

Dear Harold: Wishing the best for you and yours in the New Year!

6171 Leesburg Pike, 532
Seven Corners, Va. 22044
December, 1978

Dear one:

The basic good will engendered at Christmas time receives added momentum when the spirit of the season is deliberately invoked--through sharing, forgiving, cooperating, reflecting. In this spirit we will recount a few highlights of the year: The March wedding of Rich and April at the college chapel in Williamsburg endures as a radiant memory and shared linking--in heart and in law--for all the families and friends gathered.... The June visit of Ellen and Sabrina (David's sister and niece) from Oregon included a mule-drawn barge trip on the C&O Canal, memorable for its evocations of local color in 19th century Georgetown (impressive to David too who was official reporter for the Canal Advisory Commission for five years).... A family "discovery" occurred in the summer when we met Ruth Hepner (editor of the Montgomery County Journal) and husband Bill and sons, for the very first time. Ruth (a half niece) contributed fascinatingly to our fund of Gaines family memorabilia. Frank Driscoll (a half-nephew) and wife Lorraine from New York City joined us for an unforgettable family reunion with the Hepners that really had nothing halfway about it (naturally--and fortunately!--taped by Shirley).

Paula is now in her senior year (journalism major) at Ellensburg, Washington. She occasionally visits Rich and April, who are now happily settled and employed in Seattle. Dave Conrad continues his notable work on behalf of water and environmental quality, through the American Rivers Conservation Council in D.C., serving national and state legislators, the media, and public. We have been gratified to learn of the marriage of "our" Judie, who lived with us during 1976; she is now zestfully fulfilling the demanding role of wife and mother.

Christmas time is especially the season of love, and our recollections include not only family ties but cherished visitors of all ages, many sharing special needs or problems, particularly with Shirley, a true "loving understander."* She submits the following haiku for contemplation:

Bird songs mixed with snow,
Icy lakes ripple and smile,
The Christ just walked past.

May the subtle influence of wide and kind understanding like a warm sunbeam, foster growth and expansion in your life throughout the year ahead.

M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S a n d

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R !

* Thus it often happens that in the presence of a loving understander a man makes a free confession of his shortcomings and sins and passes upon himself a drastic judgment which he would have bitterly resented and denied if it had been expressed by someone else with an attitude of criticism and admonition. This is not surprising because loving understanding penetrates deep down to the core and evokes the inner Being, which then surges up and floods the individual with its light.

David & Shirley
David & Shirley Gaines
and Molly Brown