

## CHRISTMAS 1989

We wish the best to you and yours this Christmas Season!

We understand that you may be very concerned with the earthquake situation in our area. We are not in any danger in our immediate area. We do have a fault line which goes down the street on which we live, but it is a very minor one. One of our neighbors lost his chimney, though, no one else in the neighborhood did. A couple of curbs got crumpled (at the corner it used to say "Highland Oaks Drive", it now says "(crumple) Drive", and there are a few cracks (minor to about 3 inches wide) in streets, driveways and parking lots in the immediate area. We have minor cracks in our driveway, front sidewalk, and one through part of the house. Our whole house is on a concrete slab, and the crack is a hairline (about a 32nd to a 16th inch wide, just enough to break a few asphalt tiles -- well, we were going to replace them, anyhow). All in all, we lost a vase and a couple of flower pots (sentimental value only), one day's work and a few hours sleep. We were without electricity for 13 hours (and then, off and on for a couple of days); but, battery back-up saved all of our business files until we had recovered enough courage to come back inside to properly log off the computers. Power wasn't off long enough for us to use our generator, but a client whose power was off longer did borrow it for a day. But, we are all doing just fine and everything is back to normal.

Over the last several years we (Jerry & Sharon) have been working with the Cousteau Society on various projects whenever we can, and in the course of that have made many friends among that group. The Society along with its sister association Foundation Cousteau in France are in the process of opening "Ocean Centers" in France and the United States, and eventually, other parts of the world. The Ocean Centers are sort of amusement parks with a message--to teach people and children, in particular, about the ocean and its importance to the rest of life. We were invited to and attended the opening of the first of these (Parc Oceanique Cousteau) in Paris. It was great! We spent a fun week in Paris, a week before the Bastille celebration (end of June-early July): explored as much as we could on foot and the Metro, and went to a few crazy parties. The Cousteau gang is always silly-crazy whenever they get together--picture Jean-Michel Cousteau dressed up in a suit and covered with that aerosol canned sprayed string stuff--about eight of the gang ambushed him in the middle of a party. All in all, it was really nice to be with members of our extended family that we don't get to see very often. They are a beautiful family with generous hearts and gentle ways and it's always refreshing to the

spirit to spend time with them.

In early February, we needed a sanity break. Our work load always seems to be heaviest during December and January. We have ended up working through too many Christmases (we are still working through too many Christmases, it's the 21th and we're still writing this letter and the tree isn't even decorated yet!) and sometimes we just NEED to get away. We went to Mexico (Northern, on the west coast of the Sea of Cortez). It was cold. It was Cold. It was COLD. It was **COLD**. It was windy. Well, it was really only cold when it was windy, which was from about noon til sunset. But, we had a good time and became sane. There was a nice fireplace in the lodge in the evenings, and the view overlooked a lagoon filled with pelicans, and the food and company were good. We had fun hiking. We both got hiking medals. We saw the "Catch 22" ruins (the set from the movie) and the highlight of that tour was a dead cow (make that, skeleton)--well, you would have had to have been there (our guide thought it was impressive). Susan (a friend of ours that went with us) learned how to take pictures of fish that weren't there--well, there were supposed to be a lot of fish, but we think they went South for the winter. Diving was cold, too.

The rest of the year we worked and Jerry & some friends started several new companies. Jo, however, has been enjoying her retirement and spending a lot of time gardening.

We wish you love and happiness at Christmas and in the New Year,

*Jerry, Sharon & Jo*