

1967-81 Christmas Letters: Tom and Jane Stevens

This document includes copies of all the Christmas letters I wrote while married to Jane Stevens. I do not have any before that time. I do not have letters for the years 1970, 1972, 1974, 1979

1967 Christmas Letter

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM TOM AND JANE (1967)

Dear

We are typing a letter to send to all our closest friends this year. We hope that it will not seem too impersonal, but we thought that you would appreciate receiving a more detailed letter than just a short personal note.

As we look back on the past year we feel that in many ways it has been one of our happiest. We were really thrilled to be back in California, which we really feel now is our real home. Also, we were very happy to be back at the School of Theology at Claremont. We have many friends here and somehow it seemed as if a part of me was left here or behind when I was going through my struggle I have been about what my beliefs are and to what I wanted to commit myself. My exact expression of my present commitment is still not certain, but I presently feel ~~xxxx~~ much more secure in what I generally want to do. Still I likely will end up teaching with counseling on the side. I plan on going into the pastoral ~~xxx~~ ministry for about two years after I graduate in June. I would like to either serve my own church or be in charge of counseling. However, the bishop here is anti-counseling so these positions are hard to find at present.

My studies have been very interesting. I have tried to combine much of my psychological and counseling training, my past religious beliefs, and new philosophical understandings. I have enjoyed the experience much and think I have grown doing it. I have also been counseling since January at the Claremont Pastoral Counseling Center. It has been a great experience. This past year I have been doing a lot of substituting (in high & junior high schools--all subjects). It pays well and it is very good experience in dealing with people and kids in general. This combined with Jane's increased salary has given us a much higher income than we have been used to. Therefore we have spent a lot, and we have bought some of the ~~xxx~~ things we have wanted for a long time. We got a '63 Chrysler New Yorker with all accessories, a color TV, and a ~~xxx~~ piano for Jane. We are very pleased with all of these.

We moved on campus in June and have enjoyed it tremendously. This is a wonderful community to live in. It's too bad the whole world can't be such a harmonious place. Of course we have conflicts, but they are small in comparison to the friendliness. There is an overall atmosphere of friendliness, honesty with each other, and community.

This past summer I was manager and organizer of a ~~xxx~~ church-league softball team. We played in a AAA fastpitch league, but we finished last. We had a great time though and I enjoyed playing ball after being away from it so long. My other sports activities have been largely limited to golf. I have improved my game somewhat so that I play in the 90's now, but I would like to get into the 80's. Still it's fun not to have to spend all my time looking for balls and hitting dubbed shots.

Jane has gotten a much better class this year and is really enjoying teaching. This past week she directed 460 kids in a Christmas rehearsal--the big production is next week. She says all the years should be like this. It was quite a change, because last year she had some terrible ~~xxxx~~ classes. We have recently been trying to start a family, but with little luck so far. Jane has been losing some weight recently and is very proud of it. I am also glad. Last night we ~~xxx~~ went to a Christmas dance at the school and had a lot of fun. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Jane has been publicity chairman of a wives organization here too, which has really kept her busy (along with everything else).

As for our Christmas, we hope to have a good time with friends. There is a good chance we may be able to see the Rose Parade first hand with the Stefans, who are friends. Ed is pastor of a church on the route. Love, Tom & Jane

1968 Christmas Letter

Dear Friends and Relatives,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all. So much has happened to us this past year that we feel this is a good way to fill you all in on what we've been doing, what we're doing now, and some future plans.

We are living in a four-bedroom--sparsely furnished with our furniture--modern home in northern Huntington Beach, 92647--6072 Ivory Circle. It is a nice area and the rent is high, but it's our first home and we're enjoying it. I even made curtains on our new-used sewing machine. Of course I bought 21 yards of the material instead of 21 feet but that's not too unusual for me.

I've been substituting for several school districts about two days a week kindergarten through third only. So far I've really enjoyed these days. I've signed a contract to teach a third grade full-time beginning January 6th so back I go. I'm kind of looking forward to having my own class again.

We've been lucky enough to make several close friendships in this area and are enjoying dancing, parties, and get-togethers. We are also keeping in touch with our old friends in the Claremont and other areas. This summer my sister, Edna, came out to spend three weeks with us soon after we moved in. So we had a good visit together. Then my brother, his wife, and their four children came and spent a week with us so our house was truly a full house. We really enjoyed having them all with us and showing them around some of Southern California's many attractions.

We have a part German Shepard pup we found lost at the church one Sunday evening about two months ago. He's very good-natured, he's housebroken, and so he makes a mess of our back yard. We call him "King" and he really is a fun dog.

Tom thought he had better throw in his 2¢ worth here so you would know that he is still around. So here he goes. It seems that over the last three or four years I have grown progressively worse at writing letters. I do exchange tapes with members of my family and with the Stefans in Wisconsin; however I hate to write. I hope this letter says it all. I enjoyed my final semester at the School of Theology at Claremont last spring. Near the end we felt very sentimental because we were leaving a place which had become home for us the past few years, even though we did not always live there. It was sad to leave so many friends who were so handy to visit. Of course several of our friends had already left.

At Methodist Annual Conference at Redlands at first it seemed like I might have a problem finding a good place to work. However, by the end of the week I had my choice of two positions which were both fairly attractive to me. One was in Lompoc, near Vandenberg Air Force base on the coast, and the other was here at First United Methodist Church in Long Beach. I chose Long Beach largely because it was more urban. I enjoy the urban area more and think I can learn more about our society that way. I have been here since July 1. I of course have mixed reactions to it. In many ways the church is so tied to rather trivial traditions and outdated beliefs that in its quagmire it is unable to function effectively or efficiently. Men whose talents and time could be spent directly doing some good are tied down in wasteful committee meetings which are very ineffective. I find that only a very few hours a week of my time are spent doing anything that uses my training. At that I still strongly resist many of the wasteful demands on my time. Yet there is also a bright side. It is very interesting working with the youth, and our youth group has become very strong, though still small. I have enjoyed forming Basic Encounter groups and working with them, and I enjoy my work at the Memorial Counseling Center where I spend about 2½ hours a week. I have

also enjoyed some of the special programs I have participated in such as a Friday supper forum series at the Armed Services YMCA, an experimental worship service this Sunday, and various other things we have done.

I still have plans on getting my Ph.D. in psychology. I am applying to various schools this year, and I hope to be accepted for next fall. After that I intend to teach, do research &/or counseling, etc. I am finding that the competition is extremely tough, so I will feel lucky to be admitted to a program.

Jane and I have felt rather isolated in our home so far from friends, but as she said we have made new friends. We have especially enjoyed going to dances and parties, which is something we have not done a lot of before. Last summer we greatly enjoyed going to the beach which is only a few miles away from our home. We also enjoy getting away from the thick smog which is so bad in the regions inland. In Huntington Beach the weather is almost perfect, though it gets a little foggy in the winter. Last summer it rarely got over 80, and we only needed our air-conditioner twice. In the winter it is usually in the 60's or 70's during the day. The only thing we miss from Claremont is the mountains.

For Christmas we are taking our High School-College MYF group to San Francisco where we will stay in a church. We will be gone 6 days altogether, and the kids are really looking forward to it. So are we though there will be some headaches involved too!

Well, I've taken up golf again, and I bought a new set of clubs--used. My scores are gradually getting lower, but they're still not where I'd like them to be. I shoot in the 90's and I would like to shoot in the 80's. There is a beautiful course here which is also very cheap. The Los Angeles Rams practice in the same park. I was very disappointed to see them lose the Western Division title.

