

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

December 24, 1959

### Christmas Letter

We are publishing today a Christmas letter which is to reach three girls and their families this Christmas season from their mother. Mrs. W. C. McClelland of the Monterey Peninsula Country Club. The three daughters live in widely separated parts of the country and we are sure they will take this Christmas message to heart and someday repeat to their children as the years go by.

Dear "Children,"

Last year I had you all around, midst turmoil and confusion, and yet this year we'll be alone ... and I have an illusion.

I see you all before the fire ... when you were all so small ... my red head and my blonde, and my baby ... now so tall.

One year you all got dolls I see, tho' Marilyn was too old ... and then she found one, just for her ... dressed in green and gold!

Patty had a red robe, and slippers just to match ... and Sharon blue, and Sister green. ... why can't those years just last.

Now I have more pictures ... of Susie, Kathy, Anne, ... and Lisa, Teresa, Tommy, and of course our "Little Man." All of you so beaming, so full of honest pride, and wishing you had more to give those children by your side.

Just give them lovely memories, and happy hours galore ... and fill their stockings with such love that they won't want for more.

Fill your hearts and minds with them, and store them all away ... for all to soon they will be gone, and may be far this day.

Remember Tommy's cowboy boots, and the smile upon his face ... and Susie, as she came downstairs at such a careful pace ...

Kathy, Anne and Lisa. ... their eyes so big and round ... the lights upon the Christmas tree ... for a minute not a sound.

Awe and wonder and surprise and then began the din as each and every one of them found what Santa left for him.

Boots and dolls and rubber toys, and pretty little robes . . . games and bails, and guns, and all. . . for Santa quite a load.

And little Manny, six weeks old with really not a care . . . but oh how grateful I could feel that he was there to share!

I doubt if ever once again since, you are all grown up, will I have the house so full. . . will I "taste that flowing cup" . . . and now that you are parents . . . I know you'll sometimes feel,

The same love and pride and joy I knew and yet just can't reveal.

How deep inside . . . you hurt with it, and hate to see it go . . ."the Special Days," and Memories. . . the things that time will show!

So - just for me; just once this day. . . please stop, and think, and look! Put away each smile of joy. . . each kiss, each murmur and each squeal. . .

Store them in your memories and save them through the years, and someday you will make them real . . . will see them all through tears!

We rush along and don't take time . . . you're small and then . . . you're grown and suddenly we realize just how those years have flown.

We play at being Santa Claus and sometimes it's a chore . . . and yet, for such a short time . . . why couldn't it be more?

We loved you so . . . and yet we think it foolish if we told, and you grow, up and never know 'til now . . . when we are old!

So give them love and tell them so, and watch their happy time . . . enjoy YOUR children . . . all of you . . . You, that once were Mine!!

To Marilyn and her Tom - and "Susie" and Tommy too - and Kathy and our Annie, A MERRY CHRISTMAS . . . ALL OF YOU!

To Patty and to Gene, . . . Teresa, Lisa too . . . and even to the new one not yet here, just have a happy holiday . . . you and yours, 'Tricia dear!

And to our Sharon and her Darell, and her little "Man" - our first year without you - your first with just your "clan"

The BEST OF THE SEASON'S WISHES AND A HAPPY NEW  
YEAR THAT IS GRAND . . .

To ALL OF YOU, IN ALL YOUR HOMES . . . just say a little  
prayer . . . and look at each and every one . . . and be  
thankful you are there!