

# Herzmann Family Christmas Letter 2022

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Robert Herzmann<sup>4</sup>, AND Charlotte Herzmann<sup>4</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>*Proprietor*, <sup>2</sup>*Responsible Adult*, <sup>3</sup>*Almost Ten*, <sup>4</sup>*Additional Children*

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## Abstract

Now is a propitious time and setting for an unabridged accounting of our family's activities per annum. The experienced reader should have already prepared fully for what is to follow.

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## 1 Materials and Methods

Our family now comprises Daryl "Daryl" (44), Elizabeth "Liz" (<40), Margaret "Maggie Moo" (9), Robert "Bob-bert" (8), and Charlotte "Burger" (5). Our cat Snoopy forcibly crossed the Rainbow Bridge at the age of 14 after a bout with cancer. A private burial service was held in our backyard, followed a few weeks later by a kind fox's exhumation for the kids to say goodbye one last time.

### 1.1 Housing and Domesticity

Our dwelling place remains unchanged for the past decade and continues the vindictive promise Daryl made to the Realtor that we would never move, even after she insisted that we would want to move after seven years. The following equation succinctly describes the contents of our house:

$$\frac{d(\text{stuff} + \text{junk})}{dt} > 0$$

The only construction project of note was backyard excavation to install some drainage water management. The kids are shown working in Figure 1 with no known child labor laws violated in the process. The infiltration was only marginally improved, so the kids will have more digging work to do.



Figure 1: Children enjoying the pleasures of forced manual labor.

### 1.2 Conveyances

Herzmann et al. (2021) solicited donations for Liz's Ford F150 Lightning truck fund. We generously received  $8e^{-3}\%$  of the goal so far, thank you! Liz's mini-van experienced a break-in by nefarious actor(s), who made off with a paltry sum of \$2 and many expired coupons.

### 1.3 Employment

Daryl remains gainfully employed by Iowa State University. His primary work tasks include soil erosion modeling and maintaining computer servers running FORTRAN code, both circa the 20th century.

Liz still teaches at Southview Middle School here in Ankeny and keeps plenty busy with church activities. Note that the kids are in the "north side" system for Ankeny, so as the name implies, their paths will not cross at school. The highlight of her year and for the first time in her teaching career, Liz broke up a fist fight at school and lived to tell the tale.

The children don't seem interested in earning money for chores. Instead they believe they are employed to bicker at each other, which perhaps if we threatened to pay them for that work, they would then refuse to do it!

## 2 Miss Charlotte

Charlotte started kindergarten this fall and has been a very happy student. She has greatly benefited from watching and learning along side her kin. She contributes the following text: "I love unicorns, I play outside, I like my dada, I love my mom."

Charlotte turns six in a few days and is very excited. We'll denote her height on the kitchen wall and then bemoan her lack of progress against her siblings. She continues to underperform with stature,

but Figure 2 should give her hope with an extrapolated height of 222 cm (7'3") at age 18 and taller than both siblings.

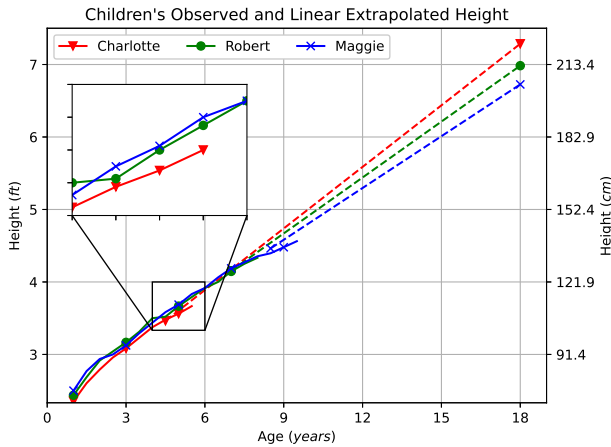


Figure 2: Observed and linear fit extrapolated height to the age of 18. Inset axis focuses year four to six observations.

### 3 Mr Robert

Robert writes: "I have many friends. I am liking 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. I have passed 10s in multiplication. I got *Minecraft* this year." To expand on his terseness, he has been improving his socialization skills, continues to excel at math, and enjoys playing video games. He earned some money to purchase a computer game called "Farming Simulator 22" and enjoys driving large combines on highways to disrupt local traffic.

We are proud that he continued to take piano lessons this fall and recently did an excellent job at his recital. He continues to see a positive benefit of learning the piano for his academic work and penmanship.

### 4 Miss Maggie

Maggie contributes "I'm in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade and I love the subjects reading, science and social studies. I have started alter serving at church (Figure 3) and have loved to do it and always want to do more serving. Some activities I do are dance, volleyball, and yearbook club at school. In yearbook club, we make the school wide yearbooks." [editorial: *aptly named club then...*]

She will be performing in the school wide talent show with her friends and will have another dance recital in the spring. She has a very kind heart and again will be taking food pantry donations in lieu of gifts for her big 1-0 birthday party in January.



Figure 3: Maggie's first time alter serving. This painting was commissioned as we do not bring cellphones to church!

### 5 Family Trips

We went camping for the first time with Daryl's brother's family near Decorah. We braved the outdoors within a modest log cabin with a modest air conditioner and modest refrigerator. The nearest indoor plumbing was about 200 meters away, so survival was not assured. The kids thoroughly enjoyed catching the same fish over and over again.

Our family vacation trip was to the Rapid City area to see the standard sights: Mount Rushmore, Badlands, and Wall Drug. We planned it just before Sturgis, so it was neat to see all the motorcycles and riff-raff in the area. The kids were most happy with mom's diligence to select hotels with the best pools along the way. Robert insisted on climbing every big rock encountered with Charlotte following after him.

**Acknowledgments** Our family wishes to thank you for the generous support, prayers, cards, gifts, and visits you have provided us in the past year. A pay increase for Daryl covered color page charges for this diatribe. Full L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X source of this letter can be found on Daryl's Github page.

### 6 References

- Github, 2022: <https://github.com/akrherz/akrherz>, visited 13 Dec 2022.
- Herzmann, Daryl E., et al. Herzmann Family Christmas Letter, 2021.