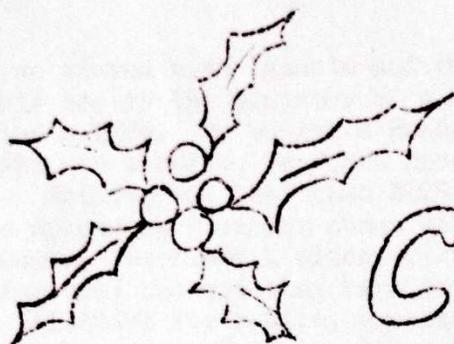
Well, I guess I had better close out. I try to make up for not sending letters other times in the year and for not sending personal letters for Christmas by being wordy in our mimeographed one.

Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year--1969!

God Bless and Keep you.

Jane and Tom Stevens

1969 Christmas Letter



MERRY CHRISTMAS

1969 FROM TOM & JANE STEVENS
45-090 Namoku, G-2; Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

DEAR

We hope you enjoy getting a "form letter" from us. The last two years we sent one, and we received a lot of good comments about them. It's the only way we know to fill everyone in on what we have been doing. This past year has been very interesting. Tom was accepted into the University of Hawaii's Ph. D. program in psychology and offered a teaching assistantship in April. He worked at First United Methodist Church of Long Beach until the end of June when his appointment expired. We found out later in June that Jane had been refused a contract in Hawaii because they said she applied too late. Actually they had granted a \$2000 pay increase and there was a much smaller turnover.

In June we moved our things to the church in a storage room so we wouldn't have to pay rent and headed east to visit our folks. We enjoyed visiting two of Jane's sisters and brother and their families in Oklahoma City. We also enjoyed seeing our old home and hearing about a few old friends. Next we picked up Tom's mother in Dallas and the three of us headed north to Chicago to visit Tom's brother, Ron, and his new wife, Judy, whom we had never met. On the way we passed through the Ozark Mts. and visited Ann & Al Crosbie and family. Al is one of Tom's old college buddies whom we haven't seen in four years. This was the first time we had been in Chicago. As mayor Yorty once reportedly said of Los Angeles, "It's a nice place to be mayor of, but I wouldn't want to live there." We also saw the Stefan's and visited with them awhile. Ed is an old seminary buddy and has moved to Ohio where he is teaching in a small college. We visited more old seminary friends, the Sperbers, in Bloomington. Ray now works for State Farm.

On returning we went to Marshall, Texas where we spent about 10 days with Jane's parents. We also met another new inlaw, Susan's husband Ray. He is now stationed in Tenn. Next, we headed for California and home--though we really didn't have a home anymore. We kind of felt like vagabonds most of the summer. We stayed at some friends', the Binckes, home in Huntington Beach not far from where our rented home had been. Due to the fact that his vacation came up for the same time we needed to stay there, we didn't get to see much of them--they went to Tahiti for two weeks. We especially appreciated their letting us use their home while they weren't there. We really enjoyed our time there. For the first time in the summer we didn't feel rushed. We had really enjoyed seeing so many people we hadn't seen in so long, but this also felt very good. We got all our things including our Chrysler on the boat immediately. For transportation we bought a \$70 used Honda 50cc. It was shot, but we had a ball on it. It would only go 30 miles per hour. At one point we even ventured to Claremont--40 miles away--to see the Luches and old sights. We carried a big bag full of the clothes we needed strapped to the Honda. We had a big night out in a rented V. W. We saw Mancini and Johnny Mathis at the Greek theater in Hollywood. We also got together with some old friends like the Knowles; Zavitzes; and the Estabrooks, who took us to the airport. We sold the Honda for \$60. So on to Hawaii.

Once here we stayed with Ignacio and Patty Castuera. Ignacio is another old seminary friend--this one is the minister of a church! Patty is a very pleasant addition to the old bachelor's life. We bought a Honda 90 for transportation, which I later drove over the Mts. to school. We found housing outrageously high and poor in quality across the board. Nothing was less than \$125 near Honolulu. A one-bedroom concrete block, very plain apartment goes for about \$175 to \$250 per month without utilities. We were very fortunate. We found a place at Pohai Nani--a UMC retirement center. They were renting them out, because they have not had enough retired people here. We pay \$160 including utilities for a nice, one-bedroom cottage. It is modern, has a yard, and has a beautiful view. However, there is no oven. We borrow our neighbors when we need to bake. It seems strange, but we have no heater and don't need one. However, we have and need an air-conditioner. We live on the Windward side of the island about 10 miles across the mountains from Honolulu. The area is about the most beautiful we have ever seen. Although the residential areas do not compare to those in LA area or most other places for beauty of yards or homes. Generally they are not well kept. The ocean here is a beautiful blue-green in certain places and very clear. The mts. are rugged looking and green the year around. Waikiki is small, but swings. It consists largely of one street which runs near the beach, and is packed with high-rise hotels and night clubs and small businesses. Don Ho plays here about one week per month.

The first two months we were here, we were in financial hot water. Jane couldn't get a job because she was 'overqualified' for all secretarial type jobs; and since she is a teacher, firms realized she would quit as soon as she got a contract. In October she got a contract to teach a first-grade class. Its a small class of 16 children who have learning problems. Many are young first-graders. Her school is in Kailua--only about four miles away. We celebrated by having our first big night out in Waikiki. Tom also was able to fulfill an old wish by buying a Triumph Spitfire sports-car for his car. Tom has had good news for his Ph. D. requirements. There is a strong possibility that we can leave after just two years instead of three. Although he would have to finish his dissertation in California. But he could begin teaching full-time in fall 1971. With his M. A. he only needed 24 hours plus language, which he's had, exams, and dissertation. He has so far been a lowly teaching assistant, assisting in courses. However, next semester he will teach a psychology introduction course.

We have reorganized an under 72 club in connection with Mailua UMC here. It's a social group where couples ages add up to under 72. It had been going for several years, but had fallen apart. So far we've had a pot-luck in our cottage in October, bowling and pizza in November, and will be having a progressive dinner in December. It's one way we are trying to make new friends in Hawaii. Tom may also teach a New Testament course at Ignacio's church, but has some question as to whether that will help or hurt Ignacio, since many church members have a difficult time accepting what modern scholarship has to say about the New Testament. However, with the great courage of their leader and prophet, Ignacio, we will press on.

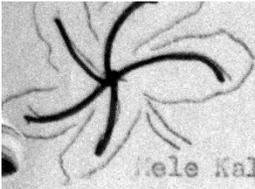
Hawaii is a different experience. People dress very casually--long Muu Muu's for evening wear and sandals with everything. Sandals and light cotton dresses, usually sleeveless during daytime (unless working in an air-conditioned office). Temperature varies from about 70 to 85 in the daytime and 65-75 in the evening all year around. However, it is quite humid. It also rains a lot where we are. On Oahu alone rainfall varies from about 10 to 200 inches depending on location. We get some slight showers almost every day. Jane now has a Muu Muu or two, but Tom insists on short ones. He thinks long ones are criminal. Well, were about out of space. So has been our year--how about yours?

