





POST CARD

Evel

U.S. Embassy (Beijing)

PSC 401, Box 50

FPO 986521-0002

1997

FPO



Harry S. Truman

USA 20c

Dear Sam & Carol:  
 Scenery here just "moreso" than  
 anyone could anticipate - Riked  
 w/ 3 grandchildren to village  
 yesterday - they a bit wobbly &  
 a few leaders in mud, but good  
 sports - Had great meal in a  
 communal court yard which farmers  
 wife made from berries & rice from  
 terraced fields - Sat amongst the  
 pigs & chickens - Great ambience -

碧水漁舟

碧水の漁舟

Fishing Boat on Green Water

英 楠 攝

Wags Harry & kids back to Beijing  
 Today & Walt & Jon on our own  
 trip to a village - Use the Si River  
 trip boat & then take back  
 Hope all is well w/ you - It sure is for us - xx

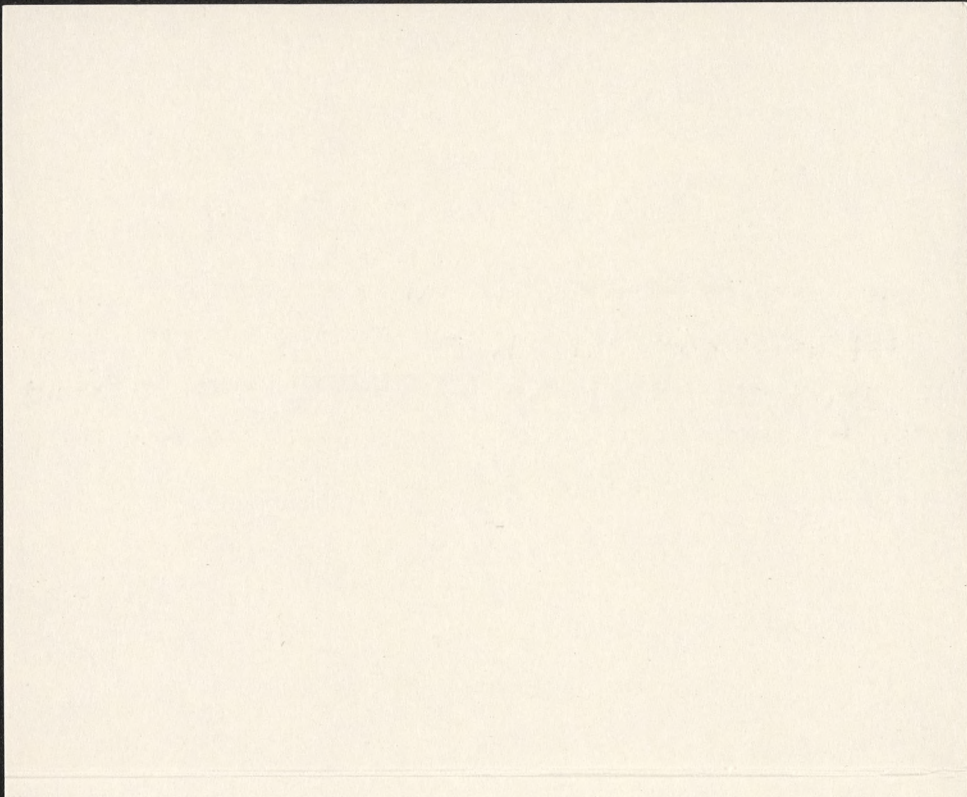


Carol & Joan Dorey  
 17021 10th Ave NW  
 Seattle, WA  
 98197

USA -

Sarah E. Nelson







Dear Carol and Ivan,

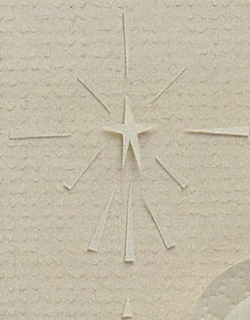
Thank you so much for the graduation money!  
I just drove home from Billsville (Williamstown), and it really helped with the trip.

This summer is really supposed to be my relaxing time between college and grad school, but I'm already filling it up — I don't think I'd know how to relax if I were ordered to do it. I'm working at the law firm again, and I'm also cutting my thesis down to a publishable article. In the evenings, I've found a softball team to play with, and I'm also playing frisbee.

