

Happy New Year, and thanks once again for the dozens of beautiful Christmas cards, with notes, stamps and photographs. It's wonderful to have news of so many of you and I love sharing it with you. This year, there is attached an address list of those receiving this newsletter, for I'll bet some of you would like to get in touch with each other.

Did you see Dunc Holaday's beautiful article on medical instrumentation in SCIENCE, 134:1172, October 20, 1961? I think the most exciting appointment in our group is Ted Mayrhofer's as the top top professor in Vienna. Congratulations! Yoop Bartels is leaving California to head the anesthesia service at the University Hospital at NYU, one of the vast new complexes there, where Valentine Mazzia took over Rovie's position. Rovie's ashes would smoke if he knew that nurses were being trained in anesthesia at NYU. After 12 years at Harlem Hospital, Helene Mayer will move her anesthetic activities to Bellevue. Dottie Ma is just back from a disappointing trip to HongKong, where she was unable to arrange for the admission of her mother and daughter to the USA. Gladys Barrett, my unfailing source of first day covers, is about to become the director of Mary Harkness Home, in Port Chester when Mim Hubbard retires. Vi Grollimund contributed a large part of her stomach to the surgical path. museum and feels much better. Miss Penland is in fine form, and U.J. has moved to a new address in Long Beach, Cal. I stopt in at P and S this week, and can report that Mannie Papper is buzzing around in working clothes on the operating floor - which so many department heads don't do - Vance Lauderdale was on his hands and knees examining a new, probably electronically controlled, orthopedic table. I missed my old friend, Fred Hertlein, who was top orderly when I was a medical student, for he died recently of a heart attack. Mary Sargent in the blood bank just got married to a banker. You never can tell about us gals of uncertain age! Don Richter has a daughter in nurses' training at P.H. Was delighted to see Ming Yao in Ottawa in January. Barbara Lipton chaired the Round Table Luncheon for the NYSSA.

My new job is just wunnerful, in that, among other things, it requires much travelling so that I can visit many of you. Right after Christmas last year, I visited Chris and Margot Wolkenstein in their new home in Winnipeg. Our spring advisory committee meeting takes us to Hollywood, Fla., where Charlie or Lois Stein meets my plane and feeds me a delicious dinner. Stan Gould dropped in for the evening. In March, I visited both Bel and Bill Musicant and their families. Bel's eldest son, Mike, is a medical school student at Univ. of California in S.F. I saw Eva Kavan and Glenn Potter, all too briefly, in S.F., Yoop Bartels introduced me to the latest Espresso Coffee styles. On a trip to Spokane in May, I spent the night with George Herbert and family in Walla Walla, Washington, in their lovely new home. The next morning, was stumped how to get to Spokane for a lecture when the plane didn't come, so chartered one. I got there with 10 minutes to spare, and it didn't break the bank! Lelia Mullen has taxied me around during a couple of trips to Denver. Tried to visit Stoppani in Rome in September, but never did find him. In Norfolk, recently, Hugh Crawford, now a plastic surgeon, regaled me with the tale of the Pan American plane which lost a couple of wheels as it took off for Moscow. He was a passenger on it.


In the middle of 1961 I was most pleased to be elected to an honorary membership, their first, in the NYSSA. And then, in late October, I got a telegram from Charlie Landmesser from L.A. that I was given the Distinguished Service Award of the A.S.A. and an honorary membership in the A.S.A. I was dumbfounded!! and of course, very pleased. Thank you, one and all, for these honors which I most certainly do not deserve. I was very sorry to miss the P.H. Alumni meeting in NYC in Dec.. had to talk in Milwaukee, but will certainly reserve that night in 1962.

This year, I have been on 28 business trips, from 2 days to 2 weeks in length. It's just beautiful up there at 40,000 feet. Two genetics meetings took me to Israel and Rome, with a night in Jordan in between, and an eventful trip to Lebanon, where I hoped to see Joe McDonald and Edna Higgins Khoury, but they would not let me in the country since I had been to Tel-Aviv. So I was put on a plane for Cyprus and Athens, where I spent a few remaining hours on a sofa in the lobby of the King George Hotel. Rome was wonderful, and two days in London finished a busy two weeks. Holidays took me to Bermuda, to New Hampshire twice - where I am getting quite good at felling trees in an expected direction, and ten days fishing with Mary Ward on the St. Lawrence. We had the best catch in 15 years. My viola and violin are both finished, with eight coats of varnish, but I cannot report much progress on the cello. It'll take at least five years, at this rate. Have learned a lot about publishing and editing this year. Have just edited the 60 or so papers from last year's London Conference on Congenital Malformations, catalyzed a book for high school students on DNA.. now in third printing and completely sold out.. and am assembling a book for Lippincott for laymen on Birth Defects. Never a dull moment. Got together an exhibit on the Riddle of the Chromosomes and with much help have written a brochure to go with it. Press interviews and TV shows are part of the job, which I do with my tongue in cheek. For some unknown reason, The N.Y. Academy of Sciences elected me to their fellowship.

1962 plans call for two big meetings, one in L.A. .. January 22-24th, and one in Edmonton, Alberta, in late March. Hope to see George Moonie there, who writes me of a growing family. Am happy to report on the good health of some of the older generation; Dr. Waters is raising tangelos in Florida; Harry Grant-Whyte in Durban, South Africa; Geoffrey Kaye in Melbourne; Gretta McClelland and Mary Burnell in Australia; Olive Jones in London, with whom I had dinner, and B.G.B. Lucas; Lily Dismuke, now married in Georgia; Wesley Bourne in Canada.

Audrey Regan Rousuck put on a lovely dinner when I was last in Cleveland. Dottie Darling didn't go abroad this year, for a wonder. She's one of our most travelled graduates. I missed Barbara Lipton when I gave a talk at her hospital recently, for she had been taught not to leave her patient. Keep that for the 1962 theme! Missed Lila Gairns on a recent trip to N.Y.C. My Mother is fine, age 88. Her hip fracture healed completely. I am egging my brother on to a doctoral degree in Sacred Music at Union Theological. He's teaching the teachers. Have two lively great-nephews; my three nephews for whom I held small hope several years ago, now teach math and physics, one is a radio-biologist, and the youngest, a doolie, or 4th classman at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. It's a great life!

Lots of love, and best wishes for 1962!

Virginia 

P.S. Sol Shnider just phoned me that he has accepted a position with Stu Cullen at the University of California in San Francisco, in obstetrical anesthesia. Congratulations!

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