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR,

Tom & Jane

NO 1970 CHRISTMAS LETTER

1971 Christmas Letter



December 16, 1971

Mele Kalikimaka (Merry Christmas),

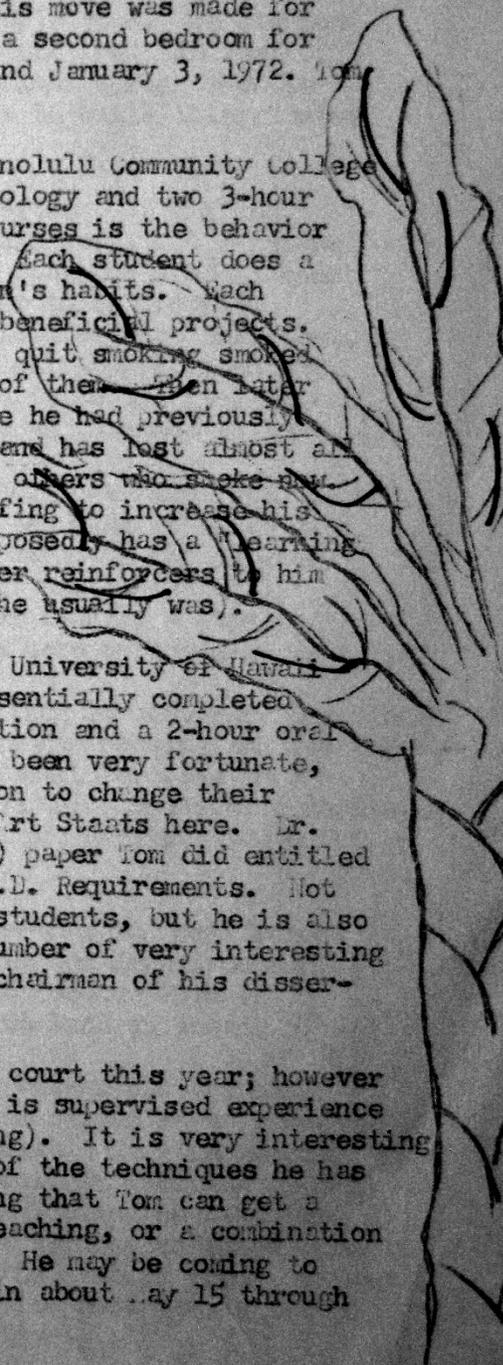
Another year has passed since we've written to or heard from some of you. Others we've corresponded with since last Christmas.

As always a new Christmas has relocated us in a new place. This time we moved less than a mile from our last apartment. Our new address (hope you are keeping our addresses in pencil) is 1546 Iiholiho Street., Apt. 202, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822, Tel. No. 521-5860. This move was made for a different reason than previous years. We needed a second bedroom for our new addition to the family who is expected around January 3, 1972. Tom hopes its a boy -- but we'll take whatever it is.

This year Tom is a psychology instructor at Honolulu Community College teaching three 3-hour courses in introductory psychology and two 3-hour courses in adjustment. His favorite part of the courses is the behavior modification projects that he assigns to students. Each student does a project on changing one of his own or another person's habits. Each semester students do literally dozens of extremely beneficial projects. For example one student who has repeatedly tried to quit smoking smoked cigarettes continually until he made himself sick of them. Then later when he saw a cigarette or was in a situation where he had previously wanted to smoke, he imagined that awful experience and has lost almost all desire to smoke. He doesn't even like to be around others who smoke now. Another student used tokens to be traded in for surfing to increase his cousin's attention span in reading. His cousin supposedly has a "learning disability". Another student had his wife administer reinforcers to him for being complimentary and not being critical (as he usually was).

Tom's work on his Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Hawaii is moving along steadily if only slowly. He has essentially completed all requirements for the degree except his dissertation and a 2-hour oral examination (which is usually a formality). He has been very fortunate, because his interest in applying people's imagination to change their behavior is similar to the current interest of Dr. Art Staats here. Dr. Staats liked the huge (160 page single-spaced paper) paper Tom did entitled Positive Behavior Change to meet his preliminary Ph.D. Requirements. Not only has Dr. Staats been very helpful to his other students, but he is also a nationally known psychologist who has written a number of very interesting books within recent years. Dr. Staats will be the chairman of his dissertation committee.

Tom is also doing family counseling for family court this year; however he is not getting paid for it. All he gets from it is supervised experience (which he will need to get a license to do counseling). It is very interesting work and the first chance he has had to apply many of the techniques he has learned to a counseling setting. We are still hoping that Tom can get a job in California soon--whether it be counseling, teaching, or a combination of the two. What he would prefer is a combination. He may be coming to California spring vacation and we both may come again about May 15 through



June to look for a job. (If you hear of any, let us know.) Jobs are critically short in college teaching even though class sizes increase, etc.

Tom has taken up Tennis recently because he has not played golf since he hurt his back last spring. However, through steady exercise his back has gotten much better; it bothers him very little now. A specialist has told him that one leg is about 1/2 inch shorter than the other, so he is wearing a pad in one shoe now. Man, it sure feels good to be able to walk and run normally again!

Tom has built a sort of workshop in about 1/3 of baby's room. He has now put in refinished plywood panels so he can close it off from the rest of the room. He has a new radial arm saw which we got last spring when we thought we'd be in a home this year. He's used it to build things we've needed and loves working with it.

We recently held a party for the social science department at HCC and really enjoyed it. We have made some new friends this year, but it seems every year that we make new friends here, they move away the next (wonder if they are trying to tell us something?) they all go to California. Otherwise, our social life has been rather meager since we have been back, there really is quite a bit to do in Honolulu. The shipping strikes are disasterous here. Our Mayor has rightfully compared it to the isolation of Berlin (except that our federal government took some interest in Berlin.)

Jane taught on a 3 on 2 Team at the first/second grade level last school year. She didn't like it as well as self-contained teaching at first but by second semester felt quite at home with Ann and Charlotte and 53 kids. She's on maternity leave since the first of September until next fall. If we stay in Hawaii, next year will probably find her back in a Kainalu Elementary Classroom. Its way too expensive to live here on one salary!

Jane's worked about a month and 1/2 for Manpower filling in temporary positions in August and September. Since then we've moved, she did packing and Tom and friends did the moving. We advertised at Univ. of Hawaii for Jane as a typist and she's had some calls and brought in some money. She's also repainted a used baby bed (we were given) and an old chest light purple. Tom built shelves which are also purple.

Tom made two trips back to California this past year--once in April for the National Association of Psychologist Convention at San Francisco and again with Jane for further job looking and a vacation around 20th of June until end of July. Gee what a great vacation (no luck on jobs).

This was by far the nicest vacation we've ever had. Seeing old friends, favorite places, new scenery, relaxing, etc. First we stayed several evenings in Long Beach with Joan and Dick Knowles and their three. They're great to visit with (hope Doug and Greg weren't too uncomfortable sleeping in the den). Then to Jan and Tom Binckes (and Garrett's) in Huntington Beach and a visit with them to their cabin for a weekend. Also joining us there were Linda and Ken Waide and their three. We went for walks, talks, swims, drives in and around the Big Bear mountain area. Also chuckled over a neat little paper put out up there about the 4th of July celebration.

Then to our old haunt--Disneyland before moving to Cathy and Pete Norell's in Upland for Masagne with them in their big new home and visiting with their 3. On to L.A. area to Patti and Ignacio Castueras' to see "Love Story" with them and have a good visit with them and their brothers. Then to John and Colin Zavitz's and wild flings through China Town, Bush Gardens (Tom and Colin loved the soft pretzels and John and they loved the beer) "Company" at Ahmansen Theatre, Hollywood Bowl. Then tired and happy on to Sue and Arvin Tuch's apartment at the School of Theology in Claremont for a rooftop get together with lots of the seminary students to view (for free) the surrounding 4th of July fireworks. Sue almost knocked Jane off her feet when we first arrived! Also visited shortly with Nancy and Mike Walsh at the Tuch's. And a favorite drive to Mt. Baldy.