Have a great summer!

Love,

Dan





beginning. The pay isn't  
great but the experience is.



Dear Carol & Juan,

With warm  
thoughts of you  
and a prayer that God  
will bless you  
during this Christmas  
season.

Evelyn, Barry,  
Daniel & David

Thank you for the help  
you gave David in the summer.  
He works for Harburt Publishers.  
They produce self-help and  
devotional books. It is a  
small business & young, 10 years  
old. How long he'll stay there  
I don't know. It is a good



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Christmas, 1997

Dear Carol & Juan,

This has been an eventful year for our family. In the Spring both Daniel and David graduated in their respective fields of study. Daniel is a respiratory therapist and David is a proof-reader, copy-editor for a local publisher.

As a graduation gift we took a vacation in Australia visiting Sydney, the Outback and the Great Barrier Reef. We have many wonderful memories (and pictures) of kangaroos, koalas, scuba diving.

Because his medication was not preventing his heart from going into atrial fibrillation, Barry was given a pacemaker on Oct 23. It seems to be working well and we are praying it will solve the problem.

We pray this finds you and yours well and prospering. May you have a blessed Christmas and a wonderful year in 1998!

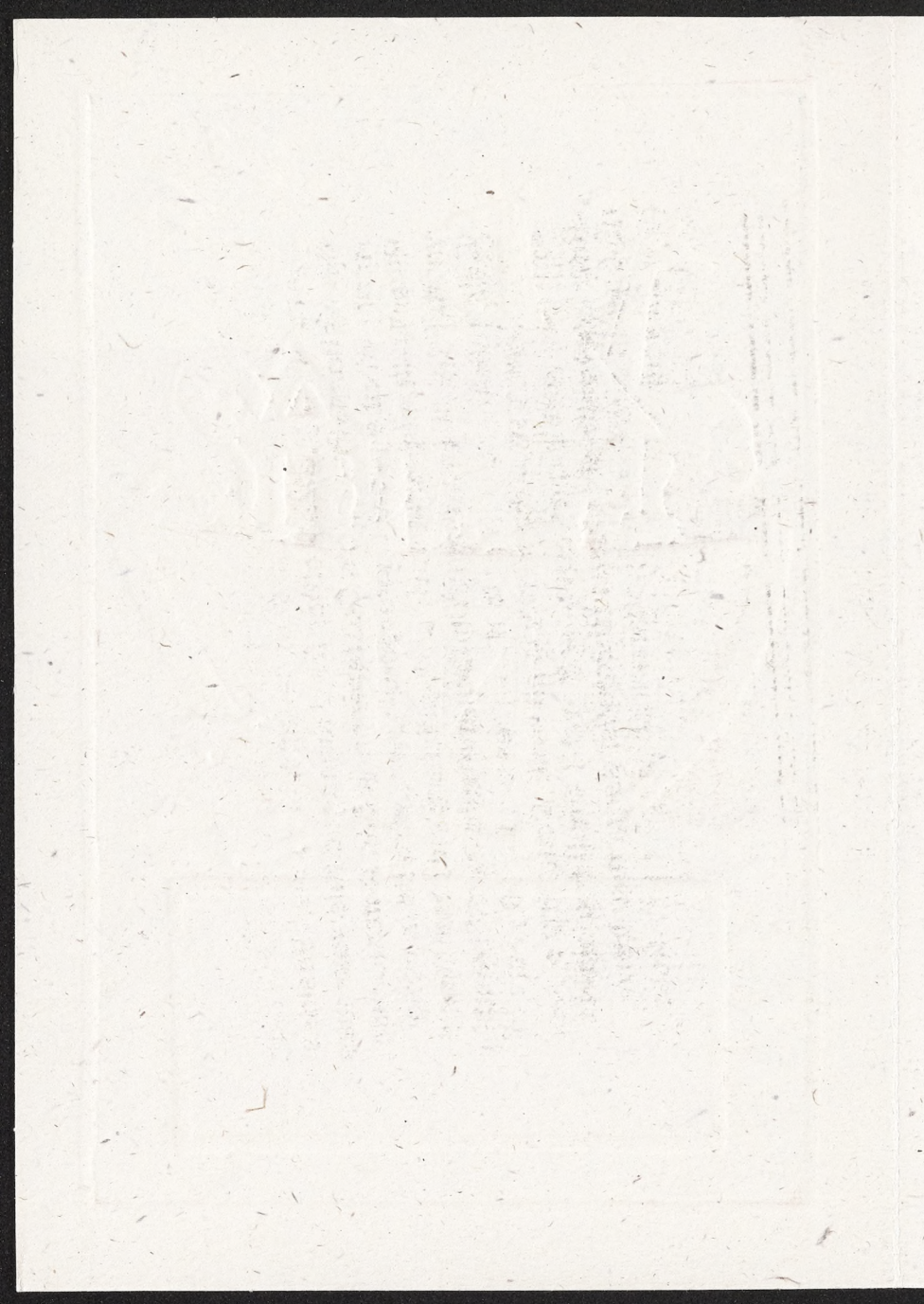
It is always good to get your Christmas note





