

December 17, 1996

Dear Families and Friends,

Life is to be shared by living and loving one another. One of our greatest joys is to send the 27th edition of the Mouning's Saga to you. May it find you blessed, healthy, wealthy and wise as you enjoy this holiday season.

This year started with many snowstorms, which kept us plowing and shoveling the driveway. Finally spring arrived and we were looking forward to a beautiful green lawn instead of the white one. While planting the garden, and cutting the grass we were excited about the new edition to our family.

Ken and Rose our fourth son and his wife, were expecting their second child, our third grandson. Malachi Nathaniel Mouning, weighed in at 6 lbs. 9 oz. born June 24, 1996. Malachi had some difficulties at first but is now doing well; he is a happy jolly baby. Kenneth Jr. is 23 months old and loves his baby brother very much. Kenneth Jr. is beginning to talk; his uncle Greg put on his shoes and he looked down at his feet and up at Greg and said "Excellent, thank you". He is growing up very fast. Ken Sr. received his Master of Business Administration degree this spring from the University of Connecticut. Rose is back at work and she enjoys her job as a social worker. We are thankful that Ken and his family are happy and doing very well.

Jeff, Linda, Marcus and Jordan our third son and his family, surprised us Memorial Day as Linda didn't feel well. Johnnie's mother told Jeff that Linda might be pregnant. Jeff was surprised at the statement, but later the doctor confirmed Linda was pregnant. The excitement of the good news went through the families. Marcus our oldest grand son now 11.5 years old, is adjusting very well to the idea he has a baby brother to share with. Marcus is in the 6th grade at Branford, Francis Walsh Intermediate School. He helps grandpa around the house, with cutting the grass, cleaning the gutters and bringing in fire wood for the winter. Marcus' favorite sport is ice hockey, and he is on the Yale's Squirt A team. He has traveled to New Jersey, Rhode Island and all over Connecticut to play hockey. Jordan Jeffrey Mouning, arrived December 6, 1996, at 12:08 pm, weighed in at 4lbs. 2oz, and 18 1/4 inches long. In two hours Jordan was yawning, stretching and turning his head. We have four sons and Jordon is our fourth grandson. How thankful we are to have such a lovely family.

Greg, our second son, enjoys his work and acting career. He travels a lot and is getting more invitations to perform his one-man show "Two for Freedom" in the inner-cities and suburban schools. Greg and Ken spent a week together in Atlanta, GA. at the Summer Olympic games; they enjoyed the festivities. They had a safe flight there and back after being cautioned about the accident of flight 800. Greg enjoys his nephews and loves spoiling them with lots of goodies.

Marvin, our oldest son, is a great delight and loves his family very much. He is doing a good job at work and loves it. Sometimes he helps his father at Yale, filling in where needed.

Marvin is now engaged to a lovely young lady, Miss DeEetta' Wright. Their wedding is set for April 26, 1997.

Johnnie and Thelma had an enjoyable spring trip to the south. They visited Thomas Jefferson Plantation and the James Madison plantation in Charlottesville, VA. On to Lynchburg, VA, at Liberty University, where they graduated from the Institute of Biblical Studies. On to Greenville, NC, to visit family and friends for a few days.

It was a joy to see all the crops being planted as we drove through the countryside. We visited Thelma's aunt, Iris Coburn and her family. Then we visited Johnnie's cousins the Weaver's, whom we had not seen in a number of years. They gave us goodies from an old fashion smoke house. After visiting other relatives and friends we returned to Connecticut and continued our work at Yale and activities at our church. Thelma lost her aunt Sophia Lofton Moore the last of her father's sisters. Thelma received her long term award for thirty years of service at Yale University. Yale honored her and others with a reception on April 30, at the president's room in Woolsey Hall, and a dinner on June 5, 1996, followed by her own Hitchcock chair. Johnnie shared in the wedding of Drs. Wendell Lim and Karen Earl on June 22, 1996. It was rocking as a beautiful Chinese, Jewish, Christian celebration for two of our children at Yale.

This year's vacation took us to the southwest corner of the United States; where we enjoyed the wonderful scenery of nature that God created for us. On August 21, 1996, we flew into Albuquerque, New Mexico where we rented a car and drove the old road up to Los Alamos, National Laboratory, where the Atomic Bomb was developed. We visited Dr. Jill Trehwella and her husband Dan. How nice it was to see Jill and to tour the National Labs with her and visit the museum. She is the first female to be appointed with tenure there. The scenic drive continued to Santa Fe, NM, to Pecos National Monument, Fort Union Nat'l. Mon., and up to Taos. We viewed the Rio Grande Nat'l. Gorge, drove on to Antonite, Colorado, where we took a beautiful train ride from Chama, NM, to Antonite, CO. From there to the Great Sand Dunes Nat'l. Mon.

We traveled on to Colorado Springs, where we toured "Focus on the Family" a well known Christian radio ministry to the family, headed by Dr. James Dobson. It was all we expected and more. We toured the U. S. A. F. Academy and then drove up Pikes Peak, 21 miles up 14,110 ft. high and back down through the Garden of the gods. We celebrated our 39th anniversary at the famous Flying W Ranch, where we had a meal set back in the 18th century, the way the Cowboys ate on the trails. We went to Aspen, and Snowmass Village over Mount Elbert (El. 14,433') on to Colorado Nat'l. Mon.

We followed the Colorado river to Moab, UT. Arches, Canyon lands Nat'l. Mon. and stopped at Dead Horse State Park. We drove from there to the National Bridges, Monument Valley, to Hubbell Trading Post in Arizona to Petrified Forest, Walnut Canyon, Sunset Crater, Wupatki, Nat'l. Mon. and to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon Nat'l. Park. From here we drove to Flagstaff, Sedona, Cotton wood, Wickenburg, Organ Pips Cactus Nat'l. Mon. we saw the largest beautiful cactus in the World. We continued through Tucson, to Tombstone, and old western town, to White Sands Nat'l. Mon. NM. to El Paso, Texas, Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Las Cruces, NM, Truth or Consequences and back to Albuquerque, NM. We had 14 days of

beautiful treasures of history and heritage of National Parks and Monuments that should be seen by every person in the USA. This inspires and educates our people to appreciate and thank God for the wonders that He has given us here in the good old USA.

We returned home in time to celebrate Johnnie's mother's 80th birthday. It was so nice to have Drs. Janet and Graham Knight from England to stop in at Yale to visit while celebrating their Silver Anniversary. We hosted Thanksgiving dinner with lots of family and friends. We are looking forward to hosting Christmas Dinner with more family and friends.

We trust you and your family will have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Love

Johnnie and Thelma Mouning