On to two nights at Santa Barbara in "Hotel 6" where we ate in a quaint Italian restaurant -- more spegetti than even Jane could eat. Soaked up the scenery, walked lots. On to Solvang where Tom spent most of his \$5.00 weeks allowance (for extras on trip) on pastries and Jane on candles. Two evenings in Carmel at Hotel 6 walking around there and Monterrey -- Jane got hair cut and we found a neat Mexican restaurant. On to San Francisco area, in Palo Alto we stayed with Jane's old roommate Judy and her husband Chris Love and their daughter. Walked around Stanford Univ. and saw the shortest play we'd ever seen -- thought it was only intermission but was over -- "The Beard" (1 hour). Good visit with them. Three nights at YCCA Hotel in San Fran. where we mainly used our legs and cable cars to get around. Its a great place to visit--(wouldn't want to live there though!). Toured the Cannery, Gheradeli Square, Berkeley Campus, Fisherman's Warf, Bay Tour, Sausalito, and a girlie show. One evening in northern California on way up coast.

Stayed with Tom's old O.U. buddy Steve Lambert and his wife Jackie in Beaverton, Oregon, near Portland. Jackie showed us many waterfalls and local beautiful scenery while poor Steve worked. On the weekend we all went for a long drive to see the ocean, falls, mountains. Tom and Steve had great fun with their two dogs in rapids (small ones) swimming and dunking and throwing sticks for the dogs to fetch (no not Tom to fetch). Oregon is pretty along the Coast. We also got to romp in the snow on Mt. Hood?

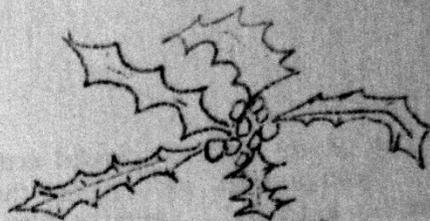
On to Ruth and Dave Sherrards (last stop) and their two boys in Sedro Woolley, Washington, near Seattle. We saw lots of local scenery, Mt. Reiner park on the way there is breathtakingly beautiful and quiet. Saw Space Needle in Seattle and underground old Seattle. Drove to Vancouver, Canada and walked around with Sherrards. Had a good, long visit with these old friends--almost a week. Ruth helped out lots on maternity dresses she gave me and baby clothes--really started off our gathering. As you can see it was a wonderful trip. This short ~~rough~~ synopsis (sp?) can't do it justice, but it gives you an idea.

Not only have we done a lot of traveling this year, but we have also been (or will be) visited a lot. Tom's mother came all the way from Dallas last spring and we had a lot of fun showing her Hawaii and visiting with her. After Christmas Jane's folks are coming to see the sights and help with the baby. It has been hard to get them west of Texas, but maybe we've finally done it.

Well, Aloha, Happy Holidays, and we hope that we hear from each of you soon!

 Tom & Jane Stevens

1973 Christmas Letter

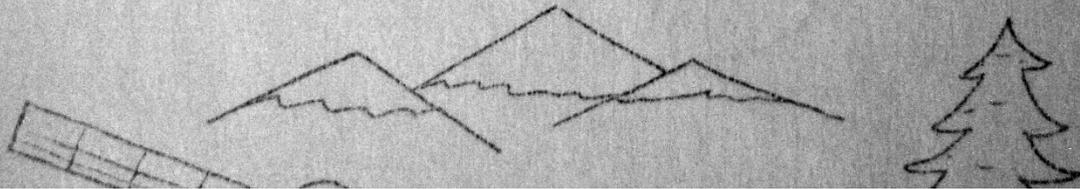


HAPPY HOLIDAYS Friends and Relatives,

This has been another exciting year in our lives (is there any other kind?). There have been a lot of important changes. After accepting a one-year position at Whittier College for 1972-73 teaching psychology, Tom had to job-hunt at a time when the PhD's seem to greatly outnumber the available teaching jobs. We had several hot leads, but they had come to nothing as of late June. At the same time it seemed that Jane's job-hunting was also getting no place because of an oversupply. Then within two days Tom received two excellent job offers. One was as a psychologist in a county mental health clinic in Placerville, about 30 miles east of Sacramento. The pay was very good. He would have been in charge of two small clinics--one of which was at Lake Tahoe--and the country was very beautiful. However, the job he chose was the lesser paying position (of course) as a counseling psychologist at California State University, Long Beach in the Counseling Service for students. The pay is not nearly as much per year as the other job, but it is as much per month. In addition we will have the freedom of summers unscheduled. Some years Tom can work all summer, another years he and Jane can take long trips, etc. He also likes the university setting, exposure to more recent advances in the profession, and the friendly atmosphere of the staff at CSULB. In addition he can get the additional supervision he needs for his state license.

Since Tom accepted that job everything has gone right (well, almost everything). First we went on a really great vacation up the coast all the way to Vancouver and Victoria -- beauty unbounded. We saw "old" friends whom we hadn't seen since last time we sponged off most of them--the Loves, Lamberts, Luches, and the Sharrards -- and very briefly Jane's brother's family. We went around the Olympic Peninsula(sp?) camping all the way with the Lamberts and their crew--Garrie(their daughter) and two motley dogs that love to swim and get everyone wet when they dry off. We had a whirlwind tour of Seattle with Jane's brother's family while attempting to catch up with their goings on--basing from Steve and Jackie Lamberts home. We had previously had a good visit with the Loves near San Francisco and also visited Ghiradelli Square with them. We visited with the Sharrards. Dave has a church near the Olympia brewery, which we also visited. Tom beat Dave in their first tennis match (Dave was being polite). But (Tom says) Dave felt so low that he let Dave win the rest by pretty big scores. Our timing was great for our visit with the Luches--they'd been robbed the night before. They hurried their ~~night~~ anguish and gave us the royal native type tour of Portland.

After returning to California the good news continued. Tom received official notice that he had received his Ph.D. in psychology from Univ. of Hawaii. Then a few weeks into the semester, after we had all but given up hope, Jane was offered a full-time teaching position with the Garden Grove Unified School District. The opening was due to an overflow in the first and second grades at Violette school where Jane had been a long term substitute last year. So she has a 1st-2nd combination of winners! They spent the first eight weeks together in a make-shift library classroom until a reading ~~xxxx~~ specialist class moved. Finally, after the move to a regular classroom the class is beginning to shape up nicely. They are really a good group of kids. (Jane even splurged and bought 5 new dresses in one evening as 5* year old clothes were a bit out-dated for teaching).



Jane, Tom, Tim

-2-

Yet another change. We dreamed we would live in the same house for two years -- not so! They raised the rent \$50 and the possibility of saving the downpayment for our own house in a year or so led us to our annual pilgrimage. Now in a three bedroom apartment (down from a lovely four bedroom home). But there is lots of playground facilities for Tim, and central playthings for Tom and Jane at \$110 less a month who's complaining!

