

## *Christmas Greetings and Felicitations!*

The year 2000 has been good for everyone in the Wenning household. Just after we sent out our last Christmas letter, Teresa, Rebecca, Carolyn and Carl traveled to Mexico for 13 days during December. We spent nearly two weeks in Mexico City, and made several good friends. Among them was the Padrón-Lopez family who made us feel right at home and took us to see many historical sites. In late March/early April Miss Hirono Sasaki, an 8th grader from Japan, came to stay with us for a whole week. Rebecca, in turn, spent nearly two weeks with Hirono at her Asahikawa home (on the large northern island of Hokkaido) during July. In August our family traveled to Washington, DC, for just over a week.

Teresa, now 9 ("and a half") years old, is continuing to home school. She is in 4th grade, but in 5th grade math as she is fond of telling everyone. She continues to be actively involved with her violin, the Prairie Aviation Museum youth group known as Soaring Cobras, Girl Scouts, and 4-H. During July she gave her very first public talk dealing with beekeeping during a 4-H meeting. She also built a rocket and showed it at the 4-H fair in July. She won a blue ribbon for her efforts.

Rebecca, now a sophomore at University High School, remains actively involved in school activities. She is a member of orchestra, Key Club, the Creative Writing Club, and does tutoring and peer mentoring. Rebecca is now fluent in Spanish, and is taking private lessons in French. During the spring months, Rebecca enrolled in "Mini Medical School" at the University of Illinois School of Medicine in Peoria. She attended 20 lectures dealing with all aspects of the medical profession. She is again part of the Bloomington-Normal Youth Symphony, 4-H, and Girl Scouts. She continues to work with our honey bees, and in October was named the 2001 Honey Princess by the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers' Association. She continues to speak widely about bees, honey, and beekeeping, and has given presentations to more than 30 groups.

Carolyn continues to drive everyone everywhere, telling us all that she feels that her key job at home is that of chauffeur. Showing how much of her time is dedicated to motoring is the fact that she picked out a nice red pick-up truck for Carl during October. She continues to home school, run garage sales, and sell honey. Along with household and family duties, she takes care of her two great companions -- the cats Phyllis and Catarina.

Carl continues to lead a three-part career. He was delighted to be able to hire a full-time assistant in the planetarium during October. He still oversees planetarium operations, but duties there will be minimal. He continues to manage the Physics Teacher Education program at Illinois State University, and has a nationally recognized program that is growing by leaps and bounds. During October Carl received the Distinguished Service Award from the Illinois Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers for contributions to physics teaching. His avocation continues to be writing about beekeeping. This year alone he had a total of 13 articles published by both *American Bee Journal* (12) and *Aptec* (1) magazines. After a two-year hiatus, he has returned to working on his doctoral dissertation. He hopes to graduate with his Ed.D. by spring 2002.

So, that about does it for 2000 at the Wenning household. We all are sending you our Christmas greetings and wishes for the best of New Years in 2001.