

Happy Holidays

Kresha Kronicle



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Christmas 1992

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE WETGENS!!

Like everyone else the year flew by and now I'll try and put down the highlights of 1992--mostly about our trips as so many of you have asked about them.

On January 20, we left on a trip to the Southeast via Kansas City, Kentucky, and Tennessee. We had the best catfish meals at the Cracker Barrel, a good fast food chain in the Southeast. On to Nashville. We took a tour of the city and the whole gang stood on the stage of the Ole Opry House. Now we can say we sang, "You Are My Sunshine" on stage. That evening on CN "Live from Nashville Now" we saw Alan Jackson and as the TV camera viewed the crowd you could see Melvin (we watched a rebroadcast on the TV in our room). You couldn't see me as a gal in front of me was always holding up a sign. We toured the Jack Daniels Distillery, Lynchburg, TN--no samples as it's a dry county so they offered Tennessee Tea. The traffic was terrible through Atlanta, GA, but we did make it to Dublin, GA by noon to have lunch with Wayne and Kathleen Grosch. It was interesting to hear about farming there, plus hearing about Wayne's Irrigation business.

On to St. Augustine, Florida. What a historical place. There weren't any races at Daytona Race Track, but at least we can say we sat in the bleachers. One of the more interesting places was Kennedy Space Center. Now when they have a launch we relive how close we were to the pad and the whole set-up. On the ground we saw our one and only alligator. At Disney World, Epcot, Magic Kingdom, Sea World, Universal Studio, Cypress Garden--all around Orlando--we saw and did what all tourists do. By the way, when we were in Paris, I asked how Disney's new attraction was doing. We were told not good, because it's so expensive. (worse than in Florida) When families in Europe have Holiday (their vacation), they prefer to go to the beaches. We went way down to Key West. Saw Truman and Earnest Hemingway's homes. We heard on TV that Vice President Gore spent Thanksgiving down there. At Hemingway's home, 42 cats have the run of the place as long as they live. We saw how cotton material gets the pattern and color. We also saw how cigars are made. Since we were there, the Hurricane wiped out so many of the places we were on, on the Eastern coast of Florida. It was rainy and cold most of the time that we were in the South. In fact, many of the days were nicer in Nebraska.

We came back up from Key West, crossed the Everglades going towards the west coast of Florida. Busch Gardens is beautiful with their flower beds, wild life and birds. We enjoyed the water skiing show. An 80 year old man skied without skis.

We headed home on the backroads. Stopped in Plains, GA and took a tour of Jimmy Carter's town--by his home and church. We learned a lot about his personal life. Our highest priced gas was gotten at Billy Carter's station. Melvin remembered when he was there before how good the peanuts were, so we loaded up. As we went through Alabama and Mississippi we saw so many catfish farms. They are having problems--too many in the business, making for surplus.

As we entered Arkansas, we decided to go to Branson. You wouldn't believe how much construction is going on. Since everything is closed down for the winter, we didn't have traffic problems that everyone says they have had.

Our first planting of corn was April 28th. We never had to irrigate. This is a record since irrigation started. With the cool, wet growing season, the crops were slow in maturing. It was a challenge to get the crops harvested. We were one of the lucky ones and finished November 17th, the night before more rain and snow. We had a white Thanksgiving.

