

Greetings from
The Bird's Nest II
Christmas, 1982

The Sienkiewicz family began 1982 packing for a sabbatical stay in Edinburgh, Scotland. It was traumatic to rent the Bird's Nest, put most of our belongings in storage, and depart in the dead of a bitter winter for the Old World, but our stay in Britain was well worth the turmoil. We rented a lovely old Victorian home with a large garden in the Grange area of Edinburgh and steeped ourselves in Scottish history for three months while Tom enjoyed some productive full-time research at the University of Edinburgh. Even Marie and Julia enjoyed Scotland and came home with kilts in the Old Ogilvie tartan of Anne's Gilchrist ancestors. They also returned with an almost insatiable fondness for bagpipe music. Our stay in Britain was also the occasion to visit old friends, to meet Anne's Scottish relatives in Fraserburgh, and to do some sightseeing, including: Loch Ness (where there was no monster in sight), Loch Lomond (where Julia took an unexpected dip), Hadrian's Wall, the Antonine Wall, York, Stonehenge and Bath.

We returned from Britain in May, with one more souvenir than we had bargained for: a wee liddle, born ten weeks prematurely at 4lbs. 4oz. on Friday, August 13th. Richard Oscar's birth was a nightmare for the entire family, especially since he stayed in hospital over a month, including ten days in intensive care. Since Richard's homecoming on September 20th, we are all much improved both psychologically and physically. By the end of November Richard weighed over 10 lbs. and is an amazingly good-natured little guy. Marie and Julia have both been very good with their little brother, and Marie, especially, is sometimes even a help. Both girls took swimming lessons this summer and Marie was swimming in 4 ft. water by the end of the program. Marie, who turned five in July (!), entered kindergarten this fall and appears to have adjusted fine. Julia, who was two in March, would like to go along with her big sister, but has had to content herself with attending a weekly play group. Both girls also take dancing lessons once a week. Richard's birth has put a damper on Anne's writing, but she is still doing cooking articles and working on a translation of a French pharmaceutical text.

Our families are faring well. Anne's folks are in fine form, although Rosie, their beloved Labrador, is getting very old and sickly. Anne's father has lost his interest in cars and had become something of a woodsman. He spends long hours working in the woods out on Jack and Carl's farm. Carl continues much the same, working hard as a machinist while serving as a volunteer fireman and patrolling his wooded acres for beaver poachers. Brother Jack has brought John Yindra, a Wilmington vintage friend, into the family medical practice and has sent his wife Debbie off to work in Union as a technician in a new health clinic.

Tom's Dad and his wife, Josephine, have had a few minor illnesses this year, but are fine now, and even traveled extensively between Canada and Virginia this summer. Tom's sister Doris is becoming quite a travel agent and traveler; this summer she visited Hawaii and spent Thanksgiving in Puerto Rico. MaryBeth, Richard's brand new godmother, is still living in Utah and is due to come back East for Christmas and for Richard's Christening on Dec. 19th. Toni and Steve have moved to a new home in Upper Montclair and their year-old daughter Christina Marie is just beginning to walk and keeps her parents busy and all her relatives enraptured by her baby charms. Brother Eddie has moved to better digs in Atlantic City and reportedly has callouses on his thumbs from playing Pachman during his breaks as a dealer at the casino.

Anyone planning to visit The Bird's Nest II in 1983 will be glad to learn that we are no longer landlords, are now living in the entire house, and have lots of room for guests. Come visit us, but don't wait until the Orwellian year of 1984. Ronnie Rayguns may have moved the nation's capital to Death Valley, CA by then.

All the best to you and yours in 1983:

Richard
hand print

Tom
Anne

Julia's
MARK

Anne, Tom, Marie, Julia and Richard
Sienkiewicz

MDP