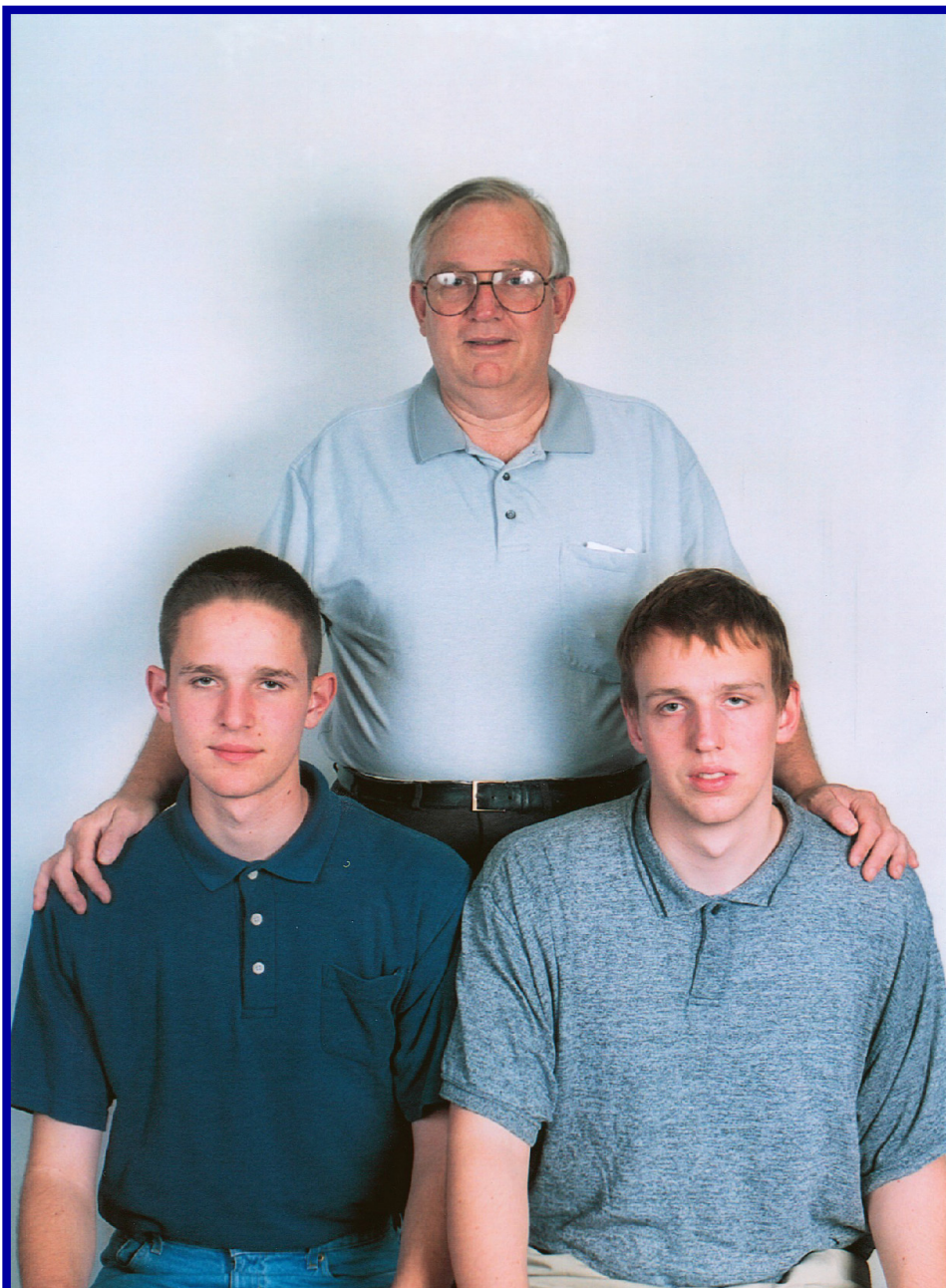




2001

Happy Holidays to All

Ed: Now as I recall, I was supposed to have an empty nest this year, but it doesn't seem to stay empty. Not that I get to see the boys much. Steven is quite happy with a bed, dog, stocked refrigerator, and game/tv counsel. Scott on the other hand only needs the bed and a parking space. I suspect next year my picture will show a significantly lighter hair hue - both boys will be driving. At work, the British Fingerprint project wound down, and I transferred to a contract supporting the FAA command center (out near Dulles Airport). Needless to say that was an interesting place to be on 9/11. That afternoon, with access to Arlington being restricted, I drove up to Steven's school, had dinner with him, and then came back. After I got home I walked down as close to the Pentagon as they would let the public get. It was surreal, with the floodlights, helicopters with spotlights flying overhead, and fires still burning. I have been down there regularly since, first watching the cleanup, and now the reconstruction.

Scott: It is hard to comprehend the true breadth of my experience over the past year - everything from depression to elation, lethargy to extreme overproduction. It has been a year of polar opposites. In School, I am now officially a Computer Science / Psychology double degree. Psychology has me in a deep state of self-contemplation about this whole process of becoming an adult. I am in a fantastic stage of limbo, childhood behind me, adulthood still a few years away, and I relish every minute of it. I must say that I truly have reached a very sophomoric stage in my life - a wise fool proud of my newfound understanding of the world, while at the same time very aware that I have far more to experience before I can truly believe I "get it" (if that can/will ever happen). In the face of all this, I also am happy to report that my exploration of life is no longer a solitary one. I now have a wonderful and beautiful companion, Francesca, who is at the exact same place mentally as I. I treasure the gift of her presence, and together (at least for the time being) we are jointly exploring this odd process called "growing up".

Steven: It has been an interesting century so far. If this is the beginning, I am almost scared of next year. Anyways, I am up for promotion to Master Sergeant. The good news is that I will be 16 next year. Massanutten has a new President and Commandant. It is a whole new ball game at school. Although I am no longer the highest ranking for my class, none of my class mates out rank me. I also got active in Boy Scouts again, being tapped for "Order of the Arrow" at summer camp, and earning my Star Scout rank. I hope to get a job as an intern at the Department of Defense for the summer. Life is definitely more interesting these days.

SEASON'S
GREETINGS

Steven

