

1989
Christmas Greetings
from
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Well, we have no big trips to report this year and no major changes, except for the exchange of our 1983 Reliant Wagon for a Ford Aerostar Van, made necessary by the growing legs of offspring and our annual expeditions back East. As usual, we spent most of the summer in Maine, where the kids took swimming lessons and Julia had horseback riding lessons while Tom was seen everywhere working furiously away on a bibliography with his new lap-top computer on his lap. This summer we also managed to get back to Maryland to visit old friends and had some good visits in New Jersey, too.

The zucchini crop in Anne's father's garden was superb this year. The same could not be said for the beans, for which there was competition from a resident doe. While Jack's wife Debbie got some good shots of the culprit on her video camera, Anne's father wished she had used buckshot! The lives of Jack and Debbie are presently under reorganization by progeny. Master Timothy (age 2) likes trucks, books, getting wet and his big cousin Richard and definitely has a will of his own. His bubble, however, is due to burst with the imminent birth of a sibling. Anne's brother Carl, who seemed to spend most of the summer planting trees on an island off the Maine coast, has finally received patents (in the U.S. and Finland!) for his super-duper wood chipper and has started taking orders. Meanwhile, Anne's mother continues to enjoy grandmotherhood and various extension courses at the university. When Anne's parents made their annual visit to Monmouth this spring, they surprised and delighted us by bringing along Anne's grandmother, who enjoyed visiting hog farms and watching corn-laden barges going through the Mississippi locks. We had several other special visitors this year: one from a French-Canadian friend, Nicole Héribé, and TWU from Viv Edwards, with whom Tom is finishing a book called 'Rappin' and Homer'. On her first visit, in the spring, she brought along her whole family. The second time, in the fall, she flew solo and spent most of her second visit searching for ways to get the Sienkewicz back over to Britain.

Tom's family has had its own excitements, too. Sister Doris left the video business this fall and is enjoying a long deserved retirement from the supplementary career scene. Sister Toni, however, has added a second part-time job in a physician's office, while Chris (8) and Theresa (6) are in school. The Gallo girls traveled this summer, first to Maine and then to Texas, but managed to miss George Bush in both places. Brother Eddie had such a good trip to Mexico recently that he threatens to learn how to deal black/jack in Spanish and move south of the border. Sister MaryBeth and her family, including Tracy (3) and Roy (1), are moving, not to Mexico, just a few miles from Clifton to Cedar Grove.

are shocked to report that our "little" Marie (12) entered junior High this fall and is preparing for Confirmation this spring. Her life still revolves around her guinea pig, her rombone, the piano and school, not necessarily in that order. Julia (9) emulates her big sister's activities as much as she can and complains about headaches at school because of the 2:1 boy-girl ratio in her class. Meanwhile, Richard (7), a 2nd grader and cub-scout, learned how to ride a two-wheeler this spring and is now the terror of the neighborhood. His memorable quote of the year came at Thanksgiving time when he curiously asked "When they pluck the turkeys, how do they get them to stand still?" That says it all or a little boy who doesn't stand still very much himself!

Marie is now only one of three Cadet Girl Scouts in all of Monmouth. Anne flew up to Juniors along with Julia this year and just barely escaped becoming a den leader for Richard in addition to co-leading Julia's troop. Sometimes it seems as if she spends most of her life making school lunches and ferrying kids back and forth. We don't know how two-career families manage. She still finds time to do free-lance articles for Salem Press and finally as a publisher for her translation of Moise Charas' Theriac, if she ever gets it finished. In addition to all his other activities, Tom ran for the local school board this fall and lost, much to his own relief. Since Tom will be one of three recipients of an Excellence in Teaching Award given by the American Philological Association at its meeting in Boston on December 29th, we will spend the Christmas season not at home, but in New Jersey and Maine for the first time in over a decade. Who knows what we will dare to do in the last decade of the twentieth century? Cave, lector!

Tom
Anne Marie Julia
Richard
Sienkewicz

Anne, Tom, Marie, Julia and Richard