

59 Totoket Road
North Branford, CT 06471
December 3, 1986

Dear family and friends,

We are fast approaching the end of another year and we take a moment to reflect the blessing, challenge and adventure of 1986. After the Christmas and New Year holidays were over, we settled down to our routine.

On Saturday January 11, 1986, Gregory, Kenneth, and Johnnie had put a half cord of firewood in the basement and built a fire in the stove. Later Johnnie and Thelma left for New Haven for a meeting at the church. About 1:15pm after they arrived, Thelma received a call from Kenneth saying our house was on fire. Johnnie and Pastor Philpot prayed. Thelma and Johnnie left immediately for home. Upon their arrival they found the road and their yard full of people and fire equipment with lots of smoke coming from the house. Heat from the wood stove had penetrated through a crack in the fireproof wall and ignited the insulation in the wall that started the fire.

It was a blessing that Greg and Ken were at home to get help. Our neighbors were helpful in helping the boys take all of Johnnie and Thelma's clothes and other things from being damaged.

The fire started and burned for about twenty minutes and went out by the time the firemen had arrived. It burned the main structural beam and joist under the kitchen and dining room. Smoke was over the whole house. The plastic that covered the electric wires melted and covered everything in the house. The firemen did an excellent job in ventilating the house and checking for other spots of fire. By 4:30pm, the firemen had completed the job and gone but we were not able to live in it.

Johnnie, Thelma, Greg, and Ken secured the house, checked in the Branford Motor Inn and set up headquarters there. We remained in the Inn for two weeks During that time we were contacting our insurance agents, fire adjustor, contractors and looking for temporary housing.

We had to install a new driveway to accommodate the trailer home on the property where we could oversee the work that was being done.

The next months were filled with investigatory meetings with contractors and estimates and pricing. The insurance settled the claim and the renovation was complete in four months and fifteen days. We then returned to our newly remodeled home with thanksgiving and a sigh of relief. We kept our usual pace of activities at Yale University, working, church meetings, Sunday School picnics and others.

Marvin and Rose, our oldest son and wife, are still in Germany. They are looking forward to returning to the states in a few years.

Gregory, our second oldest son, graduated from Southern Connecticut State University this spring with a B.A. in Theater Arts and Minor in Computer Science. He is quite happy to be out of school. He has had several parts in Branford and New Haven community productions and also some

television commercials. He is still living at home and working at the Yale University Computer Center as a User Support Specialist looking for the big breakthrough.

Jeffrey and Linda are working hard also at Yale in the Chemistry Department and Kline M B & B Stockroom. Jeff the Chef also works part time at Rusty Scupper restaurant. They just moved into a larger apartment. Their son Marcus, our only grandchild is now sixteen months old and in a nursery learning, developing a hardy appetite and walking. Jeffrey and Gregory have gotten back into their favorite sport, hockey, at Yale's Ingalls Rink and we hear that they are better and faster than ever.

Kenneth, our fourth son, is still at UConn in his Junior year and he is doing very well. This summer UConn placed Ken with a job in Fairfield, CT at a Connecticut Bank & Trust Co. He and another young lady from Guilford, CT, also from UConn, commuted daily to Fairfield until school reopened. Ken bought his first car, a 1978 Toyota Corolla that worked out very well for him. He worked three jobs this summer so he was delighted to go back to UConn in the fall.

Johnnie and Thelma's annual trip took them into Gloucester, Mass. On August 26, 1986, they celebrated their twenty-ninth wedding anniversary on the Seven Seas whales watch. It was very exciting for them on board the "Privateer" a ninety foot vessel with about one hundred twenty-five passengers. They went about ten to fifteen miles out to sea and saw a Finback whale that weighed about sixty-five tons and about seventy feet long. They also saw a Humpback whale that was about forty-five tons. They got within fifty to sixty feet of the whales. It was a warm sunny day with flat seas. There was one lady on board with us that was on her 106th trip out whale watching.

Thelma and Johnnie continued their trip to Rumford, ME. There they spent some time with friends and then went into Charleston, ME to visit friends at the Faith school of Theology. After a short visit in Charleston, they drove to Bar Harbor National Park and back down the Coast Road stopping along the way. They arrived back home and summer was completed with a fine picnic at our boss' home in Guilford. After the summer is fall and harvesting time for the vegetables and now it is settling down for the winter.

November 22, 1986 marked a memorable event in the Mouning's calendar. They received a formal invitation to a dinner to celebrate the conclusion of Ribosomal subunit of E. Coli project of fifteen years at Yale University by Professors Peter Moore and Donald Engelman. The RIBOFEST brought together people that had worked on or were connected with the project over a 15 year span. The menu included snails in pasta shells and stuffed mushrooms with other delicious foods and desserts.

The holiday is upon us and we had Thanksgiving with Johnnie's parents in Bridgeport and looking forward to Christmas with Johnnie's sister also in Bridgeport. So have a blessed holiday and a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

The Mounings