



January 1st, 1983

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News from Glentorf

I am sitting quietly at my desk, the house - although not yet covered with snow - is surrounded by beautiful landscape, clear sky and rosy clouds. People are decorating the church for Christmas and in our house it smells of cookies and fir. What a lovely picture ! And what a picture gives the outside world! I often have a bad conscience for living in such a peaceful surrounding.

However, even our little village world reflects the large one with all its meanness, underneath-battles and open ones, with helpfulness and care for the next, with friendliness and warmth as well as with the contrary. An interesting field for sociological studies. - Something is striking: The year round neighbors talk bad about each other, old about young, young about ^{old} one part of the village about the other. But as soon as somebody is in trouble, everybody helps! Here is the difference to the large world!

And now the news about us:

Petra again visited the United States. She stayed for three months at the University of Davis near San Francisco. She collected material for her Master's theses about the "Extension Service" in US (agricultural University-departments consulting ranchers and farmers). She had a most lovely time. By the help of the University she got in contact with innumerable people. She travelled around up to the Canadian border and enjoyed the well known American hospitality and easy going way of life. It was tough for her to get used again to the rather narrow minded German University rules of behavior in Göttingen after her return.

Klaus is busy at VW - since some years already as controller for the research-devison. Interesting work although not easy in these times of economic decline. During the last months he was again very active in the house. It's real fun how one can constantly improve things. By insulating walls and windows we save a lot of energy now. Through these activities he never has enough time for all his hobbies!

Li's work (work meaning consulting) is slowly decreasing. Until August I was still very busy for the project (changing of work structures in the clothing industry) sponsored by the Federal Government. Till the last moment it was extremely interesting, but I am quite happy to have a less strenuous life now. Since fall I started some activities, which one could put under the headline of "third-life-phase". I began to sculpture again and I am busy in a community organization at our next little town Königslutter for the restoration and preservation of cultural monuments (housing, churches, monuments). It's fun to get to know the inside of such a small community (17 000 inhabitants) grown since centuries (our cathedral was built in the 13th century). The problem is that both my family members constantly fear that I get too much involved in the network of local plotting!

Since last summer we are rather concerned about the political situation in Germany. The socialists need to recover - Schmidt is worn out. The conservatives unfortunately have no conception of governing the country and Kohl is certainly no leader for a critical situation. The most unfortunate in this moment is the move of the liberal party from one partner to the other by which they manipulated themselves out of the government. One really does not know what to vote for - - I recall fall 1980 in the USA!

My best wishes to you all for 1983

Jm

I hope you are well!
Are you coming to Germany
some time?

I occasionally travel
to Munich, Frankfurt, Köln!
What about meeting?

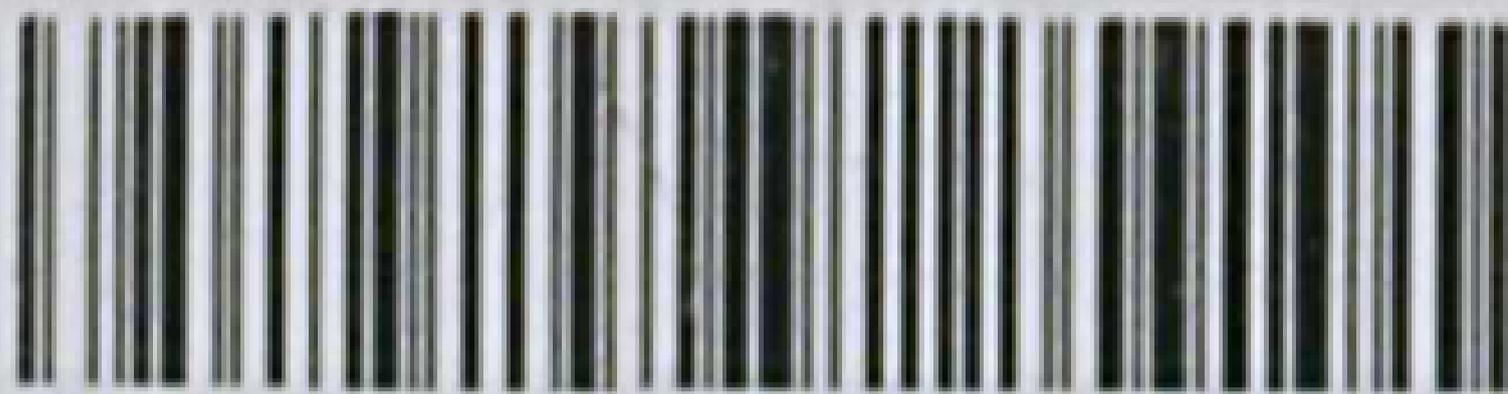
Best wishes to
you and your family

Yours Jon

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