



We wish you a Merry Christmas
and all good things
for a Happy-New-Year!

Greetings from Mythenstrasse 10!
CH 5430 Wettingen

(Our entrance designed
by Jacqueline.)

Wettingen, Dec. 13th. 1973.

Dear relatives and dear friends: *Dear R. and Mrs. Kasper*

As I am writing to you all, thick, wet snow-flakes whirl around in front of our windows. We had a very pleasant and most colorful autumn this year, but all at a sudden winter fiercely occurred with severe cold, whistling wind from the North and a good amount of snow, crunching under your shoe-soles. All this even down here in the low-land, which is quite unusual at this time of the year and somewhat awkward in the moment of the Arabs putting Western Countries under pressure with their oil-policy. Luckily we have our tiled stove, which heats even on low flame and-if worse comes upon us-we can heat it with wood.

We are all enjoying good health, thanks God! Our life has slowed down just a little bit, however we are still interested in what news come by radio or other medias. Alf has joined the Swiss organization for assistance to foreign countries ravaged by catastrophes.

I have participated in 2 improvement-courses for parent-teachers, each 3-4 days and for the tenth time, have organized and directed the local money-raising-action of Helvetas (one of the major associations for technical assistance in underdeveloped countries). These engagements enable us worthwhile contacts with the world around us and give us a chance to contribute our mini-share of efforts towards the many needs and tasks of this world.-

Even though we did not realize our travel-plan to a far-off country at the occasion of our 35th wedding-jubilee (for reason of different obstacles) the past year has still been full of events, the highlights of which were: the birth in March of Sarah-Maria Burgin (Christine's daughter), 100 years after the birth of her great-grand-mother Anna Engelsen (Alf's mother)-

the successful termination of Heinz Burgin's studies in agriculture at the Technikum in Bern, end of August-
the purchase together with Ueli of a lovely new sailing boat for 3-4 persons and transportable on the roof of Ueli's car. This being a many year-old dream of Alf's.

Another high-light were the 2 journeys, the first at Easter, away from ice and snow on the Northern side of the Alps, to the South, Tessin and North-Italy to Arona at the farther-most end of Lago Maggiore with the fine welcome of the Darevskys and the repeated journey to the French Riviera with the reunion of the family Isambert and the Spindler juniors and the sailing boat. Then, of course, the sailing around the mediterranean creeks at Cavallère, near St. Tropez.

Last but not least: the marriage of Irene's to Martin Meier at the end of the year. Here are Martin's personalities: tall and slim, 34 years old from Zürich, started his studies in biology at the University Zürich, interrupted for some years, when he went through his military career to become captain in the Swiss army and worked in different professions, then continued and terminated his biology at the University of Bâle in these very days. In honor of this successful termination, the civil marriage takes place in Bâle on Dec. 20th. The date of the church-sermon is not quite fixed yet, but will be in January. Martin will begin his new assignment with the Swiss ornithology-center in Sempach - a very picturesque old and small town in Kt. Lucerne, where they found a modernised and suitable flat in an ancient house under national protection - right after New-Year. There-fore, they will only spend a few days in Paris and use their remaining time to install their new home.

Irene plans to work on, at least take a part-time job. She has several possibilities and will most probably remain president of the Swiss-association of Occupational Therapists.

We are glad indeed for the couple, that every-thing turned out to the best and we hope they will have deep happiness and much satisfaction in their life and work!

Christine and Heinz left on Sept. 2nd with their always good-tempered baby and, oh, so much luggage. They flew via Paris to Tchad and have very well acclimatized. Heinz works for Swiss-aid as an agricultural expert. His task is to transfer cow-herds from the North to the South, where, so far no cattle could be kept due to the tsetse-fly. His job is to supervise a great transit-center, to control the cattle as to disease, malnutrition, & also has to undertake necessary measurements as to hygiene, the disinfection and all vaccination. At the same time native boys and girls are being taught practically how to run a small African farm and how to make the best out of what tools they can make themselves and how to maintain things. The girls learn to procure their families with best possible diet, or how to protect themselves from disease. At the end of the course, they can buy cheaply, healthy cows and are visited regularly at their homes and are given advice and guidance. We were given a report of their life and activities by a lady who visited with them on her return to Switzerland. She was very impressed of the nice and well equipped home they have, of the big garden Heinz has laid out, how he planted vegetables, African fruit-trees, flowers and shrubs in order to provide them with products for their daily needs and to add to their recreation and pleasure. That lady said how much the atmosphere of Christine's and Heinz's house with all their hospitality and good cooking made a center for the Swiss-colaborators and their families and all other guests. Christine runs a small dispensary every morning in her yard, where she treats wounds, instructs mothers, or distributes medicines in exchange with goods that the natives plant or make, wisely arguing that things and services given without pay are not fully esteemed, but more appreciated when given in exchange of an effort. In their free time they go on horse-back and both love it. Sarah is fine and friendly towards every-body. We are so thankful for the good news! Therese works in London since last spring and loves it there. She is full with praise for the English mentality, especially in front of overcharged booking-offices with regard to the patience and self-discipline, yet less for their way of house-keeping since she shares a house with 4-5 other young people. Now and then she cleans and clears away with all the mess in the house with rage and for "the very last time" as she says, but housing-possibilities are so scarce that she just has to stay where she is. She will spend Christmas in her beloved Scotland with her old friends. Ueli and his family is fine and we see them very often. Jacqueline is very keen on alpine sports now and loves Mountain-club-huts with their commodities. -- We hope to receive your good news, perhaps even your visit!

Ch. & Martin
de Spindler