

Herzmann Family Christmas Letter 2014

Daryl Herzmann¹, Elizabeth Herzmann¹, Margaret Herzmann², AND Robert Herzmann³

¹ *Caretakers*, ² *Senior Child*, ³ *Precious Baby*

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Abstract

This article summarizes the year's worth of activities for the Herzmann Family. 2014 was another successful year of family expansion, supporting the economy through various expenditures, and propitiation of Uncle Sam via tax remittance. *Author's Note: The submission of this dossier was delayed this year due to sleep deprivation associated with the newest arrival.*

1 Introduction

Last year's Christmas Letter (Herzmann et al 2013) was well received and there was additional demand for a second printing. While the Impact Factor was rather low (read zero), it was decided to again offer this summary. Our family's size has never been larger and the subsequent increase in noise level has been more than proportional. Our family now constitutes four humans (Daryl "Daryl" (36), Elizabeth "Liz" (30), Margaret "Miss Maggie" (1), and Robert "Rob-Rob" (0)) and one cat (Snoopy (6)).

1.1 Housing

Our family continues to make our residence in the plush suburb of Des Moines known as Ankeny. We will have new neighbors soon! These new neighbors happen to be Liz's maternal and paternal relatives (read Daryl's in-laws), who have moved here from Lincoln, NE. They are not exactly next door, but we can see their house from our kitchen window! This is an exciting time for the children to have their grandparents so close and an exciting time for the parents to have on-demand babysitting available.

1.2 Conveyances

Last year's letter loathed the lack of a mini-van for parlaying our growing family. No direct action was taken on this issue and given the news found in Section 1.1, we now have access to a minivan as well! Thank you Liz's parents for letting us borrow their van!

1.3 Employment

Daryl remains employed with Iowa State University and continues to work on his weather data collection stuff. When folks ask him for good weather, he

notes that he works in sales and not production. His employment is on an annual basis and contingent on proposals getting funded. If you are a funding agency reading this letter, please considering funding my research!

Liz continues her work at Johnston Middle School with 8th and 9th graders. The Science Olympiad program, which Liz coaches, continues to flourish. Liz and her co-coach have expanded the program to the High school, which now supports about 45 additional students. They prepare after school daily for the State competition in April. Liz will again mentor a student teacher in the Spring. Liz enjoys mommy - Maggie time on Saturday mornings with story time at the local library and summer swim lessons.



Figure 1: Liz and the dependants prior to the first day of Fall 2014 school.

Miss Maggie has not found employment at this time. She seems to get shy around new people, so

that makes getting a service type job difficult.

Mr Robert is unemployed as well, so only half of our house works for a living which matches national demographics.

2 Mr Robert

Liz gave birth to our second child on 15 June 2014 in the early morning hours. According to Daryl, this birth was even easier than the previous one (even without the usage of pain medications). Against Daryl’s advice, Liz nearly gave birth while driving to the hospital. She did kindly wait for Daryl to park the car prior to Robert’s arrival a few minutes later at 2:53 AM. Miss Maggie was not entirely sure of what to make of this new arrival. She did immediately bop him over the head to verify his existence. She now refers to him as ”Rob-Rob”, which will probably be the nicest name she will ever use about him.

Mr Robert is a happy baby and makes very expressive facial gestures. The daycare has determined that his laugh sounds like Dr Sheldon Cooper of television’s Big Bang Theory. Mr Robert is desperate to start crawling and walking; he has lots of ambition to be on the move.

Child	Metric	Percentile
Margaret On: 14 Jul	Weight: 23 9oz	63
	Height: 33”	86
	Head Size: 19”	93
Robert On: 15 Dec	Weight: 18 12oz	73
	Height: 27 $\frac{3}{4}$ ”	91
	Head Size: 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ ”	92

Table 1: Family physical metrics. Mother’s statistics were redacted.



Figure 2: Daryl teaching the children how to drive tractor (pronounced tra-tich by Miss Maggie) on Grandma Barb’s farm.

3 Miss Maggie

Miss Maggie will celebrate her second birthday in January and will enjoy being the center of attention again. She picks up on new things each day and is slowly learning the English alphabet by watching Wheel of Fortune (Sajak and White 2014). For this Christmas, she got her first big girl bed in exchange for retiring her pacifier (an arrangement she did not offer). She is a wonderful helper and likes to remove items from their storage and then put them back in random order. She also is constantly scanning the skies for ducks and geese.

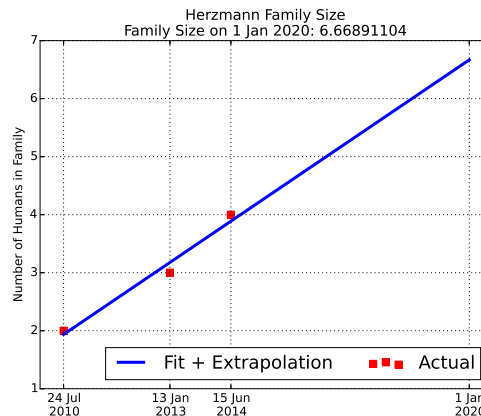


Figure 3: Actual and modeled family size.

4 Summary

Our family continues to grow in size and love. Figure 3 details the growth and extrapolated forecast of size. For the first Christmas in the past three years, Liz is not pregnant (at least to the author’s knowledge). We may not be able to report an increase in family size for next year’s article unless we acquire another feline.

Acknowledgments Our family wishes to thank you for the generous support, prayers, cards, gifts, and visits you have provided us in the past year. With your continued support, this letter will be produced again next year. Please note that the format chosen for this correspondence was completely Daryl’s idea and execution. Full L^AT_EX source can be found on Daryl’s github page.

5 References

- Github, 2014: <https://github.com/akrherz/me> , visited 23 Dec 2014.
- Herzmann, Daryl E., et al. Herzmann Family Christmas Letter 2013.
- Sajak, Pat L. and Vanna M. White. America’s Game. Wheel Watcher number available upon request.