**side 6**

They [Deb and Phil] lived in a house now; they'd moved out of their trailer and had a house built some time before this. So we had Christmas there at their house that year. They had a big basement family room where there was lots of room and there was room upstairs too. So it made a nice place for us to meet. We had a good time.

1977 came and in February that year, Isaac Monell was born to Gerry and Kathy. He was fun to have around too. I always enjoyed those little kids being up on the hill, so close and they could be in and out my house every once in a while. There wasn't any of the rest of the grandchildren lived that close

In the spring of that year I met a lady down on Loon Lake, like Shirley Margeson. Her car was broke down for a while. And the pastor asked me if I'd pick her up. So I did, I had no reason not to. And I enjoyed doing that and we became good friends and we went to camp that summer together.

I had always enjoyed going to camp, but I always went alone, but it was much more interesting to have someone to go with, sit with in the dining room, go to the services together. It was a good time.

We did that for several years. In '78 Cheryl graduated from college and was married to Steve Harris. And they went to Puerto Rico for four years to serve as missionaries. Also in 78, Kyle was born to Bruce and Karen. I didn't get to see him for a long time, either. They lived in Canandaigua and I didn't get to see him until they came down for the summer picnic and like that.

Mark graduated from college in '79 and he was married to Gayle in '80. We liked Gayle right from the start and they made a nice couple. Also in that year, Jordan was born to Bruce and Karen. So now she had three little boys. I always enjoyed it when I did get to see them, but I didn't very often.

In 1979, Pat and Bob moved to Greenville, South Carolina, where Bob worked with a company that built churches. They invited me to come down and visit a while down there. And I went in 1980 for the first time. And I've been there every year since. Some of the year, sometimes for just a short time and then many times for three or four months. That's very enjoyable and it's a pretty place to be in a nice area to live in. In 1981, Elizabeth Rose was born to Phil and that was a treat because she was the only girl and two boys. This made their family complete. And Troy Brian was born to Kim and Bob Dontigney. The 1980s also brought more great-grandchildren. Mark and Gayle had two girls, Brianne, and Kelsey; later, they had Ethan and Tessa. I was always pleased to see them. They'd stop in once in a while on their way to Houghton when they went to visit Dick and Gerry, and of course they came to Christmas for our get togethers.

At 1984, Dick called and said the college basketball team had been invited to play the basketball team in Honolulu, Hawaii. And they could take others beside the team. So they said, I could go. That was a nice thing to look forward to. And I planned to go and I went with them.

We left Buffalo and had a layover in Los Angeles. We got to Hawaii about four in the morning; many were disappointed as each plane is supposed to be met by people giving out leis to the ladies. I didn't know about it, so I wasn't disappointed and didn't miss it. We were on the 12th floor of a big hotel.

Most of the couples that were there were couples, but there was there's one other lady that was alone. So I roomed with her. There was a balcony where we could sit. And I like to go out at night and watch traffic from there. It was interesting. The beach is close by and I had always wanted to wade in the Pacific Ocean.

So Geraldine went with me. It was a long stretch of sand that I had to wade through to get to the beach, to the water that was before my hip replacement. So even though I got to wade in the ocean, I regretted it for some time. My hip wasn't happy at all. We went to most of the ball games. There were McDonald's and other cheap places to eat. And sometimes we splurged and went to real nice places. There was a big shopping center. We bought things to bring home. The weather was perfect the whole time it was there. It was a very nice time.

In 1984, Gerald called the family all together to say that he wanted to buy the house and land, including his house and woods; the bank had determined the value and the family agreed to sell it to him. He wanted to make apartments upstairs. So we emptied out, it all out and he made two apartments there, Kim Dontigney did quite a lot of the work with him. Others he hired, too.

In '84, Paul married, Arlene Beverage. Paul went into the Air Force and they were in different parts of the country so we didn't see them a lot. Noele, married Lee Bockus in '85. And they were the first tenants in one of Gerald's apartments.