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On September 1st we flew American Airlines via Omaha, Chicago, to Brussels, where we joined Trafalgar Tour out of London. Many of the places we were to go on this trip I had been to in 1970. To our surprise, we went through the village of Aachen, Germany in the Rhine Valley where Melvin was wounded in WW II. As you travel from one country to another, the distance is about a day just like going across some of our states. We were in Colonge (Koln, their spelling) Germany. This city was really bombed in WWII. We took the boat ride down the Rhine River with all the vineyards on the slopes. You marvel how they harvest the grapes. We stayed in Innsburg, Austria, where the Olympics had been. There had been snow. We weren't prepared clothes-wise for this cold snap. The second week of our trip was warmer as we headed south. We can say we waltzed in Vienna, Austria. They still have feather beds for bedding just like 22 years ago. We had a ride on the Giant Wheel (largest ferris wheel in the World). In the news this past week, you saw pictures and read about Winsdor Castle in England and Hofdergard Palace in Austria burning. We have been in both places. The palace in Austria was just about finished with their remodeling. We didn't get to see the horses that they are noted for, but I heard they saved them all. You have never seen cleaner or more beautiful countryside than when you drive through Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. You can't say that about Italy. Autumn was setting in just like back home. The trees were turning color and the farmers had started to harvest. In Italy their crops were poor--lacking rain. We couldn't believe all the sunflower seed fields. They were planted along with corn, milo, beans and alfalfa. All the fields are very small except in France where they are more like Nebraska. In Venice, Italy, we had a ride in a gondola down the canals (streets of the city). I sure would hate to think you would have to get in a boat each time you wanted to go some place. In Switzerland, we visited Lucerne and Geneva. We went to a family type show where they played all kinds of different musical instruments including an alphon which is made out of wood and is 6 ft. long, resting on the floor as the musician blows into it. Melvin was chosen to go on the stage and learn how to yodel. After which, all the contestants were rewarded with the hugest mug of beer, and were to drink as much beer as they could in one swallow. A little gal from California almost emptied it.

On to Paris and two very eventful days. We will never forget our night tour of the city. It took us to the Eiffel Tower when right behind it was the full moon. This was a most beautiful sight! The tower had just been repainted. It takes 52 tons of paint to do it every 7 years. We left Paris and 10 hours later we were in Dallas. After going through customs, we flew into Omaha and drove home. We really had jet lag for days.

Now that harvest is over and Thanksgiving is past, Melvin has been reading the travel brochures and looking at the road maps. I keep telling him as soon as I get my Christmas cards and letters mailed, I'm ready, too.

We hope God has blessed you with good health and happiness this past year. We look forward to hearing from all of you.

Love,
Dolores & Melvin



July 1, 1992

Dear Kresha Kin,

We enjoyed the picnic in Columbus; visiting, and all the delicious food, as usual. Congratulations to Mary Jane and Dan Hilger on their 25th Anniversary! That was a very nice celebration with lots of good old photos and even the same original car. Michelle and Marcus are getting to be so grown-up, and of course, good-looking. (From "good stock")

I told many people ther my story about Aunt Sophie's daisies: I was surprised to have so many volunteer daisies pop up this year and then I remembered that I had asked Aunt Sophie, when she was in the nursing home, to be sure to pray for all of when she got to Heaven someday. I told her that she'd have to send us daisies, since (ha! ha!) St. Teresa probably uses up all the heavenly roses! So, I feel those plants must show her prayers for us.

Murl and I have been quite busy with yard work, redoing some rooms and getting rid of "stuff". We go to Zach's and Murl's baseball games and Zach will have classes later in golf and computer. Jennifer (22) is working up in Washington and will be returning to Pullman, WA this fall to begin a Master's degree in Anthropology. We plan some brief camping and fishing this summer and later a trip to Taos, New Mex.

We wish you all good health and abundant harvests. Some wheat fields in Eastern Colorado had hail up to softball size and are declared disaster areas. Murl's mother's land was spared.

God bless!

Love,

MURL, MARCIE AND ZACH ETTER

November 23, 1992

Dear Kresha Family,

Winter is blasting down on us bringing heavy snow. We're not keeping all the snow. Some is on its way to Eastern Nebraska.

The fall harvest is in the bin. It was much better than the summer harvest. Hail damaged our wheat and alfalfa.

I'm sure those of you that were recipients of checks from Sophia's estate were pleased. Fr. Ed Kunzman from St. Theresa's in Mitchell said that the Church had received several donations to Sophia's memorial. It was nice of you to remember her.

In October I spent a week in North Dakota with Josh and Chris Saunders and girls. They have a new baby girl born October 24. Her name is Ella Rae. She has two sisters Thea and Julia.

I'm looking forward to the holidays and visits from our children and grandchildren.

May you all enjoy a Blessed Christmas season and have a happy, prosperous, New Year.

Love,

MARY LUKASSEN



November 23, 1992

Dear Family,

About that time of year to send our Christmas message asking God's choicest blessing on you all and to tell you about your brother, George's, funeral services.

Our nephews, Fathers Mark and Daniel Seiker, came out with their Mother, Theresa Seiker, my three brothers Ralph and Louis from Roseland, Gerald from Kansas City, KS. They were a real comfort to me and the family.

