

Published especially for relatives and friends to whom we owe letters, or with whom we exchange annual greeting cards.

This has been a "very interesting" year for us, as in the ancient Chinese curse, "May you live in interesting times"...

First, the bad news: Early in March, the Colt lost all its oil while June was coming home on the freeway one day. The end result was that the motor had to be completely rebuilt. We wrote to Chrysler Corp., and had a lawyer friend also contact them. They implied that it was negligence on our part, despite the fact that we have always been diligent in having both cars checked regularly. We were told that it was a faulty fuel pump, which had pumped off the oil from the oil pan. We could have taken them to small claims court (which we could afford) but we would get only a percentage of what it cost us in case the court decided in our favor. We would sue them in a higher court, but that would cost more money, and needless to say, a Corporation has more money to spend on lawsuits than we do. Yes, there are other things we could have done, but there were other distractions and, as it turned out, another event that, as bad as it was, helped to resolve the problem, in part.

A few weeks after the Colt did its trick, June was fired from her job after 13½ years of faithful service. Her boss was also fired the same day. It developed that this was part of an office "shakeup", caused by the fact that the new top management wanted to provide jobs for their friends from the company they had previously worked for, said company having gone defunct. She did get all of her accumulated retirement benefit, so one could look on it as an "early retirement", but of course it was quite a shock to both of us.

After a period of job-hunting, June went to Kelly Girl, and worked for them for several months before taking what was supposed to be a permanent job not far from home. As an experienced secretary, she makes as much as she made at her previous job, and she likes most of the people. However, there are several things about the job (including one of the people) she does not like, and shortly after starting to work there, she began to have intestinal problems. After going through a lower and upper GI series, it was determined that she has diverticulosis and a hiatus hernia. So, she takes daily medication to keep both under control. For a while there, she was eating nothing but a little soup every day. She wanted to lose weight, but that's doing it the hard way! She's eating better now, but has to avoid chili, black pepper, coffee, aspirin and booze. She is seriously considering quitting this present job and going back to Kelly Girl--or finding another, better, permanent job.

Shortly after starting work for her present employer, she was involved in a multi-car collision on the freeway--in the very same Colt mentioned above. This time, it wasn't the car's fault. It seems that an RTD bus had lost its diesel fuel, creating a frictionless surface, and June was the fifth of six drivers who suddenly found that there was no traction to be had. Her Colt came into contact with only two of the cars involved. The second one plowed into the front of her car after she had completed a 180° skid before the Colt came to a stop. So she was rear-ended in the front. Thanks to the lap-and-shoulder belt and the head restraint, she escaped with bruises and a mild case of whiplash, which is still being treated.

Our insurance company considered the Colt totaled, and paid off more than they normally would have because of the new motor which had been installed only a few months previous. We got enough money to make a healthy down payment on a Plymouth Horizon--which has been named The Blue Unicorn. We also purchased a two-year guarantee (over and above the regular warranty). There is more than one insurance company involved, so that all medical bills will be paid for, too.



# MOFFATT HOUSE

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That's enough bad news for one year, don't you think?

We wanted to attend the World Science Fiction Convention, which was in England this year, but were unable to. We did manage to attend a few other conventions, however, such as the Westercon (West Coast Science Fantasy Conference) in San Francisco in July. (We Saved Gas on this one by traveling via Greyhound bus--which is a story in itself!) And, in the LA area, the Bouchercon (a convention for whodunnit fans), Fantasy Faire, and the Loscon, which is sponsored by the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society. We did a little work for the Bouchercon, and Len helped to plan the program for the Loscon. Both of us are involved with the 1980 Loscon, as well as being on the bidding committee for the World Science Fiction Convention for LA in 1984. We are also still quite active in local s-f club doings.

After 13 years of publishing the JDM BIBLIOPHILE (a magazine devoted to the readers and to the works of John D. MacDonald) we turned it over to Ed Hirshberg at the University of South Florida, Tampa. We still write a column for it, but no longer have to edit, print and distribute it. Ed published two issues in 1979. For those of you who might be interested, you can subscribe by sending \$3 (for 2 issues) to: Ed Hirshberg, Department of English, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620.

Jay is still boarding with us, and has a job as an accountant not far from home. He plans to continue his education at some time in the near future. Caty and Bob are still in San Luis Obispo. Caty has graduated from Cal Poly, and is working on her master's degree. Bob is in his second year at Cal Poly. His major is Engineering Management.

Sis and Pres are still living in Hesperia. Although retired, Pres is probably working as hard as ever on his house and others. Nephew Bob lives up there, too. Niece Shirley is still working too, of course. Her youngest, Sean, is still in high school, but of course Jim and Tim have been out of school for some time. Nephew Bob's girl, Lorri, lives in Phoenix with her mother, but gets over for visits. She is 11 or 12 now, I think, and reads a lot--including science-fiction.

As you all know, we do a lot of reading, too. Don't get out to movies much--hard to fit into our still-busy schedule. We did see TIME AFTER TIME, after reading the book, and recommend both. There are some holes in the plot, but the suspense holds up well, and it's a lot of fun. The movie and the book have the same basic story line and the same ending. We understand that the reason for this is that Karl Alexander wrote three chapters and an outline, and showed them to his friend Nicholas Meyer. Meyer based his screenplay on this, tossing in a handful of Sherlockian references, such as a Scotland Yard inspector named "Tobias Gregson". Meanwhile, Alexander sold the book and finished writing it. So there are differences in locations between the book and the film, and the book gives a better look at the philosophy of the young H. G. Wells.

Our plans for 1980 are simple enough. The World SF Convention will be in Boston over the Labor Day holiday, and the Bouchercon will be in Washington D.C. in October. Much as we would like to, we can't plan on attending either. But there will be enough conventions, etc., going on locally to keep us busy!

We hope that this finds all of you well, and we wish you all greetings of the season, and a most happy new year!

Love,

*Len & June*

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