

[Handwritten, blue ink on hot-pink stationery]

December 13, 1970

Dear Folks,

Sounds like you had a nice Thanksgiving and were going to have a busy Advent Season in your last letter. Don't see how it got so close to Christmas, already.

We went Christmas shopping last Thursday evening. Picked a real good night. It had been stormy all day and the shopping center was nearly deserted. We didn't have any trouble getting there because we are on the corner of two main streets, so they were kept salted etc. Friday, Bill and I did our Santa Claus shopping and were lucky enough to get what the kids wanted. Neal, an Instamatic camera and Yvonne a Crissy doll, Karen a Velvet doll. They are in the Penney's catalog.

Haven't done much decorating yet. Have a few Christmas cards strung on the bannister and our Advent candle arrangement. Also a poinsettia I fell heir to at work. We are going to get a small tree and decorate with twinkle lights and homemade decorations. Bill, Neal & I went to a Jr. Hi and Parents workshop at the church last week and got some ideas. I learned to make a little knit bell. The girls are learning to knit. Last night Neal asked me, "Aren't you going to bake any Christmas cookies this year?" Sounds like he is getting worried. Guess I'd better put his mind at ease by putting the bakery into action my next two days off. I haven't made any candy, either, and don't think I will make much.

Last weekend we went to the churches with Bill. It was very nice, but don't think I'll do it often. He'll get home late tonight. Was supposed to have an annual meeting at one church this evening.

We got sad news the day after Thanksgiving. Edith called to tell us that Dick's wife was taking their little boy with cerebral palsy back to the cities to his special school, and was in a head-on collision and Timmy was killed outright. Had a letter this week and Pam was hurt pretty bad and doesn't remember much yet. The other driver was killed, too. There were several witnesses and he came across into her lane. One witness thought the guy had gone to sleep.

Dad was at Edith's for Thanksgiving and is home now, I guess. Plans to go to Phoenix by plane on Dec. 21.

We stay real busy at the hospital. The census stays up all the time. Tuesday the Finley family has its Christmas dinner. All employees get a free dinner and from reports, it is something special.

We really were introduced to the joy (?) of living on a corner when the freezing rain followed by snow came on Thursday. We have an awful lot of sidewalk to shovel.

Love,
Marilyn