At this time, we heard that Jean had cancer. That was a shock. Seemed like she had so many things to accomplish. One of them was to get her B S degree in nursing. This, she did. She got it in a college in Maine. I was so pleased for her. She was chaplain of the Gideons and wrote a prayer letter each month. She usually sent me one. I was proud of all her efforts in spite of her sickness.

In the summer of '87 Kathy Pawling married Fred. They were married and held their reception at the country club near where they lived. And Jean was able to come to that wedding. I was very pleased with that; she had been real sick because chemo treatments made her so sick, but she came and seemed to enjoy the day. I was very pleased with that.

Other nice things happened in the latter part of the eighties. New great-grandchildren were born. Brianne and Kelsey both came and were born to Mark and Gayle. They were nice little girls and I was always pleased when they came and brought them to our summer picnic and so forth.

In April of 88, Jean died. That was a very sad time, but it was in a way, it was a relief because she had suffered so patiently for so long. And we were glad that she was out of her suffering.

In the summer of 1990, Dick's family had two weddings. Diane married Kevin Seaman. She had a wedding and the reception in a lodge at Letchworth State Park and Carol married George Greisedieck over in Europe. She had met him and she didn't want to have a big wedding to overshadow Diane's wedding. So they had a small wedding over there. We didn't meet him for a while, but I am very happy for Carol.

All was about the same as always. I had Thanksgiving, for Bruce and Gerald and Debbie's families. Dick's family was big enough that they all went to Dick's now for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We had it over to Debbie's. But before Christmas, it was my birthday and I was going to be 80 years old.

So they said that it was a milestone. Debbie and Kathy said they were going to take me to nice place to eat for lunch. So I got ready and Kathy came and picked me up. She said, I don't remember what I wore, but she didn't think it was very fancy looking. So she said, "Aren't you going to wear something different than that?"

And I said I thought this was alright, "Well, why don't you put on that pretty dress that you wore to church Sunday?" I said, "Well, okay."

And we came along and then she said, “Well, I've got to stop at the church a minute and then going to to meet Debbie, but I'm going to stop church a minute.” And then we pulled in there and there were cars and cars and cars there. I thought nobody told me about it a ministerial meeting or anything like that. We always had to help if there was something like that going on. I just couldn't figure out why all those cars were there, so we come in and there, and there was Shirley Pawling and his new wife, Shirley. But I thought, well, must be this includes him whatever the meeting is. I went downstairs and there was my whole family standing down there saying “Happy Birthday”.

I was completely surprised. I had just never thought of it, somehow. Kathy said afterwards, “I don't know how you missed it. I made so many mistakes. I so many times said things that I knew must give it away.” I just never thought of it. Never occurred to me. Um, it was very nice that all of them were there.

And that morning, Pat called, Debbie called and, no, Pat called and said they were sorry. They won't gonna be able to get there until later. They thought they'd be there and they'd come over. And she'd had lunch with Kathy, but I said, “It's too bad. It's all right. I'll see you later.” And, um, so when I looked, there stood Pat and her kids, the whole family down there, and they all yelled, "Surprise!", and it surely was.

I went around greeted them all. This was the first time I'd seen Kathy's little new baby, Kevin, and I was pleased to see him. He was a nice looking little boy, looked like his father and then, all the Pawlings were there, all of Dick’s were there. Bruce was there.

All of Caroline's. No, not all of Caroline's. Cindy wasn't there. And so it was a very nice time.

They put on a program afterwards after they had ice cream and a cake. Debbie made a beautiful birthday cake, and she didn't cut it until after I got there, it was a beautiful cake and we had ice cream and cake and then they put on a program. Dick had written a poem about thirty or forty verses. It was sort of ridiculous things through it, claimed that I was the only one he ever knew who stood on alley two and knocked pins down on alley three and ridiculous things like that in it. And there was serious things. It was very nice poem. He gave copies to everybody so we could all enjoy it.

And then the Pawlings sang. They started out, Jumbo said, "Well, pick your favorite song and we'll sing.” So they did. Each of them picking a different song and they started, and of course, it was just a jumble, all of them singing different things. He said, "What are you doing?" "Well, you said the pick our favorite song, so we did." "Alright, pick one favorite song and we'll sing."

