

December 1984

Wenger

Dear VH,

Greetings from the far north. And it is cold now - down around -34C but then it can and does get to -40. St. Louis was never like this.

Byron just finished teaching experimental embryology to four students. It seemed strange not to have any salamanders around but they did learn to handle chick embryos. Each of them decided that it was not quite as easy to do these operations as they had anticipated.

Last June John Saunders was here for a symposium we helped arrange for the Canadian developmental biologists. He was telling Byron's students that there were not many places where students could learn operative procedure on embryos anymore. He said that he was without grant money and even had to let Mary Gasseling go after all the years. We just noted recently that Ray Watterson had died. We attempted to contact him last summer but he was not in the lab at U. of Illinois.

We now have two grandchildren. Our oldest daughter has a 2½ year old son - she and her husband are at U of Illinois where he is working on his doctorate. The second daughter has a red-haired daughter. She and her husband live in Kingston, Ontario. Our son completed his masters in mechanical engineering and is working for Texas Instrument in Dallas - a place he says he could not call home (too big, too conservative and no snow!). The youngest has already completed 2½ years of the program in veterinary medicine here in Saskatoon.

For the first time Byron and I are alone for the holiday - but it does not make us feel 30 years younger as the children suspected it might. Byron has 2 more years before retiring - we would much rather be able to continue working as you have done. Have you really closed up the lab? I, at least, expected it to remain a going concern forever.

It is getting very difficult to get funds for research now - but we still keep trying. Byron has a couple of graduate students working on masters degrees. One may change to a PhD program depending on where and if his wife gets a job; at least the student has a good fellowship that will last another year.

We were surprised to learn of Harry Stalker's death - hope that Marion is getting along well.

I am teaching three quarter time in the veterinary school. I have my own course in Comparative Anatomy of Domestic Animals for agriculture students - it is kind of fun - combines gross anatomy, histology and some embryology. I also help in the labs in veterinary



histology and embryology - but those courses finished before Christmas so with only the course for agriculture students I will have some time to finish up one of the research projects with Byron.

Have a nice holiday.

Sincerely,

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