

6171 Leesburg Pike, 532
Seven Corners, Va. 22044
December 31, 1977

Dear One:

At this New Year's Eve we pray: From the point of love within the heart of God, let love stream forth into the hearts of men. Let purpose guide the little wills of men, the purpose which the Master knows and serves.

Richard Conrad's engagement announcement was made just a few days ago. Having graduated from the College of William and Mary, he is now planning a European sojourn with his bride-to-be, April Pierce.

Last spring, while perusing an old book in our library, David providentially encountered a small footnote which became the starting point of a true detective adventure. Sandwiching weeks of research into his regular schedule, David explored a dimly lit area of religious and legal history. It was necessary for Shirley to become accustomed to a major rival for her spouse's affections, the Library of Congress. The glorious resources of this great national asset were used to full advantage through the spring, summer, and fall, as the pieces of a puzzle were gradually discovered and fitted into place. The philosophical, psychological, and legal aspects of a Supreme Court case of a generation ago were brought to light, providing detailed background information on matters of current concern to a number of friends and acquaintances. No litany of praise could ever completely express our full appreciation for the L.C. With its help, the tiny seedling of a footnote grew taller and stronger, sending out branches of information upon which any interested person could climb and thus greatly extend the horizon. (Special thanks are in order for the documentation of Dr. Gerald Bryan and Dr. Charles Braden and for the testimony of the witnesses, some of whom were personal friends many years ago.)

In June our old and faithful companion, Moxie, suddenly expired. She has been succeeded by little Molly Brown, a gift on David's birthday, part terrier and part dachsy. Our floors are now strewn with a wide assortment of chewable objects to appease puppy Molly's insatiable teething.

In his continuing work for the American Rivers Conservation Council, Dave Conrad has become a nationally consulted expert on the ecology of US rivers, frequently advising congressional staffs, government representatives, and journalists. Paula spent summer vacation in Alaska and now continues to enjoy her college work in Ellensburg, Washington.

Happy New Year!

David & Shirley Gaines