

December , 1972

Dear Friends,

A blessed and merry Christmas to you all. It has been an eventful year for us. Our third child was born on February 6--only a week early--Pat spent three-and-a-half weeks in bed to make sure it wasn't any earlier! Our new daughter is Margaret Lois (Pat's mother's name), nicknamed Mardie (after a cousin in Scotland). She weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. --Pat was awake for the delivery and counts the experience as the high point of the year! Mardie is now ten months old, weighs 23 lbs., has blue eyes, is nearly walking and trying to talk--and is a great joy to us all.

Beth is five years old, quite grownup at times, enjoys kindergarten, helping to cook and care for the baby, being read to, watching television and dressing up. Sarah is three-and-a-half and goes to nursery school three mornings a week. Her favorite word is "why". She loves to copy every move Beth makes and still finds time for her own mischief! With a houseful of girls Mel finds Women's Liberation an intriguing topic nowadays! They certainly keep us entertained!

We had a wonderful trip this summer to Colorado. We had a Winter family reunion at the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park. On the way there, we stopped in Wichita Falls and had a good visit with Mel's brother Charlie and his family and then saw friends in Boulder. At the YMCA, we had two cabins high up on a mountain-side--needed for the seventeen of us there--Pat's parents, sisters, brother, assorted in-laws and nieces and nephews. Also there for part of the week were two aunts, an uncle, two cousins and a grandmother--quite a crew! We really had a great time getting acquainted again--and enjoying the scenery at the same time. Pat's sister Nancy and her husband Doug and two little daughters had just arrived back in the U.S. after six years in Nepal. They got the prize for making the longest trip!

Mel supervised the move from the old physics building to the new physics building this summer. It was quite a job, but he had an ulterior motive; he was able to keep some complicated equipment and experiments from being moved before he was ready.

Pat keeps busy with the children (was Women's Liberation mentioned earlier?) and as chairman of the foreign policy committee for the League of Women Voters and co-chairman of the International Hospitality Wives' Committee, a group that arranges monthly coffees and transportation for the several hundred foreign wives who live in Austin. She enjoyed taking a course at UT this summer. Mel is trying to teach her the fundamentals of photography--she's practicing on the kids!

Each year we express the hope that surely peace on earth--or at least in Viet Nam--will come soon. Maybe 1973 will be the year.

We look forward to hearing from you all. Christmas is not only a time of celebration, but a time for catching up on old friends!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

P.S. For those of you who are interested in that sort of thing, a picture of Beth and Sarah will appear in the Spring-Summer 1973 issue of McCall's Needlework Magazine--their Grandmother Winter knitted them some darling dresses. We aren't sure of the page, but it is the section where readers send in pictures of their work!