

# Betty Hulburd Hine Alderson

## Christmas Letters - 1963 through 1977

(Compiled by Ted Hine – March 2003)

The following letters were written by Betty and sent with (or in lieu of) Christmas cards to relatives and family friends. They cover all or part of three distinct periods of her life. 1963 to 1968 marked the “single” period of her adult life after she had relocated to St. Louis, MO following her 1962 divorce. She and her second husband, John Alderson, spent the years 1968 to 1973 in California. And finally, 1973 and thereafter was spent living on the farm with John in rural Hermann, MO.

These letters were found among Betty’s personal effects after her death. It is possible that Christmas letters were written and sent prior to 1963 and after 1977 but, if they were, Betty did not save them or they have been lost.

Note that no letters were written for the years 1968 and 1974 and that in 1971, 1975, and 1976 only pictures or a card were sent out at Christmas time. In all of the cases of missing letters, their absence is mentioned in a following year’s letter indicating that this collection is complete.

Each letter contains summary information about Betty’s activities during the year and those of her 3 sons. After 1968 information is also included on the activities of John Alderson and his 3 children.

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DECEMBER 1963

Dear Ones,

It is certainly time to bring you up to date on our year of great changes. Yes, we are now in St. Louis, (my home town) happily filling our lives renewing old friendships and making new ones and still trying desperately to get our house in order. We hadn't moved for fifteen years so you know what a state of confusion we have been through.

Ted, Greg, Hank, two black standard poodles and I drove out in time to take possession and move in on August 20th. This gave us two weeks to outfit Greg and Ted before shipping them back to school.

All boys graduated from their schools in June. Happily, Ted and Greg were accepted to the schools of their choice and have had a good fall. Ted is a freshman at R.P.I. in Troy, New York (a budding engineer) and Greg is a sophomore at Proctor Academy, Andover, New Hampshire. He will be skiing competitively again this year and I hope to get back for one of his meets.

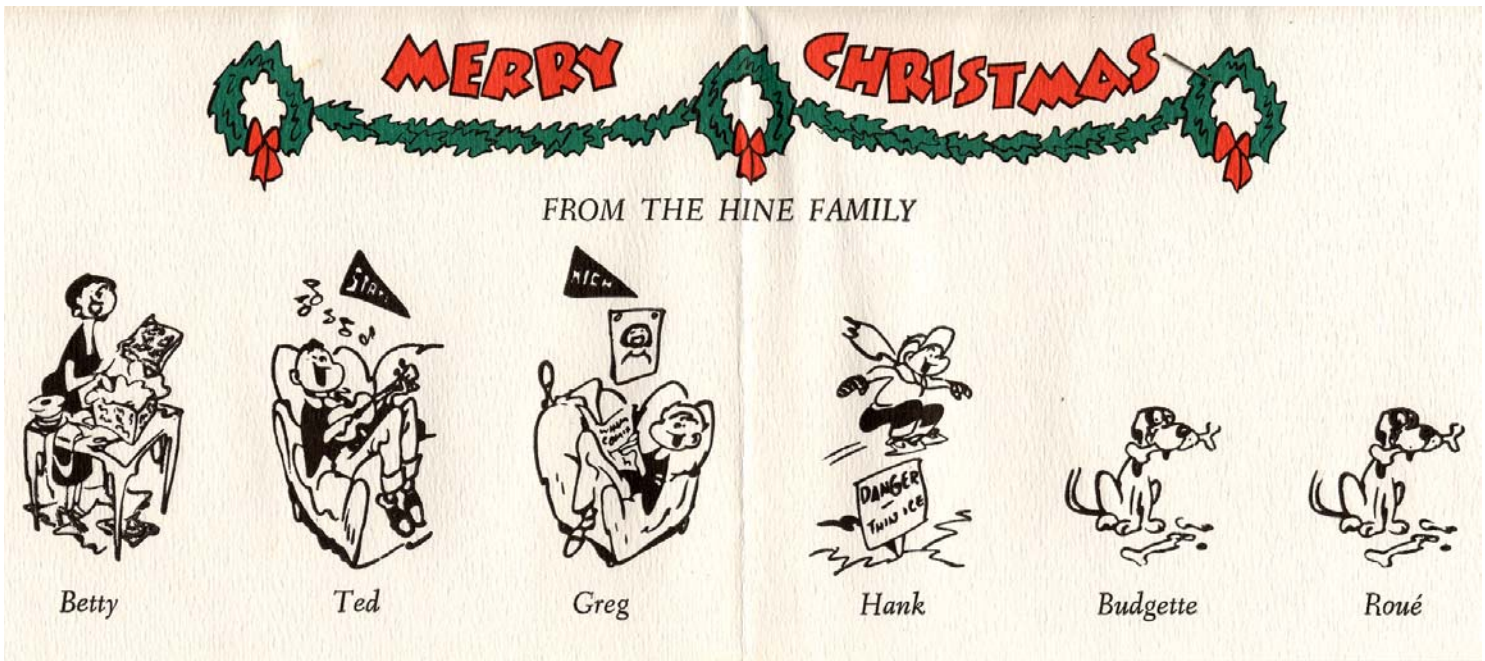
Hank is in the seventh grade here and has made a happy adjustment to a completely new life.

