

Greetings from
The Bird's Nest II
Christmas, 1980

This is the first Christmas that we must cope with Santa Claus. Marie enjoys thumbing through a magazine and saying that she wants every toy she sees. Once in a while she will point out a modest toy for her little sister, Julia Alice, who arrived, in case there are any of you who didn't know yet, on the first day of spring, March 21, 1980. Certainly Julia's birth and Marie's continuing interaction with "Keeny Doolia" have been the highlights of 1980 for us, with wild fluctuations between intense sibling affection and rivalry. Julia at 9 mos. is just beginning to vocalize, crawl, and generally assert herself. Marie, who is now 3 1/2 (hard to believe!) proudly attends nursery school at Catholic University once a week for three hours. She would go every day if we would let her.

We finally got most of our books out of the basement in 1980 and into a newly finished study/conservatory complete with three greenhouse windows--an ideal area for parents to seek a few blessed hours of peaceful contemplation and composition. Anne's attempts at free-lance writing have had some success this year. There have been a few recipe articles in the Washington Star and Baltimore Sun, as well as a long essay on ghost-writing in The Hopkins Alumni magazine. Tom has had a few book reviews and scholarly articles accepted for publication and has just finished a guide to artwork with mythological themes entitled Classical Gods and Heroes in the National Gallery of Art. This is his "mature" year, so he is crossing his fingers and toes while applying for alternative jobs as well as for grants for a sabbatical year. Only 1981 will tell. . . .

The Waterman and Sienkiewicz clans are both flourishing. Brother Jack began his medical practice in Waldoboro in July and was married on Sept. 27, in what is becoming a Waterman tradition, to another Pole, Debbie Siomplinski, of Wilmington, Del. Poor Debbie is now in climate shock as she copes with an already snowy Maine winter. Anne's mother busies herself trying to be an ideal mother-in-law, while Anne's father enjoys a few nights off a week now that Jack is around. Carl, who made a dashing best man for his brother, is still apparently too involved with his beloved machines for a more feminine liaison.

Tom's father did indeed marry Josephine Beggiano (as New Year's Eve and they are living in her house in Hoboken (1 Garden !). He has stopped smoking and is much happier. Doni has moved from the "Mile Square" city into Dad's house in Palisades Park and is taking night courses towards a masters educational administration. Brother Eddie finally landed an ecourper job in July at Bally's Park Place, and is betting o a better future in Atlantic City. Toni and Steve, Julia's godparents, spent most of 1980 adding a new room on their hou in Clifton. Mary Beth, still in Utah, is now into glass-blow and hopes to finish her geology B.S. this summer. One note o sadness in 1980 was the passing of Tom's maternal grandmother in Feb, after a long illness.

We hope that 1981, despite its promise of a Republicerontocracy, brings you peace, joy and prosperity!

Anne & Tom

Anne, Tom, Marie and Julia Sienkiewicz