

Happy Holidays 1995

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Well, 1995 has been quite a year for our extended family, and we thought you'd like to hear all the details of what everyone's been up to -- so here goes:

As you can imagine, things have been as hectic as usual on the Pigeon side of the family. Our dear departed brother Reginald has been keeping himself busy in the woodshop...he was *so* good with tools! Mummy remains, as always, a bit potty. (She's never been the same since Mafeking.) Gwendolyn (or is it Cecily?) graduated at the top of her class in the Baskin-Robbins Institute of Technology in Fargo, North Dakota; meanwhile Cecily (or is it Gwendolyn?) scored a perfect 62.3 in the London Sheepdog Trials (Judge Mavis Hawthorne-Smythe presiding).

You might remember 1993's *contretemps* involving Uncle Nigel, Mrs. McAllister, and her cuticles in Pigeon Forge, TN -- well, the three of them are at it again. The last we heard, the lions were loose and Mr. McAllister was dashing around crying "We are done, we are done!" to anyone who would listen (as well as a great many who, more's the pity, *wouldn't*). All we can say is, if you're heading down Pigeon Forge way, bring meat!

Napoleon and Josephine were last seen in the company of a jolly fat man and his eight tiny reindeer, boarding an Air New Guinea charter flight to Fiji. Of the status of the ocelots, no one is certain. Nephew Mortimer is wisely refusing to comment (and no, the rumors you're heard about him are *not* true; the doctor is certain that the missing limbs will grow back.)

As for Daddy...well, *don't* talk to *us* about Daddy!

Of course the Gunch side of the family has had its own share of excitement this year. Lolafalanna Roseannadanna Gunch (who is Thomas' brother's sister-in-law's maternal great-uncle's stepdog's grand-neice, thrice-removed, by marriage) opened her dried-raspberry-steering-wheel-covers shop in the spring, and she's been doing a grand business since. Her second husband's third wife's first husband, Gary Larry Barry Gunch, took over marketing for the store in October, which as you can imagine really made the citizens of Nether Blarnesville sit up and take notice!

Marlene Jo Gunch, the runt of the family, gave birth to an adorable set of twins in April and June of this year: the happy parents have decided to name the two boys Romulus and Remus Gunch-MacGillicuddy-Jones, after all six grandparents.

There was a spell of bad weather in Gunchston Falls this summer -- Billie Sue and Susie Bill report that while the pigs made it through, the chickens didn't. But, in the true pioneer spirit, they're already planning to put in a new crop of Rhode Island Reds as soon as the ground is thawed. (Little Cindy Lou Hu-Gunch, meanwhile, realized her childhood dream of hitchhiking to Hawaii and planting a potato bud in the left ear of the King Kamehameha statue. She's currently resting up and planning her next dreams.) Next time you're down Tierra del Fuego way, be sure to stop by the farm and say "howdy!"

It seems that no year can go by without a little tragic news, and this one was no exception. Great-Grandmama Juliette Honoria Desiree Gunch III passed away just days before Halloween; fortunately, NBC picked up her option and she'll be returning next spring as a mid-season replacement. Which seems to be just the hopeful note on which to close by wishing you and yours the happiest of holidays and the newest of New Years.

Don Sakers Thomas G. Atkinson Dan (Renfield) Corcoran