

Season's Greetings

34217 Arizona St..
Union City, Ca 94587
Christmas 1992

Dear friends,

Each Christmas seems to go by faster, but in a way we are glad as it gives us a chance to hear from you and to extend to all of you our greetings and best wishes.

This was supposed to be a relaxing year for us to take it easy while looking for a new house. After much hunting we finally got a house nearby in July, but it was November before we finally moved in. Please note our new address.

Late last year Ray lost his brother Kee who was managing the Watsonville greenhouses. Because of this Ray is becoming a little more involved in the family business. Kee's wife Keiko, who was very active in the business with her husband, together with the competent staff there, is basically continuing that operation.

In late July we took a three week trip to China. We had been looking for some travel, and we got this opportunity to join a small study tour sponsored by a local college. It was a very compatible group and a good experience. We visited mostly the regular tourist areas including the Great Wall, Beijing, Shanghai, Suchow, Hangchow, Xian, Guilin, etc. and ending in Hong Kong. During the trip there were lectures and discussions on different subjects by Chinese scholars regarding China, which we found enjoyable and informative and helped us appreciate our trip so much more. One thing, we found China to be much more a capitalistic economy than we thought, although its government may be communistic or socialistic..

We had two weddings in the family this year. In April, Scott married Eva Yee, whom he met in college. They are both in computers and are working and living in Silicon Valley. Then Robert and Karen Johnston, who were both working in Japan several years ago when they became friends, were married in June. Robert is now working in the family flower business at Watsonville, which is nearby, and Karen is teaching and working in language consulting.

We attended two memorable occasions this year. One was the fifty year reunion of the Topaz Relocation Center in central Utah, which was one of the camps where many Japanese Americans were incarcerated during WWII, and where Kimi and her family were held during the war. It was held near San Francisco. Over 1,300 people got together to review how their lives were then and the many things that have happened since.

In September we attended the 50th reunion of the class of 1942 of Bainbridge Island High School near Seattle. This was where Ray was when he too was moved with the other Japanese Americans from Bainbridge to the Manzanar Relocation Camp in California in the spring of that year. We understand that reunions of smaller classes are much more meaningful and enjoyable as everyone knew each other better at the time. Of a class of sixty, about one half were present, most with his/her spouse.

We still owned some property where hurricane Andrew hit at Homestead, Florida in late August, and in October we made a trip there. It's a wonder that there were so few casualties for the amount of destruction. The house we lived in and our properties were badly damaged at the time of our visit. The devastation was all still there, although quite a bit of cleanup was in progress. It seemed most homes were damaged to the extent that they were not livable yet. In many areas the primary services were still not restored. We can be thankful that we were not there when it happened. Our friends in the nursery business there are determined to "come back" and are working very hard cleaning, rebuilding, replanting, and restocking for next year and beyond.

We have written in previous letters the effect of imported Colombian flowers on our business, and now Mexico is entering the fray in a big way also. And now with the North America Free Trade Agreement in the air, we will be affected more. In November we joined 150 others on a floriculture study tour to visit some of the the main flower producing areas around Mexico City. We saw a lot of economic activity, with flower growing among them. Mexico's location to the the U.S., favorable climate, cheap labor, and its seeking of foreign investments, will have a great effect on us. It seems everything is becoming global, and we are being swept into it.

While we were in Mexico, Stuart and Carol presented us with our second granddaughter. Of course our grandchildren are beautiful etc., etc. Stuart is also employed at Kitayama Bros. in Watsonville. And daughter Jean is about to complete her work towards a masters degree in public health nursing while working as a nurse practitioner in Denver.

Although we had a busy year, we are thankful for our health, and that we can still do many things that we look forward to. We hope the same for all of you. This world of ours seems as troubled as ever, and we do hope and pray that PEACE ON EARTH AND GOOD WILL AMONG PEOPLES will prevail. We appreciate your cards and letters, and wish all of you a wonderful, happy, and healthy Christmas and New Year.

With our love,

Ray & Kigi

Was so nice to see you a few weeks ago And thank you very



much for your gracious hospitality. You are certainly
doing very well at taking care of yourself. And I
like your friend Sylvia very much. We all need
intelligent company for sure

Thanks again for everything.

Have a nice holiday and a good year