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Gudumholm, 15th January 1984

Dear Jane and Dennis, Alison and Gulian,

Thank you for your X-mas card.

Since I left Skiold by end September we have been extremely busy renovating the "farm" - especially Bente has had a full-time job looking after the contractors. We have been communicating between Sæby - Aalborg, where I got off - and Gudumholm, where Bente had her job - and in the evening the other way round. The old part of the building was removed, and eventually we got fed up of all that driving, and spent most nights in the ruins. The bricklayers, my brother and one of his men, were also living here, and with one room left intact, with a stove, cold water in the bathroom, and typical Danish November nights, we really had quite some time. The best evening was when we beat Greece in football - we had a bottle of Gammel Dansk, and it took a round with every goal. We got two, but man, they were repeated. By the 8 o'clock news the bottle was empty.

Anyway, all the troubles have made us appreciate things that much more, ever since we moved our furniture on 22nd December. We sold the house in Sæby for take-over by 1st December, and thus had to store everything for nearly one month.

Today we have had 15 cm snow, it will be freezing tonight, and I have just prepared the breakfast for the wild ducks, they gave me in Skiold. They have had troubles keeping the lake open, and our 4 pheasants are feeding near the house, where I am dropping some of the duck-feed. The sheep start bleating the moment the door is opened in our house or even a light is switched on - last summer we built a nice house for the sheep, behind the hens.

I cannot verify, but it is said that the stream is filled with trouts as ever before, and it would be nice to see you all here again, whenever you might have the chance to come over.

Untill then our very best regards