Friday night, Father Mark led the Scriptural Rosary and immediately after, Fathers Mark and Daniel offered their masses up for the repose of George's soul. A good number stayed for the mass.

Saturday at 9 AM the two Fathers and our Pastor, Monsignor Leahey concelebrated the Mass of Christian burial. Father Daniel, celebrant, and Father Mark, gave a beautiful homily (which we taped). We had organ music and a soloist.

A good number of relatives, friends and neighbors were in attendance. George was much loved. The Kropachs from Los Angeles brought sister Ann Hensel on Friday. Pall bearers were: Clarence Kresha of Sacramento, Michael and Richard Kresha of Bakersfield, Ralph Trausch of Roseland, Gerald Trausch of Kansas City, KS, Steve Ruggenberg, Bakersfield. (manager of the bus company for the past 21 years) Steve told me that he asked all the bus drivers to drive with their bus lights on for a half day in George's memory. The burial was the usual Catholic service, followed by full Military honors. George served his country with pride for nearly 4 years. St. Martha's Guild (of which I am a member) hosted a dinner at our new parish hall for all who wished to come.

Both the Kresha and Trausch families have been very generous with Mass intentions for which the children and I are most grateful and thank you. May he rest in peace! (I might add that our Pastor, friends and parishoners were very impressed with the two young priests from Nebraska.) They also helped with the Sunday masses here. They are priestly priests.

The SPATH or peace lily sent by the Kresha family is truly beautiful. It brings thoughts of you when I look at it.

George was a kind, loving husband and father to his children. He worked hard to provide for his family. We miss him. I'm very grateful that he brought me into the Kresha family 47 years ago this November 29 to share in your rich heritage of love for each other.

Our families are all well at this time. Jerone's family is with me a lot and Diane keeps in close touch. They plan to come for Thanksgiving and we will go to San Jose for Christmas.

May the Infant Jesus, bestow his choicest blessings on you and your families and bless you with good health and much happiness.

Love and prayers for all,

MARGARET KRESHA



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE MARTIN KRESHAS!!

If your year was anything like ours, it was busy and it went by fast. Before you know it, 1993 will be here. We will be asking ourselves, "Where did 1992 go?"

We are all trying to stay healthy, and thus far, we are succeeding.

MARTIN still manages to go to the farm every day. He is slowing down a bit, but still does chores and continues to farm.

ELAINE is in her 10th year teaching at St. Isidore Catholic School in Columbus. She teaches third grade. Even though school is going good, she will be happy to have a few days off for Christmas vacation. Everyone needs a time for renewal.

PATRICK is still in Henderson, NV. He is working at Hoover Dam. If and when you make it out to Nevada, give Patrick a call. I'm sure he would like to hear from you. Giving tours of the dam is not included in his job description, but I'd bet he could line a good tour up for you.

KENNETH, STAR, AND KRISTI (now 3 1/2 years) are living on the farm. Both Kenneth and Star work at Behlen Manufacturing. Kenneth is a mechanic and Star works part time in the office. Star is also a part-time student at Platte College. Kenneth works part time at Phillips 66 Service station in Columbus.

BERNARD works at Bill's Volume Sales in Central City, NE. He will soon be moving from Central City to Clarks, NE. He bought a house in Clarks, and is in the process of remodeling it.

JOLENE and COLLEEN both live and work in Norfolk, NE. Jolene is an RN at Lutheran Community Hospital (Medical/Surgical floor). Colleen is a pharmacist at Alexander's Pharmacy (a family owned pharmacy). They share the same apartment and both keep very busy.

We added a new member to our family on August 29, 1992. BILL ROMBACH married LOIS. We are happy to have him in our family. Lois continues to work at Appleton Electric. Bill is an automotive technician at Center 66 Service Station in Columbus. Bill keeps busy with hunting this time of the year. Lois is busy with bowling and aerobics.

1992 has been good to us. We hope that, for the most part, it has been good for the majority of you.

May 1993 be filled with PEACE, JOY, HOPE and LOVE for you and yours!

Love,

THE MARTIN KRESHA FAMILY



NOTICE!! FROM LILLIAN WITULSKI !!

