

Ginnygram - December 31, 1973

30 Engle Street
Tenafly, N.J. 07670

For Graham and Greg

In many ways, 1973 was a bang-up year. The March of Dimes had the best year since I joined them 14½ years ago. We were able to increase the Research budget and that of Medical Services, do more with Professional Education, including the Fourth International Conference on Birth Defects in Vienna, plus lots of other regional and national meetings both for laymen and health professionals. Two new programs were started, Basil O'Connor Starter Grants and in Clinical Research.

My improvement in health allowed over 82,000 miles of travelling and it was a great pleasure to see so many of you former anesthesia associates. Over 25 former residents in my era were at the ASA meeting in San Francisco and in Chicago at the Ralph M. Waters Award Meeting. In Chile, I had a delightful 9½ hours with Raquel Santos in the middle of the night. There was a revolution on but they had to sleep too. Carlos Rivas entertained me royally in Caracas also, as did Tone Dahl Kvittengen for a wonderful nine-day vacation in Norway. We drove over 2000 kilometers, explored the family waterfalls in a fjord north of the Arctic Circle, saw a wild herd of reindeer and caught a large Norwegian codfish wholly unlike the Boston variety or the Great Barrier Reef kind. Ted Mayrhofer and I finally met in Vienna. He has done wonders with the World Federation of Anesthesiology.

More locally, Ron Katz is the new Chairman at UCLA, Herman Schwartz went with him to Los Angeles, Bob Epstein is Chairman at the University of Virginia, Lennie Brand is at Oxford and Lester Mark at Basle doing research work. Harvey Hatchfield is President of the Section of Anesthesiology and Resuscitation at the New York Academy of Medicine. Hendrik Bendixen is the new Chairman at Presbyterian. Best wishes to you! Stan James has had the 12th floor of Babies Hospital completely renovated for a Perinatal Unit which will be opened in the Spring.

The year at Hopkins was a riot. I took, or rather tried to take, all the courses pertinent to Teratology. In February, I gave up the struggle between homework and the hypertension involved in working for a degree, which elicited from Helen Taussig the remark: "You have another 'first' - the first person to drop out of a Johns Hopkins program and get an appointment on the faculty." (Lecturer in Medicine!). I go back to Genetics Clinic once a month on the average and am constantly amazed at the range of birth defects and how they can be managed, let alone diagnosed. There was much music in Balomar for listening and for playing, and many new friends were made. Victor McKusick has the honor of being elevated to be Chairman of the Department of Medicine.

Thank you one and all for your many notes, photos and stamps. Quinky (age 13) and I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

With love,

Thank so much for your lovely letter - wish I could have included all the details in this letter - but 450 people sent in other details of their family! ☺
I do hope your op for hiatal hernia was worte while - my tummy has 19 steel sutures in it which drives the airport men crazy, especially when I wear a coat with metal buttons! Oh that these were the only problems! Much love - Va

Virginia Appgar