

Beardshall Happy New Year Letter

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January 31, 2010

What We Did in 2009

Highlights of 2009

- Last New Year's in VA
- Finishing up the cabin
- Springtime in the Blue Ridge Mountains of VA
- Visits to the cabin from the McCarthys, Mitchells, Hubbles and our daughter & family/friends from Atlanta
- 60 Day Cruise to Hawaii, South Pacific Islands New Zealand and Australia
- Return to Hattiesburg before Thanksgiving
- Unusual 2009 Christmas in Blue Ridge Mountains of VA with the Mitchells and Michaels

Prologue: For those of you who are wondering if we are still around, we are. I am just late getting my e-card out to you because of our lengthy cruise and our trip to the mountains for Christmas 2009. We are back in MS, where I found many of your Christmas Cards piled up during our absence. So here goes...

January/February 2009—Last year we returned to Mississippi in mid-January after spending Christmas in VA. It was time to concentrate on our work. For me, that work is consulting with organizations in Mississippi. There still seems to be demand for my expertise in evaluation and statistical consulting. Elmer helps me with the Access programming I need. He also continues to add to his portfolio of websites. They number around a dozen now. He managed to turn a few over to other webmasters. We visited my sister and her husband, Betty and David Hubble, on the Alabama Gulf Coast at Ft. Morgan. They came down South for the month of February to get away from the cold of Pittsburgh and to play golf.

March/April— Early in March we helped with the MS50, a 50K/50M Ultra Trail Run. Elmer works on the race all year with registration, publicity, and results. It was a great success (200 entrants from 23 States). In April we met Bill, Amydell, Brooke and Bryce in beautiful Natchez. Natchez was dressed in the flowers of spring and we all enjoyed seeing “the princess houses” as Brooke calls the antebellum mansions. After our trip to Natchez, we wrapped up our Hattiesburg activities, closed up the house and headed to Virginia. We had managed to stay in Hattiesburg just long enough the experience to Spring Bloom and develop our usual allergic reactions. We arrived in Virginia long before winter was over, but did get to see the mountains come alive in spring. Again, we were able to have a full blown allergic reaction to their Spring. The lesson learned was that we'll probably delay our return to the mountains in 2010.

May—We settled down in in our fully furnished, comfortable cabin in VA. We began our round of visitors for the spring and summer when Dixie and Matt McCarthy from Coronado, CA came for a visit. We have know them for many years - since Elmer's Navy days. Dixie and I traveled together in the Far East many years ago. They had never been to the Blue Ridge Mts. It was fun to show them around and experience the mountain culture.

What We Did in 2009 (continued)

June/August—Summer was glorious in the mountains. There were a few hot days but it was always cool at night. We had enjoyable visits from our friends, the Mitchells from GA, the Ryders and Zoellners from MS, and the Michaels from Atlanta. In July, we went to the Great Smokies to visit, Lois and Bill Queen. They are currently restoring a summer home on the Cherokee reservation where Lois lived as a child. We were really impressed by the beauty of the area. The Smokies are truly magnificent. Betty, David and Greg Hubble came for a visit in July to attend the Hubble reunion. In early August, our granddaughter, Anna and 2 of her friends from Atlanta arrived to attend the Horseback Riding Camp in Wytheville for the second year in a row.

September/November—We returned to Hattiesburg early in September. We only had a few days to get ready for our 2 month cruise that involved a round trip from California to Sydney, Australia. On September 23, we sailed from San Francisco under the Golden Gate Bridge on our way to Australia, stopping along the way in Hawaii, the French Polynesian Islands, the Samoan Islands, the Fujian Islands, and New Zealand. In mid-October the ship turned around in Sydney and we basically retraced our outbound trip. In Honolulu, we were able to visit Doug Golden (one of Bill's Hattiesburg friends) and his family. Doug is the commanding officer of a VIP Air Force Squadron based at Hickam AFB. We arrived back in Los Angeles on November 22. The trip was marvelous, *albeit long*. Long for me, but not for the old Navy salts!

November/December—We stayed in Hattiesburg just long enough to read our mail, get the instructions for our work that needed to be completed by our return in 2010. We spent the first day getting rid of the piles of leaves around the cabin and on the driveway. The second day in Bland, Mother Nature dumped a huge snowstorm on us. The day of the snow storm, the Mitchells arrived after a long, harrowing trip from north Georgia to spend the night with us on their way to Maryland. They would not be able to leave for 4 days. When they did leave, they turned around after a few miles and came back, stayed a few more days before deciding they had had enough of the snow, then decided to go home before more ice and snow arrived. While they were there we were snowbound, but we had heat, food, tv, Internet and good fellowship. The Michaels (our daughter) came again for post-Christmas skiing at Winter Place and were certainly not disappointed. After they left, we worked on our projects, then left for MS as soon as we could "safely" drive down the side of the mountain from our cabin. For those of you who have visited, you have a good idea of which I speak. We stopped at the Mitchell Lodge in Blue Ridge, GA on our return to Hattiesburg only to find we didn't have much trouble getting down their driveway (icy and snowy also), but had a lot of trouble getting out. Fortunately, they have another exit on a logging road from their lodge. We are back in Hattiesburg and hard at work. We'll be here in Hattiesburg until late Spring or it gets too hot, whichever comes first.

