



*Greetings* to you with our News from 1997: We rang in the New Year in den Helder, Netherlands with our friend Wilfried Seidel. It was an adventurous start to 1997! Janette decided to extend her European vacation by getting sick and remaining at Herbert and Gerlinde Bertelsmann's in Munich to convalesce. She missed a week of school – almost unheard of! Janette spent Easter in Tucson and

Newberry Springs with Louise, Randy and his family. Reinhard entertained the German exchange group for the 18th time. We visited Door County, WI in the

spring and fall. The big story for the summer was our new swimming pool. Construction began in the dead of winter and it was finally ready to be christened in June. We had a great hot summer and our tans were proof. Janette took a group of students to Spain in June and Reinhard did landscaping and swimming. We suddenly had more friends visit to help us enjoy the pool. Did you? Janette and *Mark* went to two horse shows and are still trying to boss each other



around. Speaking of bossy, Tobi and Raudi turned four. They still are the Lords of Country Oaks. Summer ended too quickly (although the pool was still in use in October) with our 11th Lot Party. Almost a 100 people stopped by. In November we went to our annual language convention at the Opryland in Nashville. Jeff visited at Thanksgiving. He and Yunxia went off to China to visit for four weeks in December-January. In December Reinhard stayed up with the current computer trends – bigger and faster. He bought a Macintosh G3 and Janette inherited the PowerMac 8500. School was busier than ever. Hoffman Estates is celebrating its

25th birthday. That's how long Reinhard has been teaching. We are also planning to become a block scheduling school in 1999! Reinhard is continuing his work as a Union building rep and computer



repairman, and Janette is Treasurer for the Chicago Area Chapter of

AATSP. We continue to work hard and try to keep our weight (and cholesterol) down. I walk the dogs, Janette walks the treadmill and watches her soap. I play on the computer and Janette reads. We still like to go out to eat and watch movies (60 last year). We enjoy seeing our families and friends and we wish you all health and happiness in 1998!