

# Merry Christmas

DEAR FOLKS, Once again we send our good wishes for the Christmas season, and look forward to hearing from our friends. Here are excerpts from our 1977 doings:

We're back in Palo Alto with plans to stay home for a change after last year's travel in Europe and Australia, with research work here and meetings there, and visiting friends and relatives. It was a much too brief, but rewarding, spin around the world. In the span of a year we had two springs and two summers, but now are reminded by the low angle of the sun and a cold snap that winter is on the way. This year we'll welcome winter with the hope that it may bring enough rain to begin reversing the record-breaking drought of the past three years. In the Bay area we are being rationed for water and the shortage becomes alarming as we watch reservoirs and snow-packs dwindle and the fire danger grow. North of San Francisco they had to bring water in a pipeline laid on a highway bridge crossing the Bay.

The year has simply flown! On our return February first we were faced with the inevitable backlog of business affairs, and were shocked by the drought-stricken landscape. January is normally a rainy month. We had left summer landscape in Australia!

Norman has given several lectures and helped in a small way in an Aboriginal display in the new Hall of Man at the Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. In May we had another of those most pleasurable visits with the Birdells in Malibu. Jo and Norman had their usual discussions germane to their long partnership in anthropological research. In San Diego we saw Dr. and Mrs. Paul Ezell for a discussion of stone tool hafting in southwest U.S. Of course we visited the San Diego Zoo and the Wild Animal Park near Escondido -both fascinating.

In July-August we made a trip by car to Colorado. In Boulder at the Lepidopterists' Society meeting Norman read a paper on the ancestry of butterflies as revealed by their first-day pupal tracheation, and a paper reporting a new find of a possible Triassic ancestor of the Hepialoid moths from the Ipswich Beds of Queensland. It may go to press soon. In Boulder, our old stamping grounds, we met many friends. Going to and returning from Colorado we had chances to renew impressions of the grand Rocky Mountains, Unita Mountains, Flaming Gorge, and other beautiful and interesting country, checking Hepialid ecology as we went.

During the year we have enjoyed the company of several folks who have broken journeys in a few days' visit with us. On one occasion Norman's boyhood associate in Japan, anthropologist Gordon Bowles, and Jane saw us enroute from work in Tokio. Norman and he had fun chattering away in Japanese, almost their mother tongue. It is interesting how quickly vocabulary buried in one's mind comes to the fore. Norman's speech is that of a teenager, Gordon's that of a professor. Guess who was suitably humble. Other visitors from afar were Australian entomologist Geoffrey Furness and family whom we helped to get over their "jet lag" before proceeding on their study tour. Mike Gibson (a nephew) looked in on his way back to Australia from work in Arctic Canada, and, just last week, his twin brother, Daryl, on his way to the East Coast to study art. Dr. Allen Keast of Queen's University, Canada, with whom Norman is working on data in Aboriginal ecology, spent several days here. We hope that others passing this way will make time to see us - we like to meet jet planes, though we'll let you in, even if you come by auto -or on foot!

In December last year we were in Adelaide while Norman tied loose ends of his work. He addressed a meeting of the Adelaide Bushwalkers of which he was co-founder years ago. They gave him a pin with the motif he designed as the emblem of the group. We visited the junior Tindales in their lovely new hillside home, and also our sister-in-law, "Auntie Eva" Gibson. Christmas Day was a festive occasion on a mild summer day, with all the families gathered at the Georges' (Norman's daughter) at Loxton. The Georges were still reminiscing about their trip over here (especially Yosemite) and now they're all eagerly saving to come again in '79. Ron had a memorable and productive experience studying biological pest-control during travel in California under a Churchill Fellowship, finishing after his family returned home.

The day after Christmas we packed the car and headed for Canberra and Sydney via the southeast. Enroute, during a few days with the LeSouefs at Blairgowrie, Norman talked to a gathering of entomologists invited there. The ten days in Canberra were far too few for all our work and recreation goals! In Sydney time allowed some library work and brief family contacts. Then we were off for Raratonga, Tahiti, and California.

We are looking forward to Christmas Day with our Bardin clan in Portola Valley where Keith, Tsing, and the children give us such good times. Keith's parents, sister, brother, and families will be there. The Nevin clan will be scattered, but in April we were all at Robert's and Kay's 40th anniversary. Muriel met school-and-farm-days friends she had not seen since the early 30's. What better "proof of age" can one have? On that note we shall add our "CHEERIO" for "AULD LANG SYNE" and wish you a very "MEERY CHRISTMAS".

The TINDALES • 2314 Harvard Street, Palo Alto, Ca. 94306 • NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1977

# Happy New Year

Ca. 11.1.71.1

Dear Don + Evelyn,

We unexpectedly, because of a change of plan, passed your door last August, but found you away. Would have loved to see you + discuss wrapping + lifting problems.

On our trip last year to Australia found evidence of worked giant usces, with lifting grooves and edge grinding, some also with workings, perhaps by hammering, all over, and dated roughly to earlier than 20,000 B.P.; far earlier than previously considered possible. Other interesting developments carry the occupation of Australia far further back than realized up to now. The earliest "Kartan" tools are identical with the earliest San Diegueto material, in detail even, what explanation holds?

As you see we are 'staying put' this year so that I can try + catch up with rash promises for papers, whose 'deadlines' are already at hand.

We are well + enjoying life, despite the serious drought, and taxes.

Hope you are well and wishing you all the best in the coming year.

Norman + Marial



Ca. 11.1.71.2

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