

Merry Christmas!

Yes, It's Newsletter Time Once Again!

I know some people dislike newsletters, but no one's forced to read them! We like hearing how friends and family are doing, even if we haven't managed to get together all year. So if you're anti-newsletter, feel free to line the bird cage with this paper without hurting our feelings. Otherwise, here is the abridged Gingold saga for 1995.

We've had our share of stress this year, but thankfully, we've been blessed with more happiness than nastiness.

We're still very active in our church. Don and I still play in the Handbell Choir and Emily has started singing with the Youth Choir. She has a strong, true voice and is getting over the initial stage fright. I teach Emily's Sunday School class this year and will begin publishing the fourth volume of the church newsletter in January. Don has had his hands full as Director of Lay Ministry as the church continues to ride some turbulent waters, without our Pastor who recently retired.

When not fretting about the church, Don has spent a lot of time in career soul-searching. He no longer works for Palindrome, but has been doing contract work for Spiegel and CNA Insurance while job-hunting. He's also been re-educating himself to make the career shift from Software Product Manager to Multimedia Director, learning new programming, reading books and manuals and taking classes.

This fall he completed a course at the Naperville Community Access Television studios to become a producer. His first TV program was called **The Science Behind Science Fiction**, and he had such a grand time doing it, he's eagerly searching for a similar full-time position.

We are no longer "parents of preschoolers" as Emily started Kindergarten this year. Such a sentimental milestone for this poor mom! But with five free mornings a week, I've been able to volunteer in the classrooms and in the school library. Emily loves school and reads and writes already, spurred on by keen competition with her big

brother.

James is now in second grade. He's into "chapter books" this year and mystery stories, so he and mom have a lot in common. As a preschooler, he refused to sing with his class on a stage, but this fall he auditioned for and won the role of a symphony conductor in the second grade play. The other 120 kids were various instruments and he conducted them nobly as Baron Von Stick.

Don and James are "pals forever" with the Indian Guides this year, camping and biking among other outings, while Emily and Mom do the Girl Scout thing. A neighbor and I got suckered into leading the Daisy troop, and while we enjoy being with the girls, the training is a bit overwhelming!

With Don busy with classes and unusual work weeks, we didn't travel much this summer, but we did do some camping in Illinois and Wisconsin. It was also a wonderful summer to spend at the beach here in town — so we did. Some kids complain they are bored during school breaks, but we had so much fun, the summer passed much too quickly.

Actually, most of 1995 went too quickly. Thank heavens there's 1996 around the corner waiting to be filled up with good times. We hope it fills up with good times for you and your family as well!

Wishing you a wonderful year,
Don, Kate, James and Emily

