

Christmas Greetings

First of all, we wish you & yours a very Merry Christmas and we hope that 2020 will be a good one!



2019 has been a hard year for us, with lots of changes. My only sister [Sheila](#) died on March 20th. Sheila was a fighter and battled her cancer courageously, but the end was inevitable. I had a good visit with her last December and I'm so glad that I made that trip and we shared some good talks and memories. I was able to go back again in April for the funeral . My brother Peter and his wife Elaine arranged a special send-off, with over 100



people at the church, followed by a lovely reception at one of the local hotels. I do miss Sheila very much as we used to talk frequently and she was always there with good thoughts and advice.

The other sad news is that we lost our great German Shepherd [Bracken](#) on August 1st. She was exactly twelve and a half to the day. We don't know definitively what happened, but the vets thought that she either had a stroke or had developed a brain tumor. We had her for another month and a half after the diagnosis, but we finally had to say goodbye to her. She was so much a part of our everyday routine and we still miss her so much. She will always be in our hearts. She had such a great personality, enjoyed our trips and added so much love every day!



After much thought, we decided during December to adopt a four year old female rescue German Shepherd. She was found as a stray and taken to the Bastrop Animal Shelter. When her owner didn't reclaim her, she was put up for adoption and in one day over ninety people "liked" her on the shelter's Facebook. Her name is Sophie and she is a very sweet and beautiful girl. She is adjusting quickly and seems happy with her new home. Sophie is getting used to Chris' horse Taffie, the squirrels, rabbits, armadillos and birds that share the space here.



Speaking of Taffie, I am still riding her in the neighborhood and hope this Spring to go a bit further afield and ride at some of the local parks, etc. Taff is such a good horse, so very, very sweet and so enjoys being brushed and loved on.



For my birthday in August, Martin gave me a lovely present by arranging for Anthony, Sharon, Julius and Rowan, as well as Ken to come down to Texas from the Northwest for a few days to celebrate my 75th – hard to believe I've reached that magic number. It was really lovely to have everyone here and we had a good celebration. I was also able to travel to Eugene to see Ken, meet his friend Lori and then attend Rowan's Nutcracker performance in Seattle.





We are very excited that one of Martin's most historic recorders, the [Ampex 200A](#), is now being displayed at the Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin. It should be there for the whole of 2020. The 1948 tape recorder is one of only 213 built. It was famous for recording demos for the early Grateful Dead, Asleep At The Wheel (which will also have items on display at the Bullock) and mastered "Tequila" when the recorder was at the Golden State Recording Studio in California.



Martin has been significantly downsizing his collection of recorders over the past few months, only keeping the most significant ones and his top picks. Repairs are being completed to enable most of the collection to be demonstrated so he'll begin providing tours again.



He's also still enjoying volunteering with the Bastrop Sheriff's Dept, and the Bastrop Police Dept. He goes out most weekends, driving one of the Bastrop County's patrol cars. He has been of great assistance during some traffic accidents, fires and other incidents in the county and was given a commendation by the Bastrop County Sheriff.



I retired last December after working for 29 years with David Perkoff Music. David put on a lovely luncheon party with many, many of the artists & musicians invited to say their goodbyes. I was totally surprised and a bit emotional, as I have enjoyed working with so many good and nice people over the years. This Summer, I went back to work temporarily for two months while David was



travelling in Europe and in India. It was good to connect with all the musicians and actors once again.



We also enjoyed a couple of unique events. We saw the Union Pacific "Big Boy" up close in Luling, Texas. Pretty amazing machine touring around the country to commemorate the transcontinental railroad's 150th anniversary.



On November 16th we threw a "Sock Hop" party, something we'd wanted to do since the jukebox was acquired last year.



We wish everyone a very safe & sane
Happy New Year!

