

Joe and Darlene Ritchey Christmas Newsletter 2005

Dear Family and Friends,

In mid-November we're all thinking of Thanksgiving and making holiday plans. Some folks are even getting ready for Christmas cards. So the Ritchey's are trying to make plans, but for us this year the fall will be a little different. Why? You wonder, because we've moved. Maybe it comes as no surprise, because you've heard it through the grape vine, but if not, this letter is intended to get you up to date.

The move is physically complete, but we can't say that we've completed the transition. In July we purchased a home in Los Alamos, New Mexico. In early September we had the majority of our belongings shipped to our new address. As of this date we haven't sold our house in Chillicothe, so periodic trips back to Southern Ohio are imminent. With family in northeastern Ohio we still are planning annual trips back to visit our parents.

Briefly we'll update you on what everyone is doing now and we'll give a little information on why we chose to move to New Mexico.

Joe is doing basically the same work he has been for the past seven years (working as a contractor to the Department of Energy) except now at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. The "Lab" as it is called here has some 7,500 employees working on a variety of defense and security related projects. Joe is working on cleanup of contamination sites. As it turns out the Lab is several years behind the Portsmouth site in terms of its progress towards. For Joe the work is a new challenge in a beautiful setting. Joe's office is 5 minutes from our house. He has several new friends and finds time to have weekly trail runs and mountain bike rides on the many canyons and mesas that make up the local terrain.

Darlene has been busy getting the house in order and learning where the best places are to shop, although the choices are limited here in Los Alamos. We are in a brand new three story townhouse that is called a "live-work" setting with the first (lowest) floor zoned for a small business. It has a large open space with 10-ft high ceilings and a bathroom. The second (middle) floor has a living, eating, family, full bath, and deck. The third (upper) floor has a loft, bath and the master bedroom. Professionally Darlene has been approached by the Pastor of the church we are attending to join their staff as a part time administrative assistant. She has also begun the process of becoming a substitute teacher in the Los Alamos Public Schools. This will give her the flexibility to travel with Joe or visit family.

James made the move with us and is currently taken up residence on the first floor. He has been working for Joe's company since April. He has joined the Praise band at the church and has been enjoying getting to know the area.

Tim decided to take a semester off to work. He has been doing a lot of traveling to different parts of the country. He has stayed in Chillicothe although he is mostly home just on weekend. It has been nice to have him take care of the house and not just let it sit empty. He is looking forward to getting back to school in January at Cedarville University in Ohio.

John is at Judson College in Elgin, IL. He seems to be doing well and making many new friends. He and Tim will be coming to NM for part of the Christmas break. It will be good to have everyone together.

Have a great holiday season. We hope to hear from you. You can reach us at:

Our new address: 4712 Quemazon
 Los Alamos, NM 87544

Joe's Phone 505-577-3783
Darlene's Phone 505-913-1204
James's Phone 740-703-5992
Tim's Phone 740-703-1779
John's Phone 740-703-5085
e-mail ritcheyjd@comcast.net



Front of the house.



Bandelier Nation Monument 15 miles south.



White Rock overlook 10 miles east.



Continental Divide near Chama 100 miles north.



Cumbres Pass north of Chama in CO.



Pajarito Ski Hill 5 miles west of house.