

December 12, 1973

Greetings,

To our family and friends with whom it's a joy to keep in touch with at this time of year.

The Christmas season is here again and we would like to wish you a happy holiday.

This year has been a good year for getting things done for us. First, the same routine with the boys playing hockey at Yale on the Pee Wee team. Their team won enough games to play in the tournament. We as parents did the usual thing getting up at four and five o'clock in the morning to drive them into New Haven for practice and games; it was a pleasure for the boys.

After the snow and rain in the winter we began pruning the fruit trees, landscaping the yard and preparing our vegetable garden for seeding. We were very pleased with the vegetables that our garden produced.

Our next project was to prepare the underground water drain and make a dry well. The plan for putting the underground drain and well was much easier than the physical work.

The boys dug a ditch about 18 inches deep and 10 inches wide and 100 feet long, through rocks and around rocks, then put in 4 inch plastic drain pipes and covered it. At the end of the drain pipe they dug a big hole 4 feet deep, 4 feet wide and 12 feet long through hard dirt and rocks. Then they filled the big hole with rocks and dirt. This completed our dry well so we could use it for disposing of our washing machine water and water from the roof of the house. By this time it was mid-July and we started our second major project.

The second major project was to take all the paint off the house and repaint it. We used electrical burners to burn and scrape all the paint off the house then we sanded and washed it down. This took about one month to do. Then we applied one coat of primer and two coats of paint. Just when we were about mid-way painting the house, Johnnie was taken sick with pneumonia and slowed things down for awhile. After his recovery we finally finished painting the house the middle of September. The boys were very helpful in burning and scraping the paint.

By this time, school had opened for the boys. Marvin and Gregory's first year in High School as freshmen. Jeffrey at the Intermediate School in the sixth grade and Kenneth, the youngest son, at Jerome Harrison in the second grade. They are doing very well in their studies.

We missed our annual camping trip this year, but the older boy was able to go away for one week at Boy Scout Camp. Our vacation and Anniversary August 26, 1973, time was spent working around the house and editing a book for our Church's 39th National Youth Convention; this was quite an experience for us publishing a book of this nature. We are still planning to have a vacation.

As usual, we have a bit of sad news. Thelma's grandfather passed in November. We went to North Carolina to attend the funeral. After we returned it was Thanksgiving and we had a big family dinner at Johnnie sister's in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Now that we are coming down to the end of another year and "Watergate" is still going strong, we are thankful for the many things that we have accomplished and hope that you have had a successful year also.