So they picked one. They all sang on the air of the song, not the parts. And he said, "I thought we were going to have harmony in this song." So then they sang it very nicely. The kids sing very well together.

Caroline read a reading from a book that she had written. That was real good. I enjoyed that. And then Bruce's and Pat's and Gerald's and Debbie's kids all sang together. There was a big crowd of them all singing there because they didn't have anything separate but they sang several numbers and it was real nice.

So it was good family day.

I remembered that for months and months and I still think about it at times. How nice it was.

They came up, the church program was the next Sunday, and that was good. They had a cantata in the morning; in the evening they had the regular Sunday school program. And like each age group did an excellent job, and I enjoyed it all. Rachel and Ingrid came over and got me to take me over to Debbie's to stay overnight, to be there for Christmas day.

So I went and they opened their stockings and we had the usual a good time. We had a nice dinner. The Kreins went up to Rochester to see Grandma Krein, but the rest of us were all there for dinner and it was real nice. Then they took me home and I packed my things, ready to go with Pat and Bob back down south. Bob was going skiing in Colorado, so he left. The two girls and Pat and I went home; we made real good time and got there fine and had a good trip down.

On New Year's Eve, they had their soup supper at the church where Pat and Bob go. That's always nice. Everybody brings their own kind of soup and some different kinds, two or three kind of soup. And we'd just go around and fill up our dishes that you bring and eat the soup. And then they all go into the church and have a service at New Year's Eve.

It's all very nice. I enjoyed it all. It's been a good year. I've had so many nice things happen.

Scott was stationed in New River Air Force Base. That's part of Camp LaJeune in North Carolina. He was in the Marines and he loaded planes with the missiles to send over to the war area. He was very good at that. He could do it real fast. His whole company got sent over there, but he was left here because of the fact that he could load them so much faster than some of the other guys.

It was dull for him because he wanted the excitement of going with the other guys. But it was a relief to Pat and Bob, to not have him over there. Although there wasn't very many casualties in that war, for which we were all very happy.

On January 20th, we heard that Andy and Heidi had a baby girl named Hannah. That was a fun thing to hear.

I kept busy getting supper started and doing odd jobs around the house. And I went to the basketball games a lot. I enjoyed them. Rachel was a cheerleader. So we always went anyway to take her, but we watched the games too. Ingrid was in grad school in Louisiana. She stayed there first, started this course, but it didn't work out to be what she thought it was going to be. So she came home and she looked for work here in the Greenville area.

Dick was coming down through the south and having alumni meetings for Houghton. And he stopped here at Pat’s a couple of times. And I rode back with him as far as Bruce's, when he went back in April. Bruce brought me home and big, big surprise there when I got there; they had redone my bathroom and put in a shower, a new sink and a new toilet.

They had fixed the walls and Debbie had papered and painted and did the painting. Gerry and Bruce did the plumbing work. It was all so nice and such a nice surprise. And I enjoyed using my new microwave that I got up from all the kids for Christmas. That was a joy, too. It soon became nicer weather and I planted some seeds and onion sets.

On June 19th, Noele had a baby girl named Morgan Lee. She was a very pretty little thing.

In the summer of '91, Steven, Dick’s son, married Kara at the Houghton church. I went to that wedding too. That was nice to go to.

Then we heard that Mark and Gayle had a boy named Ethan Luke on July 17th. That was nice because they had the two little girls. Now they had a boy to go along with them.

Summer went along just as it usually does. And we had our family picnic. Caroline came on Saturday. So we had a chance to visit quite a while and she helped.

We all went up and saw Gerry and Kathy awhile on Saturday night and then get ready for Sunday. I made the potato salad, and we had 37 here for the picnic. Karen's whole family came, George and Carol came. It was nice to see them. All four Pawling girls were here. Colleen was teaching English in Korea, so she of course wasn't here, but it was a very nice day and I enjoyed it all so much.

Then we heard that Cindy and Kevin had a baby boy born September 17. They named him Benjamin Lloyd. That was different; he was a first grandchild we had born in a foreign county.

