

If anyone had told us five years ago that at the decade's end we would still be living in the Washington area and that Tom would still be teaching at Howard, we would have looked very incredulous. Yet here we are in a new house right on the D.C. Line and Tom is thinking ahead towards possible tenure and even a sabbatical at Howard rather than a new job. We are generally pleased with our new house, although half our books are still boxed in the basement until the study is finished and Anne will probably always miss her kitchen in Severn. Marie enjoys having her own room, the door to which we blithely shut when things get too out of hand.

In April we were delighted to have our friends Shelley Haley (who is Tom's office mate at Howard), Adrian Pollock and their son Iain (born 3/78) become our upstairs tenants. We were initially suspicious that friends do not good tenants make, but things have worked out rather well. The babies just relish each other's company (i.e., when they are not busy being jealous) and Adrian and Tom have worked industriously on Sundays converting the unfinished attic into a bedroom complete with spiral staircase. Anne and Adrian (a Ph.D. in geography) have even worked out a "baby exchange" twice a week, so that they each get one day of blissful quiet to pursue their own research. Anne has used her time to do some free lance translating of German for Time-Life Books and to write several essays and miscellanea which are still looking for an appreciative editor. She has managed, however, to get a story of her father's accepted for publication in Down East magazine. (Watch for it sometime this winter.) Remember, folks, you knew her when. . . .

Although our lot here is much smaller, we still had room for a modest garden which yielded us lots of broccolli, lettuce, eggplant and peppers but which was a disaster with tomatoes. We have been busy all year planting flowering shrubs and trees on a lot that had never really been loved. This fall we went overboard and planted over one thousand spring flowering bulbs. If only half blossom, The Bird's Nest II will be a spring fairyland.

Spring should also make Marie a big sister. Anne has had a mildly difficult pregnancy, very similar to Marie's, but she is feeling much better. Marie is generally amused that her Momma has a baby in her tummy, but does not yet realize the full implications thereof.

Other news includes the intention of Tom's father to remarry on Dec. 31st. Details are still unclear but the bride at least is certain: Josephine Boggiano, who is an old Hoboken neighbor and friend and of whom we approve highly. We hope they will be happy. Tom's brother, Eddie, has gone to scroupier school and hopes to become a casino dealer in Atlantic City. Sister Toni (happily married over a year now to Steve Gallo) is employed as a medical technologist. Doris is still teaching in the Hoboken Public Schools. Mary Beth, studying geophysics at the University of Utah, still has no intention of becoming a Mormon and plans to come back East for Christmas.

We shall spend Christmas Day with Anne's family in Maine, but Tom leaves for a Classical convention in Boston on the 27th and Anne and Marie follow on the 30th for the Wedding. Anne's parents are anxiously looking forward to next July when Jack finishes his residency in family practice in Wilmington, Delaware and puts up his shingle in Waldoboro. Meanwhile, Carl is all caught up in his machinery and in fighting the Maine Yankee nuclear plant. Ad astra per aspera.

May your Yule log burn bright and your fuel oil tank stay full this Christmas!