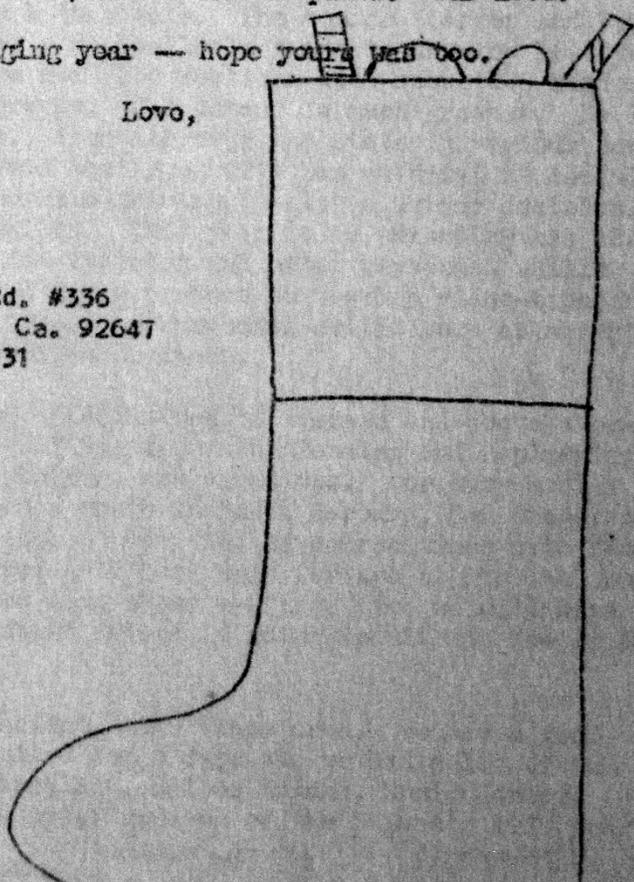
Since the semester started Tom and Jane have been very busy with their jobs (thus very little letter writing or communicating with friends and relatives). There is so much new to learn on his job that Tom has spent a lot more time than necessary on it. He likes his job very much and likes the people in the department. His pet projects thus far have been writing a manual entitled "A Manual for a Self-Managed Assertion Training Program" and leading a group based upon the manual; and developing a "Dating Assertiveness Program" in which shy, inexperienced students will have "practice dates" with a number of other students in the program. They will also receive instruction and help in what to do on dates, rehearse dating behavior (some of it), etc. In addition Tom has a wide variety of counseling cases (you'd better believe it). Jane's staff is also great and no matter how long she works there is always more that could and perhaps should be done.

TIM -- how to describe an almost 2 year old to those who haven't experienced it-- to those who have there is no need. Of course "ours is different". He's a joy, a continual surprise, new discoveries every day, he has begun "I do myself" stage. Says words, but not sentences yet. We haven't begun potty training -- so on? We have a wonderful baby sitter in our apartment complex and Tim loves her and her 5 month daughter and 5 year old boy. He's happy, loving, exploring (past the into every cupboard stage now--thank heavens). His top half keeps growing while the bottom half stays the same -- size 4 shirts and 2+ pants. Our Love!

What a wonderfully growing, challenging year -- hope yours was too.

Love,

Our new address: 16761 Viewpoint Rd. #336
Huntington Beach, Ca. 92647
phone: 714-847-0931



NO 1974 CHRISTMAS LETTER

1975 Christmas Letter

33

CHRISTMAS 1975

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All,

We've been in our first "owned" home for over a year. We love the beautiful 450 unit townhouse community only 5 blocks from the Pacific. We have lots of greenery, a beautiful central recreation area with a huge pool, sauna, jacuzzi, etc. Our unit is beside a beautiful green area and one of the 6 secondary pools with a green belt running behind. We organized a "volleyball group" of youngish couples which has continued in other social activities. Since Claremont School of Theology, we have always wanted a small community within the larger urban environment and really enjoy the physical and social environment here. Our plants are growing like wild, lush and beautiful. Tom has made us a beautiful rough wood dining room set, we've recently purchased a brown nohahide couch and now Tom's framing blow-up's of some of our beautiful Hawaii slides to fill in some of the empty spaces on our walls.

Tim is almost four -- in February '76. He's 44 pounds and 3½ feet tall. Knows his colors, his whole name, partial address, a few letters, counts well to 12. He's had four stitches in the back of his head recently to help balance out the 8 he had in front about 1½ years ago. Knock on wood--no high temperatures or convulsions since a year ago November! Perhaps he's outgrown that. He goes to a church pre school Tuesday and Thursday mornings and loves it. We are now in the process of finding a new babysitter for him the rest of our working time as our previous one has just decided to separate from her husband and move away. So we've a little interviewing ahead of us during the holidays. We've always felt quite fortunate with the wonderful ladies who have cared for Tim through the years. He's a happy, independent, strong willed but mild mannered child--a real joy!

Tom has really been enjoying his work this year. The course "Career and Personal Explorations," for which he received a Chancellor's grant to develop last year has been very successful. There are now five sections with about 225 students each semester with about 20 small groups. The demand is much greater. He led workshops to train counselor's, etc., from all over the state in various workshops. He wrote the book and workbook that goes with the material it includes sections on self-management, life problem-solving, making a career decision, and life planning, and job search skills. This year he is extending his structured learning modules approach to assertion training and other personnel skills development. He is beginning work on a new project to develop video-taped learning modules to train people in various social and personal skills such as assertion, communication, decision-making and self-management.

I stay busy with a first/second grade combination of average and above average students. A good class that keeps me "thinking" and planning and replanning. Giving time to Tim on evenings and weekends and vacations. Our busy social life which includes about one weekend a month in Santa Barbara, San Diego, or Palm Springs. Also housework type chores ugh! And of course times with Tom by ourselves occasionally. We are going to Las Vegas for two nights the Sunday and Monday prior to Christmas and see some shows -- first time we will have really done that for 10 years--a teacher friend is going to sit Tim for 2½ days while we take off.

Our trip last summer was to San Francisco, Lake Tahoe area. We had a good 2+ weeks off. My folks came and visited for 6 days and we had a lot of fun watching my parents really enjoy Disneyland, Balboa Island, Music Center, Hollywood area, etc, etc. Such is a brief rundown of the Steven's 1975 year-- let us hear some about yours.

Merry Christmas, Tom, Jane, and Tim Stevens

1976 Christmas Letter

Merry Christmas to all...



We are about to celebrate our third Christmas in the same house -- that's a hard one to believe -- a first for us! We really do enjoy our home and surrounding environment.

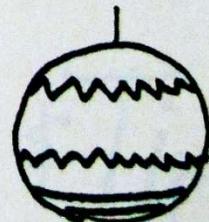
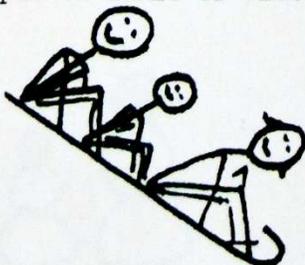
We hope it's been as good a year for you all as it has been for us. I've (Jane) finally achieved tenure after only 10+ years of teaching. These past 2+ years at Warren school in Garden Grove have been really nice ones (so of course were many of my teaching years in the past). Except for the usual trials and tribulations of handling 6, 7, and 8 year olds, and the interaction problems of adults on an elementary school staff under E.C.E. and E.S.E.A. (Early Childhood Education and Elementary and Secondary Education Act guidelines and monies) programs with the trials and challenges that accompany it, it's been exciting and rewarding.

Of course the biggest joy of Tom's and my day to day life is Tim. At almost 5 he is going through all the wonderful growth both physically and mentally and also socially that a normal, happy almost five goes through. Makes the world seem constantly new, exciting, puzzling as seen through his questions. "Infinity" is a word he uses quite often now and he is learning to do +'. He's in Montessori school this year and they are working on fine motor control and thinking skills now. All of this a precedent to beginning reading which he should get into later this year. Tim believed Captain Hook was shooting at Jesus when Peter Pan was being shot at up in the clouds in PETER PAN because that's where Jesus is.

