

December 31, 1970

Hi,

After the holiday and celebration was over Johnnie, Marvin, Gregory, and Jeffrey continued their studies at school.

Spring was an exciting time for us watching the dogwood and Magnolia trees blooming. There was not very much to do in the inner-city with a family of six. We began to think of our boys growing up in that environment and we could easily see the community getting worse.

We were very active in our church, learning all we could to increase the quality of our lives.

We are highly blessed to be employed at Yale University. We have the best employer that a person could ever want, Professor Frederick M. Richards. Working at Yale is exciting, we are involved with learned people. This helps us to recognize how important education is.

We see the importance of a rounded family. Johnnie learned to ice skate during lunch hour and began to teach his family to skate. We went skating two or three times a week. The boys joined the Pee Wee hockey team at Yale.

We took short day trips around Connecticut and New York.

We also enjoyed camping. This is our third camping trip which took us to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Front Royal, Virginia, Shenandoah Valley and to the Crystal Cave down the Blue Ridge Parkway into the Cherokee Indian reservation.

There we camped on a river bank and enjoyed the beautiful scenery. We attended an Indian Baptist Church and saw an Indian drama that was excellent.

We returned from vacation and continued our daily schedule. Johnnie, Marvin, Greg and Jeff in school and Thelma and Ken at home although Thelma works part time at Yale University as a lab aide. Johnnie is also busy in the community he was elected as president of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) of Horace Day School.

Jeff, our third son, is in a program called Project Concern, which busses inner city children to the suburban school. Jeff was bussed to Calvin Leete in Guilford, Connecticut. Marvin and Greg was left to attend Horace Day Elementary School in the Hills area of New haven.

Marvin and Greg were doing very well in school so they were chosen to go to U.S. Grant Foundation at Yale University and gave them extra help and advanced them in their studies.

We began to think of ways to get our children in a better school system. We began to check out private schools like Hopkins, Prospect Day and others, but we could not afford the cost of a private school. We sought council with our boss and his wife, Fred and Sally Richards.

After discussing our plans with them we arrived at a decision that it would be best for us if we could move into a community with a good school system. The decision was to move into another community. We began to check the suburban area: West Haven, East Haven, North Haven, Hamden, Guilford, and North Branford. Thelma and I went to one place in West Haven to see a house and the Realtor had to say that we were from the phone company in order to see the house. The owner would not let us in because we were black. They would not sell to blacks. This is the only overt racial encounter we had in looking for Real Estate.

We found that North Branford had a good school system and was also voted the All American city. Now come the problems first we could not afford to live in the suburb, we did not have the money or down payment. It looked like it was impossible to get out of the "Ghetto". However we began to look for a house. We began to look in the newspaper and we would drive through Hamden, North Haven and other suburban areas to see what we liked.

We also began to go to Real Estate companies to see houses and what we could afford.

Just before we had gotten the finance we put together our first Mouning Saga Part I and The Mouningsonia Mark I and showed them to friends. After they read the books we discussed them. These friends were moved to give us a loan to pay off all of our bills with low interest and loan us the money for the down payment on whatever house we chose. When we found a house we were to give a check for the down payment and let our friends know. We also had access to their personal realtor. The good school system and a lovely community was in North Branford, Connecticut. Johnnie and Thelma spent their vacation and Anniversary August 26, 1970, house hunting.

By this time, it was Halloween and thinking about the next big holiday, Thanksgiving. We enjoyed a lovely Thanksgiving with our family. We have learned this year that when one is faithful to God he will give you favor with others. We are truly thankful for friends and family like you that we can write to and share our lives with. Your are very special to us. May God ever bless and keep you.