

December 1966

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...and time for our seasonal visit with each of you.

1966 started off with a bang for the Wenzingers and has kept up an interesting pace, to say the least, ever since.

January found Carl working at Raytheon's Executive Offices in Lexington, Massachusetts as Manager of Systems Integration. In February, we moved into our new colonial home in Concord. We are situated on a nice flat, wooded acre lot, which by summertime boasted a second dwelling...Ronnie's tree house!

The local hospital and its competent staff were put-to-test by Dotty in March, as she resigned herself to the currently popular gall bladder surgery, ridding herself of some three hundred stones!

It was about this time that Carl was compelled to resume his old traveling habits. Consequently, he is a weekend-type Father-Husband...Well, twice a month anyhow.

In the spring, we decided to get out of the Real Estate Business, selling two of our three houses, leaving us homeless in Bethesda as well as in Michigan City.

Carl surprised us early in the summer by purchasing a camping trailer. One of those glorified tents-on-wheels, it sleeps eight and cooks on three burners. Since Carl was to be in Michigan City for the summer, we rented a place on Lake Michigan so we could be a whole family for a change. We took off from Indiana for our camping venture out through the mid-west and into the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota. We journed further to the Bad Lands (where we nearly blew away!) and back to Indiana via Minnesota and the Wisconsin Dells. It was a most interesting and enjoyable trip, and we're well convinced that camping is a great way to vacation...all except Leigh, that is.....

The older children are working diligently in school. The change this time was not so easy, especially for the girls. Junior High and High School curriculums seem to differ from one state to another.

Leigh is a sophomore at a campus-type High School and is on the honor roll. In spite of her apparent enjoyment of chorus (presently in rehearsal for "Oklahoma"), Pep Club, ballet lessons, Pilgrim Fellowship, assisting in the Kindergarten department at church, more babysitting jobs than she can possibly handle and several nice, new friends, she still misses her dearest friends from the mid-west. Leigh saved money to fly to Michigan City this summer and was able to see the Miss Indiana Pageant as well as to attend Church camp with her old friends.

Karen is in the eighth grade at the Concord Jr. High School, and is in all honor classes (they are placed in one of four learning

levels, honor classes being the most difficult group.) After years of easy "going" through school, she finds Shakespeare and Chaucer a night-marish pair with whom to contend. She is an office-helper during part of her lunch hour and occasionally after school. She also enjoys Glee Club, which is currently rehearsing for the "Pirates of Penzance". She too has more than her share of babysitting assignments and is studying ballet. Karen is somewhat of a teen-age treasure, in that she loves to cook meals and clean house, including the scrubbing and waxing of floors.

We're proud to announce that Ronnie is a serious sixth grader! He's doing well in his studies and has become involved in classroom government and reportedly, doing a fine job. He "prays" for snow the year 'round, since he has made a deal with his Dad which allows him the use of the snow-blower for a profit making endeavor; if he buys the gas, clears our drive and sidewalk, first and free. He also has to give his dad a certain percentage of his intake.

Now, there's another little guy who'll be celebrating his third birthday in January. Donnie is a busy, boisterous, determined and "needs-too-little-sleep" type of boy! He loves Ronnie's radio, Leigh's chewing gum, Karen's hair spray, Mom's Metrecal, Daddy's "being home", and grandpa's peeling apples for him to eat! He hates being washed and combed, going shopping or to be bothered with such trivials as "potty-training". He talks incessantly, has a marvelous imagination and is much appreciated as company for his old mom, whose big kids are in school all day, and whose husband is at home all too seldom.

Now, would you believe that November 6th found Carl and Dotty on an overseas flight to Japan? We took on fuel and passengers in Anchorage and were thrilled to see the sun set for five and one half hours between Alaska and Tokyo. Carl had two weeks of business and Dotty accompanied him just for fun!! What an exciting city! A glorious contrast of an ancient culture in an ultra-modern business world. They were happily able to renew old friendships with many of ~~our~~ Japanese friends, as well as being given an opportunity to make new friends. The sightseeing was fascinating in Tokyo, Kamakura, and Kyoto. In fact, just being able to spend two and one half weeks with each other was a real treat for Carl and Dotty! They returned to the States via #50, finding Hawaii picturesque and warm. Best of all was arriving home safely to spend a grateful Thanksgiving with their children and Carl's mother.

1966 couldn't possibly have been such an eventful one without the willing assistance of Grandma and Grandpa Stearns. Not only did they "take over" for a month at gall-bladder season, but also for the "world travelers" last month. God bless them, and you! We wish a happy and meaningful Christmas season to each of you from each of us!

Carl Dotty
Leigh, Karen, Ronnie &
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