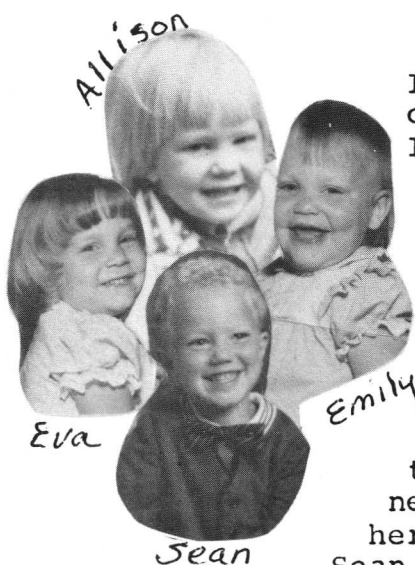


CHRISTMAS 1983



It was on the 5th of January when Carl found the snapshot of a nearly-four-year-old boy on his desk. "Hi, Grandpa! I'll see you soon! Love, Sean"...It was love-at-first-sight even before we met him! Our very first grandson, Sean Eric, moved in with his "Forever Family", Ron and Cindy, and all our prayers were answered.."exceedingly, abundantly above all that we had asked." Take a look at him...'nuff said! ('cept that after a recent visit, Grandpa found this BIG GREEN pretend SNAKE in his bed!) As if being parents wasn't excitement enough for one year, Ron made the decision to be a candidate for the ministry in the Methodist Church! Although he is a full-time student, he is also pastoring a small congregation near his home. Cindy is most supportive and happily brings her multi-talents to this team effort to do the Lord's work. Sean is a definite asset, also. HALLELUIA!

"I'm going to be a BIG SISTER!" explained a wee voice on the phone. Allison Leigh is quite excited..but only wants a sister ...and plans to name her either Rainbow or Star! Leigh is due to deliver in April..about on Mike's birthday. HURRAY!

Eva and Emily spent a couple of weeks with us in February while Karen and Jim took a Mediterranean Cruise. The Holtz Family is presently building a new home in Livermore...doing much of the work themselves, and sub-contracting out the rest. WHEW!

Don is working on two degrees at the Community College; Business Administration and Data Processing...both to be completed by Dec. '84. He knows his wares well in the Hardware and Sporting Goods Dept. at Sears where he works. His vacation this year was camping out and enjoying "CREATION" a celebration with Christian Contemporary Musicians performing and giving testimonies, etc. in Lancaster, Pa. Don has also paid his dues making automotive repairs this year!! Right now his first love is playing FOOSBALL (sorry girls) and he and his partner recently became Southern Tier Rookie Foosball Champs! TERRIFIC!?

Remember Allison Walters, our niece who came for Christmas last year? She returned to Fort Myers after New Years with a dozen long-stemmed red roses from a very special young man here in Vestal Center! It was no great surprise when she moved in with us in the Spring! Nathan gave her a sparkling Diamond Ring last summer..and we're all planning to attend their wedding next August in Fort Myers! SIGH!

Our "Grossy" has no "SITZALATHER" (can't sit still)! She is constantly on the go..gardening, house painting (we try to keep her off the ladders), cleaning, reorganizing etc. She also took a couple of trips to Florida to visit family and friends..and to help celebrate her sister, Anne's 90th birthday! "Grossy" will be 80 in January..INCREDIBLE!

The Recession hit DORON and it's been a difficult year for Carl. It's beginning to look as though things will pick-up in '84, and we are hopeful. We attended Carl's 40th High School Reunion in June, visiting Leigh's family and Carl's Dad and Ruth en route. At the reunion a matronly, white-haired classmate approached Carl, and giving him the "once-over", commented: "My, how you've matured!.." 'sfunny how only the "other folks" change!? AMAZING!

Dottie and her cousin Anita had a delightful time in Florida in July. They stayed with Dad Stearns so Barb and Tom could get away for some much-deserved R&R. They loved being with Dad and the "fringe benefits" were great! The air-conditioning, the swimming pool and Tom's very special mom, Clara..the lunches "out" and Sanibel Island! SMASHING!!

This old house relishes in having three generations living under it's roof. We "RAG" on the kids and "Grossy"...and she "RAGS" on us...so no one feels neglected! Now we are anxiously awaiting the fourth generation (and their parents) to join us for Christmas. These little cousins have such fun together and we have a ball watching and listening to them! Life here on Bunn Hill is truly an experience that's close to our hearts. SMILE"

The Christ of Christmas is also close to our hearts..and we hope you'll remember with us that "HE'S THE REASON FOR THE SEASON".

Love and Hugs all around,

*Carl and Dottie*