

1957

"Twin Oaks"

1259 Oakridge Drive,
Cleveland Heights 21, Ohio

Dear Friends:

In the annals of Renner Christmas Letters, this could aptly be called the "Russian Year" --1959-- for it began January 2nd with the Russians successfully sending their 1-1/2 ton rocket into interplanetary space, and photographing the blind side of the moon with another rocket, September 13th. Returning from Russia in August, we felt somewhat as if we had been shot into intercultural space. We avidly read all about Mr. and Mrs. Khrushchev's visit to our country in the newspapers and in the deluge of magazine articles that followed. Since Mr. K's visit, with the two articles in the National Geographic magazine on Russia, the fine books we are still reading, and our slides and movies to help tell the story, we feel we will be in orbit on this subject for a long while.

The United States has added two satellites, Alaska and Hawaii, and we have acquired two grandsons, so, all in all, it's been a grand year! January (29th) saw my sister, Dr. Eleanor Steindorf married to Mr. Earl Johnson. Their home is 1210 Brookmere Rd., Pasadena 2, Calif. February 13th, David Frank Percy was born to Ruth and Frank, thus putting the first spoke in the wheel at "Wagon Hollow", Northfield, Ohio. During the winter and spring, the Percy home at Wagon Hollow underwent a metamorphosis and their welcome mat is always out.

Bob, as Chief Resident in Radiology at Johns Hopkins Hospital, passed his Radiology Boards in March and moved his family from Baltimore to Cleveland July 1st, when he became an Associate in the Radiology Department at Doctors Hospital. They reside at 3079 E. Derbyshire Rd., Cleveland Heights. Their third child Reid Richard, was born September 11th, so Debra Ann and Tara Lei have a baby brother.

To be nearer the Cleveland Skating Club and the Rapid Transit Line, John moved to an apartment at 12700 Shaker Blvd., Cleveland 20. He counteracts the vicissitudes of Patent Law (Oberlin, Maky & Donnelly) by romping with nieces and nephews and by playing tennis (won the Skating Club's Doubles Championship in July). Mary also moved to a new apartment in Ann Arbor during the summer and now lives at 1117 Church Street. Her friend Cicely Chan was with us several weeks between summer and fall terms of the University of Michigan.

During the Commencement week-end at Bethany College in June, Dr. R.R.R. Sr. received the Alumni Distinguished Service Award. Soon after, at the annual meeting in Washington of the Religious Heritage of America (Washington Pilgrimage), he and I were named official delegates to the Peace and Spiritual Life Conference, which lasted a bit over six weeks and included conferences in seven European countries and Russia. My sister Margaret came to stay here while we were gone, and she helped the Percys entertain Mlle. Odette Chassant, a French woman visiting here for two weeks.

We left July 7th and returned August 18th, spending from four to seven days each in London, Paris, Geneva, Bonn, Blückerburg, Germany; West and East Berlin, Moscow and Leningrad. We stopped briefly at Helsinki, Copenhagen and Brussels. The trip held many pinnacles for us, - the literal one of ascending 12,800 ft. by cable car to Aiguille du Midi, from which height we could almost throw snowballs at Mont Blanc, 15,781 ft., Europe's highest peak. One of our fellow "climbers" that day was Secretary of State, Christian Herter. Other pinnacles were visiting Tolstoy's Estate, 125 miles south of Moscow, seeing Rembrandt's "Descent from the Cross" at the beautiful Hermitage Museum in Leningrad, and being so warmly received by fellow Christians in the churches of Russia. People everywhere there were extremely friendly and sincerely desire peace.

This fall, Dan and Carol and 16 month old Richard are living for two months at Midland, Michigan, 125 miles north of Ann Arbor, where their home address is 1626 Traver Rd., Ann Arbor, Mich. At Midland (hospital), Dan is on extension of his Surgical Residency at the University of Michigan Hospital at Ann Arbor. He was one of six out of thirteen elected to continue on for next year. This fall, we are sadly missing our dear friends, Dr. and Mrs. R.H. Miller, who have moved to Martinsville, Indiana: - 210 W. Pike Street.

As far as this journal goes, the year is ending on a Russian note, for we have just said good-bye to the last guests of a Thanksgiving House Party we had for the people who were with us in Russia last summer. We had a great time comparing notes and viewing each other's slides and movies. We all agreed it has been a good year for progress in the promotion of World Peace.

Now that we are deep in activities common to grandparents, we seem to be reentering a children's world. We find our love and interest going out to all children everywhere, including the little Russian boy pictured here. To all of them and all of you, we bring Christmas greetings and good wishes for a happy New Year!

The Renners