Ann and Elmer

Plans for 2010

- **Fulfilling our contract work on MS projects.**
- **Attending Elmer's 50th Reunion at the University of South Carolina (also NROTC 50th Reunion)**
- **N. Litchfield Beach Trip to Queens Coastal Castle following Reunions**
- **Enjoying our cabin in VA during the summer months**
- **VS-29 Reunion in San Antonio**
- **Annual trip to Moab in November**
- **A visit from you?**

Cabin: 8150 Little Creek Hwy, Dublin, VA



We stand ready to greet you when you visit



I stand ready to cook when you visit



Quilt Panel finally added to cabin décor!



Bear Pictures over bed painted by Dixie



Two of fourteen of our frequent visitors



Our first 2009 visitors, Matt & Dixie McCarthy



MS Neighbors, Becky & Hollie on the AT



Picnic at Monster Rock w/Zoellners



Michaels play with Lauren in Little Creek



Mitchells and Harmans with us at the Floyd Country Store Jamboree



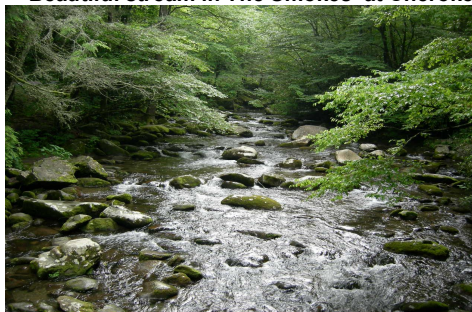
3 GA Peaches attending Horse Camp



Visiting the Queens in Cherokee, NC



Beautiful stream in The Smokes at Cherokee



My first garden at the cabin



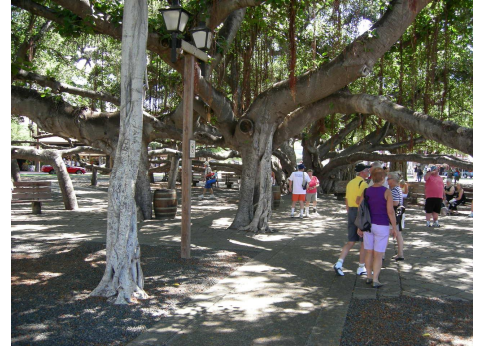
Volcanoes NP on Big Island of Hawaii



Akaka Falls, Hilo, Hawaii



Banyan Tree, Lahaina (Maui), Hawaii



Star Princess in Bora Bora , FP



Hotel Accommodations in French Polynesia



Beautiful Moorea, French Polynesia



Shopping in Tahiti



Tsunami Effects in American Samoa,



Getting a haircut at the flea market in Fiji



Black Sand Beach near Auckland, NZ



Elmer feeding seagulls in Wellington, NZ



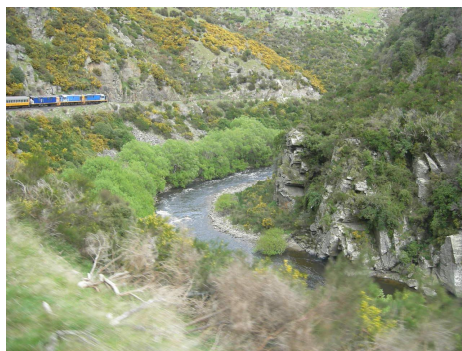
Sheep-covered Countryside near Dunedin, NZ



Christ Church, NZ



Train Ride near Dunedin, NZ



We made it, Sunrise at Sydney Opera House



Scene at Cabin Upon Arrival Dec 16, 2009



Cabin after snowfall

Mailbox after snowfall on 12/19/2009



Mitchell's Car Snowed In

Our gate after snowfall



Road Condition to Cabin—No ingress!



Mitchells, after harrowing trip from GA



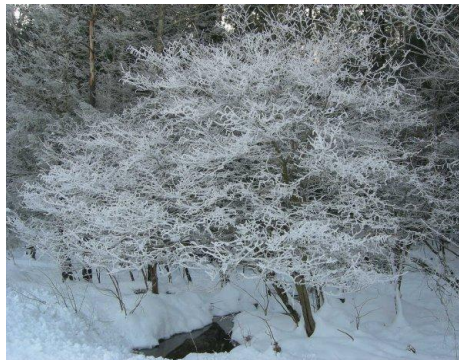
Frozen tree on Little Creek



Elmer measures the snowfall —18 inches



Cabin in Snow, December, 2009



Barbara Mitchell dressed for the weather



Mitchells relax inside during snowfall



Deer came to eat at the feeder



Mitch and Ann walk down the driveway



Mitchells have had enough, going home!!!