I am up to my ears in draperies, furnace problems, fences, plumbing, etc. Have found that getting settled is, at times, very frustrating. We will be in presentable condition when Ted and Greg arrive home for Christmas (I hope!!!!).

We are looking forward to a Happy Holiday Season and wish you all the same.

Our love to you,

Betty



December, 1964.

Dear Ones,

Christmas is happiness. . . Ted and Greg home for the holidays. . . guitars, records, laughter, confusion, barking pups and a beaming Hank. Yes. . . Christmas is happiness for all of us.

In my changing world, I have been most negligent about writing so perhaps I can bring you up to date in this way. This has certainly been a busy year for all of us.

Ted missed second term at R.P.I. last February and after a bit of soul searching and a trip home, took a job in New York with a construction firm (cinder blocks, bricks and mortar) and earned enough money to buy a very second hand car with some left over to support a trip to the west coast with a favorite friend from New Jersey. They repaired the car and saw the sights from one coast to the other and in the process, camped in every corn field from here to there. The first week in August Ted met Greg in Seattle and they drove home together. After the usual 'before school' chores, they took to the road for school. Ted, to Jr. College in New York State, to make up credits in order to transfer back to college, and Greg, back to Prep school in New Hampshire. Both boys are doing very well this winter. . . Greg has another year at Proctor Academy and seems to be thriving in the harsh(?) New England climate, HARSH. . . what would he do without snow? A varsity skier, a steady student and a happy boy. Just to keep our middlewestern legs in shape, T.G.H. and I spent last spring vacation skiing in Taos, New Mexico. An amazing experience for we 'Eastern oriented' folk. My legs were never too strong, and once a year on the 'boards' does nothing to improve the situation, but it was a wonderful family outing and our first trip on an IMPORTANT train. . . push buttons and all.

After a few weeks home in June, Greg joined Hank and me for a month, visiting very dear St. Louis friends in Northern Wisconsin. (Spent two summers up there when I was in my early teens so it was wonderful to have the opportunity to take the boys). Hank had never been fortunate enough to catch a fish before, and if my memory serves me right, he came in second to Greg with over 100 of those happy creatures. I, the fisherman of the family, was completely 'skonked'. From Wisconsin, Greg flew to Seattle to visit his Grandmother. . . and there converged with Ted.

Hank and I had a long 'between term' weekend in New Jersey last January. Saw all old friends and my family. Had a glorious time and wish that we could have stayed longer. Another time we shall. Hank is in the Clayton School system here and is very happy. Has made friends, is attending the 'Fortnightly' and thinks that football is the only game worth playing. All three boys have grown but I notice it the most in Hank. He now has about three inches on me and is well into the 'thirteen year's spurt'. His pants are never long enough and his wrists seem to extrude from his shirt sleeves.

My year. . . well. . . wow!! Finally got most of the 'house settling' problems solved by February so at last I felt that the house was a bit friendlier than it had been for those first six months. We transferred to 'my old' Episcopal Church which gave us a feeling of "roots". . . I was caught up in the Symphony Society and the Opera Guild (normal), joined an Investment Syndicate (we are just breaking even), gave a day a week to a fine Republican hoping that he would become Governor of this Democratic State (nope), served as class secretary for my Alma Mater, Finch; gave up ceramics and sculpture (not adequate wiring in the house to operate the kiln), and joined the Archaeological Society of America. Have improved my bridge game to a small degree and have attended two college football weekends just so that I wouldn't miss the Ivy League. Hank and I are avid Cardinal rooters, both baseball and football and have now attended our first professional football game. . . GREAT. He and I have also taken two A.A.A. Mystery Tours through the state of Missouri to get to know our new surroundings, and have naturally done the Riverboat and Hannibal 'bit' to see if we could absorb a little 'Tom Sawyerism'. . . While Hank was in New York in August, Ted, Greg and I were invited on a "Float Trip". We finally saw that beautiful, seemingly isolated area through which the Current and Jack's Fork Rivers flow.

We were all worried that our move out here would cut us off from our friends elsewhere, but, not at all. . . we have had 17 visitors; from as far as Montreal, New Mexico, New Jersey, Conn. and Kentucky. This proves that we are not off the beaten path and we hope that all of you who are traveling this way will remember that.

My latest news is that I started to work in September. This keeps me occupied (happily—most of the time) five days a week. This does help to 'make ends meet' tho' at times I find it hard to be a full time mother, homemaker and employee. Am Executive Secretary at the Missouri School for Doctors' Assistants. I can be reached there during the day, except weekends, when I am home. . . Peace.

We all wish you a most happy holiday season and hope that the New Year will be a bright and cheerful one.