All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful:  
The Lord God made them all.

Cecil Frances Alexander





May His blessings  
surround you at Christmas  
and always.

Nidge McAllen  
McIlvray





## MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU

December 1997

Dear Carol,

I LOVED receiving your note of last Christmas with news of Ivan's appearance

with Robert Hass. What wonderful adventures you two have had! But I savored your personal note. Are you still teaching? Ignoring possibilities of early retirement, I have about 5 years as principal...which means only 5 years to construct my next career. I'm fortunate to work with a great group of teachers...it allows me to ignore a fair amount of nonuseful b\_\_\_\_\_t.

1997 was a very hard year for me...a year centered on my mother's battle with lung cancer which resulted in her death August 8th. She was courageous throughout the ordeal. I'm so very grateful to my aunt (her sister) and uncle, who came to assist her throughout her radiation and in her final month, and to Hospice, an incredible organization. Another blessing is that my brother and family were able to arrive in Spokane in time to have a bit of quality time with Mom.

I spent every spare moment of September and October working to clear Mom's apartment, a task that left me with a deep resolve to clear every unused/unnneeded item from each closet and storage cabinet in my own home! However, I stole away one long weekend to enjoy a rare event: my 41st high school reunion back in Springfield, Illinois! Bearing in mind all the past "Cathy" comic strips, I was more than a bit skeptical, but it proved to be a great experience .... one which allowed me to reestablish friendships with a



couple of long-lost friends as well as having an evening of fun trying to recognize once-familiar faces. Besides the reunion, the only other trip I managed this year was the National Principals Conference in San Antonio last April. What a great conference town, with its inviting RiverWalk and delicious south-western cuisine! Yes, I visited the Alamo (I lived in its namesake for 10 years in California!).

The rest of the family is all well. Doug (my oldest son) and Roni's girls are now 3 and 7 and I'm so glad they live relatively close. His oldest daughter, Alexis, is now 11 and lives in Spokane with her mother. Ross (my 22 year old) is living in Seattle, enjoying friends and still thinking about choices for the future!

I'm sure you can understand why I'm hoping for a better year in '98. Time, hopefully, will have implemented the healing process, and I'll be feeling better. I'm getting away the last week of Christmas break for visit to Costa Rica. And I'm actually thinking of a trip to Europe next summer with friends.

I'm hoping you'll enjoy a wonderful holiday season with family and friends.

*Warm holiday wishes,  
Midge*

P.S. e-mail address: [midgem@sd81.k12.wa.us](mailto:midgem@sd81.k12.wa.us)





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Designed by Dan Foster



Saturday Dec. 13

Dear Carol & Ivan

Tried to call you two in August during an hour layover in Seattle, but got no answer. I was en route to Alaska for a nine-day bike ride (Anchorage to Glenallen, south to Valdez, ferry to Whittier, train ride, then back to Anchorage -- it was a good experience, about 420 miles, four nights camping and four in motels). Didn't try to call on the way back because we were in Seattle about 3 a.m.

Started thinking what I could say in a Christmas letter and suddenly my life seems rather dull. I haven't been out of Natchitoches this fall except for a bike ride in Shreveport in October, Thanksgiving in Houston, and a meeting of faculty senate officers in Alexandria last week.

