

## SO OLD FRIENDS MAY NOT BE FORGOTTEN

NEW YEARS EVE CIRCA 1986.

The 45 minute ride from Haddonfield to Huntington Valley was thankfully uneventful. Turning onto Autumn Leaf Lane, Pat remarks, "It looks as though we are the last to arrive." Trif our host answers the door and wishes us both a cheerful, "Happy New Year!"

Immediately, greeting us, as we enter their home, is our ever gracious hostess Del. Jerry Jay waves to us from the Baby Grand piano and begins playing "The Gangs All Hear." All the other Cousins greet us with their usual warmth and feeling of truly being welcomed. Al and Rita; Nicky and Rose; Sis and Ang; Eleanor, Rosie and Angelo are all seated around the crackling fire, glowing in the elegant fireplace. Hanging midway between the mantle and the peak of the cathedral ceiling is a beautiful large Christmas wreath. Everyone is enjoying their drink, the delicious stuffed olives, and the other tasteful appetizer's. After the usual chit chat, Sis asks for another drink and we all raz Ang about his chances when

he gets home later. The guys engage in golf talk and the ladies converse about the resent additions to all our families. Ang gets Nicky talking about the time the Cousins went on their trip to Puerto Rico. The conversation leads all of them to reminisce about the other social events and vacations they have had over the years gone bye. Nicky starts talking about the time they all went to see the play "Man OF LaMancha". Nicky is hilarious, especially when he gets excited. His face is as red as the fire and he says, "I got a sore neck, we were seated in the first row. Trif you are terrific. We were so close that when Richard Killey was singing his saliva was falling on us. His singing was terrible. He should never have quit that TV show." Nicky continues, but the remainder of us were laughing so hard at his interpretation of Killey that we hardly heard another word he said. Trif responds with, "Its only fair that I should get my cousins the best seats in the house." After we have time to recuperate from Nicky's

performance, Jerry Jay asks us all to gather around the piano and we begin to sing some old favorites. Del sings her rendition of Betty Hutton's "No one Can Love You Like I Do". Next, Sis sings her favorite "Vicino mare". Ang breaks out into his usual "Three Stooges Dance". Del announces that, "Dinner is ready." The fillet mignon is delicious and the dessert's look scrumptious. After we have our coffee, we all gather around the fireplace and play a few games of "Pictionary". The guys win every game, but the ladies claim that we win, because we always manage to cheat. A few hours pass but it seems only like minutes. Ang suggest to Del that he would like some "Brefass". Del politely informs Ang, "That he can stop at a Diner on his way home." Nearing daylight we all bid our farewells. Ridding home Pat and I engage in conversation and we both agree that this is the perfect way to begin the New Year: with "Good Friends" creating new memories and sharing the joys of yesterday.  
CENT' ANNI !!!!!