



December 23, 2001

Dear Family and Friends,

With only a few days left till 2002, I share my "Yuletide confessions of an Innkeeper" with you (still no regrets). Reflecting back, 2001 was another eventful year for me. The saddest part was September 11.

After seven years, I had a wonderful vacation with my friend, Jane. Once arriving late in Las Vegas, we found no rooms at our hotel, Paris Las Vegas. We reluctantly accepted their offer to stay in the penthouse suite for the next four nights overlooking the city. After visiting 18 casinos, enjoying their afternoon buffets and nighttime entertainment, we headed to Arizona and southern California. Our favorite city was Sedona, Arizona followed by the Grand Canyon and the Hoover Dam. On our way back to Las Vegas, we stopped in a ghost town. In its prime in 1888, it had 1200 people with 22 saloons. Guess where the miners spent their afternoons and evenings?

Once home, I began my winter renovation projects. My main focus was washers and dryers for my larger units. Although I attended Plumbing and Electrical classes last year, I decided to hire professionals. Little did I know that it would take four months to find a contractor, complete the job and leave a big hole in my pocketbook. On the bright side, my guests were happy. Just to be safe, I decided to attend these classes again in September to learn why Plumbers and Electricians are a rare and dear commodity.

During 2001, I did indeed fix three out of my five plumbing problems myself. Reading an electrical diagrams is doable. My plans for the winter include installation of Internet ready telephone cable, coaxial cable for digital TV, door bells and low voltage lighting. Is 500 feet of wire enough? Stay tuned till 2002!

For the winter of 2002, I enrolled in an Upholstery class to move a few challenging projects from my basement to the classroom. Although in 25 years, I did recover many sofas and chairs, I thought it time to learn something from a professional. On the volunteer side, I still enjoy helping our local non profit organizations with ongoing computer assistance and leadership guidance.

I'm still living on my 3rd floor but moved my computer to the front of the house with a view of Main Street. I love the view of downtown Cape May - that may be stretching the truth a bit but . . . I can now offer my visitors a chair to sit on while doing our computer work. It sure beats having them lie on my bed peaking over my shoulder. Oh the simple things in life!

My family and I just got back from a three-day fun filled stay at Atlantic City for my father's 86th birthday. My Dad is unable to make his ship models and dollhouses due to poor vision. He loves living in my sister's house behind mine with 1st floor access to everyday needs. Walking to my front porch to chat with my guests is harder now. Yet, Fred's mind continues to be sharp as a tack. Our family is fortunate.

I continue to meet interesting people from all over the country as they visit Cape May. This year I noticed an increase in visitors from around the world, thanks to easy access from the Internet. By living in a popular resort town, it offers me the chance to catch up with old friends (since they are bound to visit Cape May someday). A few special people arrived at my doorstep to say hello from the past and it was great.

In closing, it would be great to keep in touch with you via e-mail (deannab@snip.net) or visit my web site at www.antoinettescapemay.com. Have a wonderful holiday and a great and healthy New Year.

Fondly,

Deanna Brown, Innkeeper (10th Year)