

Jim and Julie's (Gem and Jewel's) First Months Together

(or "Jim, Eat Those Green Things on Your Plate, or I'll Hide Them Next Time!")

Well, this is my (Jim's) first attempt at writing a liner for the christmas cards. I won't try to bore you with so many details, but I thought it might be nice to bring you up-to-date. No, this won't be as witty as the wedding programs, because I spent all my wit on those.

Immediately after our wedding, Julie and I flew to Colorado. The scenery was spectacular! Julie got a tad winded from the heights (12,000ft, 14,000ft, etc.), but she still had enough energy to enjoy the view from the top. I really enjoyed driving up the side of the mountains, but Julie got scared to look out the window after she noticed the road had no ledge. That was exciting!

After two weeks of rest and relaxation, it was time to pack our possessions and do the "move". We managed to fit all of our stuff into a 26 foot U-haul, and we safely arrived in Hartland on the 18th of June. After unpacking the essentials (computer, TV, VCR, Stereo, and CD player), we settled in to our apartment. It took us 4 weeks to beg, borrow, or buy the furniture we needed to fit everything in here and unpack it, but we finally managed to find a nook for every item. I started work on the 21st of June, leaving Julie at home to do the unpacking. (She took all the good spots for her stuff.)

For the next few months, things went rather smoothly, Aside from the occasional argument about which way the toilet paper roll should be installed, everything seemed in order. In September, Julie took a job at the bank where we have our accounts and shortly thereafter, disaster struck!

First, my car threw a rod bearing, so we bought a cheap used car. Then Julie's T-bird blew the water pump, so we had that fixed, then the used car we bought for me died in the Compuware (That's where I work) parking lot. By this time, Julie and I had had enough! We started looking at new cars, and eventually settled on a 1994 Saturn SC2 sport coupe. It has all the goodies, and we love the purchase. It is medium blue-green, so watch for it if we come near you!

The cars have been behaving as of late. We fixed the used car and got it out of the parking lot. Julie drives her T-bird to work, and I drive the SC2. My Olds is waiting for an engine transplant in the apartment parking lot, but we are waiting until better weather to start on it. The used car we bought has the same engine, so all we have to do is swap them.

Julie is still working, but hopes to ease back on the hours so she can do some sewing and baking. I am trying to finalize the startup of a side business in Michigan called "Brain Innovations". Ask me to explain it to you, as it is much too involved for this letter. Through all of this, we managed to get a puppy, named "Brain's Ornerly Sherlock," affectionately known as Sherlock. He is 6 months old now, but he still requires NO sleep and always has TOO much energy. Needless to say, he demands constant attention. We are also keeping busy with church as Julie plays the piano and I lead the songs.

That brings us up to now, Christmas. We both wish you a relaxing holiday and an invitation to call after the holiday and ask us about the many things that happened this year that we could not fit into this letter.