

30 Dec 1951

Dear Aunt Eva & Uncle Henry,

Thank you very much for your Christmas gifts. We are always astonished and can never figure out just why we rate so high with you.

The last year was particularly distinguished for us in the number and hardship of our moves. If we had known what was ahead of us we quite likely would never have left Santa Fe. Further progress there, however, seemed impossible. I think the highway department was established in the twelfth century by the Pueblo Indians and they haven't changed a bit during the intervening time. So, when the chance came, it seemed like a good idea to move to Lubbock. Shaking down in the three houses we lived in there was a lot of no fun. Then the disappointment: the notions held by the junior partner of engineering ethics and methods of handling an organization were somewhat worse than Santa Fe. I did increase our income by about \$900 a year, however. Then came the offer from a fellow I used to work with at Lockheed in Burbank; an offer increasing our revenue to the point where we can almost stay ahead of rising living costs. While all the moves were difficult and expensive, we are better off here in Marietta than we have ever been: Georgia is a beautiful, green, woodsy state; we have a nice, secluded little spot to live in; the children have been received in school in a very friendly manner and are enjoying their lives; we have been able to spend more time with them than ever before and all of us like the arrangement; the demands of my job are so far beneath my ability to perform that it goes on like a breeze, allowing me to devote my spare-time efforts to planned study (correspondence courses) in the domain of logistics -- symbolic logic, boolean algebra, operations research, (all this has to do with the techniques for acquiring information, formulating problems, manipulating data, drawing and presenting conclusions in non-numeric fields of inquiry as well as the conventional numeric fields of standard engineering inquiry -- in a large corporation such as Lockheed such things have applications in the formulation of practice: stating rules precisely to remove conflicts and loopholes, circuits and computing machinery, sequence-controlled calculators, problem programming for automatic computing machinery). Oops, excuse please! I get a little over-enthused about those things.

Since coming to Marietta, Tedi has taken a vacation from her outside projects and has concentrated on shoring up the weak spots in her drawing ability: one-, two-, and three-point perspective. She has it down to the point where she can even get Kim to draw in three-point perspective. The two of them have quite a time with their drawing and sewing projects. In addition to an increased mechanical skill, I think her rendering has improved also.

We look forward to at least a couple years of fun and growing here in Georgia. Present plans call for my trying to get a job with the Rand Corporation at the end of that time (if you have not already heard of that outfit, see Fortune magazine, March 1951, 'THE WAR OF WITS', page 99). If I do not make it I think Bruce will; he has the proper-shaped head. The little guy is a natural for 'straight-thinking'.

well, take it easy, have fun, and ... thanks again. May you both have a very happy 1952! ... from all of us.

Love,

Jim  
and Ted, Kim, Bruce