

Christmas 1994

Dear Karen,

Fall has been busy, with my adult swimming class at the Y which I still teach, a trip to Connecticut for Frank's youngest brother's wedding, getting unpacked from Silver Bay (actually I never really unpack anymore -- it all just stays in boxes until the following summer), & my part time job at Bell Labs. When I can, I even try to get out in the garden to spread mulch on my 5 roses and to prune the wild crysanthemums.

We're all very well. Andy still lives here with us, doing freelance engineering and working for a computer conference call service in town.

Frank has added hiking to his mountain biking, but frets at the lack of time for outdoor things. Connie & Ted & Morris are looking for a house to buy in the Palo Alto area, but travel to the east frequently to see families. Morris is two already! He loves backhoes and trains.

The big project here is getting the house resided. Andy is doing all the work himself -- it's slower that way but it's coming out so much nicer.

All new windows too.

Gertrude (94) is well but becoming very frail. In May she moved to a nursing home in Minnesota because Joan & Buzz (Frank's oldest brother), with whom she'd been living, were planning to move to Texas where Buzz had just gotten a great new job. Gertrude's care had gotten too much for Joan to handle alone, but the move was difficult for all of them. Right now we're in the process of finding a nursing home in New Jersey, where she can be closer to most of her family.

Summer went well -- I drove the *Silver Spray again*, and also taught swimming & canoeing. Am already looking forward to going back.

So, have to go fill the bird feeders.

Christmas 1994

Dear Bette & Tom,

Fall has been busy, with my adult swimming class at the Y which I still teach, a trip to Connecticut for Frank's youngest brother's wedding, getting unpacked from my usual summer job in the Adirondacks at the Silver Bay YMCA (actually I never really unpack anymore -- it all just stays in boxes until the following summer), & my part time job at Bell Labs. Summer went well -- I drove their little tour boat *again*, and also taught swimming & canoeing. When I can, I even try to get out in the garden to spread mulch on my 5 roses and to prune the wild cysanthemums. We're all very well. Andy still lives here with us, doing freelance engineering and working for a computer conference call service in town. Frank has added hiking to his mountain biking, but frets at the lack of time for outdoor things. Connie & Ted & Morris are looking for a house to buy in the Palo Alto area, but travel to the east frequently to see families. Morris is two already! He loves backhoes and trains. The big project here is getting the house resided. Andy is doing the work himself -- it's slower that way but it's coming out so much better. All new windows too.

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So, have to go fill the bird feeders. Happy holidays!

Christmas 1994

Dear Lela Mary & Mike,

Fall has been busy, with my adult swimming class at the Y which I still teach, a trip to Connecticut for Frank's youngest brother Bill's wedding, getting unpacked from my usual summer job in the Adirondacks at the Silver Bay YMCA (actually I never really unpack anymore -- it all just stays in boxes until the following summer), & my part time job at Bell Labs. Summer went well -- I drove their little tour boat again, and also taught swimming & canoeing. When I can, I even try to get out in the garden to spread mulch on my 5 roses and to prune the wild crysanthemums. We're all very well. Andy still lives here with us, doing freelance engineering and working for a conference call computer service in town. Frank has added hiking to his mountain biking; he frets at the lack of time for outdoor things, but has no plans to retire from Bell Labs. Connie & Ted & Morris are looking for a house to buy in the Palo Alto area, but travel to the east frequently to see families. Morris is two already! He loves backhoes and trains. The big project here is getting the house resided. Andy is doing the work himself -- it's slower that way but it's coming out so much better. All new windows too. Many new electrical outlets. He's waiting until bad weather to start working inside so we still have no window frames, and have hung towels and quilts for curtains. Looks sort of homey.

Gertrude (94) is well but becoming very frail. In May she moved to a nursing home in Minnesota because Joan & Buzz (Frank's oldest brother), with whom she'd been living, were planning to move to Texas where Buzz had just gotten a great new job. Gertrude's care had gotten too much for Joan to handle alone, but the move was difficult for all of them. Right now we're in the process of finding a nursing home in New Jersey, where she can be closer to most of her family. She qualifies for Medicaid so the transfer should go smoothly, according to what the social service agency has told me.

One of these days we should meet in New York City for lunch. You'll recognize me -- I'll be the fat gray lady waving a Gardner High banner.

