

## GREETINGS IN THE NEW YEAR !

After going through homecomings (Tim's) final exams (Sharon's), Christmas projects and the flu we decided our annual letter would become a New Year greeting. We hope all of you had a healthy and happy holiday and are off to a great start for 1987.

1986 seemed to be another year of travel for us. Tim & Sharon took a mini-vacation to Williamsburg, Virginia in late December (1985). We really enjoyed this completely restored historic area, and 48 hours without children, thanks to some very generous friends.

In March, Tim was off again, this time to California for a month. Terry, Jocelyn, Sharon and Amanda had plenty to keep them busy.

On Easter Sunday Jocelyn announced she was taking the training wheels off her bike and within 1/2 hour was riding. She rides all over the neighborhood, and with Amanda in the bike seat on Sharon's bike, now we can all ride together. Jocelyn has become as avid a reader as her brother and likes to play with Amanda. In June Jocelyn performed in a show produced by her dance school, doing a tap number with a wild flapper costume.

Terry was busy with Cub Scouts, enjoying third grade, occupying Mom with such simple projects as a solar-powered robot dog (Capsella parts, styrofoam, paint, a solar cell and small motor) and reading.

Amanda loved her Gymboree class where she could do her favorite things: jumping, climbing, running, making noise, sliding, rolling, and singing.

Sharon was volunteering at Terry and Jocelyn's school, caring for whomever was sick at the time, helping Jocelyn make a kite for a unit on wind at school, and for Terry's class, making sushi and getting half the staff including the principal to sample it.

In April Amanda & Sharon had the opportunity to go to California for a visit and in anticipation of what we thought was a move home in June. Amanda loved getting to know her grandparents, aunts & uncles but she especially talks about "Chinchilly" (Chantilly) the cat and Ruff & Gypsy the dogs. Thanks to all those who helped us with househunting.

In our spring garden Terry and Jocelyn grew some great carrots & beets and we even had a volunteer pumpkin vine which threatened to engulf our neighbor's house and which produced a Jack O'Lantern for us. We squeezed in a family trip to Williamsburg, VA and King's Dominion (a nearby amusement park), hiking and some weekend camping trips. Amanda is a great camper. She likes sleeping in the tent and finding marshmallow sticks.

Usually summer is a time to relax from routines, but not this year! Late June was spent exploring local attractions, swimming and for Terry and Jocelyn, going to swim team practice. Terry and Jocelyn chose to go to summer school for the month of July. Jocelyn took French while Terry signed up for Art and a wonderful multi-media class called Disc-Jockey Club. Jocelyn was soon using a few French phrases around the house. With daily

swim practice and 2-3 meets a week, July zipped past. Terry and Jocelyn did fairly well on swim team for their first year. Oh yes, Tim was in California in June and July with a side trip to Gulfport, Mississippi thanks to the Navy.

During this time Sharon was planning for something we had all wanted to do for a long-time, travel through Canada and New England.

As Tim returned home, August arrived. With a new tent (A 6-person Eureka Wind River Dome), a new Sears car-top carrier inconspicuously mounted on top of our Renault Alliance, which was already stuffed inside and out, we were off!! We spent 3 weeks traveling through 13 states and 2 Canadian provinces and covering 3100 miles. Yes, we did see more than McDonald's restaurants and roadside reststops. Camping, except for weekly one-night stays in a motel, enabled us to see more countryside and, of course, meet more people.

We scheduled less time in relatively close states such as Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts but took time to visit local historic sites or attractions; we drove through central Rhode Island (Sharon is somewhat convinced this is where the Joslin family first settled in the colonies), saw Newport, spent a day in the rain on the beach in Cape Cod National Seashore where Terry and Jocelyn had their first experience body surfing (poor misplaced Californians). We didn't see Plymouth Rock but spent an afternoon at the Ocean Spray cranberry exhibit and learned a lot about cranberries. We also visited the Gloucester area, reminiscent of the Mendocino, California coast. The seafood and ice cream kept getting better and better!

Terry, Jocelyn and Amanda were coping fairly well this whole time; excited with all the new sites and learning about mosquitoes and rain, two things New England had in record amounts this summer. Terry spent a few whole days in the tent or car reading...this is camping?

As we camped at a combination campground and organic beef farm on Casco Bay near Freeport, Maine we felt the first nip of Arctic air. We could watch the tide recede literally 1/4 mile and hear clam diggers slushing through the mudflats at midnight. In the clear, cold sky we could see a glow that we first thought to be a cloud but realized it must be the Aurora Borealis.

