

Billy Finning was/is the adopted son of Uncle George. Edith, head of the Cradle (orphaned infants) facilitated the adoption. She kept in touch with Billy. EMC 2/2015

December 14, 1993

Dear Aunt Edith,

It has taken me a while to write to you since things are rather hectic this time of year. Thanks for the information on the family history. This was interesting information that I did not know. An ancestor of one of my friends here in Albuquerque fled (secretly) from Bavaria to avoid being drafted into Mad King Ludwig II's army. So it appears that many fled the wars and turmoil in that part of Europe.

After leaving Richmond I lived for several years in Miami, Florida, with my maternal aunt. I was graduated from Coral Gables High School there and went on to receive my BS and MS in mathematics from the University of Miami. I attended Northwestern University for a couple of years and then went to work at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque. (Pronounced "san-DEE-a") I have remained here since then. I am now a Senior Member of the Laboratory Staff. I also have an MS in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the University of New Mexico. My mother, Faye Finning, did not remarry. She died in 1977.

Alice was born in Terre Haute, Indiana, but grew up in Indianapolis. Both of her parents are deceased. She has no siblings, and no relatives remain in Indiana. Since we fly rather than drive on long trips, we have not been in Richmond for many years.

Alice and I were married in 1976. By the way, the elephant in the picture is not real—just a cutout. Alice taught French and German in Rockford, Illinois, before we were married. We were introduced by mutual friends when she was in graduate school here. She retired from teaching when we married. Since then, she has been active as a docent at the local zoo and a member of the board of directors of the New Mexico Zoological Society. She is also on the board of the local Alliance Française, the Partners of the Americas (a group for cultural exchange and help in Mexico), and the local neighborhood association. We are co-chairs for youth entertainment at the three-day New Mexico Arts and Crafts Fair each June. This is a major arts and crafts fair in the state. For the past several years, I have been president of the local magic club which is a branch of the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

Alice and I are avid art collectors with interests ranging from modern, pre-Columbian, African, American Indian, to antiques. Our home has been likened to an art museum! I have even installed special high-intensity lighting for our displays. We also enjoy classical music and opera. We usually try to get to the Santa Fe Opera at least once during its summer season.

I develop some of my own magical effects. Often, this requires that I fabricate my own apparatus. I also keep busy doing many of the "handyman" jobs around the house. We also own a rental house that I maintain. All these things, along with our other interests, keep me quite busy.

We have been to Europe twice together (in addition to individual trips before we were married). I speak some German (Alice is much more fluent, of course). Alice speaks excellent French,

and I can read some when necessary! Alice has also learned some Spanish for her involvement with Mexico through the Partners of the Americas.

We live in the northeastern section of Albuquerque (hence the NE in our address). This part of the city is over one mile above sea level. A large mountain, part of a national forest, towers another mile higher just at the eastern edge of the city. (It is very dramatic, especially when covered with snow in the winter.) We are about one hour from Santa Fe, and drive there sometimes for a day of shopping (and eating).

We like it here in Albuquerque and plan to remain when I retire in several years. Meanwhile, we travel when we get a chance, both within the state and to other parts of the country. I have my magic contacts and we attend at least one magic convention every year.

It was good to hear from you. I hope all is well. Again, thanks for all the information.

Love,

Bill

William Fienning
9817 Dorothy Place NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111
(505) 298-0743

