

December, 1975

Dear Friends,

Can it be December already? (It seems to me we started last year's letter with a similar comment!) We hope you are enjoying a happy holiday season catching up with family and friends! We enjoy so much hearing from all of you.

We've had a good year--a time of growth for all of us. It is our first year in eight years that we aren't using a crib or a high chair; they are now stored in the attic (cheers from Mel, a few tears from Pat)! Beth (8) is in the third grade, enjoys reading, is a Brownie and is really beginning to grow up (both physically and in other ways!). Sarah (6 1/2) is in the first grade, reads voraciously, is always wiggling and working on some project or other. Mardie is nearly 4, goes to nursery school on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and spends Tuesdays and Thursdays being indignant that it isn't a school day. She still accompanies Pat to many of her meetings--her favorite is the "cookie meeting"--the nursery for League of Women Voter's meetings.

Mel was promoted to full professor this year--needless to say we were very pleased. His work is going well--he continues to be blessed with good students. He is enjoying gardening and the joys of his new radial arm saw. He has just finished constructing three--four room doll houses--one for each girl--no housing shortage here!

Pat stays busy with the house, Church work, sewing, League of Women Voters--still is jogging and even played tennis all summer. We both jogged together all summer at (ugh) 6:30 a.m. She testified before a legislative committee in Austin on behalf of the ERA for the Task Force on Women in Church and Society for the South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ. By the time she stated her name and what group she represented her time was up! Best news for Pat is that after years of sniffing and sneezing she started allergy desensitization shots (low-dosage) and they are working!!

In May we were terrified by a vicious hailstorm--lasted 40 minutes with baseball sized hail (we are not exaggerating!). As a result our roof had to be replaced. While we were at it we decided to paint the house this summer--what a job, but the two of us did it!

In November we had a marvelous ten days in Florida. Our base was with good FSU friends, Dick and Sue Berkley, in Palm Harbor (near St. Petersburg). Mel was attending the Plasma Divisional Meeting of the American Physical Society in St. Petersburg. During the week while Mel was at the conference, Pat and the kids flew to Miami, met Pat's mother there who came down from New York. We stayed with former neighbors behind our old house. We tried to see and talk to everyone we knew, but in four days (and especially with three kids--all of them got sick during the ten days!) we just couldn't. If we missed you, we're sorry, if we saw you, it was wonderful! From Palm Harbor the five of us did get up to Inverness to see Pat's now-retired, superb sixth grade teacher. All in all, it was a wonderful trip--you can go home again--at least for a little while. Sure wish it could have been longer.

In August we were delighted to have Mel's dad and brothers Floyd and Charlie and their families visit us. Brother Donald and family couldn't come because of a school principal's meeting and sister Eleanor was on her honeymoon! We had a great time visiting and showing them the sights.

Pat's mother was out for a visit in June (Dad couldn't get away--Pan-Am needs him!). Her Aunt Doris and Uncle Holly were by for a few days but had to cut the visit short to head back to California to help Pat's Grandma Jones to recuperate from a heart attack (she is doing very nicely now!).

We do wish you'd come and see us--Austin really isn't at the ends of the earth! We have plenty of room and would love to have you come and visit. We send you our very best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a peaceful and fulfilling New Year.

Love,

P.S. No firm site set yet for the Winter 1976 family reunion. Any suggestions of parks or areas that have large cabins with cooking facilities and reasonable prices?