After a quick shopping spree in Freeport (L. L. Bean, et. al...by the way, did you know that L. L. Bean is open 24-hours a day?), it was on to Mt. Desert Island and an ascent (porters by Renault) of the towering 500 meter Mt. Cadillac, the highest east coast point north of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (By the way Tim visited Rio, too, this year.) Jocelyn, adventurer of the day, bushwhacked down the mountainside, then led the whole family along her newly-found trail.

Due to cold drippy weather, we didn't do quite what we planned in the Bar Harbor area but we did accumulate some memories: Hiking in the fog and finding enough wild blueberries for pancakes; Amanda (Age 2) got a hole-in-one on the Pee Wee golf course's 19th hole, winning a free ice-cream cone, riding go-karts where Terry didn't understand why that man was waving his arms and had two extra turns around the track and there was more hiking and a little "bouldering".

At College of the Atlantic, in Bar Harbor, we happened upon a group of students and faculty dissecting a dolphin that had been caught in a fishing net. Amanda was especially impressed (Tim found doing the laundry was far more interesting). We saw many classic Maine scenes of lighthouses, fog, evergreens and granite so much like the Pacific Coast but still different. Our picture shows a typical day: an outing in the rain, the lobster pots, a Maine ferry taking hay out to one of the many tiny islands. And what else did we see parked at the dock? A Volvo with California plates and a sticker that said "Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory"!!

We headed north through potato country stopping at Loring AFB in Caribou, Maine to get cash and supplies. Sharon had forgotten her French books and found the last French dictionary at the base exchange. It was a lifesaver. As we crossed the Canadian border, the sky cleared (really) and we arrived at Riviere-Du-Loup, Quebec on the St. Lawrence Seaway in time to see a beautiful sunset.

Our first international confrontation came at a Shell mini-mart where Sharon, drawing courage from the dictionary, asked directions to our motel. After many, "a la droite, a la gauche ...", she was able to translate the directions to Tim despite her state of shock. Later in the motel room Terry, Jocelyn, and Amanda were excited to watch some TV after roughing it for a week. But they looked slightly confused as they realized the familiar looking faces were not speaking English!

The next day we boarded the ferry to cross the seaway, and then settled into our campground near a waterfall in La Malbaie. Quebec is beautiful and we definitely knew we were not in the states. We visited Quebec City: the Zoo, the Citadel, shops and had some wonderful meals. It was flattering to be asked if we were French, at least until the conversation progressed. Jocelyn recognized many words, spoken and in print and Terry, not to be outdone, ordered his breakfast in French. Amanda just went around saying "Je m'appelle..." and whatever word came to her.

Too soon we left Quebec to finish our trip in Vermont and New Hampshire. We found neat things to do in Burlington, most of which were closed on Sunday, and would like to return to the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Somehow we all survived the 16 hour drive home from New Hampshire to Maryland. Maybe it was hearing our tapes: Gummi Bears, Robin Hood, and the Limelighters, oh...about 26 times each. Or the carefully chosen assortment of toys scattered through the car. Or the well-planned meals, such as warm peanut butter, cheese and leftover hamburger eaten off the hood of our car at a rest stop on the New Jersey turnpike. We were glad to be home but can't think of anywhere we wouldn't want to spend a month...except in our lousy motel in Milford, Connecticut.

Very quickly Tim was back at work and Terry, Jocelyn, Amanda and Sharon found themselves in school. Amanda loves her preschool at the local college while Mom is remembering how to study and dissect cats in her Anatomy and Physiology class. The kids got used to hearing about or seeing various specimens but one evening while her mother was preparing dinner Amanda looked at the kitchen counter and said, "Mom, are we having your brain for

dinner?"

Sharon also found herself in charge of 15 girls as a Brownie Girl Scout Troop Leader. We soon spent our evenings again doing homework and going to meetings. Then came another surprise. In November Tim announced he was off to Brazil for seven weeks. Tim says the work was very hard in Brazil, but all we've seen so far is pictures of beaches and him surfing...oh well. Tim's absence was a difficult time for everyone. We knew we were in trouble when, in the first week Amanda, among other things flooded the bathroom late one evening. Terry, Jocelyn, and Amanda all pitched in and helped Mom; Jocelyn enjoys Brownies, Terry is doing well on the clarinet and Sharon managed to get an A in her class, co-ordinate a ceremony for her troop and not get sick until after Tim returned on December 20.

We are now waiting to hear if we will live in Brazil for 8 to 10 months this year...1987 appears to be another interesting year!

*Tim*

*Sharon*

*Amanda*

*Terry*

*Jocelyn*

Tim, Sharon, Terry, Jocelyn, and Amanda Morgan