Betty

December, 1965

Dear Ones,

It is the time to wish you MERRY and also to wish you HAPPY for all the important occasions which I failed to remember this year.....My year started out with a thud.....pneumonia during the holidays. Shall be sure that it doesn't happen again this year!!! Shortly after the first of the year I submitted my resignation to be effective the first of March and when that day rolled around I joined the ranks of the "happily unemployed". Perfect timing, for I was able to enjoy the boys when they were home during their spring vacations and, of course, catch up with house and friends. The end of May I found myself in the hospital for major surgery which put me out of commission for a while but with the help of Greg, Hank and Ted (for the short period that he was able to take from his job) and a relaxing recuperation in the 'north woods', I am again a full fledged-active member of the human race.

Hank graduated from the 8th grade last June and is now a happy freshman in Clayton High School. Happy, not because of the scholastic demands, but because there are TEAMS and he is taking full advantage of the sports program. He played on both the 'Offense and Defense' squads of the Freshman Football Team and has now been tapped for long distance swimming by the swimming coach. Had two weekends of skiing late last winter; one in Vail (lucky boy), the other here in Missouri (of all places) with me. Fishing is still his summer sport and he improves with each passing season. Certainly one of the highlights of his year was his visit to the Pacific Northwest to see Grandmommy Hine and family. His grades are good and he enjoys the 'League' dances, so "everything's coming up roses" for Hank.

This is Greg's senior year at Proctor Academy, Andover, New Hampshire so he is deeply involved with thoughts of college. Naturally he has chosen those which become snow-bound in the winter and which incidentally, offer 'pre-med.' He is a member of the Student Government and currently ranks third in his class. Greg was able to squeeze in a part-time job last summer but his main occupation was managing the house and he did an excellent job. Greg skied in Colorado with a group of young people from schools here during last spring vacation so he has increased his circle of friends in St. Louis. Sounds like he is going to have a busy Christmas vacation and I am beginning to wonder how we will manage with one small car and three drivers!!!

Ted has an apartment in Poughkeepsie, New York and is in his second year at Dutchess County Community College. His choice for next year is the U. of Colorado and with the grades he is maintaining there is no question of his acceptance. Of course, as all parents know, nothing is truly final and he may change his mind. He and Greg both had interviews at three institutions of higher learning' out there this summer and both were interested. Ted worked all summer with some college chums in New York State. Not being satisfied with just daytime jobs (and to continue on with what they had developed during the school year) Ted and the group discovered that they could make money playing for private parties, Country Club dances, etc....well, they did....Ted on lead guitar, with two other guitars and drums in the group. They call themselves "The Satyrs" and starting this fall have had a permanent Friday night job playing in a "teen" club just outside Poughkeepsie. At Thanksgiving Ted told me that they had been fortunate in obtaining engagements for most Saturday nights too, for Adult parties. I believe that they started out as 'Rock n' Roll' but in order to expand, have developed into a 'Popular Music' combo as well. They were invited to play at the New York State Exhibit at the World's Fair on September 9th. Needless to say, I took a flight from St. Louis that morning, was met by sister, and joined by friends in the audience that day. They gave a splendid performance and I am still beaming with pride. I enjoyed the music and the very neat appearance of the group. Ted told me last month that they had been offered an attractive contract to go on tour. Thank the Lord that they refused without giving it a second thought for all of them want to finish college and playing is just the icing on the cake.

In counting my blessings, one of the most important is the friendship of you all whom I see so infrequently.....Do have a very, very MERRY.

December, 1966

Dear Ones,

The Holiday Season is almost here so it is time to add another page to the "Saga of the Hines".

It has been a busy year for us and one of many changes. The most important switch is that both Ted and Greg are now students at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Absolutely great.... and think of the advantages of having them on the same vacation schedule for the first time in eight years!!! Communication from Colorado has been rather meager but I understand that in spite of their different scholastic and social schedules they have taken many exploratory trips into the mountains together and that they are both extremely happy. After this vacaion we may not hear from them again until the June thaw. Ted was introduced to Colorado skiing, and Greg enjoyed his second exposure to same, while I was in Vail last Spring vacation happily chaperoning a group of young students from St. Louis. Unfortunately Hank's school was in session at this time but he did get a trip to Vermont during semester break in January. In fact he was snowed in up there and was not able to return to school on time....Fun!

Greg graduated from Proctor Academy in June. I sat there beaming with pride for not only had he compiled a remarkable record during his years there but he was the recipient of the School's award for "Outstanding Citizen"....Unfortunately since Hank was still in school here, I was unable to stay in the East as long as I would have liked. I still dream of a long trip so that I may see all old friends and visit favorite places.

Ted played with his "group" again this summer in New York and just to continue this family tradition (?), Hank is now becoming quite proficient on the guitar. Hank developed into a splendid distance swimmer last spring and now that the football season is over has started to swim again. Since August he has lived for football....Regular J.V....substitute Varsity.... and a most willing escort for his Mother to all professional Cardinal games. He was confirmed in May at the Church of St. Michael and St. George where I was confirmed at about the same age. He attends the Assembly and the Town and Country dances, so in general is a well occupied young man of 15.

