

Greetings for the New Year, 1971!

30 Engle Street
Tenafly, N.J. 07670

It was just great hearing from so many of you. I've enjoyed especially your notes, newsletters, photos and stamps. I'm so pleased about the number of you who have been traveling around the U.S.A. and abroad. There's no better emissary for peace than a well-behaved American family and, of course, all my friends are well-behaved!

This is the first year in the last eleven when everyone is getting the same newsletter from me. Just skip the parts which don't interest you.

One of my biggest thrills this year was in attending the first meeting of the Perinatal Research Society. Its almost unbelievable members consist of 33 obstetricians, 33 pediatricians and 33 basic scientists, and membership is limited to three years! I seem to be sort of a grandmother of the Society. After over 30 years of trying to get obstetricians and pediatricians to talk to each other, this Society warms my heart - but of course. And there are more and more signs of cooperation. Pediatricians in high risk prenatal care units, obstetricians spending time in the newborn intensive care units - all this is good.

This last decade has been a great one, to make a dent in prevention of birth defects. Two major contributions are at hand: 1) Rhogam - a kind of vaccine which will prevent sensitization of an Rh-negative mother by her Rh-positive baby, and 2) the rubella vaccine. The German measles virus is a wicked cause of birth defects very early after conception to 4-5 months of pregnancy. The March of Dimes has been most active in supporting research in these areas, as well as appearing at a Senate hearing to reinstate the Vaccine Assistance Act, supporting symposia on these subjects and cooperating closely with the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia. Over 75% of the rubella vaccination programs have been assisted by March of Dimes volunteers. This is not a fund-raising plea but maybe you get the message. (A.A.)

I've slowed down quite a bit. Two hospitalizations this fall clipped my wings. This past year, I've logged only 55,500 miles, chiefly because I have two superb associates - Dr. Ralph Gause and Dr. Arthur Salisbury - in our Medical Department. Somehow, I thought that having three M.D.'s who would and could travel meant that we could share one-third of the problems apiece, but instead, we are covering three times the number of problems personally, which is fine. There is no substitute for person-to-person communication.

Thanks to my former student, Tom Cone, I enjoyed tremendously a week in Ireland at the meeting of the Irish-American Paediatric Society, followed by another week in Western Scotland with Dr. Margot Goldsmith. And just last week, I had great fun in visiting some old Bermuda friends.

My newest hobby, flying, is up to 12 hours' instruction, 25 landings and take-offs (any idiot can do that!). I have my AOPA certificate (Pinchhitters Course) but intend to continue instruction in flying this next year.

Which brings me to family matters. Cousin Winnie Shaw and I visited eight of our forebears the day after Christmas. Brother Lawrence and sister-in-law Margaret have both officially retired but to much more stimulating jobs. He is the organist and choir


director of the beautiful new Stroudsburg, Pa. Presbyterian Church, Margaret is working at Stroudsburg State Teachers College, taking a position far under her administrative abilities. I don't blame her a bit after seven years of responsibility at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Winnie, who so tenderly cared for my mother for 15 years, has an active list of ten or so young families who need a baby-sitter. She is also very active in the United Methodist Church in Tenafly. Her address is 72 W. Hudson Avenue, Englewood, N.J. 07031.

My three nephews did not turn out to be mentally defective, after all. Charles is an M.A., teacher of physics at Phillips-Andover; Pete is getting his Ph.D. in biophysics at University of Michigan; and Rick is a Captain in the Air Force, now learning to teach T-38 pilots. The six grand-nephews (4) and grand-nieces (2) keep me young.

My terms as Alumna Trustee at Mt. Holyoke and as a "member-at-large" of the Methodist Board of Health and Welfare Ministries should end this year. Both have contributed immeasurably to my focus on life. I only wish that I could have contributed to them more effectively.

The National Foundation-March of Dimes is moving in entirety to White Plains, N.Y. on February 15th. Our new address will be 1275 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, N.Y. 10605. Phone: 914-428-7100. We're going Great Guns!

With my best wishes to you for 1971 - and Love,

Virginia and Quinky 

Tom McDermott has remarried -

Kingsley Bishop has a new address: P.O. Box 8278, Coral Gables, Florida 33060.

Rusty Dorr, Jr. and his wife have a new baby in Manchester, N.H.

Lida Swafford Dahm and husband, Karl, have added Elizabeth to the family in November.

Tone Dahl Kvittingen and husband, Johs, in Trondheim, Norway, have a new home in the suburbs. One daughter is in medical school.

George R. Fraser is moving from Seattle to Instit. voor Anthropogenetica, Wassenaarsweg 62, Leiden, Holland, after Feb. 15, 1971. Congratulations, George!

Georgianna Jagiello has joined the genetic team at Columbia P&S. With Paul Marks, the new Dean, an internal medicine geneticist, and Bob Krooth from Michigan, O.J. Miller, Dorothy Warburton and Sol Spiegelman, Columbia should finally take up the traces from Dr. L.C. Dunn, Dorothy Bennett and others.

NORM BERGMAN + FAMILY HAVE MOVED FROM ST. L. CITY TO PORTLAND - OREGON
If you must reproduce, please make sure that all your offspring are perinatologists, teratologists or geneticists!

Hello Graham + Family!

How's the fishing in the St. Lawrence?

Do you ever see Don Richter, of Saranac area - he's officer in all sorts of societies - your two families moved but it's fine

Much love

Virginia Aggar