

See over for return address 49.1.95 Reid
D. M. YR.

(You!)

Dear Wesley and Irene,

I hope your Christmas was a good one.

any thought of getting connected to the Internet with your computer?

***** Christmas Greetings *****

The following was emailed to family (& a friend) with Internet addresses on Christmas Eve.

Music continued to play an important part in the lives of the Wisconsin Park family during 1994. In February Barb and I began a new (hopefully annual) tradition by inviting friends over for a winter musicale to celebrate our birthdays. Friends and family members alike were encouraged to perform some sort of music, in lieu of birthday presents. Other musical items of note follow.

Ian has taken up the trombone and plays in his middle school's 6th grade band. His fine ear for pitch is serving him well.

Mischa continues to take private lessons in both flute and piano, and plays flute in one of the bands at his high school. He is working on a difficult flute solo (a sonatina for flute and piano) for a statewide school music competition next semester, and yesterday he and a friend selected a piece to do as a flute duet in the same competition.

Robin is in his 2nd year as a music composition major at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. April (2nd semester of his freshman year) marked his campus debut as a piano performer when he participated in a student production featuring one-act plays by Joyce Carol Oates. He played the piano to accompany a dancer, then got up and participated in the play before returning to the piano. On 11/16 a program of New Music from the Sophomore Composition Class featured 3 of his pieces, performed by other students:

- 1) "pa' ca, n", a choral piece with lyrics consisting of a dictionary definition of paca (a large rodent),
- 2) "A Leaf Falls", a piece for piano, and
- 3) "Wind for Sailing", a piece for 12-piece brass ensemble.

On 12/9 the University's Choral Union, in which he sings bass, performed Arthur Honegger's King David, accompanied by organ and wind orchestra, at a Madison church.

Barbara has continued as our choir director at Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society, continues to take voice lessons, and has again sung regularly with both the Madison Symphony Chorus and the Madison Area Technical College Show Choir. On 12/3 & 4 the Symphony Chorus and Orchestra performed an abridged version of Engelbert Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel and selections from Victor Herbert's Babes in Toyland. Then the Show Choir performed a concert of popular Christmas music on 12/11. Barb plans to join the Show Choir on a one week singing tour in Italy next June, during which they are scheduled to sing for the pope!

Robert. As the member of the family least involved with musical performance, I have continued to sing bass in the Prairie choir and to add to my collection of MIDI songs which can be played by multimedia computer or a computer connected to MIDI synthesizer keyboards. (I have almost 2000 different pieces now.) We bought a new multimedia IBM compatible computer with CD-ROM drive this summer. Ian and I have enjoyed experimenting with the different things it can do with sound and graphics.

In other news, the past year has seen the sudden appearance of interest in the experimental doctoral study of the behavior of colliding water drops I did in the 1960s at the meteorology departments of the University of Illinois and the University Wisconsin and, more surprisingly, among nuclear physicists at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Mexico. A professor from the UW Physics Department brought a visiting researcher from the University of Mexico over to meet me in October. Since then the UW professor has taken movies I took of colliding drops down to the University of Mexico and brought back a video copy, and the chairman of the UW Meteorological Department has asked if I would be available to consult as they build a uniform droplet generator patterned after the one I designed. (My old equipment in the Chemical Engineering Department at the UW was scrapped a couple of years ago after my former major professor retired.)

Mischa has finished drivers education and is ready to take his behind-the-wheel test for his license in January. He was on the stage crew for this fall's production of the Pirates of Penzance at his school, and he has started taking lessons in Hwa Rang Do with friends.

Barb is continuing as a ski patroller this winter, only slightly slowed down by her arthritis.

Casey and Brad are separated. Casey suffered a ruptured tubal pregnancy while vacationing in Florida in June. Barb went down to assist her between her release from the hospital and her final visit to the Florida doctor and bring her back. (She's doing fine now.)

We're in Minneapolis now for a 2nd Christmas celebration with James, and Warren's family, so I'll add a note or two to the original email above about the Minnesota Parks. Catherine is visiting from New York where she will be finishing a Master's Degree this spring at Columbia University. James appears fully recovered from his surgery for colon cancer this past summer. Patty has a new job at Augsburg College. Daniel at close to 6 ft. 3 in. has passed Mischa in height and is gaining on Robin.

Best wishes,

Robert

Robert

ps. I'd like to try and get out your way, next summer, and we'd love to have you visit us in Madison. We have a big house, especially now that Robin is living on campus.