

Seniors for the Future

By Florence Wilkinson

How do you date your letters? We seniors are used to dating our letter according to the old abbreviation of A.D. - Anno Domini, which means, in the year of our Lord, or in the Christian era.

However, the generations now growing up will be learning another kind of abbreviation. They will be learning C.E., which means Common Era.

So B.C., which means Before Christ and A.D. which means in the year of our Lord, are being replaced by B.C.E., Before the Common Era, and C.E. the Common Era. The years will continue to be counted in the same way.

In this world where people of all religions are sharing neighborhoods and being neighbors, using the same calendar is handy - almost necessary.

So while each religion may use its own way of reckoning time for religious purposes, for purposes of communicating and business, the

calendar with which Christians are familiar is commonly used. And as C.E. reminds us, there is a real era connected with the division of time with which we are familiar, and all people are a part of this way of thinking.

However, a person of any religion, or no religion, will, I am sure, enjoy a poem which I received as a Christmas letter a while ago. I do not know whose poem it is, so I cannot acknowledge the author, but the thought belongs to all of us.

"I have a list of folks I know, all written in a book;

And every year when Christmas comes, I go and take a look;

And that is when I realize that these names are a part

Not of a book they're written in, but of my very heart.

For each name stands for someone who has crossed my path sometime

And in that meeting they've become the rhythm in each rhyme.

And while it sounds fantastic for me to make this claim,

I really feel that I'm composed of each remembered name.

And while you may not be aware of any "special link",

Just meeting you has changed my life a lot more than you think.

For once I've met somebody, the years cannot erase,

The memory of a pleasant word or of a friendly face.

So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine

Of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between;

For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you,

It's because you're on the list of folk whom I'm indebted to.

For I am but the total of the many folk I've met,

And you happen to be one of those I prefer not to forget.

And whether I have known you for many years or few,

In some way you have had a part in shaping things I do.

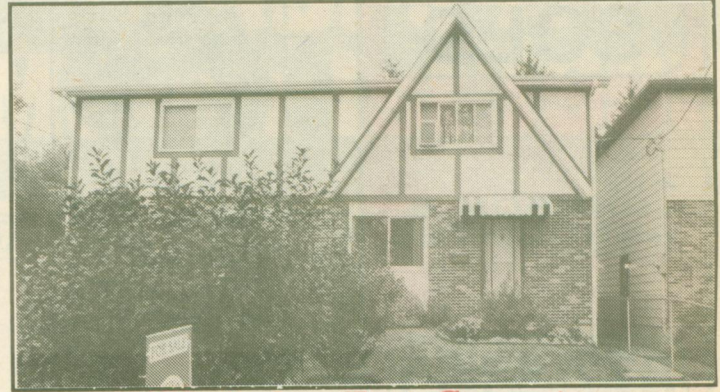
And every year when Christmas comes, I realize anew,

The best gift life can offer, is meeting folks like you.

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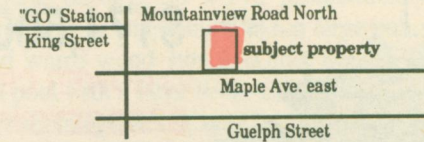


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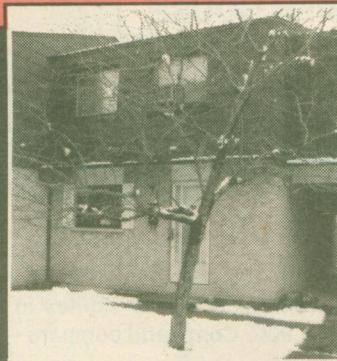
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