

Holiday greetings to all!

First, we have moved.

Our "Village" is a "retirement community". Which is like an old folks home, but with a fitness center. It is a very nice cluster of 60 ground level apartments around a community center and is located on the same campus as an Assisted Living facility, and a Skilled Nursing Facility, should either of us need those services some future day. We made the move in early November and are still settling in, but so far, so good. One of the local semi-feral cats has already adopted us. He is a tuxedo cat with markings similar to our last cat, Book 2, and seems to really appreciate all the food we have provided him so far. And the bed on our chaise lounge on the patio. And, as all cats do, he has unerring ability to spot suckers.

We are well and remain active despite the usual quota of intermittent aches and pains, but decided to make this change in lifestyle while we are still young and fit enough to make the most of all the activities here as well as the other advantages, especially the attentive and helpful staff here. The place even gave Gene a place to set up a printmaking studio, so he is gradually getting back into that and hopes to buy an etching press in a year or so. He is still making ship models, too. Ellen continues to knit and do needlework. We have a two-bedroom apartment and have converted the second bedroom to a workshop/studio. All that in addition to the printmaking space.

It's an easy walk to most needed things, groceries, drug stores, doctors' offices. And, perhaps more important, to the local library and a coffee shop. So we will continue our daily walks, and hope to be able to give up the car in a few years.

The kids are well.

Tom and Catherine are still in New Orleans and busy as ever. Sasha, the grand-cat, has renal failure, but they are doing home dialysis for her, and she is doing well. Tom recently won a prize for best "novel in progress" from the Faulkner Society here. (a big deal) Now he just has to write the rest of it. Catherine is still practicing primary care and teaching at Tulane, so she stays busy.

Rob continues teaching at Texas Southmost College and recently moved to a new apartment after a breakup. The new place is working well, and he is painting a lot in the studio he has set up there. Jou-Jou, the other grand-cat is now about 13 years old and seems to really enjoy being the only cat in the house, after several years with two dogs and two other cats.

Rich and Natalie recently moved from Tulsa to Atlanta area when Rich got a promotion with Telestream. Natalie is now working for CNN. Sora, the grand-hawk went along with them, and they both have gotten their Georgia falconry licenses, so they will be getting to know the local, very active, falconry scene. And Rich hopes to capture a bird the next season, maybe a Kestrel or a Merlin.

In all, things are remarkably fine, and we try to remember to be grateful every day for our good fortune.

We trust you all are enjoying similar good luck.