

Christmas, 1975

Because of warm memories of other times and other places, we look forward to the Christmas season . . . hearing from friends and sending a bit of news and best wishes from the West Texas Branch of the Mayer-Oakeses.

Although we are not completely in the throes of the empty nest syndrome, we are becoming aware that Susan, 20, and David, 19, are flitting more out than in.

Drew, at 13, is still very much a part of the household and continues to keep us on the run getting him to and from his many activities. His interest in theatre has not lessened. In fact, the big event of 1975 for him was turning "pro". Drew had an opportunity for a part in the local dinner theatre's production of Jean Kerr's "Finishing Touches" last April. For six weeks he was on stage five nights a week; managed to keep up with his school work and successfully campaigned for school treasurer. This office was selected because he figured the Student Council never had any money and the duties would be minimal. With a slogan like "Vote for Drew -- he's true blue", who could lose? Anyway, he has enjoyed the experience except for trudging off in the dark two mornings a week for early Student Council meetings. The trombone keeps him busy in the school band and orchestra but the drum is now a thing of the past. Just to round things out, Drew played soccer this fall and enjoyed it even if the team didn't win many games.

David spent part of the year in France riding his bicycle as a member of a French amateur racing club. He returned to the States in July to compete in the Pan-Am selection races, made the National "B" Team for the second year and is now aiming for the Olympics in Montreal in 1976. David's job in a local French restaurant is helping finance his return to France for early '76 preparation for the Olympic selection races to be held next June. While at home he has grown a beard to make him one of the more distinguished "French waiters" in these parts.

Susan is in her last year at Trinity University in San Antonio with med school still her goal. She continues to earn scholarship help because of her academic standing and was successful in competing for a resident assistantship which provides her board and room this year. Although it keeps her quite busy, she enjoys the resident assistantship and the opportunity it gives her to appreciate students problems . . . of which there are apparently many! Susan still does some part-time work with "Science Unlimited", the research lab where she worked full-time last summer. Some of the work involved retesting of E.S.P. experiments as well as the classic experiments of plant responses to various psychic and other stimuli. Result: Susan says, "Don't bother talking to your plants." But she is still intrigued by E.S.P. phenomena.

With David overseas, the four of us had a short camping trip in early August. We learned why Cloudcroft, New Mexico, got its name and then shifted to the warmer and dryer climate of Ruidoso to finish the vacation in much better spirits.

Nita and Bill, each a year older, wonder about the "wiser" part of the adage. But sustained by good friends, warm family ties, and now and then a bit of creativity and contribution shuffled in between the humdrum, we look forward to another year.

We wish you all the best during the holidays and 1976. . . .

"Salud, amor, pesetas y tiempo para gustarlos."

*Nita, Bill, Susan, David and Drew  
Mayer-Oakes*

*ce. 7. 2. 77*