

CHRISTMAS, 1974

Dear friends and relatives,

As we celebrate the birth of Christ this year, we have so much to be thankful for..... we are all in good health and are involved in interesting work that keeps us busy. We rely on news letters to keep up to date on friends and relatives, so we will do the same, telling you something about each of us.

Dana Fienning, our eldest, lives at 1020 Grand Concourse, Apt. 11N, Bronx, NY 10451 (212) 992-2744. She is engrossed in many exciting federal programs with her teaching science to junior high Puerto Rican children in Spanish Harlem. She has a new program of using television as a media (student produced) and is starting course work at N.Y.U. on a doctorate in media or communications.

David, Brenda, and Tracy moved into their new home last month at 2614 South 96th East Court, Tulsa, OK (918) 627-1595. David thoroughly enjoys his work with Scott-Rice selling office supplies and fixtures. Brenda quit her job with General Electric in time to prepare for Tracy Sue who arrived June 27. They both are excellent parents. Brenda's father supervised the building of their home and did all the finish work. So they have something to really be proud of.

Robbie and John Blystone moved to 5222 Belmont, Apt. 204, Dallas, TX 75206 (212) 824-8699 this summer. Robbie finished at Austin College and will complete in August, 1975, a medical technologist degree at Baylor University Hospital.

Bob is in his fourth year teaching geology, earth science and geography at Eastfield College, Mesquite (Dallas). Rosamond is in her tenth year at Sherman High School.

This summer we bought in Sherman, but took delivery in Germany, a V.W. camper which enabled us to travel almost 5000 miles on the autobahns and back roads of West Germany, East Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Lichtenstein, France, Belgium, and Holland. When we weren't in homes of friends, we camped in nice campgrounds and saw Europe in an interesting light. We took American Express tours in large cities like Berlin, East Berlin, Munich, Paris, and Amsterdam; boat trips on the canals of Amsterdam, the Rhine, and Konigsee; cog-train trips up mountains in Germany and Switzerland. We were busy taking some 1400 slides for Bob's classes along with gathering research materials from museums and mines.

In the early part of our trip, we had an exciting time tracing down Bob's family in Germany, both in Peina, and Wissengen, near Osnabruck, where Bob's father was born. Having remembered much of what Dad Fienning talked about all his life about his boyhood and his memories of Germany, especially of his having lived in a double cottage farmhouse on Bauern (farmer) Sudhoff's farm near Wissengen, we were fortunate to arrive during the 750 year fest of the village founding and to visit with some old-timers who knew the Fienning name. The "dubul cotten" in which Dad was born was recently sold to a contractor who was completely renovating it from its 1749 beginnings to a new style. We were lucky to collect artifacts from the building and to photograph the old as well as to see what the restored portion will look like.

Our days were packed with many exciting things to see and do and our mobility allowed us to see things that would not have been possible on a tour. Contacts with geologists and friends made it possible to be in many homes. Trips to the Baltic Sea and the Mediterranean Sea with our friends, the Brandts of Hamburg, gave us insights to the recreational life of Europeans. Hermann always knew the exact place to get the right picture and made it possible to cram 3 day's viewing into one day. Four days camping with them on the Riviera was fun and relaxing. We shipped our camper home the day of our return flight. It arrived a month later by boat at Lake Charles, LA, with everything intact except for an alcohol stove which was missing (we didn't like it anyway).

Best wishes for a good year

Bob & Rosamond