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Christmas, 1988

Dear Friends and Relatives:

It's been a very busy year, and an interesting one, and for that we can be thankful--at least it's an indication that "old Rocking Chair" really hasn't got us yet.

At this stage of our life we are somewhat more introspective than we formerly were, and we wonder if what we are doing is really the things we should be doing. Especially in the light of the boxes of photographs and negatives that need to be organized. Not to mention genealogy, family history, journals, etc. etc.

Speaking of genealogy, our immediate family remained static for the year. We still have only 33 grandchildren, and the pace of additional grandchildren is definitely slowing down.

HIGHLIGHTS: In June we held a Tracy Hall family reunion at Virginia's in Arlington, VA. The Eastern branches of the family decided it was definitely time for the rest of us to come East instead of the Easterners coming West.

We were in Washington D.C. for the 4th of July National festivities, and all the family but Grandmother Hall (me) (the smartest one) and several of the Youngest siblings went to the 4th festivities on the Mall. Grandmother preferred to see the festivities on T.V. in the coolness of the air conditioning.

Sherlene escorted us around to early american ancestral locations prior to the reunion, and gave us a renewed sense of roots. She has become our New England authority on family lines, and we have decided that between Hall and Langford and married-into early lines in both the North and South, George could really not have fought the Revolution without us.

The Schenectady re-union in Centerville in August certainly stands out as one of the year's highlights. It was great reliving the good old days with those wonderful friends--that is when we finally found where it was being held.

Tracy and I spent all of September in The Republic of China, where Tracy lectured at the Zhengzhou Research Institute for Abrasives & Grinding. The Chinese were gracious and congenial hosts, and saw to it that we saw many of the historic and national points of interest. We carried away the deep impression of a wonderful ancient civilization extant while our own ancestors were still in the dark ages. Nevertheless, as always when we travel abroad, we still think the USA is the best Land of all.

Tracy is still trying to make a christmas tree farm out of our Payson place, and Ida-Rose still spends time trying to make a go of the Tulip Cottage, also in Payson. Maybe that's why we wonder if we have our priorities quite straight--but at the same time we enjoy both efforts.

We wish you much joy at this special season of the year and ask the Lord's blessings for You and Yours in the coming year. We're happy to call you "Friend."

Ida-Rose and Tracy

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