

Delores & Russel Miller's

Wisconsin Farmer

Christmas Kaleidoscope

A kaleidoscope is a tube in which one can see beautiful colors and designs. Both ends are closed, but one end has a small peephole through which one can view life through tints of various shades. Multiple reflection. The clear glass is closer and pieces of colored beads and glass are placed between plates, reflected in mirrors. The ground glass throws the reflections in many directions and beautiful patterns are formed. When turned it causes them to appear as symmetrical designs, constantly changing phases or events. A kaleidoscope is an instrument of magic. Shake it! Random fragments move into patterns.

Shake the kaleidoscope of memory, close our eyes and it begins to happen. Remembering our 50th wedding anniversary celebration last summer hosted by our five children, their spouses, and the ten grandchildren. 140 of our closest friends, relatives and neighbors attended at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel.

Tumble the kaleidoscope and we see sights again on our November pilgrimage tour of Hungary, Czech, Austria and Poland. A poignant journey to the Auschwitz Concentration Camp near Krakow where 1.6 million Jews were put to death. A fun October trip to see Richard, Sharon, Colin and Joshua in Massachusetts. Short expeditions around Wisconsin.

Bounce the kaleidoscope and remember the visits of the ten grandchildren who enjoy the farm. Madeline, Connor, Alyse, Tierney, Colin, Joshua, Cassidy, Elena, Dayne, Sean. And their parents: Robin, Keith, Richard, Marianne and their spouses.

Youngest son Matthew will marry Lisa in a Christmas 2007 wedding at our Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greenville.

Waggle the kaleidoscope and remember baling hay last summer. We are getting too old to hoist the bales, but will do it till the day we die. Small Garden, three acres of lawn to mow on our new Toro 52 inch lawn cutter.

Joggle the kaleidoscope and remember how thankful we were to sell three building sites and our spec house, even though we had to lower the prices by many thousands of dollars just to get them sold.

Jolt the kaleidoscope to remember how we enjoyed watching football games, the New England Patriots and the Green Bay Packers. Musical Concerts, too.

Quiver at the excitement of acquiring a new vehicle - a 2008 Ford Taurus, dark red with leather seats to replace the 1998 Ford Crown Victoria. Delores has her little Ford Focus for short trips, and Russ the truck.

Tremble at the thought of a new edifice at our Greenville Lutheran church to be completed by 2010, the 150th anniversary of the churches founding. The gift of Baby Jesus at Christmas reminds us of our salvation and the thought of heaven.

Shifting the kaleidoscope to remind us of our good health, the friendship of others, family, the mailbox filled with Christmas cards. May you have a Merry Christmas and your hearts be filled with cheer as you gaze into your own kaleidoscope until we write you again next year.

So it was in 2007 at the Miller Farm.

copy right 2007, Delores Miller

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