

From: Schauers' Towers - 2 Vermont Avenue, White Plains, N.Y.

Re: Conception Day, 1963 and after - - -

Long enough after to be Christmas - and ain't it wonderful! It is the joyous season, and for the Schauers, gathered together again under the roof (roofs?) of Schauers' Towers, especially joyous as well as being a time of profound thankfulness.

Conception Day - March 25 - is not a widely observed holy day. Since it is also Jean's birthday, the Schauers have always celebrated the date - until 1963. Friends in White Plains had a party for Jean, but Hap was on the West Coast. Greg, on spring holiday from Millbrook, was en route to Maine. Jeff, similarly free of academics from Colgate, was in Texas and made an undesirable contribution to accident statistics by means of an explosion.

During the next several months in the John Sealy Hospital in Galveston, he managed to make some further and nearly unique contributions to statistics. With some 10,000,000 applications of a certain anesthetic in the background, Jeff became one of about twenty reported in medical literature as having massive liver damage after its use. On the plus side, though, he was one of the ten in that group who survived. Not content with that performance, the old boy then went through a series of exotic bugs (or vice versa), with a pseudomonas, an alkyligenes and candida albicans each providing a bout of what the medicos call septicemia.

Having disposed of these and a few lesser undesirables, in addition to about 70 pounds, Jeff was cheered out of the hospital by an honor guard on August 1. A nice new eye matches perfectly that old one with which he came equipped 22 years or so ago except for the latter's 20-20 vision. Some further surgery should put the somewhat bunged-up left hand back to about normal. Jean's celebrated culinary talents have restored 35 pounds or so and Christmas dinner, in view of Jeff's well-known appetite, may well add the other 35, temporarily at least.

While Schauers' Towers saw us all together for awhile in August, Greg took off for Colorado College before Labor Day. And so, Christmas brings us all together again, with special reason for joy and thankfulness. For all our friends especially we hope it may be as happy a Christmas and that the new year will be bright.