

Stormy XMAS News Flash

DEAN SENDS X-MAS GREETINGS

Weather may figure in to this newsletter



erry Christmas to you and yours. I hope this holiday season finds everyone to be happy and healthy.

As I sit here on the morning of Christmas Eve, it occurs to me that I might be starting this newsletter just a tad late. After attempting any number of seemingly plausible excuses in this spot, I'll instead go with the truth. Even though I know you can't handle the truth. No truth-handler, you. Bah! I deride your truth-handling abilities.

Wow. So not only am I not bothering to make up lame excuses for why this newsletter is so late, I've gone to the extreme of stealing quotes from the Simpsons. How low can one man sink? The answer to that, and maybe a few other questions, lies ahead!

This truly was a year of storms. Two devastating events were visited upon me, leaving a trail of unparalleled destruction and mayhem in their wake. They were pitiless, merciless, and will likely make their presence known in the history books. Yes, as you may have heard, my sisters Lorelei and Mercedes came to visit me this year. Thank God there were a couple of severe weather events later in the year that helped block out the memory of their visit.

Oddly enough, while the sisters were in town wreaking their own form of havoc upon the unsuspecting citizenry, a little thunderstorm came through the area. This storm brought not only severe hail, but some people believed that it also included a tornado. If my fence and trees were any sort of indicators, then yeah, maybe there was a tornado.

Later in the year a little thing called Ike paid a visit. Fortunately (or unfortunately) pretty much all Ike decided to do to me was remove a portion of my roof and take care of those portions of the fence line and trees that the first storm hadn't gotten to. But knowing what a number of people had to deal with from Ike, I really can't complain.

In the world of work, would you believe that I've been in Texas for over 20 years now? No? Me neither. But as the



OBJECTS IN PICTURE MAY BE LARGER THAN THEY APPEAR

calendar probably isn't lying on this point, (though it is known to lie on occasion) than it's likely the case. So other than my doubts about how long it's really been, work's still going fine. We're keeping busy flying out the remainder of the shuttle missions and gearing up for the next vehicle. One bright spot is that Angela and I are going to attempt to actually see a shuttle launch this spring. As I know how these things go, wish me luck!

Speaking of Angela, as you may have surmised we are still together. And much like it doesn't seem like it's been over 21 years since I moved here, it doesn't seem like we've been together for over three years. I'd accuse the calendar of lying once again, but as it's still smarting a bit from my earlier accusations I won't elaborate. But we (Angela and I, not me and the calendar) are still doing just fine and we'll be doing some travelling this year. I'd say where, but the statute of limitations on what is known as "the incident" hasn't expired just yet.

On several occasions this year (particularly after buying a new computer without a modem) I considered moving my web page to a different location, but as of the moment you can still find it lurking at:

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Dean_Lenort/homepage.htm

I sincerely hope that this holiday season is full of fun and cheer for you and yours, and here's wishing you a hearty (and belated) Merry Christmas! Dean