

January 15, 1976

Dearest Nell,

This afternoon I allow myself the complete peace of music and sun by the window and a letter to you. It seems that 1975 gave me no such peace and I sorely craved it by the year's end. Being at home after the Christmas Day - shared among 4 families - (totalling 23 people young + old!) - was very healing - we went ice-skating (a rink, alas) and hiking and generally lounged by the fire with good friends. It felt as if you were near.

During 1975 The Scrimshaw Press passed through some dark days. As if by some message unspoken, a gentleman named Jim Bartlet from Santa Barbara called Frederick the very week that the Bank spoke at its most negative pitch... And it looks as if the plans for a purchase by Bartlet is in the works. While some aspects are difficult, the overall picture is favorable because Bartlet is really buying Frederick's "taste" + design + production ability - so nothing really will change.. and yet the money problems will be eased - This has been a crazy period. Very lean. We don't mind it except that school costs a fortune and the girls are at an age of expansion... not contraction... My own needs are minimal - except that photography is so expensive to support as is our house etc. So my working is more and more real with deadlines which keep me up some nights till 2 or 3 AM - and



The first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes within the souls of men when they realize their relationship, their oneness, with the universe and all its Powers, and when they realize that at the center of the universe dwells *Wakan-Tanka*, and that this center is really everywhere, it is within each of us. This is the real Peace, and the others are but reflections of this. The second peace is that which is made between two individuals, and the third is that which is made between two nations. But above all you should understand that there can never be peace between nations until there is first known that true peace which . . . is within the souls of men.

— Black Elk