My life is divided into the usual segments of: "good deeds", fun, two "thought provoking" activities to stimulate the brain cells, and a dab of bowling tossed in this fall to keep other areas in shape!!! The cellar has been wired to accommodate my kiln so I am back with clay as well as other hobbies. Have been supplying a new local shop with many items for consignment this fall and I must say that this has kept me out of mischief....Friends continue to find the way to St. Louis and I wish they would all stay longer....I have had several 'fun' weekends away from home this year and a marvelous visit with my great Uncle in Phoenix this summer. I had not seen him for many years and had never been to his part of the country so it was an exciting adventure. This jaunt also included a stopover in Albuquerque to visit a family which seemed delighted to show me their adopted land.

We, happily, have become a "Wayside Inn" for students traveling back and forth to colleges. Sons and daughters of friends and previous school chums of T. and G. with all their traveling companions. Beds and breakfast are available without reservations but those who pass through at the beginning and end of each semester now know that a reservation for dinner is a necessity. There are times when the larder is bare. It is fun for us to have a house full so we hope that this will continue.

1966 has been a good year. Best wishes for a happy '67 to you all.



December, 1967

Dear Ones,

The "Season" has arrived much too quickly and I am completely unprepared! Thought I would skip the "Annual Report" this year but was outvoted by three indignant sons - one of whom stated that he would not be able to remember what he had done this year if I didn't write it up..... So, here goes.

Ted and Greg are most happy at the University of Colorado and with the entire state. So much so, that except for brief visits home and to N. Y. between semesters, they have been in Colorado all year..... after the regular college year, T. enrolled in both summer semesters so that he could finish the requirements to transfer to "Business", and G., (first summer term only) to add extra credits to his already adequate supply. G. also worked part time at "The Country Store", a job which he is still pursuing along with his college courses this winter. T. continued to play with "The Other Side of Time", the group which he helped to organize last January. The combo had quite a successful career - packing the BUFF ROOM of THE HUDDLE every Friday night and playing many engagements and concerts in Denver and Colorado Springs. A most popular group with two records to their credit. G. is living in his fraternity house this year and T. is still "off campus" with his house mates of last winter.

H. and I drove out for a 5 day trip last spring. The boys showed us the campus, important student spots "off campus" (including a wild Friday night at the BUFF ROOM) and the surrounding area before we took off to do some exploring on our own. It is easy for me to understand their enthusiasm... ..mountains... ..lost (?) mines... ..ghost towns... ..Wonderful country.

This was a Red Letter year for Hank. His 16th birthday immediately followed by a Missouri drivers license! No more chauffeuring for Mother. Joy! He skied at Vail, Colorado during his January exam break and flew east in July to spend two weeks with Kirt and Friends up and down the eastern seaboard. Then home and to Washington University here, to take Speed Reading etc., during the second summer semester. Now that H is a Junior, he is beginning to investigate "Institutes of Higher Learning". He is a "natural" on the guitar... ..took bridge lessons last spring... ..and is enjoying the "Dances" more than last year. Sports are still important to him tho' he was slowed down a bit this fall by a heavy scholastic schedule and the removal of four impacted wisdom teeth.....All three sons are doing well scholastically which is GREAT.

Friends, activities and a job fill my life. In fact there never seem to be enough hours to accomplish all that I must do and little time to do all that I want to do. A common complaint, I imagine, and right now my greatest wish for 1968 is to have a few more quiet and peaceful days at home..... No summer vacation but my year was interspersed with grand weekends spent with dear friends in Louisville, Kentucky ...in a beautiful section of Missouri beside a lovely lake.....in Jefferson City for my annual College Football Game.....and a quick trip to see Uncle Ernie. A good year and I bless everyone who has helped to make it so.

Our family Christmas will be celebrated January 3, 1968 which is probably the reason why I am so far behind schedule. T. G. and H. will be sailing through the "Out Islands" of the Bahamas over the holidays and I will be celebrating with Sister and John (Nalley) in New York City.

Though we will be many miles apart, T., G., H. and I join together to wish you a very merry Christmas and a wonderful 1968.

Betty

No card 1968-

1969

# Merry Christmas

Dear Friends:

Since, for a variety of reasons, we didn't send "Greetings" last year, we have a lot of catching up to do . . . Here we are (except for grandchildren) as we were August 31, 1968.



TED – BRAD – MOLLY – BETTY – JOHN - LOCKE – PAT – GREG – HANK

For quick reference:

ALDERSON: Locke (John Locke, Jr.) age 27. Molly Alderson Gilhooly and husband, Patrick, both 22 years; children Brian, 3½ and Katy, 1½. Bradley, age 20.

HINE: Ted (Edward Kirtland, Jr.) age 24. Gregory Seward - 22. Hank (Henry Boardman), 18.

After the big event, we took off for Carmel. Unfortunately our honeymoon was cut short by the early arrival of the moving van to deliver Betty's stuff from St. Louis. Uniting the two families was easy but combining two households of furniture and possessions was a horrible chore and we are still faced with a garage filled with unpacked boxes.

