Key events of 2004

January: John and Pauline go to Phoenix for a math meeting. They have a chance to visit with niece, Lori Fenton, who is doing a postdoc at Arizona State University and her friend, Gilead, and good friends, Sherwood and Jean Glover. (Sherwood was the NMU Lutheran campus pastor back in the 1970s.)

February: FinnFest USA was held in Lake Worth, Florida. John and Pauline attend. John passes on the leadership of the FinnFest USA national board so that he can devote time to the next festival in Marquette in August of 2005.

March: John uses the mid-semester break for a mini book tour to Minnesota. He gives a joint talk at St. Olaf College along with the composer, Peter Hamlin of St. Olaf, whom John had commissioned to compose the “Commutator Music” inspired by John’s puzzle software. The music gets its second public performance at St. Olaf.

June: Pauline ends her final school year, cleans out her classroom, and retires. She gets to meet the young woman who is replacing her, and passes on some of her materials.

June: The month is taken up with work to promote Finn Grand Fest 2005. John edits a promotional tabloid, The Heritage Express, and The Mining Journal prints up 15,000 copies. It is ready to take by the end of the month to a midsummer festival, Hjemkomst, in Morehead, Minnesota, where Pauline and John staff a Finn Grand Fest 2005 booth.

July: More travel to promote Finn Grand Fest 2005. This time to Timmins, Ontario, site of the 2004 Finnish Canadian Grand Festival, the Canadian half of next summer’s combined festival in Marquette. Then in the middle of the month, the FinnFest USA national board meets in Marquette. Then at the end of the month, there is the unplanned trip to Minneapolis to be with Pauline’s mother for her final days.

August: John and Pauline take a long automobile trip to the east. They visit with Larry and Kathy Fenton, and Eric and Jane in Maryland, and then drive north to Providence, Rhode Island, for the MAA Mathfest. They return to Marquette via Canada.

September: The Fenton family gathers at West Allis for the memorial service for Erna Fenton at Mount Hope Lutheran Church. It is on the Saturday before Labor Day.

November: John and Pauline, along with about a dozen others from Marquette, go to Toronto for a “Destination Marquette” weekend of activities promoting next summer’s Finnish festival in Marquette. The Canadian Finns use this event to raise funds to send performers to the festival from Canada. The Kiltinens also get new carpeting installed in their living room. The carpeting that is replaced has been there since they bought the house in 1971.

December: The month begins with both Pauline and John singing in the Marquette Choral Society concert. Then John’s mother, Eva Kiltinen, celebrates her 91st birthday quietly on December 11. The schedule of Finn Grand Fest 2005 committee meetings heats up as the committees work hard to get the details worked out that need to be in place prior to registration starting to happen in January. Pauline finds that retirement allows her to do some baking of pulla, Finnish cardamom bread, something she did not have time to do for many years while she was teaching.

Crossword puzzle solution.

Pauline retires, John cuts back

Pauline ended her teaching career last June, retiring from Gwinn High School, where she has taught for 20 years. She decided to make the change this year so that she’d have more time to devote to getting ready for next summer’s big Finn Grand Fest 2005 festival. Pauline is President of the local organizing committee, and thus has to devote lots of time to the project.

Although she was not really ready to give up the satisfying interaction with the students and colleagues, the daily commute, early rising, and grading papers were not so hard to give up. She is finding that she is enjoying the new lifestyle, and has jumped into the Finn Grand Fest 2005 leadership with both feet. She is attending nearly all of the various committee meetings, and some days there are three or four of them.

Meanwhile, John continues to teach, but advances on his “gentle glidepath to retirement.” After two years at two-thirds time, he went to one-third time this fall. He did all his teaching for the year in the fall, and will have the winter semester free to help Pauline with the FGF 2005 planning.

Pauline and John are shown here at the Finn Grand Fest 2005 table in the tori at the Finnish Canadian Grand Festival in Timmins in July.

2004 Edition
Exchanging cross words …
This is the third year now for a crossword puzzle in our Christmas newsletter. By today’s standards, that’s a tradition. You will find clues to key words needed to solve this puzzle elsewhere in this newsletter. See the last page for a solution.

