



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

★Can another year have gone by already? Our calendar offers irrefutable evidence that it has. We send you our greetings for a wonderful holiday season, a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. It has been a good year for our family—one filled with changes, but we are all adapting.

Mardie, 15, is a busy, happy sophomore at Austin High and made the first honor roll the first six weeks. She has had the sometimes rewarding and sometimes difficult task of adapting to being the only child at home this year. She has missed her sisters a great deal and has been very good about keeping them posted with letters. She is still active in the UT String Project and recently made first chair viola in the Central Texas Region Orchestra beating out several seniors. We recently found out that she has made the All-State Orchestra. She is particularly enjoying her art class this term and is doing some very nice work.

Sarah, 18, graduated from Austin High in June with high honors (Pat's folks came out for the occasion) and is thoroughly enjoying her freshman year at Rice University in Houston. She had to leave our family reunion several days early and fly alone to Houston and get herself settled. We went down for a quick visit the weekend after we got home from our vacation. She has no idea what will be her major, but is interested in math and chemistry. She surprised us by asking to resume piano lessons. It is a joy to hear her play again. We have been delighted that she is so close to Austin, enabling her to come home several times including the Thanksgiving holiday.

Beth, 20, is continuing to thrive at Oberlin. She is a junior this year and is preparing for her junior recital this spring--we hope we will be able to go. She loves the music and plays and practices all of the time. Oberlin has very kindly loaned her a much better viola than she has, so that has made her work easier. This summer she had a very good experience at Brevard Music Camp in Brevard, N. C., just 20 miles from where my parents live. She was one of five soloists selected to perform at the final honors program. Needless to say, her grandparents were there beaming at all of her performances. Her quintet which she has worked with all fall performed at the honors recital the first week of December. They were selected for a master's class with the Guarneri Quartet; however, a shoulder operation by a Guarneri violinist forced a cancellation.

Mel, This has been a year of education; much of which can be found in Bill Cosby's new book *Time Flies*. I still enjoy tennis, playing at every opportunity. A special joy is playing with the girls when they are home—my years of dominance are clearly numbered. I continue to enjoy teaching and was recognized this year by the College of Natural Sciences. The intelligence, character, diligence and optimism of the young people I meet each day is a cause for rejoicing. Join me!

Pat, My life continues to change. Last year I worked two jobs, teaching halftime at St. Andrew's Episcopal School and continuing as our neighborhood correspondent for the Austin newspaper. In May the young woman with whom I was sharing the teaching job decided to leave to have a baby, so I was asked to start fulltime in the fall. After some debate, mostly with myself, I decided that it would be a good thing to do. After not working fulltime for 20 years it has been a big adjustment--no naps, for one thing! While I am enjoying the teaching and the children very much (5th and 6th grade language arts and social studies), I find that my life has become quite narrow--I go to work, come home, go back to work, etc., like most people! I miss my newspaper job and the opportunities it offered me to meet so many different people, but I do not miss the deadlines. I am also enjoying the increased salary which goes directly into the college fund! I am still running 3 times a week at 5:30 in the morning. In November I got to go to the National Association of Episcopal Schools meeting in New Orleans and had the opportunity to meet and hear the author Madeleine L'Engle.

Last March Mardie, Mel and I had a very special trip to visit our dear FSU friends in Palm Harbor (near Tampa)—Dick, Sue and Jennifer Berkely. We spent spring break with them after learning that Dick had terminal cancer. Mel was able to visit again in May when he was in Florida. After a valiant battle Dick died in November, a loss from which we will never fully recover.

Our wonderful Guatemalan friends, Jorge and Miriam Antillon, were here for 5 days in July. We had a wonderful visit. It has been ten years this holiday that we spent an unforgettable month with them in Guatemala.

The highlight of our year was the Winter/Brown family reunion which was held in August at Jenny Wiley State Park near Prestonsburg, Ky. We drove out in our "new car", a 1984 Nissan Maxima which we had purchased just days before (the 18 year old Plymouth is still running, though barely). We were beginning to think we were going to have to walk! Fortunately, since it is a small car, it worked out that we drove out with four people and returned with four people, swapping Sarah (who flew to Rice) for Beth (who was at music camp). We stopped in Vicksburg going and coming and enjoyed seeing Mel's brother Donald and his family and other friends and relations in the short time we had. There were 35 of us at the reunion and we all had a wonderful time. The teenage set pronounced it "the best reunion ever." We all had to line up to get to hold my brother Robert and sister-in-law Julia's new baby Kelly, born in May—Pat's parents' 8th grand-daughter. We count ourselves as a wonderfully blessed family.

Once again, please keep in touch. We enjoy hearing from you and wish you a very blessed and peaceful holiday season.

Love,
Pat,
Sarah
Beth
Mel &
Mardie

