

December 6, 1977

Season's Greetings to All!

We, the Mouning family - Johnnie, Thelma, Marvin, Gregory, Jeffrey, and Kenneth - have survived another year with all of us in the best of health and hope that you and yours are the same.

This year was like the past years. The boys played hockey - Marvin, Jeff, and Kenneth at Yale, with Marvin assisting the coach, Gregory at North Branford High School with two outstanding goals. Although it is cold, the boys hate to see the winter end because that shortens the ice skating season, but to complete the season there were two sport banquets.

Last year we receive a colony of bees in one hive; we harvested about five pounds of honey last fall.

By this time early spring was upon us and it was time to work the bees, start the baby chicks and plant the vegetable garden.

The year moved fast. Before we knew it, it was graduation time for Marvin and Gregory from High School. Then Greg began working for the summer in a lab at Yale and Marvin worked at Howard Johnson restaurant.

We all look forward to the month of August because that is the time for fun and celebration. Vacation this year was short for Marvin and Greg because they had summer jobs, so we drove to Vermont, only three hours from Connecticut, and spent four days at a beautiful campsite where the boys met some girls from Middletown, Connecticut; they had lots of fun. We enjoyed seeing them happy. We returned home and a few days later celebrated another wedding anniversary with the boys at Captain Nick's Restaurant August 26, 1977. This wasn't enough vacation for us parents, so we took off together and headed south. We stopped in Baltimore, Maryland and visited Thelma's father and other relatives. Then we visited parts of N.I.H. where old friends of ours from Yale are now. We also stopped in Washington, D.C. and Alexandria, Virginia, to see Thelma's sisters before going to our General Church Annual Convention in Franklin, Virginia.

September brought a change in our normal life cycle. Marvin joined the Army Reserve and left for Basic Combat Training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Gregory left for college at Johnson and Wales in Rhode Island. Jeffrey went back to school as a sophomore and Kenneth is in sixth grade. Thelma is still working at the lab and taking care of us boys at home. Johnnie is taking some courses at Yale's Divinity School. By the time we got adjusted to the changes, Marvin graduated from B.C.T. and we went to see him for the first time in eight weeks. After graduation, he was shipped out to Fort Lee, Va. to Quarter Master School. Marvin didn't make it home for Thanksgiving but he is doing fine and expects to be home for Christmas.

Thanksgiving Dinner was held at our place this year and we had a gathering of twenty-one people.

With the majority of the year behind us, we are looking forward and wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.