

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM SUNNY CALIFORNIA,

1976 HAS BEEN A YEAR OF EXCITEMENT AND CHANGE AT OUR HOUSE. WE SPENT THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR IN AMES WHILE SANDY FINISHED VETERINARY SCHOOL AND MILO CONTINUED AS A SYSTEM PROGRAMMER FOR R. H. DONNELLEY CORPORATION, A DIRECT MAIL ADVERTISING FIRM IN NEVADA, IOWA. ALTHOUGH WE ENJOYED THE GOOD THINGS TO BE FOUND LIVING IN THE COUNTRY (WILD FLOWERS IN THE WOODS IN SPRING, A GARDEN FULL OF VEGETABLES IN SUMMER, THE FIERY COLORS OF AN IOWA AUTUMN, AND ICE SKATING ON THE FARM POND IN WINTER), GRADUATION IN MAY FOUND US LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME. THERE WERE TWO TRIPS TO THE WEST COAST IN JUNE AND JULY FOR JOB HUNTING AND FOR SANDY TO TAKE THE STATE BOARD EXAMS FOR WASHINGTON, OREGON, AND CALIFORNIA. WE SAW SOME BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY BUT NOT VERY MANY JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST. MILO FOUND THE JOB HE WAS LOOKING FOR WITH BREUNERS, A FURNITURE COMPANY BASED IN SAN RAMON, CALIFORNIA, WHERE THERE APPEARED SANDY WOULD HAVE SOME JOB OPPORTUNITIES ALSO.

THE FIRST WEEK IN AUGUST FOUND US, SANDY'S PARENTS, THREE CATS, TWO DOGS, TWO HORSES AND ALL OUR WORLDLY GOODS PACKED INTO A 24 FOOT U-HAUL AND A HORSE TRAILER HEADING CROSS COUNTRY FOR AN "ADVENTURE IN MOVING". WE ARE NOW SETTLED IN CONDORD, CALIFORNIA, HOWEVER AS SOON AS WE FIND A HOUSE TO BUY IT WILL BE TIME TO MOVE AGAIN. CONDORD IS IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA AND ABOUT ONE HOUR DRIVE TO THE PACIFIC, THREE HOURS TO YCSEMITE, AND FOUR HOURS TO SKIING AT SQUAW VALLEY NEAR LAKE TAHOE. MILO HAS A 30 MINUTE COMMUTE TO HIS JOB AS A SYSTEM PROGRAMMER AND SANDY TRAVELS TEN MINUTES INTO WALNUT CREEK WHERE SHE IS ONE OF FOUR DOCTORS IN A SMALL ANIMAL CLINIC.

CALIFORNIA HAS BEEN FULL OF NEW EXPERIENCES FOR US - PLANTING GARDENS IN OCTOBER, PERPETUAL NICE WEATHER, AND LOTS OF (TOO MANY) PEOPLE. IN OUR "SPARE TIME" WE HAVE BEGUN TO TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN FLYING BY ENROLLING IN AVIATION GROUND SCHOOL AND HOPE TO PROGRESS TO FLYING LESSONS IN THE UPCOMING YEAR. SANDY HAS VERY MUCH ENJOYED THE OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN HORSEBACK RIDING LESSONS AT A NEARBY STABLE AND MILO THINKS IT GREAT TO HAVE THE SPACE TO WORK ON THE CAR HE IS BUILDING.

1977 HOLDS HOPES FOR EXPLORING CALIFORNIA AND A WEEK OF COLORADO SKIING. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO VISITS FROM SANDY'S PARENTS AT CHRISTMAS AND MILO'S FOLKS IN JANUARY.

WE HOPE THE HOLIDAY SEASON BRINGS TO YOU THE JOYS AND GOOD FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTMAS. HAVE A HAPPY AND LOVING 1977.

MILO & SANDY