

Dear Wesley & Irene,

December 25, 1993

Christmas Greetings

and Best Wishes for the New Year both to relatives served by "snail mail" (the U.S. Postal Service) and to those now connected to the Internet and able to receive this via email. This is the first of what I hope will be many family Christmas messages exchanged over the Internet as more of us buy computers and get connected to the electronic highway which now connects people around our planet. Anyone receiving this by regular mail who has, or gets, an address on the Internet, please email it to me so that it can be added to the short list at the end of this message.

A brief summary of 1993 news from the Park family of Wisconsin (including the Park-Doobs), in order of age, follows:

Ian is enjoying his last year of elementary school in Madison. He has joined Cub Scouts, and in February will decide if he wants to continue in Boy Scouts. He was recently elected to 5th grade Student Council by his classmates. Next year he will be attending the middle school which shares the same building with his elementary school, within walking distance of our house.

Mischa started high school this fall, and continues to get straight A's as he has since 6th grade. His flute playing improved markedly over the summer as he took private lessons from a woman at the University who has a Ph.D. in flute, and he is now first chair flute player (and sole piccolo player) in the freshman band at his high school.

Robin graduated from high school in June with an A minus average and has moved on to the University of Wisconsin-Madison as a music composition major. He is living in a dorm not far from the center of campus, and has been my most frequent Internet email correspondent since I got connected in November.

Casey and her husband Brad have bought a 2-bedroom house in Waukegan, IL, where Casey is selling real estate.

Barbara continues to work at the Central Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled and until recently was singing 2 nights a week in 2 different choral groups. She is also directing the sometimes choir at our church, including a particularly well received piece earlier this month in which I sang bass and Mischa played the flute. *Since I read music poorly, Barbara recorded my part (& a couple of others) on the computer so that I could use the computer for practicing singing the bass part.* I (Robert) continue to work at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and have developed a great interest in MIDI music (music which our computer plays through our electronic keyboards). I was delighted to find that we had moved in 2 houses away from the past chair of the Music Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who had recently purchased a state-of-the-art electronic synthesizer and keyboard (a Kurzweil K2000R with a full sized Fatar keyboard). He has been most generous in letting me try out the system and borrow its manual. He says whatever I learn about it he doesn't have to. I look forward to learning how to transfer music files from our IBM compatible system to Warren's new

Macintosh system in Minneapolis, which I'll get to see for the first time Dec. 28.

Barbara, Ian and I had our first (and smallest) Christmas celebration today. Tomorrow Robin and Mischa arrive and on Monday Casey and Brad are coming up for our 2nd celebration. Then on Tuesday Robin, Mischa, Ian, Barb and I will drive to Warren's house in Minneapolis for our traditional Christmas with our combined families plus James, 10 of us in all.

I hope this has been a good Christmas for all of you. I conclude with our current family Internet email address list:

In Fredericton, NB:

Linda - lcn@unb.ca

Tony - rhine@academic.stu.stthomasu.ca

In Madison, WI:

Robin - parkdoob@students.wisc.edu

Robert - parkr@dnrmai.dnr.wisc.gov

*It was nice to get your Christmas letter and hear about your travels and other family news, such as Jonathon's return from overseas. Glad to hear you finished the church sign finished, Wesley. It must be satisfying to see it in operation. And the roof project sounds like it was quite a major effort. I often thought it would be nice to have a skylight in our kitchen in the Lake Wisconsin home, but never attempted it, and it would not be so practical here at our Madison house.*