

Christmas Day - 1967

Dear Dee, Beth, Anne, and the Douthits,

Hope your Christmas Day has been a good one for all of you. I have been amused at Beloit as he has worried - wondering whether you have had a Christmas tree. I've tried to tell him that knowing all of you, I know Beth and Anne have had a proper Christmas whether there has been a tree or not. Hope my little pkg. got* there. Let me know if it didn't as it was insured.

We went to the lake on Friday. Then Sat. Ken, Linda, Mel,

Rev, Nibby, Caroline, and Mrs. King
came, and we had our Christmas
dinner about 4:00 P.M. As I cooked, they
decorated the lovely, local-grown (and
snatched) cedar tree. When they had finished,
it was time for me to "um and ah",
which I hope I did in a proper fashion.
We ate - too much - exchanged gifts -
spoke of all the absent ones with
Beloit remembering you all in the
before-dinner prayer - enjoyed the
occasion as only the near and dear
can enjoy one - then by 7:30 they
all started home after a wonderful
day. There was the usual mound
of ribbons, boxes, and ribbons -
the dishes were most formidable
looking - and there was all over the
place happy disorder. By 9:30 all
was back in order, and to the
lovely strains of Christmas music,

pouring forth from the very fine Japanese-made stereo radio brought home by Ran, I dragged myself wearily to bed with a prayer in my heart, as it is always, for all the absent members of our family.

Sunday we had such a ~~peaceful~~ reflective day - went for a long walk - saw the squirrels and birds - a covey of quail whirred away as we drew near them. Except for us the wild inhabitants held dominance on Barkley Shores. We feel that perhaps it's lovelier there in the winter than in the summer. We have been having ducks on the islands and flying ~~low over the~~ water, but for some reason they were conspicuously absent this weekend. The lakehouse gets more cozy all the time as we add something almost every weekend, and all our gifts were for down there. Beloit gave me a hen and rooster (ceramic) life-size that

I had wanted ever since the first time I saw them at the Hitching Post Gift Shop. He insisted they were prohibitively expensive, but - bless him - he gave them to me, and they look colorfully beautiful on top of the flour and meal chest (which I just love still).

It was so good, Dee and Erda, to get your Christmas greetings. Thank you!

Julia's mother and sister and family from California are here for a short visit. Her shop is doing nicely even though the "common" folk cannot pay the price of her things. Your pair of panties in the Christmas package came from there. Beloit couldn't believe you could get into them. I told him if you couldn't, maybe Anne could.

It's a rainy day. We got home from the lake about 11:00 A.M. We wanted to travel at a time of day when there was not much traffic. The rain is supposed

to change to snow tonight and continue tomorrow. Hope the roads are clear when Ken goes back to Ft. Leonard Wood over next weekend. He's enjoying his red Mustang. The station wagon looks good, and he has it as clean as a pin. He, Linda, and Melanie have been happily together since he arrived.

I imagine all the Hustin family are with Lois as they were at Cris's house Thanksgiving. We will be with Mama Brown, Doug, and family next weekend.

We are eager to hear how Barry has spent his Christmas. As there was a "cease fire" period, surely he had a period to relax peacefully. I know both of you are eagerly looking forward to his R. and R. vacation. Surely hope you both have a very wonderful time. We are eager to talk with you, so

be sure to call us. Will you fly
to Miami then to the west coast,
or from there straight to the west
coast?

Lest you are weary with
reading my ramblings, I'll bring
this to a close. Love the girls for
us. Take care of yourself, and —

Love to all of you,
Frances (Gramma)

VIA AEREA

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Capt. Barry M Brown #163219
Btry B' 2120th Arty
1st Air Cav. Div.
APO, San Francisco, Calif.
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E.E.U.U.

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