



426 Randolph Avenue,  
Windsor, Ontario, Canada.  
December 1961.

Greetings:

Again, as we have done so often in the past, we send our greetings to friends everywhere at this Christmas season.

We are beginning our third year in this neighboring country, a world which is different and yet very much like the United States. Canadians are diverse in heritage. A very real attempt is being made to maintain and preserve the multi-lingual aspect of national life and culture. It is interesting and instructive to read recipes, directions, instructions, etc. in both French and English on packages, canned goods and other items. Even though we are just across the river from Detroit, it sometimes appears as if we were thousands of miles away. Certainly, we are removed from much of the current hysterical ballyhoo about "fallout shelters", nuclear arms race and other very American concerns.

Our lives are as busy as ever. Since changing jobs in July (from the Windsor Group Therapy Project to Director of Social Planning of the Community Fund and Welfare Council of Greater Windsor) Wilson has been very busy building up and working with numerous committees interested in a variety of social problems. There have been trips to conferences in London, Ottawa, Toronto and shortly, there will be other jaunts to Montreal, Winnipeg and other cities. He still continues some activity with the Michigan Area Office of A.F.S.C. Numerous speaking engagements in the Windsor area keep him quite busy.

Phyllis still pots in the basement of our house. One or two of her friends come over and work with her. She is active with the local council of the Home and School group (PTA in the States) and works one night a week teaching handicrafts at a settlement house in Detroit. She has recently begun teaching Sunday School at the local Unitarian group. Renee keeps her busy otherwise.

There was no family vacation this year.....Wilson was in the process of changing jobs. Phyllis and the family took off on a vacation with Pat Selmanoff, of Chicago, and family. They visited Stratford for the Shakesperean Festival, camped a week on Lake Erie, and had a most delightful week, altho missing the presence of husbands (the Selmanoffs were also changing jobs). The kids really enjoyed the camping. The older boys were able to take care of themselves quite well.

Norman is now 13, and is getting tall and lanky. He likes jazz, but fortunately not enough to drive us out of the house. He plays hockey, football, soccer and basketball. His great heroes are hockey players.....the real Canadian boy. His writing and spelling has improved some but not spectacularly. He is getting much better on his horn and is a valued baby sitter with Renee when his parents are out on some committee meeting or other activities.

Gregory is still a noisy, rambunctious 8 year old, who is rarely quiet or still. But, he is a good student! Is neat and careful in his school work and gets good grades. He is wildly enthusiastic about his Cub pack. He, like Norman, is becoming well versed in Canadiana. Both boys know much more about this country than their parents!

Renee is now three and growing rapidly. She talks up a "blue streak". This may be an act of self-preservation. With Greggie around she would not be noticed unless she asserted herself. She likes to help her mother with the "coo king" or washing. We only hope she keeps up this interest when she is ten years older!

Finally, with the help of Stanley Robinson, we sold our house in Columbus, Ohio. We have spent some time and energy re-decorating our house here and now find it quite comfortable. We like our neighborhood and its people. Windsor is small enough for people to become well acquainted and neighborly. At the same time, its proximity to Detroit gives us all of the advantages of living in a large city. All of us like to go down to the Detroit river and watch the never-ending procession of ships from many countries of the world.

Living in a different country, with its different political, social cultural systems and values is a wonderful experience in gaining perspective and balance. Certainly it is refreshing and challenging to hear both warm praises and severe criticism of many American patterns of life. For example, local and provincial governments support church related schools from tax funds. We had always been led to believe that this "breaching the wall of separation of church and state", would result in destroying freedom. The Canadians do this and yet seem remarkably free. Perhaps, it is necessary for us all to recognize that there is no one path to freedom or to any of the other values we hold dear.

In the midst of a world, which seems headed toward nuclear extinction, we hope that you, and people everywhere, will join us in renewed dedication to the quest for peace at this Christmas season.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season,

Cordially,

*Wilson, Phyllis*  
*Norman, Greggie*  
*Renee*





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CHRISTMAS SEALS



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