



2007



Steven:

I had high hopes for this year and it initially started off well. A good spring lead into a great summer. However, fall and winter were rough. There has been a lot of trials. With those trials, came a number of disappointments. I'm glad the year is coming to a close and I hope next year will bring better fortune.

Ed:

And the years roll on. I can't believe Steven is already half through West Point. Right now he is what is called a "Cow" (Junior). According to Dad, the term dates from the early days of West Point when Plebes and Yearlings were not allowed to leave the Academy. They were regularly told that they wouldn't get out "until the cows come home" since that was the start of their Junior year, Juniors became known as "Cows".

The card pictures on the front show two of this year's highlights.

The top picture was taken at the Army/Navy game in Baltimore. The "cadet guest" seating was up in nose-bleed country - level 5 row 31 (there were only 32 rows). The advantage was that I could look over the back and watch the cadets march in from Camden Yards. The march on was magnificent and I also enjoyed both the parachute jumps and the Blackhawk fly-over. With luck I will get the pictures up on our web site "soon". Let's not discuss what happened after the kickoff. :(

The bottom picture is from my summer California visit to see Scott. During the week we did some flying, going up to Napa Valley to visit my "adopted son" Paul and then spent 3½ hours regaining my currency as a pilot. With the cross wind at San Carlos I think the latter was an accomplishment. The weekends were the fun. The first one we made an aerial tour of Yosemite Valley. The second one was the real adventure. We flew up to the Seattle area, stopping near Mount Shasta to take the picture. The next waypoint was Crater Lake and we landed at Stark's Twin Oaks near Portland Oregon to spend the night. The next day Scott and I went up for our "close encounters of the mountain kind". After a quick flight up the Columbia River Gorge, we turned north to look at Mount Adams, then west to play "ring around Mount St Helens". Our last waypoint was an orbit of Mount Rainier. With the help of updrafts Julie reached over 13,000 ft, and we were still looking up to the summit. From there we flew to Bremerton where we spent the night. On the way back to San Francisco we stopped at McMinnville Oregon to see the "Spruce Goose". With clear weather and no fog coming off of the Pacific, the night approach into the San Francisco area was magnificent. Two albums of pictures from these flights are on ed.cragg.info. They are of the Yosemite flight and the first leg of the Seattle flight. With a little bit of luck I will have the last album up by the time you get this card.

(continued on back cover)

My other highlights for the year:

I acquired a "new" BMW. I had been planning to get an older 5-series BMW once Steven took the 325is to West Point. In April I found a 1988 BMW 735i being offered at a charity auction. I bid on it and won, overpaying a little, but it was for charity. I had some repairs, but the cost was about what I would expect for a car that age. The most recent repair was getting the radio fixed. Being a BMW, the part was overpriced, but now I can listen to NPR when I drive up to get Steven. As the boys say it's a "Geezers BMW". They are right, but I still enjoy driving it. First it is air conditioned, and second when I drove Steven back to West Point in the summer, getting out of the car after several hours of driving, I noticed that I wasn't stiff and sore (as I have been in the other cars)

Earlier this year I learned that the Greenwich Town Library had a copy of the Greenwich High School yearbook from Dad's graduation year. On one of my trips to West Point, after dropping Steven off, I took my trusty laptop & scanner and visited the library. Since that was the first yearbook ever published by the school, it was a bit light in details. I scanned everything that was even remotely of interest. The treasure from the trip was finding that Dad had been voted "class flirt". To bad I didn't know that before he died. One of these days I will update Dad's memorial web site with these scans.

Other trips this year were in April to Atlanta visiting CNN, the Coca Cola museum, & Stone Mountain and in July to Shepherdstown WV to see the Contemporary American Theatre Festival.

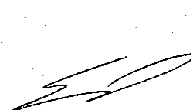
As an interesting side note, both boys were in Eastern Europe this summer For three weeks during May&June Steven was on an exchange tour to Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. Scott traveled to Poland for several weeks in July on business, barely getting home in time for my visit

Beyond that, I continued with my routine theatre and square dancing throughout the year, as I hope to continue for a long time. While I could retire, I sometimes think I need to go into work to recover from theatre and dancing.

And that was it for this year.

I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**



Steven