

Cep 22-23

Merry Christmas

DEAR FOLKS, Christmas comes but once a year, but this year has come faster than ever! For much of the time that we've been back Norman has been busy with numerous details following the publishing of his magnum opus on the Aboriginal Tribes of Australia, including the publishing in Australia of the tribal map for general use. Muriel has been working to catch up after three years away in the last five, to reorganize storage and to make our home more convenient and comfortable, struggling with the ever-increasing demand for book space. Norman's revived project to write a review of North American Hepialidae, as occasional relief from two other books on Australian anthropological subjects which are in the mill, means added room is needed for Lepidoptera mounting boxes, which he has devised a way to make with limited tools in his lab.

In addition to our individual activities we keep busy with the further demands of our home, rental cottages, and gardens. Adequate hired help is not easy to find. Norman managed Muriel helped to tuck in here and there, in the "soul garden" (Norman's father's name for the landscaping garden as distinguished from "belly garden"), a few carrots, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes. The latter were wonderful to have when the local market variety were sixty-nine cents per pound -and ours were by far the better flavor! The most successful tomato was in a small tub, trained up in a wire frame. The "soul garden", especially in spring, gives us much enjoyment; satisfying work in sunshine and fresh air as an antidote for indoor pursuits; relaxing lunches on the terrace in our own "park" of shade trees, ferns, vines, and flowers, especially nice when the rhododendrons, azaleas, snowball, and roses are in bloom, and the hummingbirds come to the feeder, hovering with delightful liquid movements and flashing iridescent green and magenta; a place to enjoy visitors on a fine day.

Highlight of the year was our August-September trip to Canada to take part in the Sunda and Sahul Shelf Symposium at the Pacific Science Congress in Vancouver. Added to the benefits of the learned exchange was the pleasure of association with many of our scientist friends from here and from abroad. Afterward we drove through British Columbia to Jasper National Park in Alberta, both of us enjoying the delights of photographing the spectacular scenery, and Norman searching for, though failing to find, specimens of his elusive "ghost moths". However, in the Northern Cascades, he rejoiced in the taking of a Boloria butterfly which had been taken only once before in the U.S. It was during a visit with our friends, Dr. Herbert and Gertrude Bowles, at Stehekin at the remote end of Lake Chelan in Washington, that Norman had the opportunity to collect (by permit) in Northern Cascades National Park.

The opportunity to call on friends enroute, and to enjoy and scientifically observe the country were compensations indeed for the energy (including gasoline!) and time expended driving north and home again -over 4000 miles! In eastern Oregon and northeastern California we saw some country new to us. The desert plateau was especially interesting, and uniquely beautiful in a subtle understatement after the dramatic Rockies and Cascades. We'll remember the gracious hospitality of friends along the way, the stimulating exchange of ideas and the stories of what's doing in their lives -too much to cover on this page! One story of what's doing: Stanley and Doris Jewett of West Linn have a project (besides entomology and many other pursuits -growing delicious sweet corn, e.g.) to propagate native Oregon plants at their country home, itself nestled in the native plants of their forested hillside on the edge of their meadow "farm".

This year the Birdells gave us a chance to reciprocate after many pleasant visits in the past with them and we enjoyed their visits here. One midday Noel and Dienne McFarland from Geraldton, W. Australia, surprised us and were able to stay overnight. They told of their great accomplishment in obtaining the land and establishing the Howatharra Bushland Reserve near Geraldton, and showed color slides of the site where they will build a home and marvelous ones of a partial inventory of more than 300 plant species in flowering season on the reserve, including some rare species with exotic flowers.

Our families in Australia are busy too. Tony, Geraldine, and the two boys are soon to move into a home they are building in the Mt. Lofty Ranges east of Adelaide at Belleview. Tony is manager of a group of chemical works and this spring his work is taking him to New Zealand, his first venture out of Australia. Our son-in-law, Ron George of Loxton, S.A., who founded and operates the first lab in Australia for the propagation of parasitic wasps (Aphytis melinus) to control citrus scale, has been awarded a Churchill Fellowship and will come to California next year for several months to study further in this field. Beryl and the three children will come with him to stay about a month (May). We are looking forward to the Georges' visit and will show them a few of California's points of interest (limited only by their time and our strength!).

Our year has been busy and full of interest and satisfactions, and we are hoping that yours also has been enjoyed and that the coming year will fulfill your aspirations. If you are ever near, do come to see us - the latch string will be out for you.

2314 Harvard Street
Palo Alto, California 94306
DECEMBER 1975

A LO H A -

Muriel and
Norman Tindale

Ca. 11.1.69

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear Don + Evelyn,

As you may see from the five lined, overpage, we are busy and a both enjoying life in Palo Alto, having been back from Australia for over a year now.

I received recently a contingent invitation from Dr Irwin Roper to attend a planned archaeological workshop at Western Michigan University, in Kalamazoo, next August. I accepted and am eagerly awaiting further developments. I would be able to display my pressure flaking flint, and I have a collection of Australian stone implements if these were of interest. One problem would be that I may go on to the archaeological conference in Nice, France in September, & would need to have some way of having the heavy stone material cared for over three or four months while we continue around to Australia before returning to Palo Alto at Christmas time or in the New Year of 1977. I have a couple of small field work projects to complete in Australia and need to gather some data from Adlaide + Canberra for two books I am working on here. My book on Australian Tools has been very successful - a minor best seller in the Canberra edition, which has already sold out.

If the W. Michigan project comes off, Muriel, whom you have not met, and I, will be looking forward to seeing you. I believe that Francis Border is likely to be present as well at the proposed workshop.

I set out to wish you all the best in the coming year. Cheers.

Norman