

Herzmann Family Christmas Letter 2021

Daryl Herzmann¹, Elizabeth Herzmann², Margaret Herzmann³,
Robert Herzmann³, AND Charlotte Herzmann⁴

¹*Vaxed + Horse Dewormer*¹, ²*Fully Vaxed + Booster*, ³*Fully Vaxed*, ⁴*Full of Bologna*

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Abstract

We all survived the year, so you will find a proper accounting of our various activities along with a tasteful level of snark.

1 Introduction

As prescribed, our family size remains constant and comprises Daryl “Daryl” (43), Elizabeth “Liz” (■■■■), Margaret “Maggie Moo” (8), Robert “Bobbert” (7), Charlotte “Charly Friend” (4), and one cat with a dog’s name of Snoopy (13) whose main purpose in life is to cause trouble.

1.1 Housing and Domesticities

Our summer and winter dwelling remains the same physical structure with this coming spring completing the tenth year of occupancy. We had no remodeling projects for the year and no significant damage from indiscretions made by the children or tool-wielding father. And as of this writing, Charlotte now has a lofted bed, so all children now have the opportunity to fall from a 2m height each night. Liz received an Insta-Pot for Christmas last year and it has been a gift that keeps on giving.

1.2 Conveyances

No changes here, although Liz continues to scheme replacing her aging and unexciting minivan with a Ford F-150 Lightning truck. Any generous donations to the Herzmann family for this worthy cause would be greatly appreciated.

1.3 Employment

Daryl is back to commuting to Iowa State University and writing buggy software each day. His highlights of the year include seeing 80 amps of his power distribution equipment under flooded water and an artificial intelligence (AI) system called Github CoPilot that now writes code for him based on magic. In fact, this system is writing this letter now and is now suggesting to write. “This is a great example of how the computer can be used to help people.”

Liz still teaches at a middle school here in Ankeny. The pandemic continues to create a challenging environment with ever shifting policies and regulations. Outside of that, teaching class at church, taking care of the kids, and keeping the husband in-line consumes any remaining free time / energy Liz has.

The children remain unemployed, with plenty of free time and energy.

2 Miss Charlotte

Charlotte turns five in a few days and was concerned about not having much to report on for this letter. So she recently deposited one of daddy’s coins in her belly bank (Figure 1) and remitted it a number of days later, without interest, by flushing it down the toilet. She will start Kindergarten next year and has committed to finishing the thirteen years of schooling on time (Figure 2).



Figure 1: X-ray examination to determine how much money Charlotte owes in restitution.

3 Mr Robert

Robert continues to march to the beat of his own drum. He likes spending time outside with as little clothing as possible. He is making an honest effort to learn the piano along with his sister. He thoroughly enjoys the few days we spend each fall at Grandma’s farm helping her neighbors harvest corn. He loves watching football and after determining which team the room is cheering for, will vociferously support the other team.

4 Miss Maggie

Maggie is in 3rd grade and still only completes one grade per year (Figure 2). She would like to provide you an itemized list of her activities:

- Near Easter, she had her first communion.
- A few weeks ago, she danced in the **Nutcracker** with her dance studio.
- She started piano lessons a few months ago and enjoys it.
- She discovered the joy of eating kohlrabi.
- She likes art.

“That’s enough for now.”

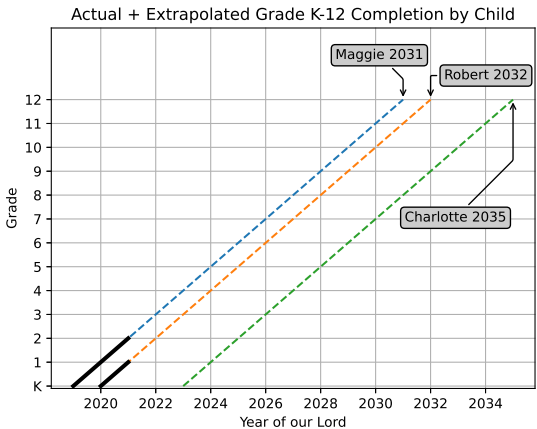


Figure 2: Observed and expected grade completion progress by child.

5 Jamaica Galavanting

To celebrate our 40 11th wedding anniversary, we took a trip to the only available hotel (*cough*) in Jamaica, which unfortunately did not permit children (*cough, cough*), so the kids had to stay home with the grandparents (*cough, cough, cough*). Herzmann et al (2020) promised that the obligatory swimsuit photo would be included within this year’s discourse. Figure 3 is the highest resolution photo we could find (*more coughing*). For much of the trip, Daryl repeated *The Simpsons*’s quote, “It smells like Otto’s jacket” (Simpson, 1996). A forever-memory was sending a good friend a postcard from there on 22 June and having it delivered in the states on 22 November.



Figure 3: Daryl and Liz, happily in love and such.

6 Duluth Trip

Parental guilt of not taking the kids to Jamaica led to a family trip to Duluth, MN. We had a great time, but the kids were most interested in the nice pool, with a slide, that the hotel had. They all want to go back again, so to experience the pool. They also enjoyed watching the ships come in, the lift bridge, Split Rock Lighthouse, and other sights sponsored here by Visit Duluth (<https://visitduluth.com>).

Acknowledgments Our family wishes to thank you for the generous support, prayers, cards, gifts, and visits you have provided us in the past year. Thanks to the non-color X-ray image included, we were able to avoid color page costs this 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.

7 References

Github, 2021: <https://github.com/akrherz/me> , visited 12 Dec 2021.

Herzmann, Daryl E., et al. Herzmann Family Christmas Letter, 2020.

Simpson, Maggie. *Homerpalooza*. The Simpsons; S7E24, 1996.