Happy New Year! For about the fifteenth year in a row, I take "pen in hand" to thank you most sincerely for your beautiful cards, photographs and stamps. Time must be moving on, for some of the photos are of your grandchildren! That's fine, and I'm looking forward to seeing pictures of your great-grandchildren too!

Bill Nash sent me the most wonderful news from Louisville yesterday. After fifteen years separation, two trips to Hong Kong and an act of Congress signed by the President, Dottie Ma finally has her daughter Molly living with her. She had been in Communist China for years. I had the pleasure of visiting Dottie in her home last January where she cooked an absolutely delicious oriental meal for a number of friends.

You will note that the address list has expanded a bit, to include other Presbyterian Hospital friends. Jo Mellor is a Navy nurse, stationed in Japan, from which country she sends me juicy stamps. I met Jo DeFrancesco's charming husband at the P.H. party in December, which Lennie Brand ran in his usual skillful fashion. That gathering during the New York Postgraduate assembly is a fine time to see old friends. Ted Mayrhofer's meeting in Vienna was a Big Success. I know for sure that Dottie Darling, Eva Kavan, Chris Wolkenstein, Carlos Rivas and Helene Mayer attended. Mrs. Foot writes me that Chuck, Ellen's son, is enjoying Williams as a freshman. Sam and Toba Rochberg's son is a junior at Princeton. Recently, they showed me their fine new Sinai Hospital in Baltimore from top to toe. In Mississippi the other day, I was delighted to see Elizabeth Dowdy again. After a big smash-up when she broke innumerable bones, she is back together and cooking on all burners. Fred Hehre had a whopping coronary in December, but won out. Stan James and Johannes Bartels are two of the best cooks I've ever met!

Carter Ballinger spent a sabbatical year from Utah in Wisconsin in neurophysiology. Kingsley Bishop came down to Miami Beach where I was manning an exhibit on chromosomes, to discuss chromosome cultures which is her present avocation. Mrs. Ralph Waters and daughter Elva happened by and report that Dr. Waters is fine but likes to stay "put." Miriam Hubbard has retired to a lovely home in Greenwich, Connecticut, and Gladys Barrett is head of the Port Chester convalescent home. Connie Berrien Schleindl is back at work with Stan James's group, after losing two tiny twins. Marvella Vanney Koury writes that if she ever stops having a new baby, she'll come to the New York meetings. Lila Gairns announces that her dog is now toilet-trained! Dunc Holaday and family are thriving in Chicago. Charlie and Lois Stein look after me in Miami Beach. Their son, Louis, is at Johns Hopkins University. Dottie Robinson, Obs. Supervisor, brought me up to date on Sloane news...John Rearden's death, Manny Friedman becoming department head at Michael Reese, Saul Gusberg at Mt. Sinai, Hal Tovell at Woman's Hospital, and most exciting of all, Frank Moya taking the professorship of anesthesiology at the University of Miami.

Manny Papper and Bob Dripps have spent much of 1962 in Washington helping to direct the government in matters anesthetic. Both came away with five-year grants totalling three million each. Congratulations! I welcome nine faithful surgeons to my New Year's list - Drs. St. John, Rudi Schullinger, Dick Diefendorf, Keith McElroy, Barbara Stimson, Cushman Haagensen, Mary Jane Gray, Bill Rotton and Grant Sanger, and your old friends-non surgeons-Alice Baker, Mary White Hinckley, Nannie Wilson and Achsa Bean (You don't have to read this .) When I visited the Diefendorfs in Bremerton, Washington last year, I was most impressed with a boat slip at their front door.

We had a scream of a surgical party in June. The last eight retiring surgeons collaborated in inviting 72 of their friends to celebrate their retirement. Our hosts were Drs. Frantz, Grinnell, Harvey, Schullinger, Sloan, Cooper, Moore and Blakemore. Dr. Whipple was in fine form, Dr. Wilder Penfield came down from Canada, and since Dr. Frank Meleney likes to sing Christmas carols, we sang them in June, while doing a snake dance!

On a cross-Canada junket last spring, I was delighted to see George Moonie and family in their lovely home in Edmonton, Alberta, and Chris Wolkenstein, all too briefly, in Winnipeg. In January, I dropped in at the Dallas meeting of the Association of University Anesthetists and was most sad to miss seeing Carlos Rivas who was attending. He then visited New York and later went to the Vienna meeting. A warm welcome awaits all of you and me at his home in Caracas, Venezuela. Also in Portugal at the home of Francisco and Lidia Branco, and in Taiwan at Harold Wang's (thank you for the stamps!) In Los Angeles in January, where the National Foundation put on a big meeting on congenital malformations, I was most pleased to see Bill and Bel Musicant, Eva Kavan, Kurt Weiss, Sid Halperin and Glenn Potter. At the Chicago meeting of the A.M.A., Carter Ballinger, Bill Howland, Sol Shnider, Dunc Holaday and Jeff Crawford turned up. In Boston, I saw Bernie Batt and Sarita Goodman. Warren Rossway had a number of friends in for a cocktail party when he asked me to speak at Huntington, Long Island. I am happy to report that Miss Penland and U.J. are thriving, as well as Bea Langmuir, Aline Wildrick and chief pharmacist Anna Grosso. Eleanor Densen is George Humphrey's secretary. Gertrude and Bill Moss commute to Bermuda. Vi Grollimund keeps track of everyone, as usual. The youngest person on my list is Lida Swafford, who is now interning at University of Pennsylvania and will start an anesthesia residency with Manny Papper in July. Dripps is mad.

By now, you can see I don't sit still much. Two other trips. . Mary Ward and I fished the St. Lawrence dry in July. Mary is working hard at Sharon Hospital. And in May, I had a wonderful time in Alaska for ten days .. aside from eight lectures, fished for salmon in the waters off Juneau, saw totem poles in Ketchikan and played quartets in Anchorage. Fairbanks was the site of the Alaska Medical Society meeting and I was astonished to meet Pel Glasier, a former surgical associate. I think he was hunting walruses.

Obviously, I am enjoying my job, not as new as it was, thank goodness. Still enjoy travelling very much. Hope to make The Hague for a genetics meeting in September. Great things are happening in the field of molecular biology, genetics, chromosomes, enzymology and the like, and the March of Dimes is thrilled to be a part of it all. Am off to Washington tomorrow for a six-day meeting of an International Committee on Congenital Malformations. Our new book on Birth Defects for laymen should be out in February. We are holding a big International Conference from July 15 to 19 at the Americana in New York. My mother is fine, at 89. Those of you who know her, send a birthday card on May 26th. Cat Quinky is spoiled. Two great-nephews, two nephews and wives visited all last week while I was in Philadelphia at the AAAS meetings. I'm still looking for things in my apartment.

Do give me a ring whenever you come to New York. If I'm here, I'd love to see you. Best wishes for 1963. Work hard, give of yourself and practice TLC, especially for your own family and you'll have a fine New Year.

Verginia



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