

New Year's Eve

Dear Nancy & Whady:

What better way to spend a New Year's Eve?
Dad just beat me in Rumony and we won over Old Sol.
There's nothing fit to watch on TV and anyway I am
gaw a letter after receiving such a beautiful birthday
and Xmas gift.

I would say you know how to pack the most
fragile of items. I cannot find a thing missing on our
"Love Birds" and they are of the most delicate sculpture.
I am perplexed whether they are carved from marble, stone
or what. Anyway they are lovely, a real conversation
piece and something we shall treasure the rest of our lives.
They will find a special place on the mantel so that when
the little boys are here they cannot be smashed. The candle
bedecked golden lady can rest on a table. She is elegant too.
Thank you so much for making us a perfect Xmas.

Tomorrow I shall put away the Xmas decorations.
That won't be hard for I did not get out too much. Dad
put up and trimmed the tree. I got out your wicker box
with artificial Xmas flowers in it, also used my ceramic
tree again and had a pine cone arrangement on the dining
table. I used red candles in my brass holders on the
mantel with my usual real greens and scattered the elves
and pine cone babies among them. Pete, Kate & Mandy
sent me a huge Poinsettia which is on the coffee table.
As usual I trimmed the outdoor lamp and hung my
Maccame wreath by the door. Now you have a complete
picture of home in 1972 when you weren't around.
We missed you a lot mainly because this was

you and sent me

our first Xmas in 42 years here alone. We had two couples in on different evenings and would have done more but Dad has been fighting a cold and you know it takes him two weeks at least.

Dad did not feel like going to Midnight Mass with me so I braved it alone. For once the church was not crowded. Evidently it has become "Old Hat" and the traditions may phase out. The orchestral music, carols and solos were beautiful.

Early Xmas Eve we rode around to see the lights. There were very few really nice decorations. Everybody went all out for the luminars. C.H.S. were selling them and from what we saw they did all right. It was raining too that night so many of the racks collapsed and candles were out.

Xmas Day was spent at Byron + Pattys. They had their tree in the family room and it was adorned with many hand made ornaments. The wooden ones you sent fit in just right. Each one is so colorful and unusual. Aunt Ethel was surprised and pleased with her gift. I talked with her today and she said the chocolates are so good that she has them almost gone. The same for your box of Gute Wahl Keks and Waffeln. I loved the habisco type cookies and the chocolate covered ones.

Mrs. Wright had decorated Patty's house in early American prints. There were all sorts of little Xmas caricatures that she had hand made hanging from every chandelier, candlestick, mantel and door knob. It was beautiful and I appreciated her efforts. She has a certain talent for this sort of thing. Patty's dinner was delicious too, even the Pecan Pie I took for dessert.

By the way we have 5# of Pecans sent us from our Texas friends. Dad diligently shelled them all and I have them in the icebox. Wish I could make you a pie from them.

This year we received three $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of Grapefruit and Oranges. Layna + Rick, Aunt Carolyn and our Texas friends were the donors. We simply love them and have been eating them everyday since they arrived well before Xmas.

I'm afraid our mild winter is coming to an end. The wind is blowing and we are promised teen temperatures. Just so we don't get 18 inches of snow like Master has had.

I heard that your good teacher Mr. Dalan has abandoned his family to marry John Webb's ex. I can't believe some of the breaks in good families. Joan Bunstone is dating Joe Rear now, but I don't think it means anything. Just someone to go places with. Chuck has a young girl rooming at his house now. He went to North Carolina for Xmas and tried to see Byron when he returned on the 27th.

We are wondering if you cashed your check for your birthday gift. It hasn't been returned to our bank yet.

The article I'd wrote on "Life" is the one and only copy, no duplicates but yours to keep. Maybe he will compose some more for you this winter.

In talking with Bub he said he did not have your address so couldn't send you a card. I know good & well we sent him your address long ago. I'll see that he gets it again and maybe he'll write you one of his seldom letters.

May 1979 bring you health, a little wealth and plenty of love and happiness.

Love to you both
Mother,