Across
1. Buddy
4. Common pet
7. _____ for tat
10. Pub brew
11. Premiere state for commutator music
13. Pauline’s was cold turkey; John’s is on a gentle glidepath
15. Trauma site (abbr.)
16. Gov’t. agency
17. One step up from a dodo?
18. OD consequence (singular)
19. Printer’s measure
20. Unpleasant olfactory sensation
21. Heavyweight measure (abbr.)
22. Chemist’s first degree
23. Clown moniker
26. First person nominative pronoun
27. They’ve reset the Standard
29. Parallel tracks?
30. He’s known for honesty
31. Printer’s measure
32. Support group (abbr.)
33. Yogi Yorgesson seasonal phrase given new musical setting by JOK
34. Nuclear accident site (abbr.)
35. DC is its capital
36. Good news, from a mammogram
37. Someone who needs 32 across
38. Escanaba to Manistique dir.
39. “… because there was no place for them in the ___” Luke 2:7, RSV
40. Whatever

Down
1. Did a job with a knife, perhaps
2. Wide awake
3. Rooms to _____
4. The Kiltimens replaced some of this in November
5. “May I have ____ in 20-pound ivory?” (Office supply store request)
6. He said, “God bless us, everyone.”
7. Tightened the abs
8. Brief orientation
9. It packs a wallop
10. That is (abbr.)
11. Front-line site in Karelia (Finnish word for dugout fortification)
12. “Oh holy child of Bethlehem, …Cast out our sin and enter in, _____ in us today.”
13. Pickle packer potion
14. Hither alternative
15. “Et tu, _______”
16. Its archetype is little and red
17. It is sometimes passed
18. Upper Peninsula culinary specialty
19. Printer’s measure
20. Nuclear accident site (abbr.)
21. Oxidation state
22. “Oh, yust go nuts” in a new way
23. Violin (pl.)
24. Hither alternative
25. “Yust go nuts” in a new way
26. It packs a wallop
27. That is (abbr.)
28. It is sometimes passed
29. Printer’s measure
30. Nuclear accident site (abbr.)
31. DC is its capital
32. Support group (abbr.)
33. Yogi Yorgesson seasonal phrase
34. Nuclear accident site (abbr.)
35. DC is its capital
36. Good news, from a mammogram
37. Someone who needs 32 across
38. Escanaba to Manistique dir.
39. “… because there was no place for them in the ___” Luke 2:7, RSV
40. Whatever

Mark the dates Aug. 10 - 14, 2005
Finn Grand Fest 2005 will be in Marquette in August of 2005. This festival will combine FinnFest USA with the Finnish-Canadian Grand Festival for a second time. We are working hard to make it the best Finnish festival ever and would love to have you come and share the fun.

“Yust go nuts” in a new way
For several years now, John has had this feeling (vision?) that the classic (from 1949) Christmas novelty song by Yogi Yorgesson, “Yust go nuts at Christmas,” could be sung successfully to the tune of “Gesu Bambino.” Somehow this merging of the ridiculous with the sublime appealed to his sense of something or other.

Well, this year he got around to testing his theory and is pleased to report that “It works!” With just a minimal amount of adjustment of the words and melody, one can in fact do the whole song to that melody.

Pauline and John gave this new arrangement its world premiere at a Christmas party for the staff of St. Mark’s and Messiah Lutheran churches. They plan to take it to Plainfield when they visit Pauline’s sister, Elizabeth, and her family when they go to visit over New Year. It will have its second performance (deuxieme?) there.

Commutator Music at JMM
Last January, John and Pauline went to Phoenix for the annual Joint Mathematics Meetings. One of the highlights was a reception at which a string quartet performed the “commutator music” John had commissioned to celebrate the publication of his puzzle book and software. It was lots of fun.

Pauline’s Mother Dies
A major life change for us this past year was the death of Pauline’s mother, Erna Fenton, in July. We got word from Gus on Wednesday morning, July 28, that she had fallen during the night in her room at the nursing home and that she was comatose. They thought she had suffered a stroke.

We rearranged the rest of our week and left that afternoon for Minneapolis. We were there sitting with her for her last days, until her peaceful passing on Saturday, July 31. It was good to be able to be there to see the kind attention that she was and had been getting from the nursing and chaplaincy staffs.

In June, we had visited her at the same time that Pauline’s brother, Larry, and his wife, Kathy, were there. We have good memories of her being rather alert during that visit. We did not know for sure at that time that this would be our goodbye visit, but it was.

She had lived a full life, and it was time to go. But still, it is difficult to let go. She, like her husband, had wanted her body to be donated to a medical school, so there was no rush for a funeral. This allowed us to plan her memorial service for the Labor Day weekend in West Allis. We were touched that among those who came were some of her students from the 1930s.