In October, I sewed a lot and made doll clothes and dolls and rabbits for the new babies. My eyes bothered me quite a bit. So I had to have cataract surgery. That was scheduled. There was a bad snow storm on November 11th. And that's much earlier than usual to have a deep snow with the schools closed and places of business closed.

The surgery on my eyes was set for November 25th.

We decided not to have Thanksgiving at my house as usual, because that was when I was having my surgery.

Dick's family was coming to his anyway, because there were two new babies. And like that would've been too much to cart them all over to my house. Bruce and Erin were with Paul and Arlene. So we had Thanksgiving at Debs. Gerry and Kathy came.

Lee and Noele came for a short visit. So we got a chance to see the baby. We, of course, were all anxious to see her as long as we had a chance. Bruce and Erin went to California to visit them after they got back there. It was a busy December. I made a lot of Christmas gifts. I went to Gerry and Kathy’s for Christmas morning and had my tree there. Got nice gifts, of course.

Pat came for Christmas at Debbie's. The day of the Christmas, there was a 50th anniversary party for Dorothy and Wendell Jones. All the kids wanted to make sure and go to that, so we all went there first and stayed for their program. That was nice. It was so good to hear those boys sing together again.

Then we all went over to Deb's. I had made scallop potatoes, so we stopped and picked those up. And of course we always have a wonderful meal there. Everybody brings something good. And it was a nice day. I received nice gifts and got to see all the people. All my family was there except for Bruce and Erin.

Many of the grandchildren. I have so much to be thankful for. My family are so good to me and so nice. The rest of December I stayed at home and on New Year's Eve, I went to the New Year's Eve party at church. They played games and had a movie. And then at quarter to 12, we all gathered around the altar for prayer, to see the old year out, the new year in. It's been a very good year, had many, many things happened to me that were good. And I'm so grateful for all of them.

Especially five healthy new babies. God is so good to us.

New Year's Day I took down my Christmas tree and put the things away. Isaac came down, took down my porch lights and put them away for me. Those boys have been so good always to help do the things that I can't reach anymore.

Gerry was building a baby barn to go in back of the log house, out of lumber that was left from the house and his barn up there and other buildings that he had done. He was getting that done. He took me to a basketball game, and then on over to Deb’s, ready to go with Pat and Bob. They left the 4th of January for South Carolina. And we had a good trip. No problems. They drove right through. It was pouring rain a lot of the time, so they didn't want him to get out and get wet. So we ate in the car and had a good trip down.

I always keep busy here, getting the breakfast work done up each day and getting things started for supper and doing odd jobs around. I still have lots of time that I have nothing to do, but I enjoy being here so much.

Dick and Gerry came over and I went home with them for awhile. And it was interesting, it was an interesting place to stay and his work is nice to hear about. Gerry and I enjoyed each other a lot while he was working.

All of us there. They went to Charleston to visit my niece. I hadn't seen her. That's Lyle's daughter. I haven't seen her since she was married. It was very nice. I was so glad to see her.

Her husband was born in that area of Charleston. So he took us around and showed us all different things of interest that we've always heard about, the slave markets and all those things, and scenes from Gone With the Wind where they were made.

I could see where Paul had landed with his big plane during the war when he flew so much and saw even those big planes; they were some of the same ones there. Her husband worked as a gate man. And now that he's retired, he was a gate man at one of those big airports. And so he never, he probably saw Paul several times, but that time he didn't know him, didn't know us. And so he said probably he'd seen him cause he's landed there so many times. And it was interesting to talk to him.

While I was at Dick’s, Ward and Ruth Silsbee came for an afternoon and evening, that was interesting. Ward and Dick reminisced so much about their work at Birdseye in their high school days, and all the things that happened around Haskinville. It was just an enjoyable evening just to sit and listen to them. Ward was interested in asking me about the new things that have happened in Haskinville since he'd left. Of course not much ever happens there, but he was interested in hearing about it.

