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The stockings were hung
by the chimney with care

Dear Family and Friends,

Geez! Just 1,104 days, 6 hours, 6 minutes, 47 seconds left until the END! Are you ready for the return of Quetzalcoatl? In The Late Great Planet Earth and The 1980s: Countdown to Armageddon, Hal Lindsey predicted that "the decade of the 1980s could very well be the last decade of history as we know it". 88 Reasons Why the Rapture will be in 1988 by the US astronaut, Edgar C. Whisenant and the Y2K scare are all prime examples of man's attempt to set time constraints for God. Jesus says that no one, but the Father knows the day and hour. So, I can assure you that it won't be December 21, 2012.

I will be able to retire in three years and Larry will get old age pension January 2013. We are looking forward to a trip to Alaska, as well as other travels, including visiting Larry's daughter, Sarah Marie in Hay River, North West Territories. She continues to teach elementary drama and music. She also figure skates and teaches choreography in her limited spare time. She has a fiancé, but as far as we know, there are no wedding bells in the future.



TAMMY



PHILLIP & KRISTAL

Tammy, Phillip, Krystal and Jonathon came for a visit this summer. Mark this as a red-letter year, two visits in the same year by Tammy and Phillip. Sure was nice to see them. Grand Island is so far away.

Phillip has tremendous flexibility; back bends, touching head to the floor. Phillip and Rickey are the only two people besides Jack Palance that I ever saw do one-armed pushups. Bet you that my daddy could have done it, too. Anyone who could lift the back of a pickup up and set it back the road could surely do it.

Kevin didn't get to come. I would love to see his skinny behind and hug his scrawny neck. He's really proud of having zero body fat. He's just too busy working and making babies. Number three due the last of February. He and Michael converse almost every night on Xbox Live.

Krystal is 15, going on 20, and a freshman in high school. How can that be? She was just 12 yesterday. She is a pretty young lady, but she has a lot of tomboy in her. She, Phillip and Michael were chasing each other and wrestling around the yard.

Jonathon is 12. A friend gave him an old toy electric car. He and a neighbor boy drove it a trillion miles around the yard. It was sad to see them go home.

Jarrette and Kevin are in a dead-heat competition to see who can have the most babies, the fastest. She is due the first of February. My little Emi (age 6) and Jakoby (age 2 in January) are so cute. We are taking them to Santa Land tomorrow. Larry is anxious to teach JaKoby road hockey and soak them both with big water guns in the spring. I figure Larry might wind up getting the wettest.



Emari



Jakoby

Rickey's ex-wife, Tammy, moved to Sarepta, Louisiana. It is a very small town, population 899. Shane had been struggling in school, but with smaller classrooms and more individualized teaching, he has come into his own, and is doing well.

Tomaline spent a few months at home this summer, but soon tired of farming community life, and went back to work for her old trucking company, Celadon. She will need a passport since Celadon hauls to Canada. Maybe I can hitch a ride sometime and see Larry.

And my "little" Michael—6'3" and 297 pounds—can't sit on my lap anymore. He still plays video games 24-7. He and his friend, Johnny, go to Copper Caboose in Lubbock to play Texas Hold 'em. No money involved. First place winners are given certificates for food at the Caboose.

Off again to Niagara Falls. We saw the Greg Frewin Magic Show. We were at front stage right, less than ten feet from a six-month-old Bengal tiger, about 7 feet from the tip of his nose to the tip of his tail. Larry wanted to pull the tail. I told him to go ahead if he wanted to pull back a bloody nub.

At Marine Land, we saw seals, walrus and dolphins spin around and leap way up in the air. But the best was the Orca pool. Hundreds of people were lined around waiting in the splash zone, everyone watching carefully for the deluge to begin. We never saw him, but all of a sudden there was "water, water, everywhere, and not a drop to drink." I could taste the salt on my lips. Kids were crying and people were stepping back. Larry and I were laughing and gasping for breath, hoping he would splash us again.

We spent a day on the American side of Niagara Falls. The American Falls maybe smaller than the Horseshoe Falls in Canada, but the America side was beautiful. The park was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, who also designed Central Park in NYC. At points, you could almost reach out and touch the raging Niagara River.



The Cave of the Winds takes you closer to the Falls than you thought possible. An elevator descends 175 feet deep into the Niagara Gorge. Then, clad in a bright yellow ponchos and wearing the special footwear provided, the tour guide leads you over a series of wooden walkways to the famous "Hurricane Deck". As you stand at the railing, you are a mere 20 feet from the billowing torrents of Bridal Veil Falls. The rushing waters loom above you, dousing you with a generous spray.