While we were gone, Hank enrolled in Concord High School as a senior . . . Molly and Pat bought a 3-bedroom mobile home and moved to Port Chicago . . . Greg and Ted returned to the University of Colorado . . . Brad got ready to go back to the University of California at Davis . . . and Locke moved back here while looking for a new apartment in Berkeley. Have never lived through such happy confusion. Utterly exhausting . . . and we decided then and there, that if we lived through the first year, we would have it made!!!

The entire clan gathered at Christmas and we had a wonderful holiday season together before Ted and Greg left for a week of western skiing and Hank flew to visit friends in Missouri.

In a family of many active young people life is not quiet and calm for too long. We were counting our blessings that Hank had not been injured when the car went in a ditch during our January flash floods (car heavily damaged), when we received a call that Greg had broken his leg and was in the hospital. Betty flew to Boulder to be on the scene when the operation was performed to insert 4 permanent pins just above the ankle. It re-broke when the cast came off in March, so back in plaster and Greg missed sailing through the Virgin Islands with Ted and Hank during spring vacation. Glad to report that he is back on skis now (cross-country only so far) and that all is fine. He stayed in Boulder this summer and worked for I.B.M. while making up a few credits.

Early in May, John's EKG showed some significant changes and on May 14th he entered the hospital. During his recuperation at home after his ten day stay in Concord Community Hospital we made the arrangements that Groom's parents make before a wedding. Locke was



## 1969 Christmas Letter – Page 2

married to Barbara St. Peter at First Presbyterian Church in San Mateo on June 28th. We missed the wedding because John went back in the hospital the 27th. We were well represented tho'. Brad and Ted were two of the groomsmen, Locke's maternal grandparents performed our duties at the wedding and reception and John's sister and her husband (who had introduced us the year before) played host at the rehearsal dinner the night before . . . Can't remember the length of John's stay that time but he then had another trip back in July. Since then a slow but definite recovery at home. Needless to say, he has not been in the office since May.

During all of this, Ted graduated from college in Boulder on the same day that Hank graduated from Concord High here. Betty made both of them thanks to jet transportation and the fortunate scheduling of 10:00 A.M. in Boulder and 7:30 p.m. here. Hank immediately left for 10 days in Florida before entering the University of Colorado as a freshman the end of June. He loves it and is doing well. Was elected Treasurer of the freshman class this fall.

Since the Navy had purchased Port Chicago for a buffer zone to their munition loading docks, all residents had to be out by middle May. Molly and Pat moved their home to Davis where Pat has been working while waiting for reacceptance to the University there. It is a good move since they are now with young couples and Katy and Brian have many playmates.

In July, Ted went down to Florida to "sweat out the draft" and while waiting took the security dealers exam. He flunked the draft (bad eyes - now 1Y) and passed the exam so he is now about to get started on his career.

Locke quit AEC and went to work with E.G. & G., Inc. as their assistant personal director in their San Ramon plant. He and Barb have a delightful apartment in Berkeley. Barb is finishing her senior year at University of California there.

Brad took some courses at Diablo Valley College this summer. It was wonderful to have him here and as Betty said, he served as her good strong right arm during all the ups and downs. Did all the yard work for John and a good bit of the house work after Betty smashed and broke her thumb in the car door. Spent a month visiting his Grandparents in Colorado at the end of the summer and brought back a whole mess of trout for us. Hooray.

To further Betty's artistic ability (?) and to find out if John has any (Yep - he does), and to keep up (!) with all our student sons . . . we are taking a course in Metal Casting and Sculpture at the local Junior College. We are not at all sure that the "student bit" keeps one young. We limp home after a 4-hour seige with molten metal and heavy sand flasks. Oh, our aching backs!!! We don't expect to be exhibiting at the Museum of Modern Art any time in the near future!!

The Travelers has granted John a disability retirement, but since we have not yet received the official document, we are in limbo. While waiting, we've been investigating the adult communities, retirement villages, or as Hank calls them, "Old Fogey Farms". This fall, when the Dr. finally approved travel, we took off for Phoenix to visit Betty's great uncle and then to southern California to gawk and to investigate. So far Oceanside, Calif. looks best but we still want to explore the Santa Barbara area and Carmel. Have made no decisions yet but will keep you posted . . . promise!!! We both love California so we will stay out here.

Wherever we are, we hope that you will visit us as some of our traveling friends have already done. There is so much to see and do in this San Francisco Bay area as there will be wherever we settle in this most fascinating state.

Our best wishes for a MERRY MERRY CHRISTMAS and the HAPPIEST NEW YEAR

Love to all.



# MERRY CHRISTMAS



December 1970

Dear Friends:

Last year at this time we were busy investigating retirement villages. After looking at approximately twenty-five, we decided to settle in Leisure Town and moved into our one story condominium the end of March. Our new address is: 101 Sequoia Drive, Vacaville, California, 95688. Telephone: 707-448-2815. We are still in the Bay area, right off Interstate 80, 54 miles from San Francisco and 30 miles from Sacramento. Our new home is just two short blocks from the golf course and right across the street from the swimming pools, hobby shops, community center, etc. A wonderful location. We thought that we had problems before when we combined two households of furniture and possessions into one four bedroom house, but that was easy compared to reducing all that to fit into a two bedroom condominium with a one car garage. Take it from us....it can't be done....but we are still struggling with it.

