

December, 1982

Dear Friends,

Somehow I thought when the children were babies that life would get less hectic when they got bigger. Wrong! Life is definitely not boring around here. We are all busy, healthy and involved in a variety of activities.

Mel and I had a wonderful 3 week trip to Scandinavia in June. Mel was a participant in the International Conference on Plasma Physics in Gothenberg, Sweden (the second largest city). We flew to Copenhagen via NYC. While in Copenhagen we stayed with former Austin neighbors. We loved everything about Copenhagen--the flowers, the palaces, Tivoli Gardens. We bought train passes for the remainder of our trip which included 1 week in Gothenberg (of course), Oslo, Bergen, Stavanger and back to Copenhagen. We enjoyed the wonderful scenery and especially the time together.

Our 3 girls had a good time at home. My dad came out for 2 of the 3 weeks (Mom was at rug-hooking school!) and a good friend stayed with them the first week we were gone.

Mel is busy with his work at UT. He attended a plasma physics conference in New Orleans in late October where he got in a visit with his brother Floyd. His tennis continues to improve. He is playing in a league which keeps him on his toes. In August he made a brief trip home for the funeral of his cousin Vivian Erasher. While there he saw his siblings, Charlie, Donald and his family, and Eleanor.

I am chairing a League of Women Voters project on curriculum in our school district. I'm doing a lot more sewing since Mel and I built a sewing center which is in our bedroom--complete with a TV. That was our Labor Day project. I jog, write a weekly neighborhood news column for the Austin paper, chauffeur the girls to a variety of places, teach Sunday School (as does Mel), serve on a PTA board, etc. It is a busy, happy time.

We have just found out that Beth (15) made All-State Symphonic Orchestra for the 2nd year in a row. She will play with the orchestra in a concert in San Antonio in February. She also made 1st chair in the region orchestra. She enjoys her viola and plays well. She plays in 3 orchestras, is a 10th grade 1st honor roll student and works very hard to stay there. Beth got her braces on the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Sarah, 13, is an 8th grader who is discovering the joys of algebra--her favorite class--and the agonies of social studies! She made 1st chair cello in the junior high region orchestra. She also plays in the UT String Project orchestra and the junior-high All-City orchestra. She has been on the 1st honor roll each time this year. She and Beth both babysit a lot.

Mardie, 10, is happily involved in the 5th grade. She has excellent teachers and is enjoying a gifted class in social studies and higher level thinking. She is continuing to progress with the piano. She loves to read--in fact, one of our favorite things to do is for her to read to me after she gets home from school (the big kids get home an hour later). Her major extra-curricular activity is her Adventure Girl group.

We are all making plans for the 1983 Winter-Brown family reunion which will be at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colo., July 2-9. If any of you are going to be in the neighborhood, let us know!

We look forward to hearing from you this holiday season. We feel so fortunate when we know so many people in this country are out of work. We hope and pray that 1983 will be a year of peace and economic recovery for everyone!.

Love,

Sarah

Mardie

Beth

Pat

Mel



