



Merry Christmas!



December 1995

To our Family and Friends:

This was a year for continuing significant change in the Dobbs household. One big change was the location of the household itself. In March we began the process of a local move to:

73 Riverview Road

Glastonbury, CT 06033-3137

Our telephone number is the same, 633-1814, but the area code for our part of Connecticut is now **860**. We still have a modem/FAX, so if you like that medium you can use (860)657-4095. This house is somewhat larger we were getting pretty cramped with only 1600 sq. ft. for the five of us. Our new home is about a mile south of the former one with a backyard along the greenway that borders the Connecticut River. We both like modern houses so we went and bought a 3-year old Georgian colonial! Now if we could only sell our old house... If you would like to join us in Glastonbury, I know of a nice, modest ranch with...

Laura Connor (Mary's mother) visits us frequently from her new place in Annapolis, Maryland. But, at other times you can well imagine most of our life centers around the children, so here is the continuing saga:

Kate completed her junior year at Deerfield academy and had an unusually busy summer. She went on a school-sponsored trip to France which helped make her more of a Francophile by deep immersion. She was then off to Fort Lauderdale for more diving instruction and practice. She is on the Deerfield varsity diving squad. She then returned for a school-sponsored week of bagpipe camp. While the French Horn remains her first love, she finds the bagpipes interesting and Deerfield needed players for school functions. It was then off to a more traditional two weeks of sports camp. During the spring term she is a thrower for the Deerfield track team. Beware of bagpipers who can also scare the enemy by throwing the javelin! Academically, she is a frenzied senior who is busy applying to colleges in her spare time. We visited so many colleges in the last year she doesn't want to see any more until she knows where she is accepted. She also finds time to be a dorm proctor, the yearbook faculty editor, and a volunteer firefighter. Kate is a dedicated Macintosh person.

John graduated from eighth grade at St. James School in Manchester and heard so much about the advantages of boarding school, he is following in his sister's footsteps--but at a rival location: Salisbury School in Salisbury, CT. Deerfield and Salisbury actually compete in some sports, so there are some interesting family

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discussions. Salisbury has a great sports program and the small classes he needs. It is in the mountains in northwest Connecticut where the Appalachian Trail borders the campus, so they have a lot of outdoor programs. He surprised us by going out for football and he has changed his winter sport from ice hockey to wrestling. So he is trying some new things and benefiting from the experience. Last summer he was involved in two camp programs, one in the Lake Winnepesaukee area of New Hampshire and one here in Connecticut that the BSA runs. John is a dedicated PC person.

Laura is a busy almost seven year old who loves first grade. She is doing well at her studies. Last summer she took lessons on swimming and tennis at our swim club and is currently continuing figure skating and gymnastics. She also loves to draw and write journals. Maybe we have a budding author! She has started piano lessons and also enjoys many of the new multimedia learning programs on either a PC or a Mac and avoids the arguments about which is better.

Mary and Greg have been quite busy trying to keep up with all of this. Greg continues to work in the areas of environmental chemistry and separation science at UTC as the corporation struggles to increase profitability and decide how much research it needs. Mary has been busy with the family relocation and her other activities. The Connecticut economy is still poor, without much job creation and continuing layoffs.

We'd love to hear from you or have you visit. If you can't make it in person, you can try e-mail to 72143.3374@compuserve.com or an alternate address using a new internet provider: dobbs@concentric.net. If you like to surf the worldwide web you can try washing up at our personal home page at URL:

<http://www.dobbs.nu>

If you have an e-mail address, please send it to us.

We wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season and all the best for the New Year!

Mary, Greg, Kate, John, and Laura

