[1992]

Debbie had surgery last of August. So she was laid up for a while and I was over there through September and quite a lot of October off and on helping with the wash and getting meals and so forth before she was able to get back around again.

During that time, too, Mr. Wilson was very bad. He was in and out of the hospital all through September and October and he died the last of October. That was hard on Mrs. Wilson. She had never been alone, there had always been other people in the house so it was especially hard for her.

They brought them home on because Kevin was going to be ordained. Kim hadn't seen Cindy in a long time so she wanted to go up and see her while she was there. So I rode up with her. That was nice. I enjoyed Benjamin. He's such a cutie.

The ordination was very nice. I had been to other ones, but of course this one was more of interest to me because of one being ordained. It was a very impressive service, especially interesting because he was so well known. Sometimes the one being ordained isn't known to well by the ones doing the service. But he was since it was the church he had been pastor of, Penfield there.

Bruce and Erin and Debbie came up to the service. Kathy was coming but she still was not feeling well from her surgery in the summer.

I had the Thanksgiving meal as usual. Dick's family stayed over at Dick's house because there was just too many of them to join in with our group now. We had a real nice time. Bruce and Gerry and Deb's family all came and the boys' girlfriends all came. So we had two tables full, as usual. But it was nice.

Next we heard that Arlene and Paul had a baby boy born December 14 named Zachary Hunter. That was nice to hear; he was a healthy little baby, they said.

On December 23, Erin called and said that Noelle had a baby boy named Cameron Carl. So that was nice. Those two little cousins would be so close of an age. If ever lived close enough to enjoy each other, that would really be nice.

I was over to Debbie's on my birthday for dinner that she had the neighborhood ladies all in but it was on my birthday so they had a cake for me and they each gave me a card. So on the 23rd, Kathy and Gerry invited me up there to supper. I enjoyed that a lot. They gave me my birthday gifts. They quite often invited me for supper when Gerry came home. He is always away a lot. That was always something that I remember nice about that.

On the 27th we had our Christmas at Debbie's as usual. There were 38 there this year. So always about that number. It was very nice. My big gift that year was the promise to put new siding on my cottage at Chambers. I was so pleased over that.

About this time we heard that Sweitzer had died. That would be hard for Eva. None of us went. They weren't going to have a funeral service, she said, just a burial. But we had all been there to see him so many times. It was sad but nothing we could do about it. I always like to do that. I was there alone but that doesn't….

New Year's Eve I watched the ball fall. I always enjoyed doing that. I'm alone there but I always enjoy it. It's just something that I looking forward to when I don't have a watch night service at church.

…for Kris to move in…. [?log house on country house site?]

It's been a good year [1992] and God has been good.

In January early part I got the house ready to leave. Kathy and David came down to say goodbye. Debbie came and got me and we met Dick and Gerry in Corning. We had a real good trip. I always enjoy Dick and Gerry.

I always find things at Pat’s and to keep me busy, getting supper started and doing up the dishes and so forth. I also like the Sunday School here. Mrs. Bell, a return missionary that we've had ever since I've been here, is teacher and she's especially good.

The school where the Kreins go, once a year have a tournament where they invite seven other basketball teams from, some from North Carolina and others from South Carolina for the tournament. We always go to those games and they're very excited. Rachel is a cheerleader now. Ingrid has been and, of course, Scott played on the team when he was back in school. So it was always interesting. I've always gone to them. This year Southside won the tournament. First time they won in 14 years. So that was really exciting.

Early in March Dick called that they were going to Florida and I could go with them and stay with Eva while they went around and visited their friends. So I did that. I went with them. We stopped at Shirley and Shirley's for a minute and then went to the Nabholz's and called on them and we went to Eva's. She was, of course, alone now that Sweitzer's gone. And so that was nice. We had good visits and had a good time there.

And Dick and Gerry were gone for a while and then they came back and picked me up and we went up through to started back north and stopped at Brooksville again and we stayed overnight at Nabholz. I did in the house and of course Dick and Gerry stayed in their camper.

We started early in the morning. There was a terrible storm in the night. Electricity was off all night. It was dark in the morning. Mrs. Nabholz was embarrassed and apologized and apologized. We laughed at her cause she wasn't in control of the electricity. But she felt it was awful that she didn't have a bright light for us to eat breakfast. When we started and the wind was blowing a gale and it was snowing but we said well if we get a little farther north it probably is just a storm right here. But it wasn't. It was a terrible storm all the way up through; there were cars over the bank. And there was no electricity, no gas stations open. He was fortunate that he found one and filled up before that station closed.

