

Happy New Year

January 1965...Ginnygram

My very best holiday greetings to you, my many friends in my "past" life. Thank you for your dozens of cards, with messages, photos and stamps. This has been a wonderful year for visiting many of you in the course of my work for The National Foundation-March of Dimes. Some 35 trips away from New York took me over 75,900 miles. About half of these trips were for visits to research scientists who request money from us, and the rest on speaking trips to physicians, health educators, and the top volunteers in our 3100 Chapters across the country. Sometimes I wish the audience consisted of just ordinary people, with average I.Q.'s. When in New York City, time vanishes amongst voluminous mail, numerous phone calls, articles to write for professional journals and popular ones, "editing" the Proceedings of the Second International Conference on Congenital Malformations, radio and TV spots, taping a series of 39 radio public service spots about birth defects and trying to keep up with the literature in 20 new subjects. 1965 holds the possibility of a visit to Tokyo. Ha!

There is much news for you. First, a wedding. Lila Gairns was married in June to K.Y. Chen, the widowed husband of one of her best friends. I am very happy for both of them. Bea Selvin has a new husband and has moved to the Annapolis-Baltimore area.

A very sad note next. Bob Gladstone, our first resident in anesthesiology, died suddenly in late September. He and I had had much pleasure in exchanging tales of his residency, at a meeting of the Western Massachusetts Society of Anesthesiology, where I happened to be the speaker, and he was in fine form. Three days later he died of a massive cerebral hemorrhage.

Also, one of the best surgical friends anesthesia ever had, Dr. James Corscaden, died of a coronary attack in mid-December. I'll never forget his great kindness to me after the fatal anesthesia explosion I had in 1951. We also spent many happy hours playing chamber music at his home where he played a sensitive cello.

There have been two new babies born to former residents. Recently I had dinner with John and Jeanne Schweiss who, after adopting four interesting children, had a son, John Gavin. And in Dallas, a little later, Gloria Hansel Nash and neurosurgeon Tom drove me to the airport. After two daughters, the last one eleven years ago, there was Gloria about to go into labor. Another fine baby girl was the result.

Ray Fink has moved to Seattle to work with Johnny Bonica at the University. There was a migration of sorts to South America this year. Stan James, Karlis Adamsons and Martha Baker visited Alvarez and Calderyo-Barcia in Montevideo principally, with stops at Buenos Aires and Rio on the way. For a month, there was fast and furious exchange of information about the perinatal period.

Here is a short, incomplete roster of anesthesiology children who are in college:

Vi Grollimund's son Ronnie is at Dalhousie University, New Brunswick, Canada.  
Ed Hanks's daughter is at Drew University.  
Fred Brown's daughter is at the University of California at Berkeley.  
Charlie Stein's son Louis is at Johns Hopkins University.  
Sam Rochberg's son has finished at Princeton.  
Bob Gladstone's son Dick is at college, I know not where.  
Bel Musicant's oldest son Mike has finished medical school and has a residency at Harbor General Hospital near Los Angeles.

If you'd write me more news, this list would be longer.

*Thank you for the fine photos  
of the family...*

*Much love -  
Na*

Ted Mayrhofer from Vienna was a visiting professor at P and S for a week in October. He has been elected secretary-general of the World Federation of the Societies of Anesthesiology at their latest meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Congratulations, Ted, and our sympathy for all that such a job entails.

Lila Gairns completed her duties as president of District IV of the NYSSA and seven years as secretary-treasurer and three as director, but I'll bet she turns up as an officer of something in anesthesia on Long Island.

Shih-Hsun Ngai and family are in Sweden, at the Wenner-Gren Center, Stockholm. I loved the photograph of their three children.

Barbara Lipton is now working at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City, where Jack Frumin is in anesthesia research, and where Leslie Rendell-Baker, their dynamic boss, is keeping things humming. R-B was most instrumental in getting Linus Pauling to give the Eliasberg Memorial Lecture at the Academy of Medicine. Dr. Pauling has been most helpful to us in our birth defects program and I was delighted when some of my former students stated that they didn't really understand a word he said, and for once, I did!

