



December, 1976



Dear Friends,

And a merry bicentennial Christmas to you all!!! We hope that you've enjoyed all the festivities as much as we have. We've all learned a lot, I think!

It has been a good year--a growing year for all of us. Beth is now 9, a Girl Scout (do you want to buy some Girl Scout cookies?), enjoying the fourth grade--and is busy with piano lessons and campouts and such. Beth's commiseration for her achievement of the year was hanging in there for her first two night campout. Sarah is 7 1/2, in second grade, a Brownie (how about a Girl Scout calendar?)--loves to read and draw and is learning to play the piano, too. We are trying to convince her to learn "All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth", maybe it would help--she has been missing those teeth for months. Mardie is almost 5 (my baby!) and is really enjoying going to nursery school every morning. She continues to delight us with her observations (Example--while watching a TV football game with Mel--"Do the fell down ones don't win?").

Mel has been busy as usual with teaching and research. He has just returned from a physics conference in San Francisco. This year he has served on the committee to select the new dean for the College of Sciences at UT. He continues to enjoy woodworking and plants--he just finished a greenhouse (attached to our house) which is very attractive and also saves us from lugging the outdoor plants in and out every time it freezes (this was a good year for it--we've had a very cold fall, so far). We both continue to jog most of the year (my other jogging partner had the nerve to move).

I'm busier than ever with the League of Women Voters. As fourth vice-president I represented the Austin League along with our local president at the national League of Women Voters convention in New York City in May. Since my folks and many relatives live in that direction, I went five days early (it took two months to arrange to be gone for 12 days) and visited and visited and visited. Mel did a marvelous job of carrying everything through here while I was gone. It really was just great. The convention itself was very exciting (the presidential debates were announced there)--and while out for lunch one day we even saw Howard Cosell walking down the street! As a grand finale to the trip I met Mel in Hot Springs, Ark., for a Danforth Associates conference (the kids were at home with a capable babysitter, of course!). Besides the LWV, there's the kids, sewing--chairing the board of deacons and deaconesses at church--and chauffeuring. Chauffeuring is part of a new era--beats messy diapers, but not by much!

I mentioned the Bicentennial earlier--we had all looked forward to the long-planned celebration in Austin. Well--it pattered down rain--all day and all night--(in fact, it continued for 18 days straight--a record). We were all so disappointed, although the TV coverage did help a bit. We had a soggy cookout for 25--in our garage! We enjoyed visits from my folks, Mel's brother Donald and his family (the cousins had a wonderful time getting acquainted) my Aunt Doris and her husband Holly, and from FSU friends John Carey and his family.

We do hope that you are all well. We truly enjoy hearing from you and finding out what you are doing. We don't correspond much any more, but that doesn't mean that we don't think of you often.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

LOVE,