Besides full weeks of working, school and house-related tasks we also always schedule in on an "A" priority basis family day on Wednesday afternoon from around 4P.M. to 6:30 or 7:00 when we go for short drives, eat out cheaply and just visit and talk to each other away from home. We switch back and forth on Thursday's with the Binckes (Jan and Tom and Garet and Elna) have been close friends for about 8 years now. Tickets to Music Center plays, eating out, visiting with our Beachwalk (our developments name) group of couples on first Friday of each month, dancing, visiting other friends, side trips overnight to Palm Springs, San Diego, Santa Barbara help to keep us from getting too bored with beautiful (though sometimes smoggy) Southern California life.

I (Tom) have been excited about the work I have been doing this year. I am continuing to spend quarter-time coordinating the Career and Personal Explorations course this year for about 250 students per semester of 5, 3-unit sections and about 20 groups. Our results of this project, which is in its third year have been very encouraging and a monograph I wrote on it is about to be published.

I have started a new project. I call it Personal Skills Training--primarily Self-management (self-exploration, goal-setting, problem-solving, time-management, and self-motivation) and Social (communication, assertive behaviors/skills, management, meeting people/conversational skills, etc.). The modules are "mediated" (put on audio or videotape) with workbooks, and are entirely self-instruc-



1976 Christmas Lett

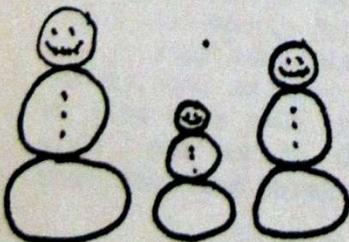
tional. They are divided into three phases--Phase I: learning concepts/rules, Phase II: getting taped feedback, and Phase III: programming to use it in their daily life. I am currently working on two series myself: one on self-management and one on how to convince others to change their behavior. Most of the other modules are being created by graduate students for their thesis. They also experimentally test the results on college students. So far results have been very encouraging. It looks as if we are among a very few people in the country doing this, and I hope to get funding for enlarging our project and getting it established on other State University campuses. I am also hoping to get my own series published. We are also revising our textbook.

After getting beaten so badly at tennis by one of my best friends--Dave Cleveland, who visited us from Hawaii this summer--I decided to play more often. I started playing about 3-5 times/week and have moved up from about 20th to 4th on the "C" division in the Huntington Beach Tennis Club. I am also joining a private club nearby (as my main Christmas present in advance). Besides tennis I have been swimming 3-6 times/week, riding my bike, and doing all the family things Jane has mentioned. We also love the 1972 Porsche 914 that we bought last Spring. Besides being great fun, having a removeable roof, and being a status symbol, it also gets super mileage--26 city and 31 highway on regular gas.

We almost forgot to mention the latest addition to our family--Happy (a cockapoo dog). We decided to let Tim name him, and he chose the name "Happy," because he makes me happy." Tim is such a joy. Recently I was invited to speak to about 150 preschool mothers and I enjoyed teaching them some of the behavior mod techniques that we have learned which have helped make parenting such a joy and Tim such a happy, mature almost 5 year old. I wish that everyone knew about them.

Last summer's trip was about a month from mid-July through mid-August up the coast to Vancouver, Canada. We've done this three times now and thoroughly enjoyed almost all of the trip each time. I say almost because two of the three times we've really been disappointed in the fog that surrounded the apex of our trip -- Vancouver. But our new segment this time of the Oregon coast made up for that disappointment (well, almost). We again stayed with the Luch's (Sue and Arvin -- seminary friends) in Portland, Oregon and the Sharrard's (Ruth and Dave and Aaron and Mark) -- also seminary friends in Seattle for several days each. Renewing old times and catching up on new interests really added that warm touch that cuts through the traveling for long times. We also visited for a day with Steve and Jackie Lambert and Carrie and Rusty in San Francisco -- another good visit with them. The natural beauty of the coast, a few side trips along the way to a saw mill, a cheese factory, shops, forts, etc. really made it a good, relaxing trip.

Tom insists on saving at least one copy of our Christmas letters each year, he calls it our year's diary in short. Of course we're sure each of you treasure our letters as much as we do -- ha! Hope we hear a little of your year's adventures -- have a wonderful 1976!



Love,
Tom, Jane & Tim
Stevens

1977 Christmas Letter

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL - 1977

We've had a very exciting and eventful 1977 as we hope you all have. The biggest event has to be our trip to Europe this past summer. We spent about 36 days in nine countries--England, Holland, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Monaco, and France. Our favorite by far was Switzerland for its beauty. We have slides and a new projector to show them on which was our gift to ourselves with Mom Stevens' help for Christmas this year. We have yet to impose them on friends but will at the drop of a hint -- so don't hint if you don't want to see them and we won't show them.

Jan and Tom Binckes "old" friends kept Tim the entire European trip time. He had a ball with them and Elna and Garet (@4 and @7) at the time. Tim had a trip to Catalina on the Binckes' boatlots of time in their townhouse pool, went to the circus with them, etc, etc. He's growing so fast--size 6X pants and 8-10 shirts. Stood in Jane's class line and she couldn't find him because he fit right in (that's second graders). He's in Montessori School for Kindergarten now. We're not really impressed with this Montessori but do believe in lots of their philosophy. He will be in the public school near us next year. Jane has been teaching him to read using Open Court method -- a phonics approach and he's really coming along quite well. He learned to swim last summer at a nearby recreation department swimming lesson program for two weeks. He also had lots and lots of practice in our townhouse pool next to us and at Jan and Tom's. Next year perhaps soccer. We'll see.

Jane is teaching a straight second grade this year and is teamed with a different teammate. The new teammate's name is Waneta Kessler and we have our children (@64) spread out into three regular classrooms part of the day. Jane is really enjoying the challenge of the reorganization and planning that goes into it. She has a paid aide all morning still provided under ECE and ESEA funds. She also has supervision of three high school girls, and about three mothers for an hour a week of volunteer time. So she feels like an unpaid administrator but its never boring and always fun. She loves teaching and the children at this age.

Tom's job has largely been a continuation of what it was last year--half of his job is coordinating the 6 Career and Personal Explorations classes and establishing the Personal Skills Training Center in which students can complete self-instructional videotaped learning modules on self-management and interpersonal skills (which were developed and tested by counselors, faculty, and graduate students under Tom's auspices). The other half was counseling. He also (with Pat Gerlach) completed the revised edition of the text A Guide To Better Self-Management and Career Planning. In addition he has taught 13 one-unit weekend workshops in the past 12 months to earn extra money for our trip and existence. These workshops included Self-Management Training, Assertion Training, and Behavior Modification for Teachers (which Jane also co-taught). Enrollments were generally high and students have been giving ratings averaging over 8.0 on a 1-9 rating scale. Tom also presented a symposium with Bob Cash at the American Psychological Association National Convention in San Francisco in August on his "mediated Learning Modules", and he got tenure and a promotion to the equivalent of Associate Professor at SCULB. The only disappointment was a rejection of a filmstr cassette program by one publisher and the delay in decision by another publisher. Tom's only other feeling is that he can't believe that he has been in one spot doing such similar work for $4\frac{1}{2}$ years now. He loves what he does and the location, but feels odd being so "settled".

