

Advent, 1986

Dear Friends,

The years are seeming to roll around faster and faster for us. Once again, it is the American Thanksgiving holiday and we are writing to our family and friends. We hope that 1987 is all that you wish it to be. We hope that you have had a wonderful year. We have!

Although we were breaking even, we closed our own real estate office in the summer because it was becoming obvious that the area in which we live would not support the franchise system which we had joined. Mary Beth has now joined Lazare-Johnson and Associates, a local firm with an office in Glendale, and another office in La Cañada. She is very happy with the office and with her colleagues.

Richard continues at National TeleConsultants and is very happy there. He has completed the design work for Voice of America's twenty-three studios in Washington which is currently going to bid. He has been asked to participate in a meeting of prospective bidders in Washington, early in December.

The most exciting thing which we have undertaken recently is submitting an offer on a house about two blocks away from our present home. It has three bedrooms, and two bathrooms. The living room is as large as our present one, and the dining room is larger. We have had it looked at by an architect-friend and he agrees that it is in good shape. It is more traditional than our current home, with plaster ceilings, hardwood floors, and many-paned windows. It was custom built in 1936, and is on a large, level lot. There is even a wonderful brick barbecue. The home has had only one owner, and is presently being taken care of by a niece during the probate proceedings. We will have to go to the probate hearing in Sacramento sometime, probably early next year, to try and become the successful bidders.

For those of you who are wondering about this letter's print quality, National TeleConsultants recently acquired three Hewlett Packard LaserJet Plus printers, and this letter is being printed on one. If you can afford them (they cost as much or more than the whole computer) they offer excellent quality, variety of downloadable fonts, consistency of impression, and relatively high speed (8 pages per minute).

Richard has been travelling a lot this year with some projects in New York and Washington, and an upcoming project in St. Louis. Richard had to be away for Easter, so Mary Beth flew to New York, and we spent Easter Sunday with Richard's parents

at the Pound Ridge (New York) Community Church. Mary Beth then went to Aurora and spent her Birthday with her Mother and Brother.

Margaret and John visited for the Fourth of July, and we spent part of the time in Death Valley. It was very beautiful and very hot, but our new Honda Accord LX performed well. We were both fortunate to be able to visit Aurora in October, for Canadian Thanksgiving. Margaret and John were fine. Richard's former neighbours on Kennedy Street, Trudy and Al Garbens, have moved into a new (and they claim smaller) home in the newer subdivisions on the west side of Aurora. It was good seeing them again.

We had a great time the end of this summer when we took Richard's old Jeep Wagoneer on a 4800 mile grand loop tour of the Pacific Northwest and the Rockies. We left Glendale on the evening of August 15th, headed for Expo 86. High points on the trip north included Mount Shasta, Crater Lake, the Oregon Coast, Olympic National Park (Quinault Rain Forest and Hurricane Ridge), and Seattle.

We arrived in Vancouver on the evening of August 19th, and spent the following three days at Expo 86. We saw the fireworks and laser show the first night – it was a wonderfully spectacular show. There were many fascinating exhibits, a number of enthralling films, and very long lines, which reduced the number of exhibits one could see in a day. Four films stand out as the high points of the fair:

Ontario's 3-D presentation (the geese were flying over the head of the person in front of us).

The 3-D IMAX presentation in Canada's CN Theater (the egg almost broke in our laps).

Telecom Canada's look at Canada which presented the beauty and warmth of Canada and Canadians in a 360 degree presentation.

Canadian Pacific's allegory The Rainbow Wars which hopefully will be viewed by all world leaders.

From Vancouver we took the ferry to Victoria and visited the fabulous Butchart Gardens. The Houses of Parliament in Victoria are beautiful in their uniquely bold night-time illumination.

From Victoria we took the ferry back and began our drive home, the long way! We drove up the Fraser River Canyon and on to Jasper. We saw salmon spawning in the river near Valemount, B.C. From Jasper we followed the Icefields Parkway south, past the Columbia Glacier (we touched ice

in August) to Lake Louise. We recommend this trip to everyone!

Following these major Canadian Parks, we visited Fort Steele, the Crownsnest Pass historic areas, and stopped in Waterton Lakes Park, the Canadian side of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. After crossing the border, we took the Going-to-the Sun Road which has been described as the most beautiful fifty-mile drive in North America. It was spectacular.

As we sensed that we were now really heading home (and not wanting to), we continued into Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. We did see a bison herd in Yellowstone but no bears – not even Yogi! The night between Yellowstone and Grand Teton we stayed at a lodge 8500 feet in the Wyoming sky which claims an average yearly snowfall of six hundred inches!

On Sunday, August 31st, we attended the live broadcast of Music and the Spoken Word from the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City. Hearing the Choir and Organ in the Mormon Tabernacle is an uplifting experience. Salt Lake is a beautiful city and an interesting monument to the Mormon pioneers.

We spent Sunday night on the rim of Bryce Canyon in southern Utah. It was fascinating to watch the sunset modify the rich colors of this impressive collection of sandstone pillars. On Labor Day we headed for home. Not wanting our vacation to be over, we tarried in Zion National Park, and topped off the trip by returning to Glendale's back door via the scenic, winding, Angeles Crest Highway, thereby avoiding the freeways.

Our plans for Christmas begin with a trip to Aurora on Saturday, December 20th, where we will spend the first part of Christmas week with Mary Beth's Mother and Brother. On Christmas Eve, we will be flying to New York City, and plan to attend Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, and will be spending the night at the Hilton. On Christmas Day, we will drive to Somers, New York, to spend the rest of Christmas week with Richard's parents. We hope that Scottie, Jeff, CJ, Ken, and their families will also be able to be there on Christmas Day.

At this Advent season we send you all our love, and best wishes for a Happy Christmas, and a happy, healthy, and prosperous 1987.

Love,

Mary Beth and Richard