

Dear Friends,

It seems like the school year just started, yet Thanksgiving has come and gone and Christmas will soon be here. We look forward to hearing from you this holiday season.

The highlight of our year was the Winter/Brown family reunion in Estes Park, Colo. at the YMCA of the Rockies in July. There were 36 of us from 9 states. We had a grand time--mealtimes tended to be a bit of a challenge, but we managed! It was wonderful to see everyone and to catch up on all of the family news. We had a talent show one night you wouldn't believe! We drove to and from in our old car--stopping to see Mel's brother Charlie and his family and his sister Eleanor and her family on the way. Just after we returned we had a terrific visit with our Guatemalan friends, the Antillons--and then my sister Nancy and her family surprised us by coming to Austin after their trip out west after the reunion! We had 13 people in the house at once, but it was fun!

The girls are very busy these days. Mardie is 11 and in the 6th grade. She enjoys art, science and music. She is continuing her piano lessons and has started playing the viola in her school orchestra program. Her school has a pilot program this year which has everyone in school for an extra hour each day--she doesn't mind a bit! Mardie got braces on in August.

Sarah, 14, is enjoying her first year in high school and is finding it a challenge. She is taking 2 honors courses and is continuing with her cello. She signed up for aerobics in P.E. and instead was assigned to a weight lifting and running class which she is pleased with. She plays in the All-City Youth Orchestra, made 4th chair in the Region Orchestra and made alternate in the All-State Orchestra--not bad for a freshman!!

Feth, 16, is a junior and still very serious about her music. She is really swamped this year--4 honors course plus 2nd year French and orchestra. She is working very hard on her courses and still finds time to practice, play in the UT String Project and a chamber music group. She doesn't get to sleep much! She made 2nd chair viola in the Region Orchestra and has ranked first in the preliminary ranking for viola in the All-State Symphonic Orchestra which will play in Ft. Worth in February. Feth was also named as 1 of 37 outstanding musicians by the University Interscholastic League (over 5,000 Texas high school students tried out).

Mel and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary this year--and our 19th year in Austin. Mel stays busy with his teaching and his research. He is enjoying working with the Pretext Tokamak project. He is still avidly playing tennis. He has just returned from his annual physics meeting which was in L.A. this year--he managed to get in a game of tennis with my brother Robert.

I've just finished a League of Women Voters project on secondary education in our school district. I'm serving on several advisory committees for the district, also. I stay busy carting kids from 1 place to another (Feth took driving this past summer, but hasn't gotten her license yet). I'm still jogging--3 miles/day, 5 days/week. I celebrated 10 years of jogging in August. I've been doing a weekly neighborhood news column for the Austin paper for 5 years now--started taking pictures this year.

We are in the process of planning a trip to Europe for the family for June, 1984. Mel has a meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, June 27-July 3. We plan to leave Austin the 1st week in June and return in early July. We hope we will get to see many of our friends overseas while we are there. It should be quite an adventure for all of us!

We wish you the best for this holiday season and the coming year.



