

1984

Dear Friends,

It is that time of year again. A time you have all been waiting for. Sit back and relax while you read the sequel to last years widely acclaimed CHRISTMAS LETTER 1983 this years smash hit CHRISTMAS LETTER 1984. The title just came to me one night in a nightmarish-like dream.

You will recall from last years letter that we had decided to commit ourselves; to an annual Christmas letter, that is. We knew that was the best way to obtain peace and happiness. We promised you all an annual report on our newly acquired superiority. So, it is with "tongue in cheek" that we send this Christmas greeting. (If by chance you missed last years Presentation, additional copies are available with a SASE)

1984 started out like a rock but as it rolled down the mountain of life it gathered no moss. I like the way that sounds, don't you? Pat has changed jobs again and the new job promises to be even better than her last one. (That's why she changed) Now she is with Project Quality. She is still working with district #186 at Lawrence Adult Center which is so close to home that she can come home for lunch. Project Quality evaluates the adult education Programs throughout the state. She has mastered the use of her new trash 80 computer. They sent her to school to learn how to use the word processor and out of a class of at least one she was the top student. We were all very proud of her. Her new job is on a ten month basis so she will have two months off in the summer to be with Krystal. This new Job also has the added benefit of Paying lots more than what she was making when she wasn't working.

In February of this year Pat was offered a job in Dallas Texas. The position was with one of the largest banks in Dallas. The salary was about twice what she makes here, so we thought we should at least go down and take a look. As it turned out the trip was a kind of paid vacation. The interview lasted all day. We liked the idea of the salary increase but we just weren't ready for the fast lane in Dallas. Housing costs were out of sight. We could get a real nice little Place in the slums for under \$80,000. It just wasn't the place for us!

You should remember Krystal was Put into a first second grade split class last year. We were somewhat concerned but it worked out well. She liked being with the older kids. In fact her boyfriend is an older boy. He is in third grade now. They correspond regularly but she hides the letters. I feel she is a little young for serious entanglements but you know how it is with this new generation. This year she is back with her

friends in second grade. She is doing so well that there is no doubt that she will be able to apply to Harvard or Yale for college if she wants.

This year has also brought a new addition to our house. Some of you probably didn't know that we were expecting. The arrival took place October 13th. We are now the proud parents of a one proud turtle. His name is Timothy T. Turtle. The T. is for Terrapin. He is a most beautiful green and yellow, Red Eared Slider. Now some of you probably remember your pet turtles. They were about the size of a half dollar and cost about the same. Times have changed this one is about six inches across and costs considerably more. Next time I will check before I make promises. Timothy T. Turtle lives with Krystal in a 20 gallon aquarium half full of water. Now before you get a picture in your mind of a seven year old sharing an aquarium with a turtle, let me clarify myself. Timothy T. lives in an aquarium. The aquarium is in Krystal's room. A couple of weeks ago we had a weekend guest with us. He/She (I forget to look) was a white guinea pig from Krystal's class at school. Shep wanted to play with him but we decided that wasn't a good idea. All in all, Krystal is growing bigger, better, smarter, and prettier with each day and I can say that with prejudicial honesty.

Last summer we spent some time in our mountain hideaway. We spent a week camping at Mary's Lake Campground, Estes Park, Colorado. As always the mountains were beautiful.

My year has gone stupendiously. I had planned to win a seat in congress but my 'write in' campaign fell a little short. I only got one vote. I guess the judges couldn't read my name on the other ballots. I can't understand what happened. I even got beat out by Wilby Nogood and he died two weeks before the election. I think he got the sympathy vote. You can be sure that this is only the beginning of my political career. Don't forget! I write Christmas letters!

I am still house doctoring while I wait for a political appointment. I also started teaching again. I am teaching a class for the Adult Education Department. It is a 12-week class on basic home maintenance. It has been very successful and I will be offering it again next semester.

I am also taking a correspondence course from the Institute of Children's Literature. I have only completed one assignment but it promises to be rewarding. You will probably be seeing my name on Time Magazine in the near future as the most promising children's author of 1985. I think I have made more than my share of promises.

I am going to wind this up for now as I am expecting a call from the resident at the White House down the street.

UNTIL NEXT YEAR AND CHRISTMAS LETTER 1985

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR

MAY THE GLORIES OF THIS  
HOLIDAY SEASON FILL YOU  
WITH THE LOVE AND PEACE AND  
MAY THEY STAY WITH YOU  
THROUGHOUT THE COMING NEW  
YEAR 1985.

WITH LOVE AND LIGHT,

I AM,

DULANY, PAT, & KRYSTAL

AND SHEP & TIMOTHY T. TURTLE