

Christmas 1966

Dear Friends,

1966 has certainly been the best year yet for the Hollimans. We sincerely hope that you have had similar good fortune this year.

Our travelling this summer was much shorter than usual, but we had an inspiring visit to Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown, and Hampton Roads. We saw so many places dated in the 1600's and 1700's that on the last day of our trip we didn't even stop to see a "modern" church built in 1855! The Mariners Museum in Newport News inspired the three boys to try their hands at carving ship models, but so far only some cannons have resulted.

Dan finished the fifth grade last spring, and also the requirements for both his Bear and Lion Cub Scout badges. He is now learning to tie knots in preparation for becoming a Boy Scout in March. Jimmy took part in the Boy Scout 50 mile hike along the Blue Ridge last June, and started eighth grade this fall. He received the DAR award for Excellence in History in the seventh grade. Both boys participated in the local little league baseball program last summer, Dan as a substitute second baseman and outfielder and Jim as a third base regular. Jim managed to hit a couple of game-winning triples, but Dan's team won the championship.

Mary has continued her teaching at Radford College, with a promotion to Assistant Professor. She is now being assigned to literature as well as composition classes, and finds her work both more challenging and more enjoyable.

Rhodes has spent the fall quarter of this year as Director of Institutional Research, which means he has been evaluating data concerning the university, and advising the administration on growth and planning. He'll be back to teaching parasitology in January, and pleased to be in the classroom again. Two of his Master's candidates have finished their research this fall and will receive degrees in June. In November he spent a week in Puerto Rico at the American Society of Tropical Medicine and the American Society of Parasitologists meetings, where he gave a report on his research on turtle parasites. He enjoyed a reunion with friends from Florida State and other places.

The whole family has been involved since April with the "dig" -- the Archaeological Society of Virginia sponsored a local chapter, of which Rhodes was elected president, and the chapter sponsored an excavation of an Indian village two miles east of Blacksburg. The dig was closed down the first of December, after all of the village palisade and 100 burials had been uncovered. Most of the artifacts and bones are stored or on display in our basement, waiting study and description by the archaeologist, after which they'll be sent to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington for storage.

We hope you have a Merry Merry Christmas, and a wonderful and happy 1967.

1

2

3

Christmas, 1968
1306 Hillcrest Drive
Blacksburg, Virginia

Greetings again from our house. We hope that each of you is well and prosperous. As usual, we have had a busy year and we would like to share our experiences again with you.

As a family, we limited our summer travel to the eastern states. We made a circuit in August in our truck-camper to Harper's Ferry, Gettysburg and Antietam Battlefields, the U. S. Museum in Washington, Annapolis, the Delaware Coast, the Eastern Shore, Norfolk Navy Yard, Kitty Hawk and the Outer Banks of Cape Hatteras. After Labor Day, R.B.H. and Tom Tate took the truck-camper to New Mexico and Colorado on a rockhounding trip. They collected material for the lapidary shop in our basement. They traded with rockhounds and shipped about 1000 pounds of material home.

The boys are no longer boys! Jim is finishing his sophomore year and Dan is in Junior High. Both are interested in their academic programs and are maintaining excellent records. Jim is planning to attend a foreign language study program in Spain next summer.

Mary has widened her fields of endeavor this year. She ran for Town Council this summer but lost. Her family didn't mind however, because we like to eat regularly and to see mother at home occasionally. As always, she is involved in teaching and other academic duties at Radford College, and she continues to press for better schools in our community.

R. B. H. taught general biology in the summer session thus we did not take the extended trip as planned. Next summer we will be at the University of Vermont in August for a meeting and afterwards we want to tour Nova Scotia and take our camper on the ferry to Newfoundland.

R. B. H. was elected Distinguished Professor by freshman and sophomore students this fall and was awarded the Sporn Honorarium. He has been busy working with the architects and engineers on the new Biology building which should be occupied next month. The department of Biology at V.P.I. now has the largest enrollment of any department on campus, 603 majors this fall. The new building will enable us to offer new courses in excellent facilities. Committee work and graduate student research fill out his busy schedule. Home activities include the building of two rooms in the basement, pouring cement sidewalks around the house and making some jewelry and other stone products in his spare time.

Come to see us if you can. We have a delightful climate in the summer and plenty of room. Our best regards to all,

Cordially,

The Hollimans

1

2

3