

Greetings from
The Bird's Nest West
Christmas, 1986

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Well, Halley's comet has come and went. We spent at least one bitter cold evening last winter looking for the comet on a farm before we actually saw it from our own driveway. Next time we'll look closer to home first! Home now includes a guinea pig named Silky, the beloved pet of Marie (age 9). When she is not clutching Silky to her heart, Marie is a 4th-grader, a Junior Girl Scout, a devourer of Nancy Drew mysteries, and a student of piano, art, swimming, Latin and bagpipes. Her sister Julia (age 6) is "only" a Brownie, a 1st-grader, a nascent and enthusiastic reader, and a student of piano, art and swimming. Richard (age 4) attends nursery school three mornings a week, has swimming lessons once a week, and, as much of the remaining time as he can, is in either sand piles or mud puddles. Anne continues to bake all our bread and to work on her translating and free-lance writing. She is leading Julia's Brownie troop while Tom teaches Julia's Sunday School class. In addition to his numerous college activities, Tom planted a successful vegetable and flower garden this year and managed to get a grape arbor built this summer just before we left for our Eastern migration.

We timed our summer travels to coincide with Miss Liberty's birthday celebrations and witnessed both the torch-lighting ceremony and the magnificent fireworks display on the 4th of July from an excellent vantage in Jersey City, right on N.Y. harbor. Late in August we also made a pilgrimage to Liberty Island itself. Despite the crowds these were experiences we shall long remember.

We spend most of the summer as usual in Maine, where Anne's family continues to flourish. Anne's father is spending his retirement in such diverse activities as gardening, making straw-berry jam, and painting and re-roofing the house. Anne's mother has spent a lot of her time sorting through her accumulations of books and miscellanea. Brother Carl, as Waldoboro's Planning Board Chairman, is waging an apparently successful campaign against rampant development in the town. Anne's brother Jack and his wife Debbie acquired a sailboat this summer and expect a baby in the spring. Anne's grandmother has had a cataract operation and is seeing and feeling much better.

Meanwhile, the Sienkewicz family has been busy too. Tom's sister MaryBeth and her husband Billy returned to the U.S. from Australia this summer with a baby girl, Tracy Halley (named, yes, after the comet) born March 15th. They are now settling in north Jersey and Billy is working for the Singer Corp. (navigational systems, not sewing machines). Brother Eddie has not yet forsaken croupier but has added a real estate license to his credentials. Sister Doris, still a Hoboken High teacher and a partner in a video store, moved from Palisades Park to Clifton this fall. Sister Toni has her hands full with her part-time job as a medical technologist and with her two active daughters (Chris, age 5, and Terry, age 3). Toni and the girls visited us in Illinois in January and in Maine in August, and recently took a trip to Disney World. Tom's Dad is selling his house in Palisades Park and plans to retire from J. and P. B. Myers in February so that he can enjoy more time and travel with his wife Josephine.

Cheer up. By next Christmas another Presidential campaign will be just around the corner! Horrible dictu!

Tom, Anne, Marie, Julia and Richard
Sienkewicz

Tom Marie Anne
Richard Julia
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