Our recreation has been similar to other years, except that we have spent more of our free time in our own area and less taking short trips (overnighters). We still enjoy our weekly family night in which we typically go to Lido Village on Balboa Bay or some such place. But our weekends find us at home more with Tom playing tennis Sat. and Sun mornings early with a short afternoon Sunday outing to Laguna, etc. We also have gone into LA for concerts and plays much more often, averaging more than 1 per month. Our Beachwalk Dinner Out

(3-6 times per week) and improved quite a bit. He joined the SeaCliff Tennis Club a year ago and has loved playing there--its only about 3 minutes from our house. Last year when he joined, he lost his first round match in a "C" level tennis tournament. This year he won his first round in an "A" level tournament in the same club. Tim also has been developing an interest (no surprise) in sports and is doing well for someone his age. He came from an initial great resistance to the water (couldn't do it in the past because of ear problems) to the level of loving it and swimming like a fish in a few weeks. He and Tom also go out and play baseball, tennis, and soccer as often as Tom has time and whenever Tim can talk Tom into it.

Incidentally, we did take some trips in addition to our European vacation. We went to San Francisco via Monterey/Carmel last Christmas and spring vacations. So much happened on our European trip that it frustrates both of us to even begin sharing about it here. Tom adds that we flew to London on July 15 via a World Airlines 747, stayed 2 nights in London, 3 in Amsterdam, 3 in Copenhagen, 1 in Cologne, 1 in Hiedelberg, 2 in Lucerne, 2 in St. Moritz, 1 in Zermatt, 3 in Lucerne (our high point was here), 2 in Munich, 3 in Vienna, 1 near Venice, 2 in Florence, 1 in Monte Carlo, 4 in Paris, and 4 in London, and 1 in Brighton (due to the airline strike). We got from city to city via railroad (First Class) using our Eurail passes except where water was concerned we used hovercraft or ferries (of course). The trains for the most part were fantastic! The scenery, relaxation and people we met were all great (Tom of course brought along his portable recorder with headphones so he could have cassette music wherever he went). The only part on the trains that was a little weak was our sacked warm pop, beer, cheeses, meat, and stale bread. Sights were great, bathrooms interesting, etc, etc.

This year we are looking forward to seeing Tom's brother Ron and his wife Judy after not having seen them for 8 years. Ron lives in Chicago and has recently completed law school about a year and a half ago and is currently working for the Federal Government as an attorney. His wife Judy is kind of a "girl Friday" for a politician in Chicago. We are going to meet them and Mom Stevens in Phoenix in and around Judy's Parents' home after Christmas. Mom Stevens retired in October and has bought but not yet moved into her home in Green Valley, south of Tucson, Arizona.

*Merry Christmas,
Tom, Jane, and
Stevens*

19835 Maritime Lane, Huntington Beach, Ca. 92648; 714-536-8901



1978 Christmas Letter

MERRY CHRISTMAS 1978!

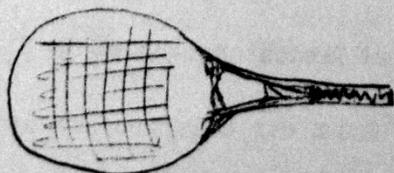
We realized the other day that this was one year that we didn't have to rush getting our Christmas letter out because at last everyone knows where we live. We used to hurry to get our cards send early so others would know where to send us their cards. It seems that this year has less "news" than many others, since many things haven't changed too much.

One of the highlights of the year was our trip up the California, Oregon and Washington Coast to Vancouver (B.C.) and Victoria and across the Canadian Rockies to Banff and Lake Louise. We camped out most of the time but especially enjoyed staying with our old friends--the Lamberts and the Luches. We had made the coast trip three times before, but this was our first trip into the interior of Canada. We got all our camping gear, tennis gear, etc. into our Porsche but had to leave our spare tire home again (so much for the necessities). It was a beautiful trip. The coast and Rockies were so beautiful to drive through. Tim and Tom paddled a canoe together across Lake Louise while Jane prayed a lot, that was one of the highlights for Tim and Tom.

Also Jane and Tim flew back to Dallas, Texas to visit her family and were able to spend some time with each of her brothers and sisters and more time with her folks in the wonderful 100/ heat spell at end of June and into July. It was a good visit for all and gave Tim a chance to really understand what cousins, aunts and uncles are.

One of the unhighlights of the summer, while in progress, was the family effort of wallpapering our entrance hall, living-dining room and one wall of our den--4 solid days of work and misery--but for amateurs we did a good job.

Tim changed to Smith (public school) from Montessori last January. It has been hard for him to adjust since the former had been so unstructured. He



still has a little trouble concentrating on his academics (he's physically and socially active), but is doing very well in his reading and math. We feel the public school is much better than the Montessori one was. He is learning quite a bit faster. Tim also started PeeWee Soccer this year. His team was entirely composed of beginners and had to play many teams who had played last season. They started off the year very slowly, but have improved quite a bit and won some games (at last). He was a little discouraged for awhile but now is playing much better and is much happier. (Tim says he likes baseball and Tennis better -- which Tom and he have been playing off and on for several years).

Tom has been at Cal State Univ., Long Beach for $5\frac{1}{2}$ years now. He has continued expanding his Life Skills Training program (of counseling, audio-and video-taped learning modules, research, etc.), but has stopped coordinating the Career and Personal Explorations classes which are continuing as they were. He and Pat Gerlach also rewrote their text for the course. However, he has become a little restless--feeling somewhat limited by his position, resources, and pay. He has begun to think more about what new directions he may go in the future. He is interested in training and has begun learning about computers and the use of computer based instruction. He has also continued teaching his Assertion Training, Self-Management Training, and Behavior Management training workshops at CSULB, UC Irvine, and other places. He has really enjoyed doing these and they have helped give us much needed additional \$\$.

Many things have not changed: Tom plays a lot of tennis; we enjoy concerts, plays, and weekend trips, family days out on Wednesday afternoons, etc.

We also enjoy living in Beachwalk very much. Tom is on the Board of Directors and we still coordinate the First Friday couples group which is now in it's third year.

Jane is still teaching at Warren Elementary school in Garden Grove and enjoying it immensely. Proposition 13 hurt our salaries and some programs but we live with it -- more next year -- have a good 1979!

Tom, Jane & Tim

NO 1979 CHRISTMAS LETTER

1980 Christmas Letter

Christmas 1980

Stevens

People were very glad to see each other and all felt that they had had a "special" class. In fact that class won more awards, championships, etc. than any other class in Northwest Classen HS's history. Most of the people looked very well and seemed relatively successful in leading the kind of lives they seemed to want. Of course there were some sad stories too, some people had died. But one amazing thing is that about 50 of the 96 people that were in the Sequoyah 6th grade were at the reunion. Tom went K through 12th grade with most of those people. 6 of the starting 9 on Tom's elementary school baseball team(s) were there—so were several of his old girl friends. And they all looked great—except one. The reunion started at 6 pm Friday and went (literally) nonstop through about 1pm on Sunday. Tom particularly enjoyed realizing how many friends he had had growing up and enjoyed being able to tell them how much they had meant to him at the time. It was fun reliving so many events and seeing what had happened to everyone. But in addition, a few months before, he had assumed that all of those people were locked with the events in the past. He left feeling that he knows dozens of people and has a wide range of friends spanning a long period of time.

Last summer we also traveled up the coast again to Victoria via Lake Tahoe, Lake Shasta, Redding, the Oregon Coast—Harris Beach, Sunset Bay, Ft. Stevens; and the Washington coast—Olympic Peninsula to Port Angeles. On the way back we stopped in Vancouver, Wa. and went to Beachside State Park on the Oregon Coast with the Lamberts (after picking Mt. St. Helenes' ash from their front yard). Then we stopped in and Tom saw an old HS friend, Bill Hill, in Napa on our way back through San Francisco and the Calif. coast. It was a lovely trip, and it allowed Tom to get out some of his sports car driving urges in our little Porsche 914 on all the winding 2-lane roads we were on. Old reliable now has 135,000 miles on it.

