

2004

Dear Friends,

2004 has been quite a year. We haven't been involved in politics since the 1968 McCarthy campaign and the Democratic Convention nonsense in Chicago. This year we became involved once again, this time for John Kerry. Along with the politics, we are involved in fighting the establishment of a super Wal-Mart in our tiny town. I'm also involved with the Animal Welfare League which is trying to get an animal shelter for the town. These have been our main activities this year - besides lots of exercise and some relaxation. I'm now ready for more relaxation and less stress.

Marcus, Carol, Kyle and Carol's grand-daughter came to visit for a week at the end of June. We had a very enjoyable visit. Liz was in Chicago with Frank's sister and John and family, so it was just Jess, Kyle and Lyric here - that's two 4 year olds and one 6 year old. They played together perfectly - no complaints, no anger or sadness. It was so nice watching them.

In about March Don and I decided that this summer we would take a REAL vacation. We decided to take an Alaskan cruise on an small boat (220 passengers) on the Inland Passage. Getting close to and seeing calving glaciers has been a great desire of mine since the second grade. We took the Western Horizon's Empress of the North. What a marvelous way to do and see Alaska.

John phoned late in September and said that he wouldn't be allowed to take vacation time in December when he and Sue and children planned to come here for Christmas. Since he couldn't bring the family, he decided to come by himself. He came a week later and stayed for a week. We missed seeing Sue and the girls, but it was so pleasant and relaxing just having John. We will go east in December and celebrate an early Xmas with both John and Marcus and families.

I received a phone call many months ago and a few letters informing me of the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion of my high school class. I had told them that I wouldn't be able to attend and let it go at that. In mid October I received another phone call from a classmate I hadn't spoken with in 50 years. She said that more than half of our classmates would be attending. She convinced me to go also. It's strange thinking about Dunellen and all of the things I had forgotten about since I was last there 40 years ago. I phoned my friends Jan, Pat and Joan and asked them to also go. Jan and Pat decided to go. So I had a wonderful time seeing everyone and visiting with some of the people with whom I started kindergarten.

Mary, Frank, Liz and Jessica are all doing fine. Liz is being home-schooled this year and is enjoying it. She goes to school a couple of times a week for band practice. Both she and Dana play the clarinet quite well. Jessica goes to pre-school and enjoys it, but loves taking dancing, swimming and gymnastic lessons - but not all at once. Kyle also does gymnastics - on a team and does very well. Zena is an excellent student and plays basketball on three teams.

We wish you all a very happy holiday season and a peaceful 2005.

Fondly,  
Don and Margaret McLeod