

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE EVERITTS

I have never before resorted to the dittoed letter for my Christmas cards but so much has piled up on us since mid-november that I must do so this year.

On November 14 Herb suffered a severe heart attack followed by a massive hemorrhage from an old forgotten ulcer. Everything that they usually do for the bleeding was bad for the heart and vice-versa. For hours, then days, the doctors gave me no hope he would live. Five days and 29 pints of blood later Herb had an allergic reaction to the transfusions and they had no choice but to operate despite the bad heart. Thanks to the latest heart monitor, breathing machines, and a team of fine doctors he pulled through the surgery and is now recovering nicely. I've just brought him home where he will be convalescing for some time.

Long distance phone calls, letters, and flowers from old friends who heard via the grapevine have meant so much to us during these trying days. Local friends responded by donating 99 pints of blood in his name last week at the local blood drive. It has been very difficult for me to talk about and by practically living at the hospital while he was in the intensive care unit, I had no time nor inclination to write. Thus now that it is almost Christmas and I now have him home (he looks beautiful to me!) I am writing all of you via this dittoed letter.

The rest of us are healthy and we have had a wonderful year up to the last few weeks. We spent 6 weeks this summer in Los Angeles while Herb attended UCLA as a Kellogg fellow in higher education administration. The kids and I rested and visited everything that the Chamber of Commerce recommended. On weekends Herb joined us for the high spots of entertainment.

Do write to Herb when your busy holidays are over. We'd love to hear from you.

As ever,

Rae