



Bob & Joan

'Tis the season
to wish special people like you
a holiday jolly as can be.

Penny & Jim

Ms. Penny L. Banks
71 Silver Cir
Breckenridge, CO 80424-8953



Merry Christmas 2022! The year began quietly with a visit from Jim's daughter and family, great niece Eliza and friends and lots of skiing and snowshoeing. March 20-21 we drove to Texas, visiting Jim's daughter Chris and family at their new beautiful home on several acres in the Dallas area, then on to Houston for a day to visit my 1965 college roommate Nora and Jim's daughter Merritt and family, and then on to the postponed Family Reunion at the Weekley Farm outside Brenham, Texas, a lovely groomed farm housing some endangered African animals and a few head of Longhorns. The David Weekley family had gathered the 12 Steiner cousins (our 4 moms were sisters) from all over the United States and their partners to spend a well-planned and incredibly fun weekend together. Upon leaving there, the annual antique festival was on that weekend, which goes for miles and miles, so we spent a day looking around and buying...nothing! Then on to meet cousins in San Antonio for 2 days, biking there, and finally driving home. But alas, a tire blow-out in Abilene kept us there overnight to get the non-traditional tires for the Chevy SSR!

In May and June, we finally got to our postponed bike/boat tour, our 4th trip with our favorite guide Tami, this time to the Hanseatic Cities of the Netherlands. From there we spent a few days in Copenhagen and toured a new city for us, and then over to Sweden to visit my cousin Don Harris and his fiancée (nearly cousin) Ann Wingerstrand. The 4 of us did a 6 day hotel-to-hotel bike tour around southern Sweden, and then we spent a few days at their gorgeous home in Falsterbo on the Baltic Sea. Unfortunately it was still a bit cold to go for a swim. We arrived home June 12th and left for Grand Junction for a Boz Scaggs concert with friends on the 15th. Phew! July 1-4 found us in Ouray with the Viper Club, then on to Crested Butte with other friends for 5 days at my cousin Dick Weekley's mountain chalet. August 26 we flew to Burlington, VT to spend 4 days with our friends Holley and Doug Adcock who had moved from Breckenridge last year. In Burlington we were treated to an outdoor Cirque-de-Soleil-type garden circus, a boat trip on Lake Champlain, car and walk tours of the city, and visits with the Adcock's youngest daughter and her family consisting of the 8-yr-old-cum-30ish Charlotte and her 5-year-old twin brothers. The Adcocks and we drove 3 leisurely days across Canada to Mackinac Island for the Labor Day Jazz Festival there. We stayed in The Grand Hotel, an 18th century 5-star hotel that REQUIRES you to dress for dinner (ugh) in their spacious dining room. It also boasts 18 holes of golf, but as there are no cars on the island and the back nine is about 5 miles away, you take a horse drawn carriage ride for 40 minutes to get there...and back! Very Interesting! From Mackinac Island, we 4 drove to Detroit where both the Adcock's oldest daughter and Jim's oldest daughter now live. We were dropped at Jim's daughter Chris's new part-time home purchased when she was hired as a VP for a subsidiary of Rocket Mortgage. She now travels routinely between Dallas and Detroit and husband Christopher visits Detroit as often as possible. Our 2-day visit there included a walking tour of downtown Detroit (a gorgeous city these days and not at all scary) by Chris' youngest son, Max, who is in college there. A week after arriving home from Detroit, found us in Branson, MO, with the viper club for a 5 day tour and we managed a day away to visit Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville. October 8-15 found us once again in Cabo with our Burlington friends for golf and we also got to visit with friend Miguel Guerrero and family over a fabulous restaurant luncheon.

The day after arriving home from the Cabo trip, I saw the doctor regarding my breast implants, which were giving me a bit of discomfort, and he ordered an immediate surgical removal on October 18th. It was inconvenient timing as we had house guests and other plans, but he was adamant. So...now I'm a 12 year old boy and again, loving the freedom! So far, so good!

As you may recall, I now had only one cat, the dog Nitro and Cat Mowgli both having bit the dust a couple of years ago. Midnight, my remaining furry friend, had Covid in January and languished for 9 days before finally choosing life! However, she was to be 20 years old (110 in cat years) in August and SHE MADE IT...and then had to be put down after all August 18th. I miss her terribly, but as you can see, we are not letting any grass grow under our feet.

Some Viper Club friends, the Lavers, invited us to spend Thanksgiving with them on Orcas Island, Washington, so we were there November 23-30 sharing the unique 1920's European antiques filled home they're caretaking on the southernmost point of the island. Pretty incredible place. And...we are already planning the next bike/barge trip to France and bike/hotel trip to Sweden for summer 2023, and an extended stay in Houston to visit family and friends.

Christmas will find us at home this year...the first in about 5 years! My goodness! Guess I'll have to decorate the house for a change. So...not to waste any time, I'm leaving this letter. Hope your Christmas is wonderful and spent with family and friends and all in good health.

Penny and Jim