So, have to go fill the bird feeders. Happy holidays!

Christmas 1994

Dear Linda, Jer, Marc, & Jacy,

Here's my standard Christmas letter -- your Mom has a copy but thought you might like to get one too. Hope everything has been going well with all of you. Marc, are you still an artist? Jacy, are you swimming?

Fall has been busy, with my adult swimming class at the Y which I still teach, a trip to Connecticut for Frank's youngest brother Bill's wedding, getting unpacked from my usual summer job in the Adirondacks at the Silver Bay YMCA (actually I never really unpack anymore -- it all just stays in boxes until the following summer), & my part time job at Bell Labs. Summer went well -- I drove their little tour boat again, and also taught swimming & canoeing. When I can, I even try to get out in the garden here to spread mulch on my 5 roses and to prune the wild chrysanthemums. We're all fine. Andy still lives here with us, doing freelance engineering and working for a conference call computer service in town. Frank has added hiking to his mountain biking; he frets at the lack of time for outdoor things, but has no plans to retire from Bell Labs. Connie & Ted & Morris are looking for a house to buy in the Palo Alto area, but travel to the east frequently to see families. Morris is two already! He loves backhoes and trains. The big project here is getting the house resided. Andy is doing the work himself -- it's slower that way but it's coming out so much better. All new windows too. Many new electrical outlets. He's waiting until bad weather to start working inside so we still have no window frames, and have hung towels and quilts for curtains. Looks sort of homey. Our cat, Cranford, likes to curl up with her head under the desk lamp, inches from the bulb.

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where Buzz had just gotten a great new job. Gertrude's care had gotten too much for Joan to handle alone, but the move was difficult for all of them. Right now we're in the process of finding a nursing home in New Jersey, where she can be closer to most of her family.

So, have to go fill the bird feeders -- again. Should call them squirrel feeders. Happy holidays!

Christmas 1994

Dear Marge,

How wonderful it was to have you on staff again last summer -- it certainly is more fun being staff than a guest. Now that I've tried Sunnyside I love it; can't imagine how I put up with the Gym for so long. Just having a washer handy makes so much difference!

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Dec. 28, 1994

Dear Karen and Linda,

Your eagerly awaited box of Christmas gifts made our celebrations extra merry. Cookies are always enthusiastically greeted -- yours were wonderful this year! Your gourmet cranberry bread and pumpkin bread didn't last long, but we enjoyed every bite. I don't do much cooking so Andy & Frank really appreciated your goodies. Of course I loved the beautiful bath set -- would never buy something like that for myself so doubly enjoyed it. Have already used the packet of body lotion attached to one of the packages. We enjoyed just looking at your exciting pile of presents until we finally opened them on Christmas.

I plan to pot up the bulbs this weekend but have them safely stored in the cool garage until then. Winter doesn't seem so long and threatening when the house is filled with flowers. That was a specially thoughtful gift, as was the colorful cardinal thermometer, with BIG numbers. It's on the porch where it makes a nice decoration -- didn't really want to expose it outside. Have already put the memo board to good use -- it's very pretty. And we're all chasing the chills with hot cocoa, tea, & coffee in the classic Currier & Ives mugs. So many of the gifts you've given us over the years still bring us so much pleasure. The little pillow brightens up a living room chair. The sun catchers are in a window where I enjoy them every day. Just yesterday I was looking at the heated greenhouse you gave me many years ago. The plastic cover finally disintegrated from ultraviolet exposure but the tray and heating cable are fine. So, thank you many times over, for all your thoughtfulness and hard work.

Now comes the down time after the hectic holidays -- time to think about new curtains and how to keep my suet feeder away from the squirrels. I *am* concerned about Frank's Mom, who is now in a nursing home in Minnesota after having lived for 21 years with Frank's oldest brother & his family. She's 94, and her care had finally gotten too much for Joan, especially since they were planning a move to Texas



where Buzz had gotten an exciting new job. I'm watching the situation and will bring her to New Jersey whenever Joan thinks it's a good idea.

Connie & Ted & Morris are fine. They spent Thanksgiving with the other grandparents in Silver Spring, MD, but Andy & I plan to fly out in Feb. for a few days. Hard to believe Morris is 2 already. Hard to believe Robbie is 15!

Hope your holidays have been fun. Are you planning any vacation trips for the spring?