

CHRISTMAS 1958

Keeping in touch with one's friends, even though much time has slipped by "on little cat feet", is the best way to tie the years of one's life together. As we grow older we acquire a keener sense of the limits of time, and become misers in this respect. Since the fiscal year for these Christmas letters seems to be from one Thanksgiving Day to the next, we could well start off with a long list of things for which we are thankful. But, somehow, just in the act of writing them down, the material things become eliminated in favor of the spiritual, which we can take with us!

Looking at the year objectively, two events take precedence in the Renner family annals, -- the acquisition of a grandson and a son-in-law. Ruth quit her position at the Juvenile Court early in the year and on March 1st was married to Frank E. Percy. Frank is a Clevelander, by birth, a graduate of Oberlin, and is in the advertising business. Circling the Caribbean Islands on their wedding trip, they were only about one-third of the way around on the Island of Guadeloupe, when Ruth fell and broke her foot and they had to give up the rest of the trip. They were home by the 1st of April and she had her leg in a cast all that month.

Their home "Wagon Hollow", on Brandywine Creek at Northfield, Ohio, is 18 miles from us. It was built partly from an old mill that stood on that site since 1831, and is now undergoing some extensive alterations. They kept two Police horses over the summer to be company for Frank's horse, Copperstar, who is now back home since he has a new barn there. Thor, a young but huge Harlequin Great Dane, is also part of the family.

Since none of us had ever been in the Caribbean area before, it seemed strange that within that month I (Jennie) was also arriving in San Juan a few hours after our Bob and Ginger left, and leaving a short while before my brother Robert arrived on a business trip. I was gone from April 25th to May 13th, and was a member of the Jamaica Centennial Tour, which marked 100 years of our (Disciples of Christ) missions in Jamaica. Beside the usual tourist attractions, we visited most of our churches in Puerto Rico and Jamaica and found a warm welcome awaiting us everywhere. Though we were only three days in Haiti, during a state of seige, we were thrilled to visit the Albert Schweitzer Memorial Hospital built and operated by Dr. and Mrs. Larimer Mellon in what they thought was the neediest part of the Western Hemisphere.

Bob and Ginger took a two weeks holiday in the Caribbean in April, to make up for the honeymoon they never had five years ago. They have been home from Baltimore several times this year for week-long visits with their two wee lassies. Debra, now nearly four, was the flower girl at Ruth's wedding and is now in Nursery School. Blue-eyed Tara, one year old, is walking and into everything. Bob is Chief Resident in Radiology at Johns Hopkins, and was sent for one and one-half months this Fall, to three other hospitals at Buffalo, Ann Arbor and Cleveland, to study isotopes in Nuclear Medicine.

At the end of June, Dan and Carol finished their year in New York, he, interning at New York Hospital, Cornell Medical Center, and she, teaching at Yonkers. They moved back to Ann Arbor where Dan began his Residency in Surgery at the University Hospital. Since he will be there four or five years, they decided to buy a house and two days after the papers were signed, a bigger event for them, took place in the birth of their first child, Richard Randolph Renner. On Labor Day they moved into their own home at 1626 Traver Rd., Ann Arbor, Mich.

John finished his three years at the U. S. Patent Office in Washington, and became, on October 2nd, an associate member of the well-known Cleveland Patent-Law firm of Oberlin, Maky and Donnelly. He has received two more tennis trophies this Fall, memoirs of the Patent Office tournaments, - he was Singles Winner last year. He enjoys the Symphonies here in Cleveland and has just finished making his own Hi-Fi set and cabinet.

Mary, also at Ann Arbor, was living in a Co-op last year, taking her turn at cooking for thirty. She took "Graphics" and "Life" at the Cleveland Institute of Art during the summer and had several trips to Ann Arbor and one to Dayton. She spent quite a bit of extra time at "Wagon Hollow", where she and her friend Lee kept Copperstar and the Police horses exercised. This winter she is at 1030 Oakland St., Ann Arbor, sharing an apartment with Rosaline Allen of Detroit. Rosaline was born in China of missionary parents. Pat Mackrain from the Upper ~~East~~ Peninsula, boards with them. They manage to wedge in some entertaining along with their studies, and since they all like to cook, their cuisine has an international flavor, being a mixture of Oriental, Finnish, American-French, and Cornish pasties, we understand, are the pièces de résistance!

Dr. R. Richard has managed to put in a busy year, mainly with his work at the Clinic and Doctors Hospital. His extracurricular activities are writing, attending meetings and tennis -- always tennis (our season opened March 23d), and lying awake nights trying to decide whether to have a large bomb-proof shelter under the new ~~Hillside~~ Hospital or to use it all for research. In between, he has taken short ~~4~~ trips to Bethany and Hundred, W. Va., Ann Arbor, Chicago, Washington and St. Louis where he joined me at our church convention. Besides my six U.C.M.S. Trustee's meetings in Indianapolis, I've given nine illustrated talks on the Caribbean, one on Alaska, and one Woman's Day address, all of them out of town but one.

The year is twinkling with highlights:-- Dan's glad voice at midnight saying, "It's a boy!" --- on a flying visit to Nashville (Director's meeting, D.C.H.S.), seeing the beautiful, new Thos. W. Phillips Memorial Library, a veritable *Symphony* ~~symphony~~ in stone, set with the jewels of colored glass window medallions, depicting our heritage; --- the meeting and fine visit at Bethany with the Lois Cochran, he, the author who wrote the historical novel "The Fool Of God"; --- the joy of making new friends, the privilege of sharing our home with guests - from Mexico, Bethany, Dayton, St. Thomas and Meaford, Ontario, Washington, Redlands, Calif., etc.

We have been happily honored to entertain a number of groups in our home, such as the Board of the Religious Heritage of America, Doctors Hospital Trustees, <sup>U.C.M.S. Trustees,</sup> College Club, Doctors Clinic doctors, United World Federalists, Hospital and Clinic personnel, Church groups and Staff Doctors (our own United Nations!)

The brightest twinkle and the most permanent is the enjoyment we find in our family and friends, and in knowing "God's in His Heaven; All's right with the world". And it's up to us to make the last phrase a continuing truth!

Our best wishes for a Merry Christmas,  
and a bright and purposeful New Year,

THE RENNERS