

December, 1974

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. We find it hard to believe that it is December already, but our calendar insists that it is.

We have just had a very enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday. Ed's parents came out from New York for a week we managed to cram a lot of activities into that time. We went to San Antonio for a day and a half and showed them several of the lovely very old Spanish missions there (we went down Palm Sunday weekend and saw them - if you'll come see us we'll give you the tour, too.). We also got an early start on Christmas decorating since we wanted to get in on celebrating both holidays while they were in the neighborhood.

We've been most fortunate this year in that we visited many friends and relatives. Over the Fourth of July weekend we went home to Vicksburg and had a marvelous time. We attended Mel's twentieth high school reunion and were delighted that so many people came. We drove over to Hinds Junior College and visited several people that Mel knew in his time there. Our children enjoyed meeting more of the Carter side of the family and were especially enamored of their cousins and Grandpa's dog Grandpa, too, of course. }

In early August we flew to Memphis where we visited Mel's Aunt Katherine and cousin Vivian and her family for a few days and then flew on to Knoxville where Pat's dad picked us up and drove us to the Winter family reunion at Fontana Village, N. C. - right in the middle of the Smoky Mountain National Park. All 21 of us had a great time - hiking, fishing, swimming, berrying, washing, baby-sitting, cooking, doing dishes, etc. We celebrated a birthday and gave a baby shower (let's sister Mary, due in January) during the week we were there. It also happened to be the week that President Nixon resigned. Cousin Judy had brought a long hair 10 inch black and white TV - so several evenings found all the adults huddled around a snow TV trying to figure out what was going on.

Our girls are growing up so fast. Beth is even in the second grade, a Brownie, horse crazy, and very proud of her new puppy (we finally gave up and got a fluffy black poodle from the Humane Society named Tiger). Sarah is five and a half is enjoying kindergarten, learning to read and working on few puzzles. She loves to "dress" for dinner when the mood strikes her. Martha is almost three and will be starting nursery school two mornings a week in January. She is a bit homesick with the bigger girls in school, but troops along willingly to Pat's meetings and goes. Both Beth and Sarah attend the neighborhood school and walk the half mile home from school every day - good for them and saves gas.

Pat is still jogging every day (though Donna joined all through more "morning" programs - up until the day before her baby she was busy and keeping busy with the children, sewing, the house, Church, and League of Women Voters activities (during the Observer Corps days). She took a vacation - quite a few - so quiet as yet.

Mel enjoyed seeing Albuquerque while attending the physics physics divisional meeting in October. As new chairman of the Faculty Senate he has been deeply involved with the ramifications of the firing of the president of UNM. He and a lot of his graduate students finished up this year and got word from the state legislature. He continues to be interested in gardening and photography.

We hope that in this year of political events, inflation, and shortages that you are weathering the storm successfully. We wish you all the best from you - more often, but there just aren't enough hours in the day. We hope to see you all during the holiday season - let's hear from you. There are some good gifts for the "new owner"!