Next summer, we hope to take a trip to the East Coast. We may drive and stop at a few places along the way or we may fly. Or we may not be able to afford to go at all. We want to see New England, New York, and Washington, D.C.

Tom continues to play tennis 3-4 times/week. After a couple of bad years, he has improved his game significantly because of using a 2-handed backhand and putting more topspin on all shots—especially serves.

One of the big events of the year—and most scary—was buying a second house in Beachwalk identical to the one we have, so that we would have some investment. However, the "negative cash flow" has lowered our standard of living to where it was when we first moved into this house.

Jane is still teaching primary grades—a second for the past three or so years. This is a job that she really enjoys, always believes in growing and trying new things as the class warrants. Such a continual delight—children at this age. Housecleaning duties (Tom and Tim share some chores), Tim's various activities (including recently Cub Scouts), our social life and trips keep her life full and blessed. (See how briefly I summarize my part—aren't you glad).

For Christmas this year we are so excited that Tom's brother Ron and wife Judy are coming to California for the first time for a visit. Tom's Mom will be with us all. Jan and Tom and Tom Binckes' parents will join us for Christmas this year. We will have from 17 - 19 at home — boy is this a challenge to us!

Christmas 1980

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Christmas 1980

Stevens

Susan — Jane's sister — joined us last summer with her three, delightful children for brief, crammed full of fun and activities, three day t our of our area including Disneyland, beach, Hollywood, and local sights. Yes, we love to show and share our area with loved ones. Next time maybe Ray will come too! But thanks for loaning us Susan and kids for three days.

Hope your year was filled with ups and downs, ins and outs, love and friendships. Love to you all and May God Bring you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Happy holidays,

Tom, Jane, & Tim

(P.S. Sue and Arvin Luchs were here for even shorter visit — but enjoyable visit!)

1981 Christmas Letter



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STEVENSES,

For the Stevens family the big event last year was our summer trip to the east coast. Tim and Jane flew ahead to visit with Jane's folks in Marshall, Texas, while Tom worked and then drove via a visit with his Mom in Tucson. They then went to Carlsbad Caverns. In one of the most desolate parts of New Mexico, the engine on the Porsche started knocking very loudly and was barely running after 142,000 miles. Tom nursed it 600 miles to Dallas. After 9 days of extreme frustration waiting for a factory rebuilt engine Tom picked up the car at 6:30 pm. He picked up Tim and Jane at 9:30 pm and all drove 150 more miles. The next day we saw the South—920 miles worth in one day— stayed overnight in Durham N.C. As it was we ended up missing many relatives and friends because of the car problems. And Jane's folks ended up with a much extended visit from all of the Stevens's—which they mostly enjoyed.

Nevertheless, we did get to see Williamsburg, Va; Washington D.C.; and New York (including "A Chorus Line", "America", and "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Shubert Radio City Music Hall, and Lincoln Center respectively). Washington was interesting and beautiful. New York was exciting, but dirty, and Boston was some of both. Boston gets the award for the worst street planning, but Newport and Boston had the nicest maritime areas. We were surprised at how similar (physically) they were to parts of California on the coast. While in Boston we also went to Nantucket Island (over 2 hours by ferry from Hyannis Port).

Tim's favorite part of the trip was the Space Museum part of the Smithsonian in Washington. We spent the good part of a day there. Altogether, we spent about 3 days in Smithsonian museums. Jane's least favorite part was when she decided to go one way back to the car in Williamsburg and Tom and Tim another. Tom and Tim didn't find her for over an hour and Jane had blisters all over both feet. Tom's least favorite part was waiting and paying for the new engine. Tom's favorite part was most of the rest of the trip. Jane's favorite parts were visits with her folks and siblings and theirs, Washington, D.C., and all ocean view areas.

Tim also had a wierd need which we could call "acrophilia"—love of high places. In every city the thing he wanted to do most was get on top of the highest place. He succeeded! In Washington, it was a 2 hour wait and walk around and by elevator to the top of the Washington monument (which only Jane and Tim did); in New York City the World Trade Center (where we all had a nice brunch), and in Chicago it was the Sears Building @ 115 stories—the tallest building in the world.

Other points on our vacation were Mystic, Conn.; Chicago (visiting Tom's brother, Rom, and wife, Judy); Omaha, Neb.; Denver; Vail to Green River, Utah; and Las Vegas. The whole trip took 6 weeks. It was one we won't forget. It whetted our appetites for more in that area at a future time.

Tom's year (other than the trip) was similar to the last couple of years. At Cal State Univ., Long Beach he still is a psychologist also in charge of the Life Skills Training program. It consists of self-instructional tapes, classes,



workshops, and research. Tom & Bob Kapche are developing a new questionnaire and research instrument on Self-Management Skills. They also started a new program on Smoking Cessation at CSULB. Tom is continuing to work on his interest in computer simulation of psychological processes, but is still just reading and learning. The questionnaire research also relates to this model. Tom also started a small private practice in Huntington Beach, but has moved to a different office in Long Beach. Tom continues his tennis. He also has been teaching Tim and some other kids tennis on Saturdays.

Jane is continuing to teach second grade (a different group each year) in Garden Grove. This year I only have 25 students — its heaven! We have a new "play-boy" fiftyish principal who has been away from our school more than he's been there thus far. But a few words leaked here and there at the district office are beginning to remedy his absences. Another teacher and I are playing for a primary sing-a-long at Christmas Time. Last spring a different teacher and I organized and "directed" our school's talent show. I'm really beginning to lose my shyness with regard to using some of the years of musical training I've been blessed with and really enjoy this additional outlet—a new challenge. Last summer I completed 60 hours over my BS—not a masters—but various and assundry classes of interest to me which helped increase my placement on the pay scale significantly and kept me alive and hopping. I continue to love teaching the young ones and never seem to get bored or tired of trying to challenge them to do their best against often almost insurmountable odds. Its been a good year in many ways for all of us.

Tim is over 5 feet tall now at age almost 10. He played minor B Little League at 3rd base last spring. Tom was one of the coaches. Their White Sox lost 3 of 4 of the first games, but went undefeated the rest of the first half. They ended up winning the minor B championship in their league. Tim also started piano lessons from Mrs. Peterson in March. We talked him into piano lessons as a means of reading music which he can later transfer to guitar. He is doing very well for less than a year and playing a Boogie Woogie most recently. Because of our frustration with Tim's Smith School during the primary grades and Tim's lack of enthusiasm, we decided to move him to the GATE program at Eader. GATE is what MGM once was. He had qualified in second grade but we wanted to leave him at his neighborhood school if at all possible. He has joined students who had already been in the program for several years but is making a nice adjustment to the program. He also is enjoying his school work much more. He brings home more work in one week than he did in over two months (literally) at the other school. We are very proud of him. Tom is starting to teach Tim (Tim would say the other way around) some basketball too. There is a Parks and Recreation basketball league in the winter which Tim might enjoy.

Mom Stevens was here for a couple of weeks around Thanksgiving time for a nice relaxing stay. Jane really enjoyed being with all of her sisters and her brother this summer. Most of all she misses her folks. So she really snuggles in every two or three years and just enjoys the warmth, security, love, harmony which flow from these two wonderful people to her and hers. Much as God's love flows to each of us all year but somehow felt more warmly at Christmastime—

God Bless,

Tom, Jane, Tim

