

December 15, 1968

Dear Friends,

It doesn't seem possible, but another year has zoomed by already! This year we have definite evidence that the time has passed, since our baby of last year is now quite a little girl!! Beth continues to amuse and amaze us - we have no idea what we ever did without her!! She walks like a real professional now and is learning to talk. Her favorite word for the past few months has been "puppy" - in fact, we watched "Rudolph, the Red Nosed Puppy" on T. V. last week.

We have both been very busy - Pat as a mother, homemaker, and a member of the League of Women Voters - and Mel with his work, an international seminar in August, and travel connected with his work. We took Beth home to visit her Vicksburg family for the first time over the Labor Day Weekend where she was duly admired. Mel went down to El Salvador and Guatemala City on Business early in September - and Pat flew down and met Mel for five wonderful days in Mexico City (we missed both the riots and the Olympics!) We left Beth in the very capable hands of Peter and Eva Riley - her godparents. We had a marvelous time, but we sure were glad to get back home to our baby! During November we flew to Tampa and visited our dear friends the Berkleys and their darling little boy - and then flew on to Miami where Mel attended a plasma physics conference on the Beach and Pat and Beth stayed with friends (Billy and Jean Webb - Jean had her baby the day after we left!) in West Miami. Fat's mother flew down and they had a great time dragging Beth around showing her off to as many friends as possible (Fat's parents now live in Huntington Station, New York - P. A. A. transferred her father after nearly 30 years in Miami!)

We are now eagerly looking forward to our Christmas trip. The Winter family is having a grand reunion in New York - even Nancy and Doug will be there, on leave for a month from Nepal where they enlisted for another year's work in the Peace Corps. We also hope to work in a trip to Massachusetts during the holidays to see more of Fat's relatives. Beth will be quite a traveller by the time we return!!

By the way, we are so pleased with Beth (that must be obvious by now!) that we decided one just wasn't enough! We are expecting our second child early in May - we are aiming for Mel's birthday.

We were delighted when Mel was promoted this year to associate professor. His boss returned to Germany and left him in charge of a research group here. He is presently directing a dozen graduate students which keeps him very busy!

We enjoyed Hemisfair very much - sorry more of you didn't make it! We did have some visitors though - Fat's Aunt Doris and Uncle Holly from California, Dick and Sue Berkley from Florida, Fat's parents, and Mary and Richard Wood from Miss.

We want to wish you all a joyous Christmas season and a very happy, prosperous and productive New Year. Please write and let us know how you are.

Love,