

December 1969

Greetings! (This is not from your local draft board!)

The Humphreys' annual Christmas letter is back on the presses. Perhaps we should miss more often. The responses from the post cards we sent with our new address - plus the cards received last Christmas - indicate that we have a sizable readership, and this is quite heartwarming!

As for 1968, let's just say it was traumatic for reasons too complicated to explain here. Anyway, Laud received his Ph.D., accepted a position as assistant professor of sociology at Southern Ill. University, and we moved across the Mississippi in October. Edwardsville is really part of the St. Louis area, and we are 25 minutes from downtown. We like it here, the people are great, and the University is a booming, exciting place to be. Our one gripe is the public school system, which is lousy!

As for activities - wow, where to begin? Laud's book will be published in April. Everyone on our Christmas list will receive an announcement. It will be published by Aldine Press in Chicago, under the title of Tearoom Trade: Impersonal Sex in Public Places. Please remit promptly! Also dash to your nearest library and look for the 1969 edition of the Encyclopedia Americana. Laud wrote 3 articles for it: CRIME AND CRIMINOLOGY, THE COSA NOSTRA, and THE MAFIA. He has the lead article in the January 1970 edition of Trans-action magazine, a social science journal. He is currently writing chapters for two books being edited by other sociology professors and has also contracted to edit a book of articles on homosexuality. This Fall, he gave some lectures at Harvard, where he has been doing some consulting for the Joint Center for Urban Studies. All this with teaching his regular classes in criminology and social problems here at SIU.

I fought "the battle of the eyes" off and on all year, tried twice (without success) to begin some graduate studies in theatre, and campaigned for a professor running for state senator (he lost, as do all my candidates - think I'll get out of politics). In addition, I've played bridge with faculty wives, worked on the Altar Guild at church, and have assisted Laud with draft counselling and the new homophile organization in St. Louis.

The children are thriving: Clair is in first grade and taking ballet lessons. David is in kindergartden, starting to show a real interest in the piano, and can really sock a baseball across a vacant lot.

The whole family spent a week in Tulsa last June visiting relatives. The Summer centered around Edwardsville's version of Woodstock, the Mississippi River Festival, which combined symphony concerts with such artists as Joni Mitchell, Arlo Guthrie, the Band (with Bob Dylan's first appearance since his accident), Janis Joplin, Buffie St. Marie, Richie Havens, and Joan Baez. Combine all that with season tickets to the Municipal Opera across the river, and you can imagine what a well-rounded musical season we enjoyed! We thought Baez was the best, but it was all great. ↗

We've gained 2 new members to our family this Fall - and lost 1: Judy Allen, a freshman at SIU, moved in this September; Tabitha, a kitten, joined us on Halloween; and Thumper, our dog for over nine years, died suddenly the first week of November. She was a good "pudge", and we miss her.

We are looking forward to a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with love and peace and wish all of you the same!

--Laud & Nancy, Clair & David
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In September, Laud and I attended the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association in San Francisco, where Laud presented a paper.

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