

Christmas 1969

Soon it will be Christmas Day . . . and it can't arrive any too soon for us . . . because it means that our family will be all together, and our cherished friendships with each of you will be renewed through the warmth of your greetings, thoughtful notes and snapshots coming our way.

It's surely an interesting time of life for the Wenzingers', with children from Kindergarten to College!

After a hectic senior year of studies, applying to colleges, working at the Shoe Store, helping to teach Sunday School, first graders and emotionally disturbed children, Leigh graduated in June, receiving the Betty Crocker Homemaker Award of the Year, for her school. She was accepted at all seven colleges to which she applied, and decided to enter Wellesley in the fall. We're not sure whether or not the scholastic gains outweigh the marvelous advantages of living with people of a wide variety of temperments, races, creeds, and economic backgrounds. At any rate, she is doing well with her courses of Psychology, Geology, Religion, French, and Modern Dance. She claims to be majoring in Psychology, but it would seem that the largest volume of paperwork goes to that handsome pre-med student at Duke University! We miss her a great deal around home, but realize we are very fortunate to have her close-by.

Not only is Karen an "A" student, so far, in her Junior year at high school, but she also holds two part-time jobs. She works as Administrative Assistant, in charge of the I. L. S. (Interactive Learning Systems) Computer at school, helping the kids to locate a suitable College, technical school, or occupation. She works at the church for two hours on Saturday, as well as being "Choir Mother" for the Junior Choir and a faithful alto in the Senior Choir. Karen, our "born-homemaker," is thrilled to be able to tell you that she and the church organist have some serious plans about "making beautiful music together" after she graduates from high school--and she has a lovely ring to prove it. Sam is a delightfully talented and diligent young man, a senior at Northeastern University, majoring in languages (the Romance ones, at that!) He plans to enter Air Force Officers' Training School, on graduation from college, in June. They are a couple of thoughtful, hardworking, wonderful kids.

It's hard to believe that Ron is a high school freshman! He seems to be dedicated to serving and helping others. His involvement in Boy Scouts has led him to be Den Chief for two neighborhood dens. He is an audio-visual man for the church school, as well as at the high school. He is the local Handiman, installing TV antennas, repairing outboard motors, and doing general household "fixit" jobs. Ron built a hydroplane, all on his own, last spring, giving him a total of two boats in his fleet. He also won a trip to Florida--from his Grandmother Wenzinger, who bet he couldn't lose thirty pounds of excess avoirdupois! He greatly enjoyed the southern hospitality shown him by his Grandmother and Great Aunt, Uncle George, and Aunt Barbara and family. He flew home via New York, where he stayed with his Dad and checked out the Big City before coming home. He has the snow-blower all "revved-up" awaiting the holiday storms, one of which is presently brewing right outside the house!

After his first day at Kindergarten, Donnie excitedly exclaimed, "Hey Mom, School and Bus are better than home, and Bus is better than school!" His next favorite subject is Recess. His latest grade on a school work-paper wasn't Good or Poor, but UNTIDY! He tells us that his gym teacher claims that exercises will make him strong "But actually," says Don, "they make me weak!" (Know the feeling?) With the cooperation of Ron and the girls and their beaux, he enjoys wrestling, going out for dinner, eating hot fudge sundaes, going to the dump on Saturday mornings, and building his tree house. Don can't possibly know how lucky he is to have so many folks loving and caring for him. He even gets letters from the college kids! Somehow, the emotional appeal of this little guy shows through all the dirt and tousled hair and unkept-looking clothes--and we're awfully glad we had our "Bonus-Baby."

Carl is still with Visual Electronics and working out of New York City. His Systems Division is progressing well. Their New York Office installed the first Modern Central Police Command and Control Center in the country. He even got to meet Mayor Lindsay at the rather impressive dedication! The Atlanta office was opened in April, and they are now in the process of acquiring a facility in the Mid-West for manufacturing and distribution of television, audio and other educational and communications equipment. He took some of us camping and fishing last summer (the girls were working) and treated Dotty to a weekend at the Cape. He is still away from home more than any of us likes, which only makes our brief weekends together extremely precious.

Would you believe that after 10, these many years, you'd find "Old Mom" chauffeuring for the family? Dotty managed to pass the test in July and you may be "hard-put" to find her at home very often! She's pretty "chicken" on the high-speed highways, but with her family's constantly reinforcing her courage and confidence, she's even driven to the airport in Boston! (She's still not quite sure why that guy who was "too chicken" to drive in the lane beside her in the tunnel, paid her toll . . . but a quarter saved is a quarter saved!!) She's grateful for the privilege of touching the young lives of the children in her Sunday School Class; for the friendships of people at her church, in her community, throughout the country and many parts of the world, who really care about each other; and most of all, she takes great delight in each member of her family; their individuality; their achievements and their contributions to the well-being of others.

We wish for each of you the real gifts of Christmas . . . Peace . . . Joy . . . Love--remembering that without love, there is no peace, no joy.

The Wenzingers
 Carl and Dotty
 Leigh, Karen, Ron and Don