

CHRISTMAS, 1944

Dear Friends,

At the close of another year, we again extend Christmas Greetings to our friends and wish for them a New Year that may bring an end to the war and the safe return of loved ones.

The Brainards have had a busy year but we have all enjoyed good health. We have been fortunate in having our family with us or near us. Virginia left the Clinton, Iowa Herald last April with exciting plans of going to Texas where she was offered a place on the staff of a newspaper. Instead of doing this, she finally decided to locate in Minneapolis and so joined the Minneapolis Star Journal staff in May. She finds her work most interesting and stimulating and manages to come home about once a month. She shares an apartment at the Buckingham Hotel with three other girls.

The other four children are still at home. Constance has attended the Teachers College for all four quarters during each of the past two years and will therefore graduate in August with major work in elementary education. Just now she is very busy making lesson plans for practice teaching in the second grade. Eleanor brought the honors to the family last spring when she received the Science Award for outstanding work in that subject and was also graduated from the Technical High School with the rank of salutatorian. She is attending college here this year but if she continues to want to study public health nursing, she will go elsewhere next year. Charles is a sophomore at the St. Cloud Technical High School struggling with Latin but enjoying basketball and all other aspects of school life. He is playing center on the B team at present and plays a baritone in the band. Ned attends the games loyally and says Charles is a pretty good player. Ned is a student at Riverview Junior High School where all our children have attended. He is in the 8th grade, busy in Scout work, president of the Jr. Christian Endeavor, and a carrier for the Minneapolis Star Journal, having taken over the route that Charles gave up.

We were saddened this fall by the passing away of Mother Brainard. She was sick only a short time and died as peacefully as she had lived November 9th. Hers was a wonderful generation and we have been blessed with her heritage she has left us. She died at the home of her daughter in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. Dudley attended the funeral and accompanied the body to Osage, Iowa for burial in the lot which has belonged to the family for over fifty years. Merl and the three girls attended the services at Osage. Grandmother Brainard was over 89 years of age. As a girl she remembered Lincoln and the War between physician at Zumbrot, Minnesota and she was a pioneer school teacher. She lived to vote for Dewey (by absentee ballot). She was not sick more than a few days though she had failed rapidly for some three weeks. She came downstairs for the last time only four days before her death. No person could wish for a more wonderful life.

Again wishing you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Very sincerely,