



Waltzing with Matilda

*Matilda Kumquat
% Dan Schweitzer*

Dear Matilda,

Knowing how busy you are, I've been patient, but it's February and still, no Christmas card? No holiday e-mail? No annual PDF update?

Heck, people I hardly know have updated me on their great-nephew Fred's Nobel Prize (in Physics). Their elephant ride in Zanzibar. And, Fido's failing health. I even got photos of self-portrait ornaments that must decorate some guy's Christmas tree.

But, nothing from my pen-pal Matilda. Have you forgotten me?

-Greeting Less of Ogunquit Maine

Dear G.L.O.O.M.,

While I may have a reputation for, shall we say, recognizing my considerable verve and talent, I'm not completely insensitive to the less fortunate masses.

Thus, I refrain from sending greetings, as any account about annual activities appears arrogant.

After all, only a fortunate few frequent the Timberline Topper square dances. Or revel in the energy of Mountain Magic at the Colorado State Festival. Or spend

a week camping and dancing to Nasser Shukayr and Lem Gravelle. Or find gems such as the Riverside County Festival in Indio, and glide through a square as Gary Shoemake croones about *The Snow*. And, where Mike Sikorsky sings the title track from his CD, and where Marshall Flippo, Tony Oxendine and Wade Driver ... Oh, dear, I'm name dropping again.

That is just my point. Square dancers have so much fun, meet so many wonderful people, and have such great adventures, that we should all contain ourselves, especially in the holiday season. After all, not everyone is so fortunate.

By the way, G.L.O.O.M, could you remind me again: Who are you, and how do I know you? You're not one of my ex's are you?

--Matilda

Dear Matilda,

While I enjoy your column, I'd appreciate it if you would not use terms such as "verve" or "PDF." As the world gets smaller, so does the type in my dictionary.

-Look-up Challenged Kansas Youth

Dear L.U.C.K.Y.,

Yes, it is indeed a small world – one with small type. Yet another reason for eschewing greeting cards.

Happy Valentine's and Presidents' Day.

--Matilda