



Merry Christmas

December 2024

I must admit that if Christmas didn't roll around once a year I would not be writing this "Annual Report" nor would I hear from most of my friends. What a wonderful way to perform a checkup and keep in touch.

First let me tell you that living in Arizona has given me permission to do many things that had been off the grid for civilized and social expectations. Yes, I do struggle when trying to grow my favorite plants in a climate quite unsuitable to this environment. I am pleased to report that my Covina Camelia is alive and well and that I have a small meadow. However, other favorites have just said NO.

I enjoy most of my activities with daughter Sharon. We have harvested apricots, plums, pears and apples and canned and frozen the yield. We were forced to puree and freeze 10 gallons of pumpkin because the javalina got into the garden and severely marred their beauty before Halloween. I now know that from one gallon of pureed pumpkin I can make 4 pumpkin pies. That means that $4 \times 10 = 40$ pumpkin pies. I should open a stand on the highway and relive my teenage years when I sold my dad's corn on what is now Interstate 10.

Sharon is living her dream of working with emotionally challenged children using her miniature horses. She was asked to teach at the Arizona Arts Academy a class in the agriculture department. She trailers her ponies to school every afternoon for pony school which includes anatomy, vocabulary and pet care.

Her non-profit corporation was given an old horse trailer which she totally restored to its 1968 glory. This included sanding, welding, painting and new flooring and new "rubber" on the wheels. It proudly displays her corporate logo. We took two of the ponies to the Christmas parade where two of her students walked the ponies the one-mile parade route.



Palominis Unstructured parade



Pony Tails new Trailer

Thanksgiving this year was a Daniels celebration in Lake Havasu with brother Dick and his family. This not only was a Martha Stewart dinner but included target shooting and off roading in the quads, razor and side-by side. No need to pass the adrenaline.

I still am hiking some of the canyons with new friends. I still am active in the local P.E.O. chapter. I hosted a grand Fiesta for the chapter with Margarita bar and a small band. We have done some fun fund raisers (collecting shoes thru a non-profit), a quilt raffle and a large yard sale downtown.

Sharon, Dan, Alicia and Daniella vacationed in Budapest and then a Danube cruise in November. While they we “out of country” Valerie and her husband were here to help with the chores. We enjoyed the Folklorico afternoon music, dinner out, and finished adorning my new “she-shed” with jewels and candle sconces.

Sharon, Jerry and I created this small retreat out of re-purposed doors.



I now am contemplating whether all this good fortune is serendipity or synchronicity. Life is good. I do hope your lives are as well.

Wishing you the best Christmas ever. Hold the friends and family tightly with love.



With my love,