I am cleaning out my closet and have decided to give each person that purchased a "Kresha Families in America" history book, one free book for each book that they purchased. If you purchased one book, you can have one free book. If you purchased 5 books, you can have 5 free books, etc. Books can be reserved in your name and will be given as your reservations are received. "First come, first served", until the supply is exhausted. Postage and shipping charges are extra.

Lillian V. Witulski
Route 2, Box 181
Beatrice, NE 68310



June 15, 1992

Dear Kresha Relatives:

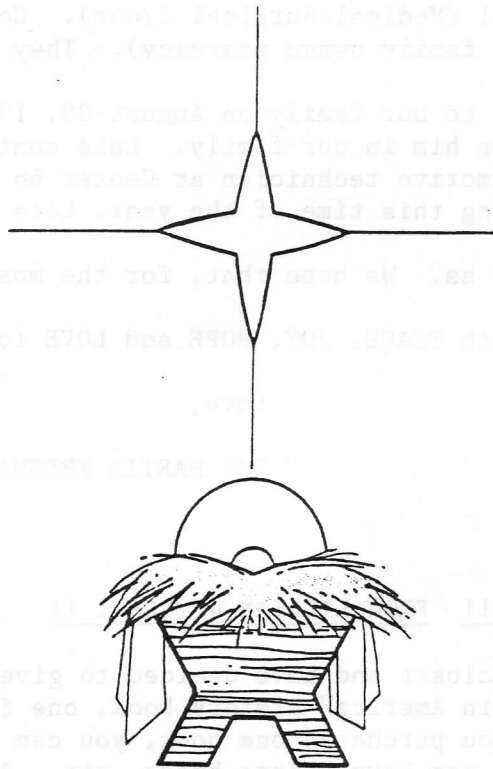
Another reunion was enjoyed. It was so nice to see all of you and get some visiting done. Thank you for making the effort to come. The bountiful picnic lunch was delicious and it proves that all the Kreshas are good cooks and no one will ever go hungry.

It is time for the second generation to learn how to sponsor the reunions and after visiting with quite a few people, we learned that most families assign the first born of the family--and then go right down the line for each child's descendants, to entertain. In 1994, the descendants of Leo Kresha and Cecelia Smagacz will host the Kresha Family Reunion. Chairmen are Greg Kresha and Dolores Wetgen. Duties and responsibilities will be explained.

Hosts for the Reunion in 1993 are the Tom O'Brien family, the Kenneth Kresha family and Bernard Kresha. Volunteers are very hard to find. Thank you in advance.

Love and prayers to all,

Harold and Lillian Witulski

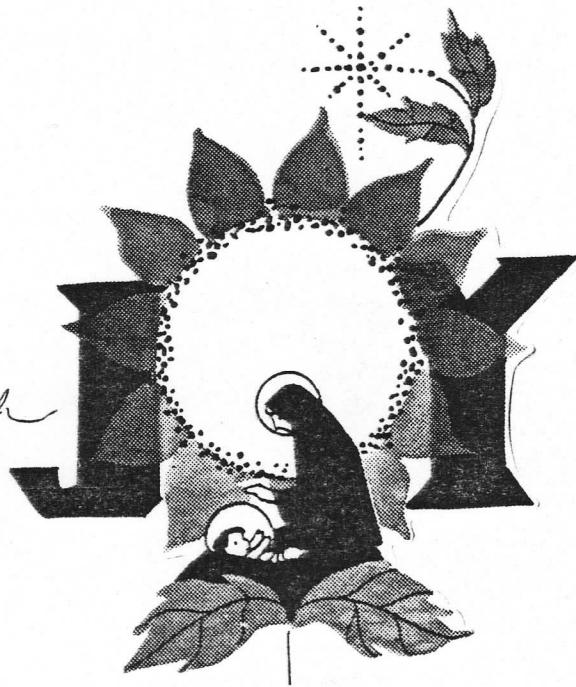


"A light shall shine upon us this day
for the Lord is born to us."

*Merry Christmas
Sister Dolores*

May the wonderful
Blessings of CHRISTMAS
be with you
throughout the NEW YEAR

Lill & Lois Rombach



EDITOR'S NOTE:

There will be another Kronicle out in a few weeks. It will include births, graduations, weddings, obituaries, pictures, announcements, late Christmas greetings, etc. from 1992.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

Elaine

