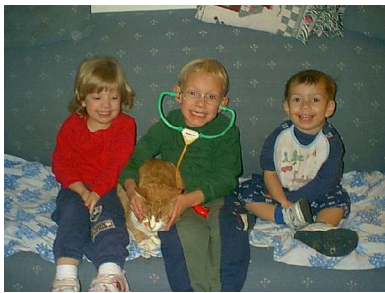


Hello all and Merry Christmas 2003!



It's us, the three little Herzegs to give you this year's commentary. This year has been full of changes, loss and blessings. Momma and Daddy say that we are growing like weeds, sometimes even overnight it seems. If you are wondering how old we are now, Isaac is soon to be five, Carolyn is now three-and-a-half and Daniel will be two.

**Isaac:** Since I am doing so well with letter sounds everyone thinks I will start reading soon. Mommy and Daddy are already trying to make me sound words out. I am also starting to learn how to add and subtract numbers. I continue to like animals (especially the neighborhood dogs) and trains, airplanes, cars and trucks. Basically, if it runs, jumps swims, floats, flies or rolls I'm interested. Everyone agrees that I have an analytical mind.

**Carolyn:** I enjoy dressing myself (sometimes actually succeeding in getting all of the articles of clothing on the correct parts of my body) and love terrorizing my brothers. I am still known for my "CAN DO!" attitude and can really be a little bull in the theoretical china shop. It should come as a surprise to nobody that I am still very much a little tomboy, even though I like my Barbies and Strawberry Shortcake (I call her, "Strawberry Cupcake.") Isaac and I are in AWANA this year [Editor's note: AWANA is kind of like Christian boy and girl scouts.] and are doing our best to learn our Bible verses so that we can earn our patches.

**Daniel:** I have mastered walking and am beginning to talk. Most weekday mornings find me running down the street after my brother and sister yelling, "ISAAAAAC!," Momma and Daddy are amused at some of the things I can say, such as, "boppers" (diapers), "o-meal," and "dog poop" (a constant example of the rudeness of people living around here.)



Daddy is still a programmer/technician at the law firm he has been at for the past six-and-a-half years. When asked about how things are going he goes into great lengths about a new operating system he is starting to implement (Linux) and mentions the project du jour (the new phone system, at the time of this newsletter.) Though he enjoys what he does he is frequently tired from the stresses he encounters at work.



Momma is still at the day care center she has worked at, on and off, for the past twelve years (lately called, "Kiddie Kampus.") Like Daddy, she receives a lot of stress from her job. She enjoys working close to us and taking care of the babies. She thinks that it is neat to watch them learn new concepts and skills. When she is not doing the teaching thing she enjoys crocheting, corresponding with family and friends and when there is time, doing crafts and baking.

Speaking of living and existing, we have wonderful news! We are having a house built. By summer we will be out of this cramped two-bedroom apartment and into a modest three-bedroom house on the east side of Aurora. One of the exciting things about our new place is that, because we are having it built, we get to choose the colors and options. The siding will be sky blue with navy faux shutters and a black door. We have opted to not have a second bath put in, leaving us with one-and-a-half baths. Mommy and Daddy's workplaces are closer in both time and distance, the local grammar school is right down the street and there will be a row of stores back-to-back with us, so the area will be ideal for us. The community is also designed to be family- and kid-friendly. It is our goal to keep people posted on the status of our new place.

Auntie Lee continues to recuperate from surgery after doctors found a mass of tissue in her abdomen. Thinking it cancerous, they wanted to remove the mass as quickly as possible. Upon removing the mass they found it to be benign which is a major answer to prayer.

Grandma Neudahl passed away on September 23 from congestive heart failure and suffered from Alzheimer's disease at the age of 70. She loved being a mother and a grandma to 6 children and many grandchildren. Our shy cat, Tiger, also died this year after 12 years with us. We take solace in the fact that both Grandma and Tiger had relatively long and good lives.

We have a new cat named Norton who is about 3 years old. We miss Tiger and our other cat, Lucky, which died last year, but then life must go on. He is a loving cat and enjoys sleeping on our beds and giving us frequent love bites.

Well, that's all the news we care to print. We hope that the Christmas season will find you in good health, happy and with many blessings. We are thankful for the Lord's goodness and the salvation and peace that only He can bring.

Much Love,  
Isaac, Carolyn and Daniel for the Herzeg Five.

