

December 7, 1998

Dear Family and Friends,

It's time to say Merry Christmas and Happy New year again. My how time flies just when you are having fun. This has been a year of success and failure, joy and sorrows, and growth and shrinks in the Mouning family. We dare not complain but give thanks for life and the way it unfolds.

Our oldest son Marvin and his wife DeEtta are enjoying life very much. They were married one year this pass April, and have settle down and became home owner's in August. They purchase a beautiful split lever ranch in Hamden and are renovating it to their taste. They are doing a great job in working together to obtain their vision.

Our second son Gregory is enjoying his home in North Haven. He is as busy as ever working at Yale University and acting in local plays. He just finished a three week performance at the Square One Theater in Strafford, CT. He was in the Play Twelve Angry Men. Gregory has a very nice friend named Cathy Slocum from Newport, RI that supports him very well. Gregory hosted the Mouning Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at his home. He had about thirty-two people in his Condo and we all enjoyed a superb Thanksgiving dinner with all the

trimmings. Thanks a lot Gregory.

Our third son Jeffrey, his wife Linda and their sons Marcus and Jordan are all enjoying life to its fullness in their home. Marcus had his thirteenth birthday in July. Marcus and his father helped us butcher off eleven chickens in July and seven in November and shared in other chores around home. He broke his left arm again that slowed him down a bit, but he is back playing hockey his favorite sport. And ice skating. School is a delight for him. Jordan is growing very fast and celebrated his second birthday December 6, 98. He is a busy little fellow. All his grandparents and other family members were there to encourage him to go on in life.

Our fourth son Kenneth and his wife Rose and their sons Kenneth Jr. and Malachi are enjoying their home in Bloomfield, CT. Kenneth, Jr. will be four in January and he is a very active child. He loves the day care and his younger brother. Malachi celebrate his second birthday June 25, 98. He is strong and growing stronger day by day. He reminds us a lot of Kenneth, Sr his father when he was two years old with that lovely smile he has.

Thelma and I along with our sons and their families are during very well and we are pleased about that Thank God. We didn't have much winter or snow this year, we viewed pictures from 1978 to be reminded us of what winter was like in CT. We are enjoying our work at Yale University and FMR the Chief is doing very

well. Although he retired from teaching in 1991 he is in the lab every day and keeps us all hopping. It's so nice to have people that was students in our lab thirty-five years ago now have children that are enrolling and graduating from Yale. Prof. Norma Allewell has a son at Yale and Prof. Cathy Lau has a son at Yale they stop in to say hello from time to time.

Our spring trip this year took us to Texas for about two weeks. We flew into San Antonio, rented a car and drove interstate 10 to Houston. There we spent three days with our longtime friends from Yale. Professor & Mrs. Jordan and Judy Konisky. Jordan who is at Rice University. They have two sons Daniel and David, David graduated this year from Yale. We also spent time with Professor & Mrs. Floronte and Nora Quioco and their daughter Priscilla. Flo is at the Baylor Medical Institute and Nora is at Rice. We had inside contact at Rice and Baylor and got a personal guide tour through both facilities.. We were treated to fine gourmet meals together and enjoyed the comfort of their lovely homes. We saw Houston by day and by night with the Konisky's and Quioco's, it a beautiful clean city with nice trees and lawns. We were told that we pick just the right time to go to Houston because of the humidity, they said the humidity is usually at 80 % or higher this time of the year. We had three lovely days of 73 ° at 20 % humidity.

We tour the NASA Houston Space Center home of mission Control, offers a

hands-on experience of space exploration. Exhibits include an IMAX theater a full-size space shuttle, live demonstrations, computer simulators and a tour that guided visitors behind the scenes. Left for Dallas on interstate 45. Texas is a large state we passed a large statues of Sam Houston about 100 feet high and about 30 feet wide. Into Dallas about 4.5 hours later. We tour the Ewing Mansion & Southfort Ranch made Famous from the hit TV series Dallas. We visited a Biblical Arts Center also includes the Miracle at Pentecost and a replica of the tomb of Christ. We visited John Fitzgerald Kennedy Memorial is a monument to the 35th president, who was assassinated in 1963, included museum and movies of the event. On to Irving, Texas at TBN the largest Christian TV network in the world. Had a personal private tour through the Studio. We visited the Virtually reality Sound Studio and viewed two movies.. We moved own to Fort Worth Stock Yards, the livestock Exchange was built in 1904 now houses Fort Worth's livestock legacy. Cowtown Coliseum hosted the world's Original Indoor Rodeo in 1918 and every weekend, and the dust have not settled since. On to Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall, and Smithfield meat packing factory. We came across a wonderful four acres Water Gardens design by Philip Johnson the man that design Kline Biology Tower.

We continue on interstate 20 to Big Spring. The Spring was the source of life in the region and the source around which Big Spring developed and grew. Big

Spring has over eleven antique stores and is becoming the choice location for antiques. We visited the Prairie dog farm and a beautiful state park. We saw lots of oil wells and wide open spaces, miles and miles of flat lands. Onto route 167 northwest into New Mexico. There we took route 62 southwest into Carlsbad National Park.

