SIX MIRRORS
TO REFLECT A YEAR - LINES ON 1961

Our 28th
Annual
Letter

Helen & Francis Line - 35161 Camino Capistrano, Capistrano Beach, Calif. -December '61

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1. OCEAN

> Dark giant power of tides and waves surging in deep mystery from here to India;
> And at our feet, on soft sand, a tiny gem of glistening perfect shell-
> God's world both great and small.

For a baker's dozen of months now our home, anchored high on the palisades above the Pacific, has given us days and nights of wonder. We have hunted treasures of starfish and shells when the tides were low, we have observed some of the mysteries of migration as gulls, wild geese, pelicans, and great Bering Sea Whales headed southward in autumn and north in spring. Once, as we adventured amateurishly during a storm, we had stern proof of the ocean's strength when a sudden giant wave swept us off a tiny rock island into the frothy sea. Visually, emotionally, actually, the sea is a mysterious basin of wonders.

2. GRANDCHILDREN

> A yardstick is a horse to ride; a carton becomes a mighty castle, and coarse
> dandelions are golden birthday cakes.
> Childhood imagination fills a common world with wonder,
> Changing stale scenes to dancing life.

Even the wonders of the sea, of adventure, of travel, become commonplace beside the greater wonder of watching two young children advance into life. Jeffrey, nearly three, and his 19-month old sister Jan, come often to visit us with Adrienne and Gordon.Books, horses, imagination games, and roughhouse play are Jeffrey's passions. Jan is a water nymph- it is hard to keep her out of the ocean. Jeff is at the "why" stage; Jan does not talk much. It isn't necessary; her dimpled smile gets her everything she needs.

3. AN EVENING WITH CARL SANDBURG

> He sang the midwest's praises, with verse that echoed strife,
> But the thing that most amazes- He brought Lincoln back to life.

Our film, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, opens many doors for us. Helen showed it at the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Program before most of America's leading Lincoln authorities. Carl Sandburg could not be there, so we showed it to him privately. Beforehand, Helen and I took him to a little restaurant in Hollywood and talked for two hours about Lincoln, and poetry, and people. It was an enchanted evening.

Ralph Newman, Lincoln authority and head of the ABRAHAM LINCOLN BOOK SHOP in Chicago, showed our film to the Governor of Illinois. There are plans for building a small theatre in the restored village of New Salem, Illinois where our ABRAHAM LINCOLN will be shown to the thousands of visitors who come to that historic place. L.A. city and county schools have thus far purchased 30 copies of our film.

4. HIGH SIERRAS

> Mountains, rooted in granite to the solid core of earth,
> yet raise their heads to heaven.
> Men too should be anchored firmly when they start reaching for the stars.

In August we took a 3-day, 32-mile hike in the High Sierras above Yosemite. This opened up a new type of life which we had never experienced before. Trails nearly two miles high, silent forests, 100-mile views. Paths, now rocky, now soft with needles. Wild life, solitude, beauty. We hope to do more of the John Muir Trail next year.

5. AUTUMN ACROSS AMERICA

> You speak of America as a country, but you are wrong.
> America is a hundred countries; -high Indian mesas, Spanish-American villages,
> sweeping plains, mining towns, brawling cities, lazy southern hamlets,
> hushed New England greens of a Sunday morning.
> America is a hundred countries- all united under a single flag.

Of all the trips we have taken, our October journey by car across America- from Calif. to Maine- seemed most varied and most meaningful. It was a filming trip. We caught autumn in the remote areas of the New Mexican Rockies, on the Kansas plains, in New England, and on the Civil War Battlefields of Virginia. Our diary of the trip filled forty pages; these are the bone-scraped highlights: Visiting our Hopi friends, an evening with 12 Indian youngsters in Arizona; making up verses while crossing the Kansas plains; filming Walden Pond; Dr. Howard Thurman's life-giving sermon at Boston;

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HELEN AND FRANCIS LINE
35161 Camino Capistrano,
Capistrano Beach, California

Dear Friends:

The handful of days between Thanksgiving and New Years, shares the flavor of our three most meaningful holidays- Thanksgiving Day, the birthday of Christ, and the day of new beginnings- New Years. Thanksgiving is a season for counting blessings; Christmas a time for taking spiritual inventory; New Years the occasion for setting new forward-looking goals.

Counting blessings! This page is too small to list them. Great music, worthwhile books, a daily paper delivered before dawn each morning, a man to collect our rubbish and garbage faithfully each week. Sunsets, starry skies at night, cool breezes, gay children, freedom, beauty, a minister wise with years. Health, food and home, love of family, inspiring friends- YOU. For these things and literally OCEANS more, for all of you both near and far, we are thankful.

Spiritual inventory. Setting forward-looking goals. Never did the times call more strongly for these than now. Hermann Hagedorn's searching poem- "The Bomb that Fell on America"- recently came once again to our attention. It was written after we dropped the bomb on Hiroshima, and the poet warned that 135 million Americans (that was our number then) would have to grow up overnight. The poem held out a great hope- that there is a power greater than the atom. Here are its closing lines:

"There is a power in the human soul," said the Lord,
When you break through and set it free. Like the power of the atom.
More powerful than the atom, It can control the atom,
The only thing in the world that can.
I told you that the atom is the greatest force in the world, save one.
That one is the human soul."

The great message of Christmas is creative love; the great challenge of a New Year is for constructive courage, action, and faith. Greater challenges make greater inner demands, and these mean wider, fuller, more meaningful lives. Fervently we wish for you such a year- filled with deep values- for 1962.

Sincerely,
Helen and Francis Line

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An evening with Phyllis and Harold Case at Boston University, where he is President, and where we learned of plans for the university's great future. During their ten years at B. U. Phyllis and Harold have had personal meetings with 30,000 students in their home. Sunday fellowship dinner in New York's Riverside Church. Friendly aid, when needed, at a Texaco station in North Carolina. Getting intimately acquainted with Walt Whitman's Long Island. Coming home again.

6. POTPOURRI:

There's so much that should be noted, before this jotting ends.
This part is strictly personal- about family and friends.

Francis' mother, who lives across the street from us, is well and happy. We had good treks to see two of Helen's sisters now doing creative work in Arizona- Ethel at So. Ariz. School for Boys near Tucson, and Mae at Desert Jewels Indian Home at Chambers. In the east we had short but thrilling calls on Ann and Bob Case, and on two of Adrienne's Oxy classmates- Meliss Armitage Appel of Rye, N.H. and Pat Belknap Brake on L.I. Significant movies we have seen are Ben Hur, Hand in Hand, Ballad of a Soldier, and Parent Trap. This summer we entertained youth from Garden Grove Meth. Church, and a group from Plaza Community Center in L.A. Dr. Frank Laubach was a visitor at our home one evening. We have greatly enjoyed dropping in, from time to time, on our Pasadena, Eagle Rock, and Ontario friends. In October we visited the 21st Annual Exhibit of the Chaffey Community Art Assn. which we founded. Helen still likes to help at Lincoln Church and will supervise a dinner for 100 there in early December. During much of next year we will be working hard on a new educational film. Our Thanksgiving was made joyous by having Adrienne and Gordon and our grandchildren with us, as well as Gordon's parents and family from Vista, and Pasadena friends.