Dick showed pictures that he took on his tour in Europe. And it was very interesting too. I saw the house where Corrie Ten Boom had lived. All those things are so interesting when you hear about them. I hear about them many times, and then you'll see pictures up on that really brings it out. And you remember those things.

About this time we had a letter from Bruce saying that Erin had been named Woman of the Year by the business and professional people in the Hornell area. That was nice, 'cause she worked so hard doing all the work for them and helping them. I was so glad for her.

Since Ingrid had come back from Louisiana, she had been applying different places for work and she had a call saying that she was to have an interview at Bryan College. That was the college she graduated from, for a receptionist. So they were all so excited and interested that to see if she could possibly get that job, but it would be so nice for her.

She went for her interview and then she had to wait three days to hear. And we waited patiently. I wouldn't say we waited, maybe not patiently. And finally she got the call and she got the job and we were all celebrating.

Bruce called and said they were going to Florida and why didn't I go along with them and visit Eva while they were visiting all the people they wanted to visit. So I planned to do that.

Bruce and Erin were going to get here about five for supper. So Dick and Gerry were going to come over and, and Diane and Kevin and Cheryl were going to be here, too, so it was going to be nice crowd, all of us eating together. They all got here. We had supper, we set up two tables and it was real nice. They all could eat here. Bruce and Dick and Bob all went to a car auction and Bruce got a car there.

So we all left for Florida in the morning. And we got as far as Tifton, Georgia, where we stayed all night that first night. It was a later start than we usually do.

Then we got up early the next morning and went on and ate breakfast at Shoney's and got to Nabholtz's about 10:30 and had lunch. Nice time there. John was there too. Pastor Nabholz wasn't there at the time we got there, but he came later, he was at a doctor's appointment. We had supper there. They had a house that they take care of when for other people that no one was in. So they said we could all stay there all night so that was nice. I don't remember whether I ate something or how we managed that, but that's what we did anyway.

Then Saturday morning, we left early and went to breakfast at Shoney's and then we got to Eva's about ten o’clock. Bruce and Erin went to flea markets and came back for lunch. They stayed a while and went on to visit the other people, Carlson's and some other ones that they knew. Schwitzer wasn't good at all. He had a bad heart and was not good at all, but he had a very good attitude. He was always a pleasant person. He had a great sense of humor. You always enjoyed him a lot. Clarence was very bad. They expected to hear at any time that he was going to be gone. That was so sad.

I had a nice day at Eva's and then we came back home, stopped at Dick’s and Pat's on the way home. And then got here to New York on April 10th [1992]. I had a nice winter down there.

Phil was over here at Pawling's when I got home. So it was nice. Debbie had to come get him because he drove the tractor over and I got to see her too.

I went to Hornell and got stocked up on groceries and got a turkey. Debbie's birthday was Sunday so I decided to have them all here to eat again. So I roasted the turkey and got things ready for Sunday, made cheese cake and scalloped corn and different things ready for the dinner. Pared potatoes.

Bruce called that Fred Alderman had died. They went to the funeral home to call up at the visiting hours.

They all came here for dinner on Sunday. We put candles on a cheese cake for Debbie's birthday. Kathy Pawling was here and stayed all night. She wasn't here very often. They lived over by the Hudson river. So it's a ways for her to come.

Fred's funeral was Monday. So Gerald and Bruce and I went to that. There was a good service. I'd like to know if Fred was ready to go but I guess that's not up to us to know.

This was April 20th. It was a busy time after that cause the graduation was coming up. Kathy had a nice party for David. Gerry rented a tent so they could have it there. And it was a nice crowd came. It was a nice time. My whole family, except Pat was to the graduation. That was nice. Of course, Maria, Kim's daughter, graduated in the same class. So that gave us a chance to see the Pawlings too. We went out for ice cream after that. I remembered that for a while, it was so nice to see those two kids graduating and getting special honors and so forth like you do at a graduation.

The family picnic was the last of July. And there was a big crowd to that. All four, four of the new babies were there for that. And of course, Benjamin wasn't because they were in Germany. It was a very nice time, enjoyed by all.