



'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the car

Hello friends and family-

Yes, it is December 24, and we are running a bit late on our annual letter. The three wise Mayfields are following the star to little town of Ames, where we will spend Christmas Eve and Day with Michelle and her betrothed, husband Wayne. We will depart the little town by way of Arkansas, so that we may visit with brother Walt and his wife Joyce, and not be found out by wicked King Herod.

In this busy time of year it is sometimes hard to focus on the meaning of the holiday. We have had celebrations with church, friends and co-workers, now it's time for family! This past weekend we traveled to Zionsville to be with the Rita's folk and had our Christmas celebration at sister Bonnie's. We are appreciative of the time to visit with Dad and Luevia, as well as all the sisters and family. After our short time in Iowa and Arkansas, we will return to Indiana to be with Mike's family.

The year 2001 has been good to us personally. Mary is doing fine in her second year at Ball State, pursuing a degree in Elementary Education. She continues to mature into a lovely and responsible young lady, and we are very proud of her.

Michelle and Wayne are enjoying their lives in Ames, Iowa. They own their own home, and have put time and money into making improvements. Michelle began working last winter for the city of Marshalltown. She is a zoning officer in the community-planning department. Although the drive can be a hassle, she enjoys the professional responsibilities and the benefits of being fully employed. Wayne has worked for more than two years in electric motor repair and has proved himself to be a valued employee for his company. They are active members of the Collegiate Methodist Church in Ames. We are happy for their lives together.

Mike and I have continued to enjoy teaching. This fall will mark 30 years in our respective areas and buildings. We are proud to be in education and feel that the youth of today will capably lead us into the future. (Good thing, too, as all of us "boomers" approach retirement.)

Outside of school our lives are rich with friends and family. We still enjoy playing bridge, but have lost some of our group due to retirement and moving. Our real passion in the summer is sailing. This past season we had twenty sails on our time-shared Benetau 361. It was wonderful. We enjoy taking others with us, so let us know if you are able and interested.

One unusual highlight in 2001 was having an exchange visitor from Spain for three weeks. Jorge was a 16-year from San Sebastian, and we enjoyed entertaining him here. It encouraged us to revisit some of the attractions in Chicago, and he loved sailing with us.

What else? Large reunions on both sides of Rita's family allowed us to get reacquainted with many relatives we hadn't seen for some time. It's important to keep up family ties, and we are glad for the opportunities (limited as they were).

In closing, the shock of September 11 will remain with us for the rest of our lives. What else can be said? Perhaps the positive rebirth of patriotism, love of God and country, and respect for one another can offset the pain. May Christ's love prevail.

In the spirit of Christmas. *Rita, Mary and Mike*

