

News from Nan

HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS 2014

NOVEMBER 5, 2014 | ANNA



Bison in Yellowstone

November 5, 2014

8103 Cabernet Ct, San Jose, CA 95135

As 2013 drew to a close we reluctantly realized that VR Communications, the family consulting concern that had been both business and pleasure to us for 20 years, was no longer bringing in enough income to justify its existence. So with decidedly mixed feelings we unincorporated at the beginning of 2014. I started the business on my own after I left IBM, and it served me well for about 10 years, at which point Dick joined me as an active participant. How many couples can work successfully together?! Well, we can testify that it isn't easy, but we made it not only possible but also pleasurable. The kind of work we did required the broad array of skills we could muster only as a team. And we learned a lot about each other and life along the way.

Fortunately we've picked up a number of new worthwhile projects and activities in 2014 that more than fill in for the loss of the old ones. Here are a few examples:



Dick working the pallet jack at the Computer History Museum warehouse



Anna in Mesa Verde



Survivor at the Pearl Harbor anniversary ceremony

- All year we did artifact research, cataloging, and photography at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, California. We're part of a team of 15 volunteers who expect to catalog 10,000 back-logged items by the end of 2015 when the project ends.
- In June we worked on Anasazi pottery shards in Colorado.
- In October we helped to preserve dinosaur bones in Wyoming.
- In December we spent a week helping to restore the USS Missouri in Pearl Harbor. During our time in Honolulu we witnessed the annual Pearl Harbor Day ceremonies, attended by a number of survivors.
- We did significant new research on our family trees, and wrote or updated family history books and papers. I earned a certificate in genealogy from Salt Lake Community College.

Our families have been busy this year, as well:



Matthew's graduation



Percussion section of the EVHS marching band



Archer and Helena on a freighter in Duluth, MN

- Tim worked on the San Diego Bowl Games website and hiked the back-country around Calabasas, California.
- On the Livengood front, Matthew graduated from Evergreen Valley High School and started classes at West Valley College. Miranda, now a high school sophomore, has been very active in both the marching band and wind ensemble. Rick and Ellen continue to successfully juggle family events and active careers, and Ellen joined the IBM Watson team (of Jeopardy fame).
- The Blomquists moved to the Lake Minnetonka area the end of last year, and they are busy furnishing and remodeling their 1940s-era home. Archer (grade 3) is talented in Kung Fu and enjoys fishing. Helena (grade 1) continues to develop her artistic talents and is an accomplished reader.



Lucy Scout Blomquist as a puppy



Maynard Louise Livengood

We were sorry to lose two grandpets this year: Lucy Scout Blomquist, who was a darling puppy in Gillian and Mike's Arizona days, and Maynard Louise Livengood, hunter *par excellence*, who made it to the advanced age of 19. Both were beloved family members and will be missed.

◀ 2014 ◀ BLOMQUIST ◀ CALIFORNIA ◀ JOHNSON ◀ LIVENGOOD ◀ SAN JOSE ◀ VAN RAAPHORST