

REFIOR News Bulletin

Paul, Pam, Nikki & Laura

January 27, 1993

THE REFIORES BRING YOU 1993 GREETINGS !

I always love a new year. It is like opening a present. We don't yet know what is inside, but I am absolutely sure it will be great ! (However, as rapidly as time is flying, 1993 is almost over).

These have been good days for the Refiors. We enjoyed one of the most relaxing, loving, warm and enjoyable holiday seasons ever. It was so special to have the entire family together.

Nikki's major in college was international studies. She is fluent in French and is gifted at learning languages. The Lord opened up the door for her to obtain employment with a small company which is engaged in international trade. The type of company is something that nobody would have ever guessed. She is working for the Continental Saddlery Company which is located near Indianapolis. That's right ... They craft and sell saddles. These saddles are the more expensive, beautiful saddles which are entirely hand-made and tooled. The company has 70% of the market share for high-end saddles in Europe. Nikki's boss has asked Nikki to learn German since they have considerable sales in Germany. That is an assignment which Nikki will enjoy. For the time being, she is concentrating on learning the company and its business, and she is absolutely loving it.

Laura just received her grades for the first semester. This has been the most difficult semester of her high school career because of all of the advanced, honors classes she is taking. Laura earned ALL A's, and we are very proud of her. She is such a diligent and faithful student. She really deserves those high marks. Laura is now involved in the high school musical production. That is taking several hours of her time each day. Laura is really enjoying it. Laura and Pam had a big project which is now under way. When Laura's bedroom was last decorated she was in elementary school. For her Christmas present we are redecorating Laura's room (carpeting, wallpaper, curtains, etc.). The carpet is now in. Pam and Laura just started the wallpapering and it should be finished by this weekend. It looks great.

In the last **BULLETIN** we sent pictures of our new puppy, "Candy." We all have really fallen in love with Candy. Pam says that Candy is the best birthday present she has ever received. It turns out that Candy is a "runt" and she is much smaller than most Shih Tzu dogs.

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The big change at the law office is the completion of the *COURTROOM* on the third floor of the new addition. This is a full-size courtroom complete with all of the full-size courtroom furniture. I designed the furniture to be on wheels so that the room can be set up for the courtroom, or that furniture can be "parked" and the tables arranged for other uses, e.g. large meeting or conference uses. Some photo copies of pictures of the courtroom are included. This unique feature of the law office has been a dream of mine for a long time. There are several important purposes for the courtroom. First, many clients and witnesses have never before testified in court. The courtroom setting allows them to become familiar with such environment and to practice their testimony in a "real life" way. Second, the courtroom allows a better opportunity for teaching Jerry and Bill certain aspects of trial presentation, evidentiary foundations, arguments and the like. Third, there is the opportunity for all of the lawyers to do a dress rehearsal of such trial matters as opening statements, voir dire, closing statements, and other aspects of the trial. Fourth, for especially important cases I will hire six individuals for the day to serve as a jury. (The courtroom includes a jury box. We will then present the trial evidence and arguments to the jury (if it is a multi-day trial, some summarizing will be necessary). Then we will videotape the jury deliberations and hear their decision. Lastly we will interact and discuss the case with the jurors and find out what they believed, what they did not believe, why, what aspects they felt were important, and the like. I do believe that this will in some cases make the difference between winning and losing on behalf of our clients. I always love "projects." I think I have had as much fun with this courtroom project as any. Our handyman, Rich Krygowski, has done a magnificent job for us.

Once again (yes again, and again and again) I am on a diet/exercise program. I have stuck to it since I started January 2 and who knows, maybe I will actually pull it off this time. My knees are doing great. I am really thankful to the Lord for that.

I have resumed the office of deacon at Pleasant View Bible Church. We are at this time searching for a new senior pastor. Pastor Ivan French retired from the pastorate last year and is presently in a conference and speaking ministry around the country and around the world. We really miss Pastor French. We are looking forward to the Lord's provision of a new pastor. I am praying that the Lord will bring the man to us very soon. Pam and I are enjoying our second grade Sunday school class. These are also important days for the missions committee at the PVBC.

Pam's father, E.J. Petro, has pretty much recovered from his cancer surgery. Last week he started the chemotherapy program which will last an entire year. Petro Reporting Service has continued right along despite E.J.'s cancer surgery and treatment. Pam's brother Tim and his family moved to Fort Wayne last fall. Tim's wife, Ann, was very quick to learn the techniques and work of court reporting and has been a huge blessing to E.J. and Shirley in their business.

This coming summer Pam and I will probably travel back to the towns where we went through high school (Paul - Whitewater, Wisconsin; Pam - Bettendorf, Iowa) for our 25 year high school class reunions. I always enjoy the reunions. And they are much more