Carlsbad Caverns where the wonders never cease. We explored the subterranean fantasy land of stalagmites, stalactites and helictites where the temperature is constant 56 F. We went two miles down in the cave in 7 sec. And never felt a thing. We visited the Big Room there we saw a cross 1800 feet in one direction and 1,100 feet in the other. We saw the King's Palace, Left Hand Tunnel and the Lower Cave. We were too early for the returned of the Bats. The Cavern was created in a limestone fossil reef by percolating ground water, a process thought to have begun some 2 million or 3 million years ago.

We spent the night outside of Carlsbad, and on Sunday we took route 285 south through Malaga, NM. Through Pacos, TX to Fort Stockton. There we had lunch and gas up and continued route 285 to Big Bend National Park. We did not have reservation in Big Bend cabins, but there was just one room left and that's all we needed. Hiking through Big Bend, is lots of fun especially watching the wild life and rare birds. We enjoyed walking and observing the sun go down behind the horizon. The temperature about 72° with a light breeze.. How beautiful

God creation magnification views breath taking scenery, camera can't capture it.

After thoroughly enjoying Big Bend a thirty years dream came true we moved onto route 170 west to Big Bend State. We expected to see some Bisons and herd of wild horses but we did not see one bison nor a wild mustang. Texas is a large country, its mountains are a dull gray at the top and white like sand at the bottom. The desert is a brownest clay and the Rio Grande River goes through light gray canons and keep flowing from the Rocky Mountains into Mexico.

We took route 169 north to Interstate 10 east to San Antonio where we spent the next few days. We toured the beautiful River walk, and had lunch in a fine restaurant. Then visited the history site of the Alamo; where Santa Anna and nearly 4,000 troops attacked the Alamo. There were 189 defenders fought valiantly to their deaths. Among the fallen were James Bowie and the legendary Davy Crockett.

We returned home in time to get the garden planted and prepared for twenty-five baby chicks. On May 20, we went to visit our friends Dr. & Dr. Steve and Lisa Wilson Kaminsky took us to our first exciting performance in New York on Broadway to see the Titanic play. We truly enjoyed it; from there to a lovely dinner with their family. Prof. Kathy Borden and her husband Mr. Graeme Carlile came and spent a fine week end with us, it so nice to reminisce about old times they are now in New York. Later we attended an enjoyable events swearing in

of Judge Angle Robinson the youngest female ever to become Judge, Johnnie's cousin to superior Court in Hartford CT.

In the middle of August we received a phone call that Thelma's mother sister Aunt Iris Coburn passed. We attended her home going service on August 14, 1998 at Mount Calvary Church in Greenville NC. It was a sad occasion yet it was inspiring to see all the family and old friends. This year our summer vacation took us through parts of New England. We drove to the Northwest corner of CT. to Riverton, There we visited the Hitchcock Furniture Factory. We got a private tour of the factory Continuing in The Berkshire Hills on to Great Barrington, MA on route 7 to a small motel where we spent our anniversary in the early 70's so we spent our 41st anniversary August 26, 1998. We went over to The Norman Rockwell Museum at Stockbridge, MA where we saw many exhibitions, Rockwell's Studio, Outdoor Sculpture, and museum Store. Chesterwood National Trust Historic Site Chesterwood the lovely summer estate with its home, studio, and grounds of sculptor Daniel Chester French, creator of The Lincoln Memorial, also offers a summer contemporary sculpture exhibition. Had lunch at the Red Lion Inn, established as a stagecoach stop in 1773, and rebuilt in 1889, It is one of the few remaining American Inns in continuous use since the 18th century.

In Pittsfield, MA we visited Hancock Shaker Village, and explore the

extraordinary 1826 Round Stone Barn. We visit Mount Lebanon Shaker Village in New York. North on route 7 to Bennington, VT we toured Grandma Moses Museum. On to Route 9 East to Brattleboro, Interstate 91 south to south Deerfield to The Yankee Candle Shops. and Yankee Candle Car Museum.

We returned home to settle down to harvesting the garden and preparing for the fall. October 16, 1998, Johnnie was going to work and fell while climbing the stairs to JWG. Johnnie finished working and went to the Jane Coffin Child conference and Johnnie realized he had injury my left leg. Monday after a visit to the doctor and X-rays, and a bone scan he, learn Ligament was torn of the bone.. This laid him up for about 4 weeks. We are thankful for a speed recovery. Especially Thelma sense she had to drive everywhere at this time.

We extend our Prayers and condolence to the families and friends that lost love one's this year: Johnnie cousin Bernice Carney, Thelma's aunt Iris Colburn, Leatha Mourning, Lillian Mae Mooring, and Mr. Arthur Council.

We're planning to host our annual Christmas Dinner this year. Please enjoy the rest of the year and a prospereth New Year.

Love

Johnnie & Thelma Mouning