

Dear Ones:

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 1972 surely has flown by and we have been busy. Except for a few colds and some dental work, each of us has been in good health.

We've had 2 big events this year. First, the long awaited get together of the Fred Adair clan at Chataqua Park in Boulder, Colo. in June. Ruth and Fred arrived alone, but Maurice, Naomi and Orin had wife & husband and many kids along. We crammed more visiting (talking) and varied sports into a most enjoyable and memorable week.

While we were in Colorado we attended the wedding of Norrine's nephew. Orin and Michael drove back to California the next day. Norrine extended her stay 1 week with her 2 sisters and then flew home. Gregory stayed 4 weeks, then rode home to California with his Uncle Charles Wedig via southern Utah and Grand Canyon.

After our return we continued our looking for a home in Marin County (across the Golden Gate Bridge north of San Francisco) as we were no longer pleased with the schools in San Francisco. It is a long, time consuming job. We looked at homes in many towns and areas but none were just right. We finally found a home in Novato that had all the requirements, especially the right price so we bought it and July 28 moved out of San Francisco after living there 16 years. Novato is a town of 20,000 or so and is 25 miles north of San Francisco.

In many ways we are close to rural living. We hear roosters crowing in the morning, and since our kitchen faces northeast Norrine enjoys an occasional beautiful sunrise. We see horses pastured in and around the area.

We feel the schools are better although Michael says not all of his teachers are better teachers.

There seems to be a very friendly atmosphere among the people in the school, the Church and supermarkets, and not the racial tension and danger we felt in parts of San Francisco.

Our house is painted yellow and white and is a 1 floor ranch style with 3 bedrooms, a family room with fireplace and 2 car garage, just our size.

We have started a series of projects to improve the house and property inside and out, but with our limited time at home they seem to have become a career. Mike and Greg are learning of the many extra duties of owning a home. Our neighborhood has many cats, but our "Booby" soon lets them all know this is her territory.

Norrine has become a commuter and has to get up about 5:15 A.M. and gets home about 5:15 P.M. via Golden Gate Transit bus. She is still working in San Francisco at Pacific Telephone Co.

Orin still works at Marin Hideaway Bed Center in Mill Valley, which is about 18 miles south down the freeway toward San Francisco. Since it is freeway all the way Orin drives it in 20 minutes.

The people who owned the Hideaway Bed Centers for 16 years decided to retire early this year, and the company was for sale. So, for months Orin's job was uncertain since he didn't know who would buy it, or whether he would be rehired. It was finalized May 15 and Orin was able to get time to take that June vacation.

Michael is now 14 and is growing tall, nearly 6 ft. His main interest is his stereo equipment and loud "music," and various local "rock" bands. Also his Suzuki motorcycle which he rides on nearby trails. He isn't yet licensed and can't ride on the streets. We have a workshop adjoining our garage and likes to putter doing mechanical work there.

Gregory is now 11 and is busy in Boy Scout work, and playing on a flag football team, this in addition to his school work. He is planning on planting a garden next Spring.

We don't hear from Adrienne and Andy too often, but they are still busy in college. Adrienne was working part time for a real estate broker, Frederick W. Berens, Inc., and he encouraged her to take a crash course in appraising at Univ. of Virginia in June. She started out in that, but has since moved into Mortgage Underwriting as a trainee in Washington, D.C. Andy continues to teach at Univ. of Maryland and to work on his doctorate. They are busy socially also, but have the vitality of youth to tackle working with zest. They still live in Hyattsville, Md. at 7702 Adelphi Road, (zip) 20783.

In closing, please know the welcome latch is out and you are welcome anytime you can make it to Novato, Calif. Our new phone is (415) 897-5847 and our new address 1475 Donna St., Novato, Ca. 94947.

Love and best wishes,

Norrine, Orin, Michael and Gregory