Life in retirement is great. With no young ones at home during the school year and no outdoor maintenance hanging over our heads, we are free to take (and do) "middle-of-the-week" weekends to explore and this fall took a 27 state, 9000 mile automobile trip across the country and back. It was time for John to meet Betty's sister in New York and for Betty to meet the other members of John's family scattered throughout the middle west. We are sorry that we couldn't see, or at least contact, all our friends along the way and we are very grateful to those who contributed so much to making our 2 months trip a thoroughly enjoyable tour of this beautiful country. ^

News of the Children (in order of their appearance):

Locke is now Personnel Director for E.G.&G. in their San Ramon plant. Barb, who graduated from U. of C. at Berkeley last June, is working for the California State Automobile Association. They have bought a house in Pleasanton and are going through the throes of planting lawns, gardens, etc.

Ted came to California last April to job hunt. No luck. So when Greg came home in June to make preparations to spend the summer 'back-packing' in Canada, Ted decided to join him. They had a fascinating trip avoiding civilization whenever possible, and returned to Boulder in August. Ted is now working in Colorado and Greg is hoping to graduate from the University there any minute.

Molly, Pat and their family are still in Davis where Pat is a part time student and full time entrepreneur running his own business "Mobile Home Service and Repair".

Brad spent the summer in Davis on a work-study program that netted enough to produce the third V.W. bus owned by our students. He is looking forward to graduation in June and then on to his Masters in Bio-Chemistry.

Hank did not make it home this summer. He stayed at the University of Colorado and then hitchhiked around the country. He still hasn't decided on a major but music keeps cropping up.

We are fat and happy and anxious to see all of you who make it to the west coast. It will be fun to introduce you to our new life. In the meantime, a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all.

1971 Christmas Pictures

1971



Hank — University of Colorado at Boulder



Brad — University of California at Davis

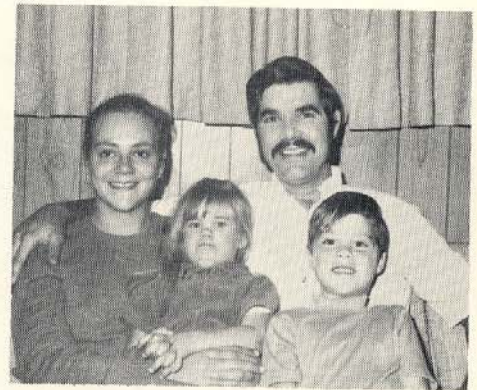


Greg — National Park Service now at Yosemite, formerly at Mt. Rainier



*Merry Christmas*

Betty and John Alderson



Molly and Pat with Brian and Katy — Mobile Home Service at Davis



Ted — Cost Accountant for Alpine Design in Boulder



In Pleasanton, Cal.  
Locke — Personnel Consultant  
Barb — Representative Cal. State Auto Assn.



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

December 1972

Dear Friends:

Our 1970 letter was one of those family "newsy" letters the experts decry and we find most people like to receive — certainly we do. We like to know what all of you are doing and how you are doing, even if we do have trouble remembering some of the kid's names and whether they are younger or older than ours. If they are part of you and your lives, we are interested and hope you are too.

In the 1971 letter we gave you a rough idea of how we all look and on a recent three weeks survey trip to visit all of them we determined that there have been no substantial changes. The fact that it took three weeks not only gives you the idea that there have been some alterations in the "locus operandi" but also shows that when you are retired you don't have to hurry.

Locke and Barb are living in the Westchester area of Los Angeles. Locke is in the personnel department of Continental Air Lines. They are "infanticipating" to use an old Walter Winchell expression.

Ted and Greg are back in Boulder going through the throes of starting their own business manufacturing outdoor sports equipment. Watch for the SNOWBRIDGE label. That is their company.

Molly and Pat have moved the family to the St. Louis area for Pat to complete his education while Molly "wins some bread" as a receptionist.

Brad graduated from Cal with a degree in Enology (that's winemaking for all of you, who like us, have trouble keeping current) and is now "the little old winemaker" for A. Pirelli-Minetti and Sons in Delano, California.

Since Hank wasn't sure of what he wanted to do in the future, he wisely decided to take time out from college to regroup and reconsider. He is now living and working in Lyons, Colorado.

Betty and John are still fat and happy and keep busy with projects, local affairs and lots of travel. When we returned from the above mentioned trip we figured out that we had been away from home one third of the year. The trips ranged from overnight jaunts to three weeks in Hawaii. In addition we were fortunate to have quite a few of you visit in our area this year. This we love and hope that more of you will come.

A very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY and PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR to you all.



Christmas 1973.

Dear Friends:

We're sure you are wondering what prompted us to pull up stakes and head for the midwest. We had pretty well decided that Retirement Communities were wonderful, but not for everybody, before we visited in the mid-west the fall of '72. We spent one day in historic Hermann and found the countryside beautiful, the people friendly, and compared to California, at least, living costs lower.