It was wet and cool day at African Lion Safari as rain splattered the windows of the Tour Bus. The preserve contains 1000 unique and rare mammals and birds who are roaming freely. The Safari Trail takes you through prides of lions, troops of baboons and herds of zebra. There are white rhino, ostrich, aoudad, eland, giraffe and many other exotic and



native species, including the American Bison. Most of the animals are carefully herded to prevent accidents, but the baboons get up close and personal, trying to rip antennas off the cars. The open gates are closely guarded to prevent an errant baboon escape.



Larry's friend, Dave Martin took us to a Blue Jays/Yankees game. Wouldn't my dad have been envious? I can remember Daddy, who loved baseball, lying on the floor. I would lean up against him and watch the games, Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra, Sandy Koufax, Ted Williams, all the best of the late 50s and early 60s.



Since their discovery in 1947, the Dead Sea Scrolls have rarely toured in order to preserve the fragile parchment, the earliest known record of biblical patriarchs and prophets. The many rarely and never-before-seen Scrolls, as well as extraordinary 2,000-year-old artifacts of the period were at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. Looking at them gave one a feeling of awe. They were tattered. It is intriguing that they were ever translated and amazing the significance of the scrolls to the three main world religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.



Casa Loma (Spanish for Hill House) is now a museum and landmark in uptown Toronto, constructed in the Gothic Revival style for \$3.5 million in 1911-1914. It was originally a residence for financier Sir Henry Mill Pellatt. At 98 rooms, it was the largest private residence in Canada. Notable amenities included an elevator, an oven large enough to cook an ox, two vertical passages for pipe organs, central vacuum, two secret passages in Sir Henry's ground-floor office and three bowling alleys (never completed). In comparison, Casa Loma was cold and impersonal while Parkwood was warm, cozy and homey.

I finally got to the top of the CN Tower, a communications and observation tower standing 1,820.9 feet tall, the tallest structure in the world for 31 years and one of the Seven Wonders of the modern world. The glass floor has an area of 258 square feet. The floor's thermal glass units are 2.5 inches thick. Some people experience acrophobia when standing on the glass floor and looking down at the ground 1,122 feet below. I couldn't get Larry anywhere near that floor.



Twyla & Larry

At the Molson Amphitheatre, Moody Blues entertained the audience with songs from the 60s and 70s, including their greatest hit, Nights in White Satin. MB performed an initially rhythm and blues-based sound in 1960s. They inspired and evolved the progressive rock style. Among their innovations was a fusion with classical music, most notably, the 1967 album Days of Future Passed. It was a predominantly an older crowd of fans, as evidenced by the long lines at the washroom. Not to many of us Baby Boomers can "hold it" for a whole 2 hours.

My brother, Bob's wife, Clara, passed away December 3,

a terribly sad occasion, but a wonderful reunion. We spent the afternoon reminiscing about the "olden days". I even heard a couple of new stories about my daddy. What a rare treat! Seeing Bob's son, Michael, after about 25 years ago at his grandmother, Lois Hollingsworth's funeral.



niece, jenny jenkins
nephews, lynn gullett & mike gullett

Bob has his dream job as Golf Pro at the Plainview Country Club. Can you believe that this old 77-year-old pro-am golf fanatic can still shoot a 65 on an 18-hole course?

Ken, at age 75, participated in the American National Fencing Tourney, finish 26th in the senior division, 54 and older. Ken was fencing coach while attending Texas Tech some 45 million years ago, well, in 1957.

We all had a good laugh, listening to the two Golden Glovers, Ken and Bob regaling stories of unauthorized practice while fisty-cuffing over the family car. Mom would be whaling them with the broom, and yelling for them to stop. When the broom handle broke, she just threw it down and walked off, leaving them to duke it out.

Family trees are flourishing. The Powers (LPoer) can be traced back to Normandy. They came to England with William, the Conqueror, in 1066 and participated in the Battle of Hastings. Ironically, the Borden family has the same roots. Someday, someone is going to connect back to the begets and begots. Other interesting facts include that the Powers', Oliver Wolcott ancestor and Borden lineage were signers of the Declaration of Independence. Juanell Gullett father's grandfather was Isaac Power. There was an Isaac Power in the Salem, NY fire brigade in 1810 at the same time that Larry's GGGG-Grandfather, Andrew Power lived there. No definite connection at this time, but Isaac Power may have been Andrew's brother.

Larry's Uncle Frank and Aunt Marilyn Power came from St. Joseph, Missouri for the 50th Anniversary of the Oshawa Car Club. It had been about 22 years ago that they were in Canada. Lewis, Riley, Larry, Karen, Keith, Dianne and Cousin Janis Killen had a good visit. Keith, Larry's brother-in-law has good and bad days, and is continuing his battle against brain cancer.

Merry Christmas
Happy New Year

