

Season's
Greetings

*Carmel Valley Manor, Carmel
December, 1964
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WHO, OR WHAT, RETIRES?

Our Christmas greetings last year may have given the impression that we were planning to spend our retirement in rocking chairs. That has not been true in 1964. The rocking chairs have retired, while we have been busy with many activities. These are some which have prevented us from wearing out the chairs:

TRAVELS:

We have made several trips to San Mateo, Walnut Creek or Berkeley, all of which are less than 130 miles from here; there have been shorter excursions to interesting places near to Carmel Valley, and though we have made no long journeys, the mileage on the Rambler for 1964 is greater than when we lived in San Mateo.

VISITORS:

Our children and grandchildren have visited us several times, have celebrated the birthday of both grands, one in the Manor, the other at a delightful picnic at Point Lobos Park. Many friends from San Mateo have come to see us, and several old friends from Pilgrim Place in Claremont have called, sometimes remaining for a meal. We always point out the many advantages of living here, but we have not persuaded anyone to move! They are impressed by our pleasant surroundings, our good food, and the complete medical care which we have.

One guest who spent a night in a Manor guest room, and delighted the residents with her pictures and the story of her two years in Bolivia with the Peace Corps was Anne Peabody. We marvelled that she was able to take the strenuous training and the life of her younger colleagues, but she showed no signs of having suffered from it, and her enthusiastic spirit remained as it has been ever since we knew her and her husband in China, when they were members of our North China Missionary family. I was glad to introduce her as a child of missionaries, as she was born in Persia.

Two other visitors who spent a night at the Manor, and thrilled the Manorites were Dr. and Mrs. Lapwood. Nancy is also a missionary child and we knew her and her parents, who were Congregational missionaries from Australia, in Tientsin, China. Ralph is English and a missionary of the London Missionary Society. I had lived in the Lapwood home in West China, when we were with Yenching University. Ralph is now a professor of mathematics at Cambridge University and spent last year at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena on a Research Fellowship. They had taught for four years in Yenching University under the Communists, and Nancy, with their sixteen year old daughter made a visit to China four or five years ago, where Nancy took some excellent pictures which she showed in our Meeting House.

A BUSY LIFE AT THE MANOR:

Three meals a day in the dining room, with pleasant and interesting table companions, takes considerable time and between meals, there are various worthwhile activities. Sunday mornings we attend church in this area, and Sunday evenings we have vesper services here, for which I usually have to prepare, and conduct, and occasionally I have had the whole service. However, we generally have a speaker from one of the local churches.

Monday night is Game Night, and we like to join a group to play progressive bridge in the Meeting House. Tuesday night there is a dance in which we participate only as spectators, but we enjoy watching so many who are skillful in the art. Wednesday night there is a movie or a lecture with colored slides, or moving pictures. Many residents who have traveled widely have excellent pictures which they share.

Recently, a group from the Manor spent six weeks in Europe and Palestine, with our administrator Dr. Pratt and Mrs. Pratt as conductors of the tour.

Wednesday mornings I have a discussion group on current events, which takes considerable time for preparation, and assignment of topics for reports by members of the group. We have tried (not always successfully) to avoid domestic politics, but we have had no fights! The world is rather a large forum. Friday mornings we have a Bible class, which is well attended. We have many lectures and concerts, given by friends in this area. There are many talented musicals in Carmel and vicinity and they have been more than generous in sharing their gifts with us.

I attend a painting class twice a week and sometimes put in extra time sketching and painting. I enjoy it, and find that such occupation helps me to forget my arthritis. I use Canadian crutches (the metal kind that fit over the forearms) when I go to the dining room about two blocks away, and a cane for shorter distances.

So that is the record for 1964, briefly told. We are with a fine group of people, in age sixty-two years or above, and we look forward to an enjoyable year ahead. We invite our friends to come to Happy Carmel Valley Manor to see it for themselves.

EXTRA LINES BY M.S.R.

H.W.R. has pretty well covered Life in the Manor, to which I have but little to add. It is comfortable, leisurely and pleasant, among delightful friends. However, I have found some worthwhile activity outside the Manor. Logan Hall is a school for retarded children, to which I give about an hour a day, five days a week, as a volunteer teacher. The pupils have very little academic work, but I have tried to help them read and write sentences using words which are related to sewing, cooking, and gardening (taught by regular teachers) which are more worthwhile activities than reading and 'rithmetic. The pupils are brought to school by a public school bus, and when I have to walk the few blocks from the Manor, they feel sorry for me. I greatly appreciated a compliment of one of the older boys, who said in his halting speech, "Mrs. Robinson, I think you are a helpful, kind, patient old lady". Reward enough!

So you see

Our chairs are retired, no more do we rock
Watching cows on the hillside, or friends as they walk,
We are busy and happy, with some work to do,
And from Carmel Valley, we send greetings to you.