Kingsley Bishop and Frank Moya have both added teratogenesis to their special talents. Kingsley has just found a new chromosome error in a patient at the Sunland Hospital in Orlando, and has had two papers published on cytogenetics. Frank is working on the teratogenic effects of anesthetic agents in chick embryos. I have nothing to do with their new interests but am, of course, pleased.

Other former students with whom I have talked this year include Gerry Savage, Dick Weiss and George Henderson in Wilmington, Delaware, the day after I broke my left radial head, but it healed very promptly in 24 days; then, in June, I was invited to speak at the Colombian Society of Anesthesiology meeting in Manizales, Colombia. Naturally, I accepted, but was most relieved to meet Carlos Rivas in Bogota the night before we took off for Manizales. Carlos has trained physicians in anesthesiology all over Venezuela and is having the usual trouble of convincing surgeons that they must have physician anesthesia. He is the real leader in South American anesthesiology and, of course, I am beaming with pride at his success. Kay Belton and Joe Artusio were the other American guests and we had a fine, if socially exhausting, time. (Or am I getting old? NO!)

Charlie or Lois Stein regularly collect me at the Miami airport when my business takes me there. Audrey Regan does the same in Cleveland. It was a great thrill to meet Dixie Naderno Rabe and her fine husband in Honolulu last January. You remember Dixie as the best orthopedic surgical nurse you ever knew. Miriam Hubbard, so-called retired head of the Port Chester Convalescent Home, is busy with a study of nursing homes in Connecticut. Gladys Barrett holds forth as head of the Mary Harkness Unit in Port Chester, for which I often pine. Gladys is just back from a Caribbean trip. Jo Mellor and I have dinner whenever I'm in the East Bay area of Berkeley or Oakland. In New York, I see Yope Bartels, Helena Bertel and Helene Mayer from time to time.

Mary Sargent Clark and her husband Walter have moved into a new home in Essex, Connecticut. I'll bet blood banking gets a new lift in the New London area! Jo DeFrancesco Trujillo has moved to a new part of Pennsylvania and she expects to enter private practice there. George Moonie has published a paper on "The Oculo-Cardiac Reflex" in the Canadian Anesthesia Society Journal.

Harold Wang, from Formosa, and briefly a member of our P.H. Department, has been in the United States for several weeks and I was most unlucky to miss him. As I also was, to miss Raquel Santos's visit here from Chile. Raquel spent several weeks in the United States visiting anesthesiology departments. And you wouldn't possibly recognize me in the bright red plaid wool poncho which she gave me.

I hear that the P.H. Anesthesia Alumni party was a huge success...over 100 attended. Do plan to come next year in December.

Today I saw Fred Hehre in New Haven and he looks just fine after his coronary attack.

Foreign anesthesia visitors include B.G.B. Lucas of London, Olive Jones of Oxford and Tony and Sheila Pinkerton of Glasgow. Miss Penland recently helped Miss Helen Young, Emeritus Professor of Nursing, celebrate her 90th birthday. Anna Grosso, former chief pharmacist at P.H., is now working at the Jersey City Medical Center. They're lucky to have her. Daisy Mapes in Animal Surgery is thriving in Williamsport, Pa.

My mother is a healthy 91½, with two new great-grandchildren. When she broke her pelvis in January, she healed it by keeping on walking. She enjoys soaking the paper off the hundreds of stamps you send me and sorts them so I may add them to those in my 46 albums.

Woman's Medical College this year gave me a painless honorary Med. Sc.D. I didn't have to say a word! Imagine!

Our Catgut Acoustical Society, now with over 50 members interested in research in acoustical physics of stringed instruments, is going strong. My only contribution is to be their treasurer. Why people trust me with their money is beyond me! Chamber music playing happens as often as possible, such as tonight. The cello I'm making is about two-thirds finished...then to learn to play it. Much hand-bell ringing this Christmas at Harlem Hospital and at a Salvation Army party.

The term "Ginnygram" is the invention of my favorite lawyer, Andrew Mutch Knowlton, Ada's nephew.

The enclosed address list has broadened a bit to include not only P.H. friends, but others in anesthesiology.

A very happy and healthy New Year to all of you. If you want to know where your charity dollar goes the farthest, you can bet your bottom dollar that it's the March of Dimes!

With love ...

Virginia Appan, 😊