Life has been easier this fall, as I had a course reduction for being faculty senate president and taught only nine hours (all familiar stuff, thank heavens... my opinion of Homer does not change). Running senate meetings, though, is enough to drive a person crazy -- those people will not LISTEN, will not be QUIET, will not STAY ON THE TOPIC. And I can't throw them out of the room (as I have done students).

My dad had a stroke in early November -- he is doing quite well (considering how bad it could be) but is impatient with himself and believes he should be doing better. It annoys him that taking out the garbage is now a chore. He is driving himself to physical therapy and hopes to be back on the golf course in January. I don't know when Mom will let him out on his bicycle again.

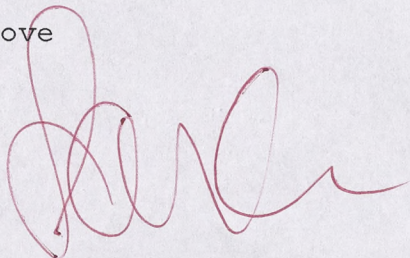
Mom has a real estate agent looking for a house in Shreveport, but nothing has turned up. Of course, she is VERY particular; she would like to have their house in Houston transported to Louisiana. Both are 86, and I sure do want them closer to me.

I give an exam today at noon (imagine how much students like Saturday afternoon exams) and one Monday at 8. Figure on grading like crazy and leaving for Houston Wednesday morning.

Last week I volunteered to judge graduate papers in the history division for the Southeast Journalism Colloquium and now fear I have lost my mind ... WHAT do I know about the history of journalism? Northwestern is one of the co-sponsors of the meeting (March in New Orleans) and I'm hoping to go.

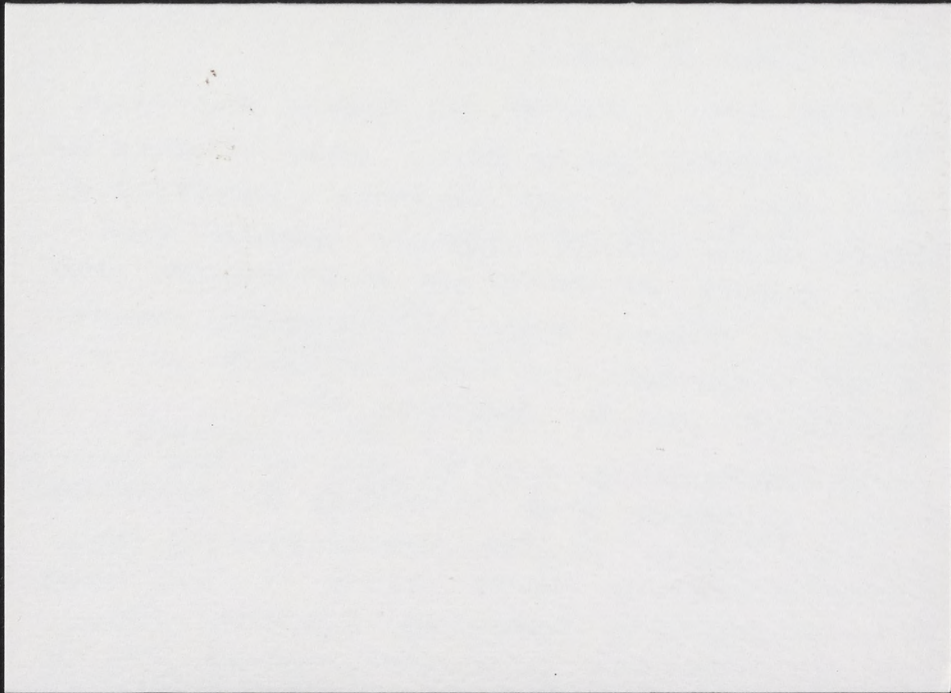
My dad's golf partner told me he is looking forward to Ivan's next book; he is 88, so I hope it comes soon.

Love





*Sarah and Laird*





December 1998

Greetings from the Ridings household! We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

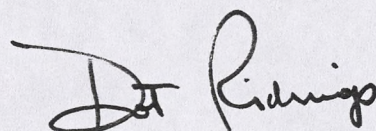
The year has been an uneventful one for us, a welcome change. Don Jr. (still "Chip" to some of you) survived Year One of marriage and Don's second year of law school at George Washington University. Matt put in another year as a Lot Person (the official title) at Home Depot and celebrated a pay raise and more victories in Special Olympics basketball and softball. I oversaw a year of tremendous growth in the foundation world at the Council on Foundations (let's hear it for the stock market!).