After returning home the more we thought about making a change the more the idea appealed to us so in February we decided to find out whether it was feasible. We spent a month here looking for property, talking to people, listening to people and finally found what we were looking for.

It's an old country store built in 1876 to which a seven room house was added in 1910. The store gives us a place for projects and the house gives us room for all the family and visitors we could ever want. There are two clapboard outbuildings, a rugged barn, a shed for garage space, a chicken house, a small field of corn and thirty-three acres of wooded hill and pasture land plus an all weather creek. The farmer up the creek handles the corn and wants to lease the pasture for cattle. Believe me "farmer John" intends to be strictly "gentleman farmer John".

The place is known as the old Feil (pronounced file), or First Creek store, and for years was the gathering place for school and church picnics, swimming parties in the creek, etc. It was vacant for quite a while so everyone is curious and interested in finding out what kind of people would move from California to Missouri and buy an old store which they do not intend to operate and a farm which they do not intend to farm.

Because we did not get in until the middle of June, too late to plant a spring garden, our neighbors kept us supplied with vegetables. So much so that we canned quite a bit. They are delightful people and dear new friends and we do not know what we would have done without them.

## 1973 Christmas Letter – Page 2

You wouldn't believe the things that can happen on a major remodeling job in Hermann. All contractors are so busy they can't take on new clients for six months. Since all workmen are hired by the contractors there is no chance of hiring individuals. Of course, being swamped doesn't mean that anybody misses the opening of trout season, or turkey, squirrel, quail, duck or deer seasons, or a family reunion or any event important enough to merit taking a man away from his work. Consequently, even after making the necessary contacts, and having "shook" on it, one spends a great deal of time waiting for people to show. We spent most of the summer sitting on the front porch of the store "howdying" the passing cars, just waiting.

The workmen finally come and work for two hours or a half day or maybe even a whole day before disappearing for a week or two. Meanwhile you're frantic thinking they have met with some horrible catastrophe. You keep calling and finally catch them at home and they do agree that it must be a little difficult living with: no screens, the temperature at 100 and the mosquitos and flies swarming...hauling drinking water for three months because the new artesian well is contaminated in some mysterious manner... a hole in the wall for the new fireplace with the temperature down to 20 degrees and winter rapidly approaching...the current cut off to the freezer, our bedroom and the T.V. because the switchover to the new circuit breaker box is not complete...Betty, who for some unknown reason, is fed up with cooking on a two-burner electric plate and one electric skillet and wants the kitchen installed. We really could go on for hours on the goofs, the headaches, the heartaches, the frustrations, as well as the laughs, the fun, the warmth and concern of the workmen, the community and friends, old and new, who have visited.

If you don't believe all this, come and see for yourself. We are six miles west of Hermann on Gasconade County Highway "J". Just ask anyone for directions to the old Feil store or where First Creek crosses "J". The address is R.R. 2, Box 88, Hermann, Mo., 65041. The phone number is 314-486-5791 (until new lines are in it's a ten-party rural line, so keep trying). We'll be looking for you. In the meantime a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

P.S. Our intentions were the best but somehow, as with everything else, this did not get out on time.

Our family is fine.

Barb and Locke had their first child in March. We loved having Becky and her parents here for a long Thanksgiving weekend.

Ted and Greg have HINE/SNOWBRIDGE in the black and are very enthusiastic about the future. They were here for a week at Christmas.

Molly is still working at Barnes Hospital and Pat has been accepted in nursing school to study anesthetics. They and their children visited Christmas Day.

Brad is still the "little ol' " winemaker in Delano, Ca. He saved several vacation days so that he could be here too.

Hank re-entered the University of Colorado in September. Is thinking of enrolling in the School of Pharmacy there. He, too, was here over the holidays.

Betty's sister and her daughter were also able to join us so it was a very, very special first Xmas on the farm.

1975 Christmas Pictures



Brad Sandi  
Erin Tim Matt  
Lodi, Ca.



Barb Locke  
John III Becky  
Mission Viejo, Ca.

