

2 0 0 9 A N N U A L E D I T I O N

the ASCOUGH family

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF OUR COMINGS AND GOINGS FOR 2009



Baby Steps

At Polepšovna one day, we captured the early steps of Haley with Mr. Grandpa. She was joined by the resident dog, who is even smaller than Haley at the time. Haley no longer requires a helping hand to walk or climb the stairs--a favourite activity...



✕ A Year Of Visiting ✕

Visitors to us in Florida from Virginia, England, Czech and Slovakia. Visitors to us in Bohemia from Florida, Bohemia and Moravia. Wedding Reception on the Vltava. Visiting by us in Germany, England, Slovakia, Key West, Sanibel Island, Anna Maria Island and many other parts of West Central Florida...

VISIT TO THE HIGH TATRAS

The what? These are the beautiful mountains that run along the border between Poland and Slovakia. Highest of the high is just under 9,000 feet and in Winter the area becomes a very important ski area. Our cousin's new lady, Anička, lives about 30 kms. from the mountains in a town called Spišská Bela. We

drove down through Poland, affording a beautiful view of the north side of the mountains. We enjoyed Slovakian Hospitality for three nights and had a great, comprehensive, guided tour of the whole beautiful area before the long drive back to eastern Moravia and then back up to our part of Bohemia.



Limitations Of A Christmas Letter

So much happens in a year, that it is impossible record it on the maximum couple of pages that

we think friends might be prepared to read. There are so many pictures to choose from, so many little anecdotes and so many great meals to talk about that we enclose a link to our

'Blog' for the truly interested. The 'Blog' is never up to date, but some of it may be amusing:

http://web.mac.com/kjascough/Ascough_Home/Welcome.html

The Year In Review

HEALTH, WEALTH AND HAPPINESS DURING 2009

Healthwise, we are both hanging in there. Zdenka is insured in the Czech Republic and receives excellent care there. All her moving parts were checked this year, including her hearing. The latter was found to be seriously deficient, due to her time in Prague as a recording technician: 50% loss in one and 40% in the other. A nifty gizmo was prescribed and arrived from Denmark and pronounced to be good. Now Zdenka could hear, she felt it appropriate that, since Keith can't hear anything she says, Keith should be tested too; so he was: complete vindication--excellent in both ears for someone of his age or younger. Ha!!

Wealthwise, we're OK for another 4.9 years, given the tax burden the Democrats will impose on all of us, after which we may have to send our Christmas Letter from further afield. Hopefully Christianity, conservatism, free markets, small government and common sense will again prevail and return this nation to its former greatness, freedom and world leadership.

In the happiness department, what more could we ask than a nice, healthy family, great friends on both sides of the Atlantic and the means to move comfortably between our US and European homes.

OUR TRAVELS DURING 2009

We remained within the State of Florida for our USA residency this year, venturing as far south as Key West and as far north as distant Inverness in frozen Citrus County to visit Lois and Bill. In Europe we visited the usual places and particularly enjoyed Keith's first visit to Slovakia. We departed a little earlier than usual for Doubravice and had the place under control, pretty well by the first week of May, ready for Nancy, Bryan (who couldn't make it after all) and Haley. Weather was beautiful and Keith's chosen horticultural project was to try to convert the green stuff, which needs mowing frequently, to a lawn composed of grass and devoid of weeds. This was successful until weeks of drought took their toll and the grass browned out; should be better in 2010. Otherwise, Zdenka's garden was glorious. On returning to Florida, we had a series of visitors from the back end of October to early December, with a few days in the other world of Key West in the middle. At the time of writing we're alone and catching up on all the stuff we should have done earlier.

FAMILY MATTERS DURING 2009

Three of the five dogs owned by members of the family went to Doggy Heaven, causing the inevitable heartbreak. But the youngest member of the family got her land legs and, due to a complete absence of fear, needs to be within arms' reach at all times. Apart from getting her legs, Haley is developing a very cute personality and is now quite a 'character'. Not talking yet, but that's just around the corner.

We wish all of you and your families Health and Happiness for the rest of this year and through 2010

Zdenka and Keith