trip down to Red Hook (Brooklyn) in search of the house where Alfred was born and lived during his growing up years. He found it and took some pictures.. They came out good; Alfred was pleased to see his old homestead.

Jimmy also attempted to do the same regarding my childhood birthplace and home, however, the cab driver refused to go into that neighborhood. He said it was a bad section and too dangerous to enter. Oh well, I still have memories of the good ol’ days.
THE MEYER CHRONICLES

Family Happenings

December 2002

The Scotia Report
By Jimmy

This year has flown by so fast! I’m not surprised, because there was so much to do, and no time to watch the clock.

Work has continued on the garage addition/workshop I am building in the back yard. The building now has vinyl siding on it and is ready for electrical wiring. Dad has moved his tools and supplies into the workshop from their house and will soon be ready to begin some projects.

Susan, John, Billy and I have been helping Dad take care of the house on Baker Avenue. We have been working on emptying the house, making repairs and getting it ready for sale. The roof has been repaired, and a contractor is scheduled to begin other repairs just before Christmas. Dad hopes to get the house on the market early in 2003.

Picnic Palooza 2002 – Global Picnic was held on July 27th at Palooza Central in Scotia, New York. This proved to be the premier event of 2002. The Palooza was a huge party with a tropical paradise theme. We had a Limbo competition, and even converted a tree into a rain forest to help party goers cool off. It was celebrated at Palooza Central, as well as satellite locations in Australia, England, Bangladesh, Copenhagen, France, all over the United States and even at the South Pole! We had between 120 to 130 people in attendance at Palooza Central, and we had a blast! Family and friends gathered from all over to share some food, drink and lots of good times. Billy was in attendance from Thailand, and Mom was transported to the party from Glendale Home with the help of a transportation service. Requests have been made for a Picnic Palooza 2003, but definite plans have not been made yet. I plan on creating a Picnic Palooza web site to keep folks up to date. More news in 2003.

Thanksgiving found us all at Glendale Home, celebrating with Mom and on Christmas, we have plans to gather again at Glendale, but this time, I am roasting a turkey, others will bring side dishes. We are looking forward to a home-cooked family dinner, exchanging gifts, and enjoying the family together for the holiday.

I guess that’s it for this year. Happy Holidays!

Vick-tory Garden
By Jimmy

Through the summer months, I made a number of visits to the home of my friends, Vicky and Frank Gavin. They recently put in a new swimming pool in the back yard and they enjoy entertaining friends and relatives when they find the time. In-between football games, picnics, sports dinners and other events, you can find Vicky and Frank and their sons Derek and Trevor at home relaxing by the pool or turning steaks on the barbecue. Whenever I stopped by, Frank was working on the new decking he was installing, or other improvements to their back yard. Vicky was usually busy tending to her long-time hobby of gardening. Vicky has a great garden and often brings flowers in to The Grog Shoppe, where she tends bar, to fill the flower vases along the bar and on the tables. One other patron of The Grog Shoppe, Jim Bailey, also brings in flowers from his garden to fill the flower vases. Vicky also helped keep Mom in flowers all summer by picking bouquets of flowers for me to bring to Glendale for Mom’s room. Of course, when I stopped by Vicky and Frank’s, it was less for the flowers than it was for the friendship and good company. And, by the way, Vicky and Frank really know how to cook!
Greetings From Bangkok!
By Billy

The Thailand branch of the Meyer family had a good year with not too many exciting things happening. My translation business is going as strong as ever – busy busy - and Sureerat and her family’s Chinese vegetarian restaurant is doing well too. Everybody is healthy and happy and looking forward to the Christmas break!

As far as our two ‘adopted’ sons, Rit and Aod, we can happily report that both are entering their last semester of senior year at university and we’ll soon be dressing up to go to their graduations (around June or so). Rit is studying commercial design and video production, Aod is studying architecture.

I made it over for a nice visit to Schenectady in July this year and spent some very good quality time with everyone. Mom is getting stronger by the day and we hope she’ll be able to come home soon. Since my visit, Dad has been writing me his memoirs in installments. Very interesting reading always injected with Dad's (Al's) special brand of humor and often wise perspective on life. It’s as if I can hear his voice talking to me from the pages. And every installment is like a good book you don’t want to put down and that makes you feel sorry when it ends. Thanks Dad!

