

December 12, 1980

Dear Friends,

Already I am having the pleasure of reading many of your greetings. I have hopes of getting these in the mail this week-end. I truly do look forward to hearing from each of you. The yearly contact, in most cases, does not mean that is the only time you are thought of! In fact, my children are fortunate to hear half a dozen times a year by mail!

1980 has been a very quiet year - very routine. It seems that nothing changes about the usual household chores that we all have, lawn and garden care in the summer, etc. The only time that I got away this year was for some ten days in Boston this summer - with a few days of that time in Maine and N.H. Howard was not able to get away from the Hospital for more than those few days while I was there. As usual it was great to see his family as well as the cousins in New England.

The grand-children continue to grow as all normal kiddies do. The baby changes the most, of course, and for that reason only an annual visit does not give the grandparents a chance to see them develop at that fast changing stage. Betty's family do not see them any more often, or maybe not as often as I do. Maybe we would all spoil them if we saw them more often. However, I don't think any of us are really inclined that way, especially

I have a quite different school schedule this year. Due to the dropping enrollment there were not enough kindergarten children this year to justify holding the usual four sessions. The solution the administration arrived at was that the other Kdg. Teacher (who was in Ariz. all summer - and maybe considered out of reach) has two sessions, and I have one. The other half day I teach 5th grade Reading, Language Arts, and Spelling. In the spare time(?) I have from that I tutor some 6th grade Math. students. Then I hop in the car and rush over to the other Bldg. for the afternoon Kdg. class. I often arrive with the first Kdg. Bus, and rarely have time to actually eat a decent lunch. Every week or two Barb (the other Kdg. teacher), and I arrange to eat out (at a Hamburger Place!) and I just leave over there early enough to do it. Officially, I am supposed to have the normal lunch period, but to do an adequate job of tutoring it just doesn't work out that way.

If it were not for the time element - planning a completely different schedule and loads of papers to grade - I would enjoy the 5th grade. Actually, I do. Eleven of the students in that class I had in Kdg. some 5 yrs. ago. They seem to be very happy to be back with me - which is gratifying, and I am equally happy to have them again. I never stop being concerned about the kids I start out. They have slid through a year or two since then, and all the 5th grade teachers are finding we have a lot of work cut out for us this year to get them up to 6th grade level by June. Fortunately, all four of the regular 5th grade Home Room teachers are very dedicated people and so are great to work with - I have students from each of their rooms, about half from one - the others from the three

Phyllis is still teaching in 2 weeks

12/12/80

I started page 1 on the Library typewriter which is really old. The sec'y/ has now gone home, and the office is empty so I have switched to a much better typewriter. Any errors from here on will be mine!

My extra-curricular activities do not seem to change much. I am still sec'y. at church, do the financial statement, teach a 3rd year Junior S.S. Class, am Treas. of the Women's Missionary Fellowship (a very minor job). I am Treas. of the neighborhood property owner's association - which means one Board Meeting a month.

Actually, the school after-hours' affairs take the most time. Since I am working in two bldgs. I am expected to attend bldg. meetings at both - which is a pain. We are all required to serve on at least two committees. I have been on the Inservice Com. for some time, and this year we have a new Penmanship Curriculum Committee which I am on. Then, some couple of weeks ago I discovered that I was also now on the Committee to establish better Communication between Special Educ. and Regular Classes! The School Board is trying to make a selection of a new Supt. in the next month (for those who did not know, our Supt. passed away on July 31st with a heart attack). We like our Interim-Supt., but he is not interested in full-time Supt. work. We are most hopeful that the Board will select someone from outside the Dist. this time - and well qualified!

During the Holidays I hope to paint the living room and hall. I may not make it, because I think my niece from Ind. and her family plan to come up for some of the time. I am most anxious to ^{get} that done so the new carpet can be laid. Since the insurance company ^{paid} for it due to water damage a year - more than that, in fact - ago% it would be nice to enjoy it.

It would be nice to have a real visit with each of you. We did get a chance to see two families this year that it had been far too long since we had seen. Our dear friend's daughter (Pastor Freeman), Joan and family were here one week-end, and later Arthur and Ruth Stephenson's daughter and family from Minn. were here for a night. It is nice to get acquainted with parts of the family you have never met, too. Also, our Pastor from Phila., Russell Hones who married Elmer and me, has a grand-daughter at Wheaton whom I have enjoyed getting to know this past year. I am sorry to learn that she is home in Calif. recovering from surgery and will be returning to school late.

Do stop in any time you are in this area. It is comforting to know that if not sooner we will get to spend Eternity together, at least, That should give us plenty of time to catch up. My prayer is for 1981 that everyone of my friends will be ready to meet me there - if not sooner. That is what Christmas is all about!!!

*No come over when you are down
at Margaret's!*

Much love =

Vernice