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F&F sent  
Jan 67

(1966)  
Christmas

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Merry Christmas to all of our Friends and Relatives

1966 has been the best year yet. Here we are in sunny California (at least, that's what all the posters say). We chose California as our new home due to an interesting job offer and advantages in schooling. Also, we decided a change of pace and place would be stimulating for our family. We are delighted with the decision. It has been a year of hard work and a tremendous amount of fun; we're having a ball. Upon agreeing to give apartment living a whirl, there was an overwhelming majority constituting a consensus in favor of finding an apartment with a swimming pool. Our home is a nice three bedroom, two bath, apartment located in a complex, you guessed it, centered around a swimming pool.

A vacation was included in the trip to our new home. We camped for several days at Yellowstone National Park exploring that wonderful area. The fishing was moderately good with each of the boys catching a fish to brag about. Old Faithful was still scunding off as regularly as ever. We were caught in several bear jams, much to our delight. The bears, some with cubs, would poke their noses right up to the car window. We looked at all the hot pools and geysers we could find and stood amazed at nature's handiworks. Our poodle will attest to the temperature of the pools; upon stepping into a small one, he thought he was about to be cooked. The great geyser basin with all its colorful algae is beyond description. Each evening, we attended the campfire talks.

With our trailer in tow, we dropped south through Teton National Park where we saw this majestic, rugged range silhouetted against a cloudless, powder blue sky. Pushing on over Teton Pass, we headed west to Idaho and on to the Craters of the Moon National Monument. Here we camped and explored the vast lava flows. By flashlight, we browsed around in some of the tubes (tunnels in the lava flow). The cinder cones and spatter cones made us imagine what it would be like to see this river of moving rock in action. On west we traveled to Reno where we spent our anniversary on the town in the bright lights and splendor of the gambling casinos. We saw Abbey Lane and cast on stage and tried our luck at gambling. Lady luck must have been in the area for we won enough to pay for the evening's expenses.

After arriving in San Jose, we spent the first three days finding an apartment to our liking. The search paid off but there was a month delay before possible occupancy. We rented a space in a trailer court and there we lived rather closely in our 15 foot mobile home. Some fun there . . . the family really grew close. All things considered, we five and dog must be a strange family and well adjusted to harmonious living in small quarters. Our trailer court neighbors were wonderful so I must say it was a happy experience.

Since getting ourselves settled, we've been preoccupied with school and seeing as much of California as possible in our spare time. All the family is going to school this year. At eight each morning, all five of us are tumbling out of the door. We really hustled to finish term papers in time to spend Thanksgiving in San Diego with friends. It must be the atmosphere here or the freeway system (truly a masterpiece of engineering) . . . doesn't seem at all unusual to go 400 to 500 miles to visit friends on a four day weekend. We've been down to L. A. a couple of times this fall.

Everyone here is excited about Christmas. With midterms taken, term papers in, and all signed up for next semester, Christmas is highly anticipated as a nice period of relaxation. This weekend we'll go shopping and have a look at the decorations in San Francisco . . . hee; they are spectacular. This year we'll spend Christmas at Lake Tahoe, skiing.

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and 1967 brings forth all your fondest expectations,

Best regards,

Doug & Ruth