

Dear Friends,



December, 1991

The first Christmas cards and packages have already arrived, so it is time to get Christmas going around here. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Without any kids at home it is easy to put off, but here we go. It looks like our two open houses will feature eggnog and oreos if I don't get into the kitchen soon!

Beth completed her master's in viola performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music in May. Her quartet--THE MAIA STRING QUARTET-- was selected by an organization called Young Audiences to be featured by them. They will be promoting the quartet in 1992. The quartet was chosen to work at the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival in Norfolk, Conn., as a part of the Yale Summer School of Music. They thoroughly enjoyed their six week stay there, especially working with members of the Tokyo String Quartet. Beth moved to Baltimore to continue her studies at the Peabody Conservatory (associated with Johns Hopkins University) where she won a full-tuition scholarship. Her quartet is spread out this year--the two young men are still in Cleveland and the other young woman is in Boston. They get together for a week out of every six weeks or so and practice together like mad. They have been invited to be the resident student quartet at Peabody next year. They intend to explore other opportunities, but it is nice to know that they will be together next year.

Sarah graduated from Rice in May with a degree in chemistry. We were so proud sitting there beaming in the audience--and listening to James Baker deliver the commencement address. She enjoyed living here in Austin in an apartment this summer--trying out her wings for Houston this fall. She worked in a different--and better day care center this summer. This time her boss was one of my former fifth grade students of 25 years ago. She is in a wonderful situation in Houston. She decided against going to graduate school at this time but wanted to be in Houston (near her boyfriend who will graduate from Rice in May), so she has a job as an administrative aide in the Office of Executive Development in the Rice Graduate School of Business. She is living in a garage apartment behind a huge house in River Oaks--free in exchange for looking after the 16-year-old daughter of the house when her folks are out of town, etc. Sarah and her dad repaired a 1982 Ford EXP this summer for her to take with her. She really learned a lot and is doing a good job of maintaining it in Houston

Mardie is well into her 2nd year of architectural studies at Rice and is thriving. She isn't getting much sleep, but she does love it. This summer she took physics at UT and also worked part-time in an architect's office where she got some good experience. In addition to the class and the architect's office, she babysat for a neighborhood family and kept their two children royally entertained. The 1967 VW bug that she and her dad spent 1 1/2 years restoring was stolen within 6 weeks after she took it to Rice after Christmas. We all shed lots of tears, but the police told Mardie that it had probably been taken to Mexico. She enjoyed seeing all the relatives and neighbors at the reunions this summer. Her boyfriend, a medical student from Ohio, came for part of the reunion was able to meet the Winter family.

When Mardie called Mel in tears to tell him that the car was gone, he left work, came home

and put on his favorite musical "Jesus Christ, Super-Star" When asked why he did that he said, "To help me keep my perspective on things." Mel is still enjoying tennis and plays several times a week.. He is really involved in computers and the installation of a new computer lab for students at UT. He and Sarah had a good time working on her car. It is fun to hear the two of them talking shop on the phone. He really enjoyed a white-water rafting trip on the Cumberland River this summer with brother-in-law Chip. We both thoroughly enjoyed a trip this summer to Norfolk to see Beth and then to Longview and Jefferson, Texas, with two couples--of the 4, 3 went to high school with Mel

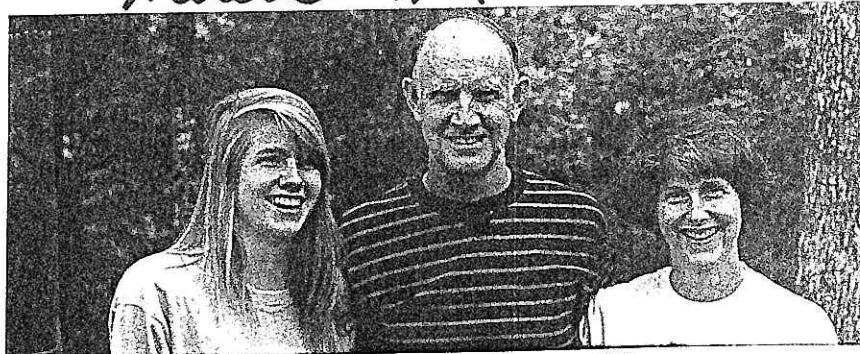
Pat. The highlight of my year was the family reunion which was at Cumberland Falls State Resort Park in Kentucky. Forty-seven of us spent a wonderful week together. It has been 19 years since the first one, so the character of them has changed considerably. The babies are all grown-ups and the adults are really grown-ups. After the relatives left, the immediate Winter family got busy cooking for the next group--the neighbors from South Miami. We had a fabulous weekend where 51 of us got reacquainted. Thanks to brother Robert's fabulous camera work we have a wonderful video of the grownups--now grandparents--and "the kids" reminiscing about the good old days on 81st and 82nd St. Eleven of the 20 "children" were there and 7 of the 8 adults. This is my 6th year of teaching and I still enjoy it. I am no longer running since I have been fighting a back problem for the past year and a half. I am, however, walking. We are pleased at the continued good health of my parents, especially since my mother had to have an emergency angioplasty done in August.

It is with great joy that we celebrate this season--great joys being hearing from you and having all our girls home for the holidays. We hope that you are well, and that after a year of political surprises that PEACE will at last be attainable.

Handwritten note: Sarah



The Oakes Family
Mardie, Mel & Pat



The Maia Quartet

Ken Law, Jim Shin, Amy Kullman, & Beth!



