

Greetings from the Leonard's

Christmas 1995

Dear Robert, Barbara, Jan, Robin & Mischa

Once again in the midst of preparations for the celebration of the birth of the Christ-Child we take time to communicate with family and friends.

This past year has been pretty routine for us, with a couple of highlights. The first was the celebration of Evelyn and Eric Henderson's 50th wedding anniversary on July 30th in Ottawa. We left a day early and spent a night visiting Alice and Graham Cowan at their 80+ year old house near Cobourg. Then on to Ottawa for the anniversary celebrations and family reunion as Adelene Leonard from Oakbank, MB (Etheridge is unable to travel that far since his stroke); Alice and Graham from Cobourg; Nancy Henderson (Eric's sister-in-law) from Toronto; The Field's (family friends) from North Gower; and us gathered with Eric & Evelyn, their children and grandchildren at Mark's home. There was time to reminisce and to catch up on all the family news; to take photos and just to enjoy being together. We returned home on August 1st by a slower route through Perth, Peterborough, Port Perry and county roads north of the Toronto area.

The second trip for us was to Stratford in August to the Festival where we saw 'The Gondoliers' and 'The Merry Wives of Windsor'. Both were very well done and particularly enjoyed by Wesley as he rented infra-red receivers for both performances.

We've enjoyed having visitors here this year also, though some were just for a few hours. These were Eric and Evelyn in June, Peter and Bev in July, Fred and Elizabeth Heeney and Maurice and Ollie Weekes. The summer was very hot and humid, and seemed especially so the week of the Ontario and Canadian W.C.T.U. conventions at the Ontario Bible College in August. Though it was a good convention with guest Mrs. Gwen Stretton of England, the World W.C.T.U. president, in attendance the non-air conditioned rooms caused illness for some and exhaustion for most of the delegates.

Jonathon is still in Tokyo, teaching English, and plans to remain in Japan for another year or more. He would also like to spend some time in Europe. During the past year he had a holiday trip to Hong Kong, Macao and Korea in June. He hoped to visit China as well, but couldn't arrange it at the time. In September he had a week's holiday in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, visiting friends. He'll get a week's holiday over New Year's and hopes to do some skiing then. He may come home for a vacation next spring if he can finance it.

Healthwise we keep well except for my vision. A second operation on my left eye in March was unsuccessful - as bleeding and scarring have caused near blindness there. That combined with the cataract in my right eye prevent me from driving the car. However I am still tutoring, can read if I hold material just right and do most everything I wish. I see another eye specialist in February 1996.

Wesley's work on the house has shifted from the roof to the basement this year. The furnace, which Wesley installed when the house was built, could no longer be kept operational, and was finally removed last spring. A new oil furnace was purchased then. It heats water to circulate through a radiator, past which air is blown to heat the house. But it was decided that the old water system of the house needed replacing - upgrading to copper or plastic piping, and should precede the installation of the furnace. So all summer the planning went on, and only when winter set in early did the actual work begin. We hope the furnace may be operating by the year's end!

As I've already mentioned our summer was unusually hot and dry, while western Canada had too much rain and some flooding. September and October were above normal temperature, but November was cool and wet. Then the first week of December winter set in with cold windy weather and record breaking snowfall in northern areas. So it appears we may have a white Christmas this year.

It is a couple years since we've been in touch. Wesley began additions to our Christmas letters, but got so involved in his writing he never finished them! So I'll add a few lines this year. We trust all are keeping well and busy as ever. Robin must be in his Junior year and is Micha beginning college this year? Are all boys as musically inclined as ever? Have you travelled this way en route to Syracuse N.Y. lately? If you do, we hope you will stop in and spend some time with us. We usually are not far from home.

Has Robert updated his computer to be able to access the <sup>Internet</sup> ~~net~~ and all it has to offer? We use ours mostly for word processing, so haven't added anything. Conathon bought a Mcintosh lap top in Japan this fall, but had to buy some software to get English characters. The keyboard is laid out in Japanese, Kanji characters and alphanumerics. - so he is learning to adapt it to his use.

How is your brother James? Last summer when we visited Alice we were amazed to see how bent over she is. She was still raising chickens then - but I think had given up raising pheasants - but she almost needs support to stand up. She doesn't appear to have as much pain as Evelyn who suffers from scoliosis. Enclosed are a couple of pictures taken at the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. It was a very hot day, but Mark's house had a lot of trees and shade. However that didn't make for best photography as people wanted to stay in the shade.

All the best to you all at this Holiday Season and throughout 1996.

With love from

Wesley + Irene

P.S. Am enclosing a copy of 1994 Christmas letter also