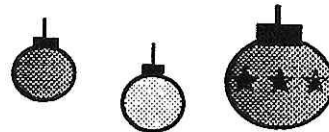


# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year \*



December, 1990

Dear Friends,

The last time we sat down to write a Christmas letter in a house without children in it was 24 years ago!! Needless to say, this year has been a year of adjustment for Mel and for me. And, of course, the kids aren't really gone yet, at least not Mardie. We are looking forward to the three of them being home for Christmas. We enjoyed having Sarah and Mardie home at Thanksgiving.

**M**ardie, at this time last year was in the midst of completing her college applications. This year she is happily ensconced as a freshman architecture major at Rice University in Houston. One problem she is coping with right now is mononucleosis, but she seems to be doing OK. She very much enjoyed her senior year and graduation was made more special by the visits of her Grandma and Grandpa Winter and her Great-Aunt Doris. She had a good time this summer giving viola lessons to 6th and 7th grade string students. She also worked and worked with her dad on the restoration of a 1967 VW bug. It truly is a work of art. The car's maiden voyage was a neighborhood event.

**S**arah, is a senior in chemistry at Rice this year. She is thriving in her work, is a Big Sister, has been active in a rape crisis counseling project, and is looking forward to graduation. She is enjoying a graduate level organic chemistry course this semester. At this writing she is planning to go to graduate school to pursue a master's in education to prepare her to teach chemistry at the high school level. This past summer she worked in a day care center and thoroughly enjoyed working with the little children. She and a friend of hers also house-sat. She enjoyed a visit to her boyfriend and his family in Dothan, Alabama. She has been a really big help to Mardie at school.

**B**eth will finish her master's in viola performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music in the spring. She and three others have formed a quartet (with a name, even—the MAIA) which is the apprentice quartet to the resident quartet at CIM. They are trying to decide what to do next year, planning several auditions for quartet programs, etc. It is not easy to do since the lives of four people have to be considered as decisions are made. Beth was a participant in the Sarasota Music Festival the first part of the summer and then spent the rest of the summer in Winston-Salem, N.C., working on chamber music, painting a house for room and board, and playing gigs with a group of wonderful musicians. This Christmas holiday will be very special for Beth since her best friend since the 4th grade, Pria, is getting married. Pria met many of the members of my family as she and Beth were at Great-Aunt Elsie's 100th birthday party 5 years ago (Aunt Elsie celebrated her 105th in October!).

**M**el. A real high point in Mel's year—and Mardie's—was the working on the VW. Mel's rule was that he would only work on the car when Mardie would work on the car. That meant that things went more slowly than they might have, but it also meant that a lot of learning went on all year. There are still a few finishing touches that need to be taken care of. He is still enjoying tennis and is improving his game all the time. He just returned from his professional meeting in Cincinnati.

**P**at. In April, Nancy and Sandy and I met in Hendersonville for a gala garage sale weekend as we helped Mom and Dad get ready to move into their new home. Probably the high point of the year for me was going with Mel to my parents' 50th wedding anniversary party which was October 27th. It was a wonderful long weekend except for the serious illness of my brother Robert who, with his family,

was unable to come, since he was hospitalized that weekend. Fortunately he is recovering, albeit slowly. Incredibly, he got a mold infection in his lungs and sinuses from old carpet which he had removed from his new house—ended up with strep and staph and pneumonia. Anyway, once we had been assured that Robert would live, we all decided to enjoy the party—my 2 sisters and their spouses, plus my folks in their new home in Hendersonville—and the Pan American couples who came from far and wide to celebrate with us—folks we had known all of our lives. I have also just returned from the National Association of Episcopal Schools meeting (25 of the faculty from my school attended) in Washington, D.C., where we had an inspiring opening service in the new National Cathedral, saw as much of the wonderful sights of Washington as we could, jogged in the beautiful autumn leaves, attended good workshops, and got to hear and meet Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund. The principal of the school where I teach received a National Distinguished Principal award this year—I really feel lucky to be where I am. I'm still teaching 6th grade language arts and social studies—we are in the midst of Greece and Rome right now and loving it! I am still running, but slower every year. My knees and back are telling me to walk and I am going to have to listen.

At the end of June Mel and I had a wonderful 4 day trip to Vicksburg via Longview where there was another Redwood School reunion. It was so good to see family and friends there—even though we didn't get to see everyone we would have liked to. This summer all the four of us could manage was a fabulous, fun-filled 50 hour vacation river rafting and visiting Sea World, so we are looking forward to the 1991 Winter-Brown reunion—the 10th. The first one was held in 1972. This year we will be at Cumberland Falls State Resort Park near Corbin, Kentucky, from July 19-26. An added attraction this year will be an additional reunion the weekend of the 26th-28th—the first South Miami 81st—82nd St. Reunion. We are hoping that at least representatives of each of the four wonderful families that lived in our neighborhood will be there. So far we have quite a crowd coming. If you will be in the area, let me know!

With the world situation as it is right now, it is a truly heartfelt prayer as we pray for peace on earth, good will to all people. We hope and pray that it will not come to war in the Middle East. We still are amazed at the changes that have taken place in Europe and the Soviet Union. Even though we may not correspond with you more than once a year, we think of you often and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



