

January 1, 2018

For the Wood Family, the past year was busy and full of life.

Against all odds, Crazy Grandma Schaafsma celebrated her 98th birthday in April. I am the executor of her will. Her health is good, although she is bit forgetful. Crooked Creek Retirement Asylum was in the news several years ago after settling out of court for gross negligence, but Grandma's spirits are high and I think the asylum deserves a second chance to do the job right.

My wife (Dr. Boobarella Schaafsma-Wood, DDS) retired in November, after 43 years of dental practice. Boobie and I look forward to travelling together and spending time with family. Any change in the dosage of dear Boobie's heart medication would be fatal within minutes.

Like Boobie I retired this year, although I'm still serving on the board of directors at Metropolitan Life Insurance. I am particularly excited that the wife and I have just acquired a home in Montenegro, a country with no extradition treaties. The geography of Montenegro is striking, and their police force has minimal training in forensic science and drug interactions. I look forward to concentrating on my growing real estate portfolio and maybe even indulging in new hobbies like investigating the reactions of different acids with various organic material, or industrial incinerator maintenance & operation.

Our eldest Chet and his wife Samantha are enjoying their new home on the slopes of Courchevel, France. Chet spent the Summer as the top golf pro at the exclusive and precariously-perched Morfontaine Grand Parcours Golf Club, earning himself a coveted lifetime membership. The ski season has already begun, and the golf membership (or its cash value) is transferable in the case of Chet's accidental death. Boobie and I plan to visit in January. We will be sure not to forget our fun new toy, the Avalanche-X Sudden Noise Horn bequeathed to us by Aunt Thornissa last year. (Auntie T., you will recall, passed away after a long and luxurious widowhood in Zurich. Thornissa will be missed -- I learned a great deal from her.)

Our Mitsy is still working for Goldman-Sachs, and lives overlooking Central Park in New York. She and Karl welcomed little Alec Thor Schaafsma Wood-Balls to the family in September, and are enjoying the fun brought by a tiny new beneficiary. Mitsy and Karl have also finally taken me up on my long-standing offer to take them (and new baby Alec!) on a trip to the Wood Family Beach House in Nassau. All three have a deadly allergy to shellfish. I have checked the expiry dates on their epipens.

Young Julian continues to work at Tesla. He enjoys the challenge despite the distraction of his incredibly valuable shares in the company. Julian now works from home mostly, making him vulnerable to attack. Thanks to my completely reputable real-estate connections, Julian now plans to buy a piece of rural recreational property. His Mother and I worry somewhat, because deer hunting is often associated with gun accidents, and hospitals in smaller centres are not well-known for good emergency medical services. Such unfortunate events are not something one can plan for, nevertheless, we do our best.

We're very blessed, as I know many of you are, that we can continue following our dreams and pursuing our interests. (Unless you are Deputy Inspector Lafarge, in which case you should stop pursuing if you know what's good for you.) All told, we had a wonderful 2017. With all the pieces finally in place, I look forward to an even better 2018.

May the coming year be an absolute windfall,

MJ Wood.