Some details: Don and Berit made several trips to Norway, Berit's birthplace. Right after Christmas she returns again, to visit her family and to escort a U.S. congressional delegation on an economic mission (she's a diplomat at the Norwegian Embassy in Washington). Don will not go on this trip, as he prepares for his final semester in law school. He has already accepted a job after graduation (with hopes of bar passage next summer) at Covington & Burling in Washington, the firm where he clerked last summer.

Matt's greatest joy continues to be sports, with computers coming in second. He is already celebrating what he is sure will be a national football championship for his favorite team, Florida State (his fandom began during our years in Florida where his high school also was known as the Seminoles). This year he joined a social club for young adults with mental limitations, and he's really enjoying that social outlet. The group goes on tours ("Washington monuments by night" and to fall crafts fairs), has dinners and attends plays and sports events. The major problem is getting off work on Saturdays to participate in these activities, since Home Depot is quite busy on weekends.

My job continues to energize me, and I've promised myself to cut back on my travel to visit our member foundations and corporate giving programs. I took only one trip abroad this year, to speak at a conference in Germany put on by the Bertelsmann Foundation, and even cancelled a planned trip to Portugal for a meeting of the Hague Club (European foundation leaders) when time pressures got too great. The Council on Foundations continues to grow as more and more foundations are formed and demands increase for staff development, congressional lobbying and other services, and that makes it all the more interesting. And next spring I'm going to teach an adult Sunday school class, which Don Sr. and I used to do together and I have missed doing for some years now. My New Year's resolution is also to find time for other things I've personally enjoyed and have missed, such as League of Women Voters activities (though I did attend the League's national convention in San Diego this year and had a wonderful reunion with other former League leaders).

And that sums up the year 1998 for the Ridings clan. There remains a huge hole in our lives following Don Sr.'s death in June 1997 (still seems like yesterday in some ways), but we go on and are finding our own peace. May peace be with each of you as well.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Don Ridings". The signature is stylized, with a large, sweeping "D" and a cursive "Ridings".



*Hi: Carol + Joan!*

*Christmas, 1998*

*Holiday Greetings to our family and friends everywhere!*

*When we looked out our bedroom window last Sunday morning and saw four deer grazing on our lawn near the lagoon, we were struck by the fact that perhaps they were there for a purpose.. a reminder that their relatives will soon be pulling Santa's sleigh to visit the homes of good little boys and girls and we, too, better get on the stick and get busy with Christmas. But wasn't the last Christmas just a few months ago?? Time seems to evaporate into thin air at this stage in our lives.*

*A rather uneventful year for the Hilton Head Island Baldwins. Oh, Jeanne had cataract surgery in February and Ben manages to keep at least five doctors' salaries at a decent level throughout the year, but no really major medical complaints this year, thank God. Our memories have shrunk considerably and we hate that...but, hey, everybody down here has "senior moments."*

*We enjoyed visits here and afar with relatives and friends...including former students...and get a kick out of keeping in touch via e-mail with some of you. Keep those cards, letters and e-mail (BHBNU46@aol.com.) coming!*

*Our children and their children are in states of transition as we write, with Mark and Sydney and their three sweet girls (Hannah, 11 - Mary, 7 and Jane, 5 moving to Elmira, NY, where Mark will become managing editor of the STAR-GAZETTE, the first of Gannett's newspapers, in early January. They seem to be eager for a new adventure. Sydney and the girls will join him after the Chicago house is sold. We pray it's soon!*

*Claudia and Richard and their three are looking forward to the construction and opening of their new restaurant in the Destin, FL area, where they live. All three kids (Will, 14 - Jacqui - 12, and Lily - 5 on Dec. 28) are into school and SOCCER and their mother is in the van transporting them here and there more than she is at home or at her part-time job. We spent a very pleasant Thanksgiving holiday with them.*

*As a new year begins, we look forward to celebrating Ben's 80th birthday on March 1 and to the beginning of a new millenium in 12 short months. May God bless you with good health and much happiness in the New Year.*

*Love,*

*Jeanne + Ben*