

The Wiegand Family Christmas Gazette

Wiegand Family Mourns Loss



After a brief illness, Niel's mom passed away on December 23. We will all miss her.



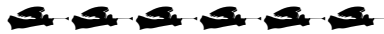
Kenny Moves and Jim Doesn't

Kenny's a home owner! In May Kenny moved to Preston, about 40 miles south of Rochester. Now he spends free time tool shopping and picking out paint color for his kitchen. He continues to be an archeologist, mostly helping identify native American sites in Iowa. He's gotten really good with a shovel.

Jim has now been working/living in Milwaukee for over 6 years. He's doing internet programming for an on-line service manual publisher. If you've ordered a John Deer Construction Equipment manual recently you've probably run some of his software.

Niel and Beth See the USA

This last summer we again visited family and friends in the western US. Recently we've been looking for different ways to get between Minnesota and Washington. This time we swung through Colorado to visit family there and then meet up with Rochester friends to spend a few days in a cabin near Pueblo, CO. We had a great time visiting places like Pikes Peak, the Royal Gorge Bridge and the Garden of the Gods.



The Rest of the News

We're still very much enjoying life in the upper mid-west.

Beth continues to part time tutor children with reading disabilities. Her official title is "Academic Language Therapist".

Niel enjoys operating his portable ham radio station from picnic tables or hiking trails where ever we go. He also spent about three months helping restore a flood damaged pipe organ in the area.

We both are very much involved in church activities. This has in turn led to volunteering with the Red Cross and doing overnights with the local homeless shelter.

Elderly parents have been a frequent topic at our dinner table. Niel's stepfather remains in eastern Oklahoma and Beth's dad is in Pullman, WA

Niel Turns 60



We celebrated Niel's 60th by heading west in January to the Izaak Walton Inn on the edge of Glacier National Park. It's an Amtrak whistle stop making it easy to get to. We got a chance to snowshoe and cross country ski while spending four days in a caboose remodeled into a two room cabin. Beth wants to stay in a tree house when she turns 60.



We hope that this Christmas finds you each safe and joyous as we celebrate Christ's birth.

May the Lord's blessings be with you in 2012,

Beth and Niel Wiegand

More photos at:
<http://www.prismnet.com/~nielw/family/photos.htm>