Merry  
Christmas



1975

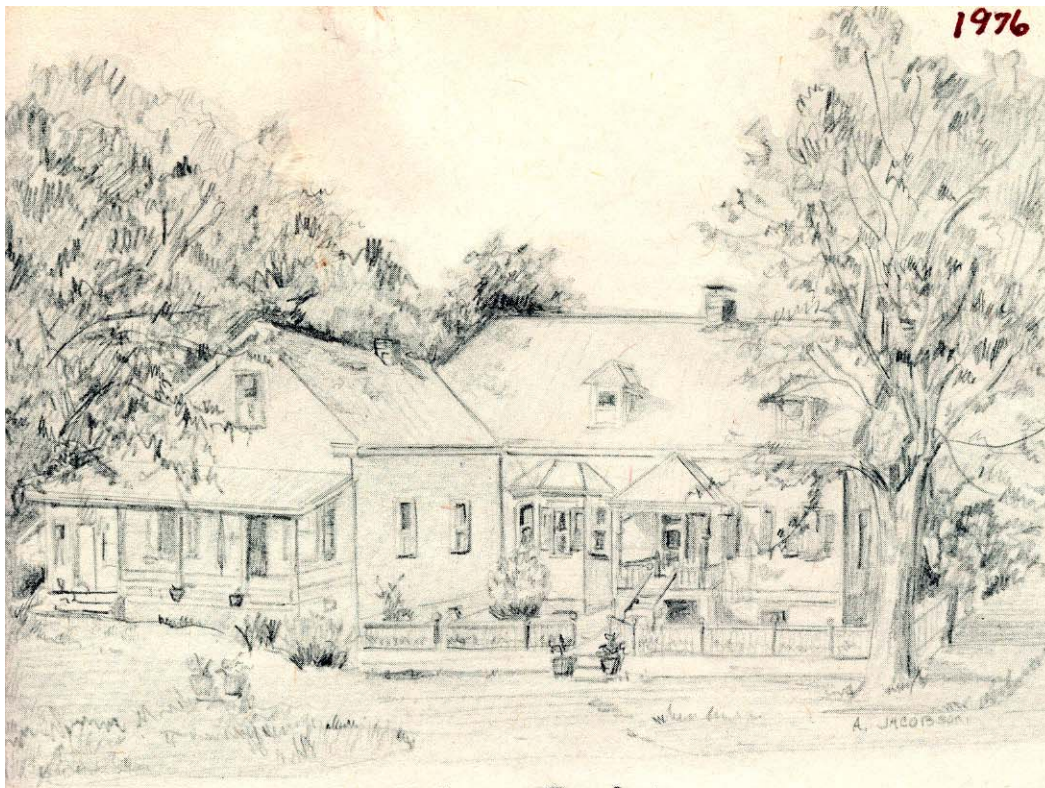
John & Betty Alderson



Molly Pat  
Katy Brian  
Webster Groves, Mo.



Henry Greg Ted  
Boulder, Co.



THE OLD STORE AT FIRST CREEK

Merry Christmas  
and  
A Happy New Year

Betty and John Alderson





Christmas, 1977

Dear Friends:

Our last Christmas Letter was sent in 1973 and since we have had so many requests for a "Bring Us Up to Date" one, here we go.....

You will recall that at that time we were in the throes of remodeling and modernizing the farmhouse. We doubt that it will ever be completely finished (I don't suppose any home ever is) but we have come up with a cheery, comfortable and most livable house which we love. We have settled in so comfortably that it is hard for us to remember what the place was like when we bought it and those horrible (yet humorous) months of cooking on a two burner plate, carting water, no private bath facilities, etc. etc.

The sturdy old store building will always be in a state of disorder for we are using that, as intended, for a project room and work shop.

Since we do not seem to be of the idle sort, we have been and continue to be, involved in numerous community activities. John is Secretary-Treasurer of the Lions Club and Betty is President of the Garden Club, Secretary of the Women's Club and a member of the Hermann Weavers Guild. We are both active volunteers for Historic Hermann. We have both taken courses in Welding and Silk Screening (no connection) and Betty has attended several weaving seminars and recently, a session in spinning. We are proud possessors of a 100 year old, solid walnut floor loom which "Old Dad" is going to finish putting together one of these days - also a table loom which Betty is using. She has also been designing needlepoint and rugs which John happily helps to hook during the T.V. football season.

Naturally, with the house and acreage, we have not been traveling as much as we once did. We do a lot of "weekending", try to see our offspring once a year and we did catch the King Tut exhibit in Chicago last May and the Sacred Circles exhibit in Kansas City in June.

In September we took off for New Jersey, New York and New England. We had not been east for 7 years....much too long a time. Thanks to Betty's Sister, we saw two wonderful shows in N.Y.C.....A CHORUS LINE and SAME TIME NEXT YEAR. Chorus Line was one of the best shows we have ever seen so don't miss it.

We visited some old friends and missed many for there was just no time to take in all of New England. We had also planned to drive the southern route home but Old Dad ran out of stuff so we headed for Hermann instead.

For those who have visited, we are still here and your room is ready. For those who haven't, we have plenty of room, and to quote John, good food and drinks, and we would love to show you our charming little town and our beautiful countryside.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to you all.

For news of our children:

Henry will graduate from Colorado with 2 degrees in June.  
1. Pharmacy,  
2. Business Administration. He is Treasurer of SAPH and will soon be past president of his fraternity.

Ted and Greg are going great guns with HINE/SNOWBRIDGE and KIRTLAND TOUR PAK. Happy 5th anniversary to their, now well established, company in Boulder.

Brad and Sandi and their three are in Acampo, Ca. (near Lodi) where Brad is the Winemaker at Felice Winery.

Molly and Pat and their two are in Webster Groves, Mo. Pat is now a R.N. and Molly will have her degree in Nursing in a year. After that they will probably be off to Hawaii.

Locke and Barb and their two are now outside of Dallas where Locke is running an executive employment agency.