That’s about all to report I guess. From all our extended family over here, we wish all of you a blessed holiday season and everything good in the new year!

Billy and the Thai gang

Thanksgiving 2002
By Jimmy

In the tradition of the Pilgrims travelling to America, this year the Meyer and Pascazio families made their own pilgrimage to Glendale Home on Thanksgiving Day. We all gathered and had a nice Thanksgiving Dinner with Mom. The only ones missing were our family members in Bangkok.

As usual, Mom had prepared some games and things to keep us all occupied while we were waiting for our dinner.

Matthew and Mom had fun drawing, while Dad and the rest of us tried our hand at some word search games.

Soon dinner was served and we enjoyed a nice meal together.
Remembering Mrs. Sheehan

By Billy

On a sad note, my best friend Danny Sheehan’s mother passed away a few days before Easter.

Since my college days, whenever I stopped in NYC I always stayed at Mrs. Sheehan’s house. A very loving homemaker, who always was ready to whip up something to eat no matter what time we came back from our adventures in the city, we miss her dearly.

She lived to the ripe age of 93 and was loving and sharp as a tack till the end. Of German stock, she reminded me a lot of our own dear Grandma Waller – feisty and living life to the fullest!

The Sheehan house really feels quiet in her absence!

A Visit From Old Friends

By Jimmy

This year was one of renewing some old friendships. Friends I have not seen in years crossed paths with my life again this year. First was Don Scull. Don and I went to high school together and also lived in the same neighborhood growing up during our teen years. We also hiked the Appalachian Trail together in 1975. Don recently moved back into this area from Texas. It is good to have him back around!

Next was Pat Roach, another friend from high school. Pat was back in town from California and was looking for a job. Pat stayed with me for a few weeks while trying to get established. While Pat was here, another friend, Jim Centrella, visited from Florida and we took a side trip to meet Jim’s girlfriend, Angelina and her daughter, Benita. We traveled to SUNY Purchase and then went to NYC for the day. It was a fun day. Pat is now back in Eugene Oregon at last word. Good luck Pat!

A New Look

By Jimmy

You may have noticed The Meyer Chronicles has taken on a new look. The Meyer Chronicles is now available through the World Wide Web, Email and Snail Mail.

For those of our family and friends that are on the Internet, The Meyer Chronicles may be read online at this web address: www1.union.edu/~meyerj

Click on The Meyer Chronicles link and you will be able to view this year’s newsletter online. There will also be a link for you to click on, that will allow you to download a “printer friendly” version of The Meyer Chronicles using Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Of course, for those of our family and friends that are not connected to the web, we will still mail a copy to you. You may notice that the printed newsletter format has changed as well.

If you have an email address, please send it to me at: meyerj@union.edu so that we may add you to the Official Meyer Chronicles Email List.

No matter how you receive The Meyer Chronicles, I hope you enjoy it! All the best in the new year!
The Gift Of Christmas

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Once again it’s time to celebrate
The birth of our Savior so great.

Church bells soon will be ringing
And choirs will be joyfully singing

About God’s special gift to us;
His own dear Son, Jesus

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May we always remember
the true meaning of Christmas.

Eternal blessings to all,

Betty Meyer, 2002

Alfred, Betty and Family

Keep In Touch

Al and Betty Meyer
107 Nott Terrace
Apartment 1001
Schenectady, New York 12308-3176
518-370-2316

Susan, Danny and Matthew Pascazio
1663 Avenue A
Schenectady, New York 12308
518-377-2037
email: pascazis@union.edu

John Meyer
1213 Fourth Avenue
Schenectady, New York 12303
518-209-2256

Jimmy Meyer
341 Glen Avenue
Scotia, New York 12302-1712
518-346-7358
email: meyerj@union.edu

William and Sureerat Meyer
17/122 Ramkhamhaeng 43/1
Bangkok 10310
Kingdom of Thailand
email: wmbkk@hotmail.com
011-66-2-934-7089