

## **Adventures in McCloudland**

By Marilyn J. Ogden

Chapter 23

December, 1993

December approached and we got a Christmas tree for the lobby and decorated it with a couple of boxes of ornaments. The whole process only took about 20 minutes. I imagined the lobby finished, filled with candles and Christmas music with a mammoth fresh smelling tree in the middle of the room decorated with bright lights and family ornaments. We'd invite friends and neighbors for home-made eggnog and good conversation.

Meanwhile, Lee's sister, Avis, asked us to join her family in Redding for Christmas. I was delighted. For years we'd had a big family Christmases at our house in Oakland with lots of my family in a familiar setting. I was going to miss it.

But not as much as I thought it would. Avis's family Christmas was wonderful. Her son, Nolan, his wife, Mary, and their three little boys reminded me a lot of our family growing up.

A new year was about to begin and we eagerly looked forward to things continuing to proceed as they had. It was all going to be fine.