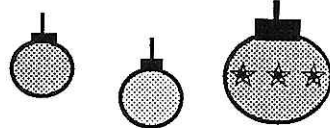


Merry Christmas



Happy New Year*

December, 1989

Dear Friends,

What an amazing year this has been—not for us particularly, but for the world in general! In this Christmas season it is astonishing to see the walls between Eastern and Western Europe continue to come down. We can continue to hope and pray that a new era of peace is beginning. We hope that the brave Chinese will not lose heart, but will continue in their struggle.

Mardie is a senior this year and is in the process of filling out college applications. She plans to be an architect and is applying to Carnegie-Mellon, Rice, Syracuse University, and the University of Virginia. She is president of the school orchestra, made first chair viola in region for the 3rd year in a row and has just learned she made 5th chair in the preliminary All-State rankings.

Sarah is a junior majoring in chemistry at Rice in Houston. She has just been home for Thanksgiving with her room-mate and another friend. It is wonderful to have her close enough by that she can get home every now and then. Her plan for now is to complete her chemistry degree and then go back to Rice for a two year master's program in education with the goal of teaching high school chemistry. She spent 5 1/2 weeks in Segovia, Spain, this summer through a Rice program working on advanced Spanish and the history of Spanish art.

Beth graduated from Oberlin last May. My parents, Mel, and I went to see Beth receive her degree in viola performance. This summer she delighted her Austin fans by giving a recital here accompanied by her Oberlin housemate and pianist extraordinaire, Rachel Matthews. This fall Beth enrolled in the master's program at the Cleveland Institute of Music in (where else?) Cleveland, adjacent to Case Western Reserve. She is studying with a marvelous teacher, Heidi Castleman, and is holding down three part-time jobs, including

one as the new assistant principal violist of the Canton, Ohio, Symphony Orchestra. She feels quite overextended, but also feels she is making progress in spite of not having enough time to practice.

Mel won the Texas Excellence Teaching Award^{for UT} this year. He continues to enjoy teaching, research and playing tennis. He and Mardie are rebuilding a 1967 VW bug—everything from the motor to the upholstery. He and Mardie have stopped quite a lot of traffic on our corner when they are out in the garage working. Their goal is to get it running before Mardie graduates!

Pat, as for me, I am now in my 4th year of teaching at St. Andrew's Episcopal School and fairly well adapted, I think, to working fulltime. I really enjoy the kids and the faculty with whom I work. I'm still running—every other day—3 1/2-4 miles—slowly, but determinedly—up at 5 a.m. on school days to run—YUK.

Our small church has had an interesting year. Our much loved minister of more than 30 years retired and we have a new pastor, Yoshimura Kaneda, who came to the U.S. more than 20 years ago from Japan and studied at Oberlin's seminary. Yosh and his wife Setsuko are bringing wonderful new viewpoints to all of us.

The 9th Winter-Brown family reunion was this past summer at Kentucky Dam Village State Restort Park near the Land Between the Lakes. Thirty-seven of us from all over the U.S. gathered for a fun-filled, hectic, joyful week of sharing and making memories. We managed to cook delicious meals in impossibly small kitchens, go on a large scale picnic as a part of a field trip to a working 1850's era farm, and to survive the heat—not too bad for us, but grim for the Yankee contingent.

In late October we had a wonderful visit with my brother Robert, his wife Julia, and their 2 1/2 year old daughter Kelly, and my parents. Robert was here to give a paper at the American Musicological Society meeting and Mom and Dad decided that that was a great excuse to come here and celebrate their 49th wedding anniversary. We agreed and a good time was had by all!

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. ☆

Mel Beth Sarah Mardie Pat