We kept going and when we got to, we saw a town where there was a motel sign open. Most motels were closed because of course there was no electricity. I don't know how this one come to be open but it was. So we went in there and we had an awful time getting in because the wind had blown and all the driveways were closed. You had to go down a steep stairway to get to it but there was no stair. It was just a steep bank.

Dick and Gerry got me on one on each side of me and helped me down and we made it to get in. And we were so grateful because it was so cold. It was cold in the camper even, so we got in there. It was warm and clean. It was run by black people and we were the only ones there so I guess they were glad to see us. We stayed there overnight.

And we came home the next day we came around by Augusta instead of up through Atlanta like we usually would. And we got home about three in the afternoon. It was a bad storm. The whole East Coast was affected. We thought it was just there. For a long time after that the newspapers and television talked about the blizzard of '93. It was a bad storm all the East Coast affected.

I forgot to say while I was at Eva's visiting, Sweitzer's brother and his wife are there and they were pleasant. Gator in the Creek right by Eva's house. And she would say, "What do you want to look at that ugly old thing for." We didn't especially love him or anything but we were interested. We didn't see alligators every day. And we just liked to watch him. He didn't do anything but sleep but it still was interesting to us. His name was Elbert.

I stayed at Pat and Bob's the rest of the time 'til it was time to come home. There was always nice things going on there. They entertain a lot and at that time they had fellowships in the homes and there'd be two or three other couples and children if they had children, usually there wasn't they were older people usually, but they had them and we always prepared the main dish and they'd each bring like salad or dessert or whatever. So it was a pleasant evening and they did that once a month and it was always enjoyable to have those people there. I met so many different nice people that way.

Bruce and Erin were over in Texas where Paul with station visiting and they call that they'd be here to pick me up Tuesday. So I packed my suitcase and got all ready and we came home, had a good trip home. The car bothered some on hills but it was a good trip home.

And when I got there the boys, David and Isaac, came down to see me and Kathy stopped and visited quite awhile. Deb came over because Phil was plowing the field across the road so she had to come pick him up. So I got to see her. It was so nice to be back home again. It was getting be nice weather and so I could be outside some.

Evelyn, my good friend in Haskinville came down to see me. She's always been so faithful as a friend. And I called on Charlotte Weaver and it was nice to be back at home are all the people that I know. They have good Mother's Day Program at church and I enjoyed that.

I went over to Deb's again. She was sick so I did up her work and she stayed in bed and rested because she had to go for more tests for her mail carrier job. And so she wanted to feel better. So she rested and I did up the work for her. So glad I could do that she's done so much for me.

Gerald built a new back porch and the boys raked out a place where I had a few things planted last year and I planted some hills of beans and onions set and about three tomato plants. That was going to be all I wanted. We had gone, gone with Evelyn over to the Amish people and bought a few plants and some flowers for the cemetery boxes. So that was nice to have the boys around there doing things. I always enjoyed them so much.

Kathy was cleaning out the flower bed in front of the house by a large tree and she uncovered the old millstone that my grandfather had brought up there, way back before the large tree was set out in '33. Well, it would have been before we went to Hornell back in the early 20s. So it was nice to have it. It was from the original mill that got the big round stones that they ground the feed with then. It was before they had the machinery to grind it. They just had these stones, big mill stones they used to grind the feed. So it's still there. I can see it, now all the time. I'm so glad that Kathy weeded it out good so we could see it.

I went with Lucy and Juanita to the Family Life Center ladies' luncheon. That's always nice to go to, get to see people from other areas around that you don't see very often. They have a good program each time and of course a nice meal, too.

Pat and Bob got up to Deb's. They were coming for Dan's graduation. That was going to be another fun time for us all. We always look forward to seeing them and of course proud of Dan that he's graduating. Dan had to have both prayers at the graduation. They can't have a minister pray; they have to have a layman and nobody else wanted to do it so Dan did both of them, the beginning and the end. It was a lot for a young kid but he's strong Christian and it wasn't any big problem to him.

It's so nice to have Kris living next door. She stops in every once in a while and she and Kathy enjoy each other a lot. Kathy needs to walk for her back and so she and Kris go for walks quite often. That's nice.

Deb is working quite a little bit at the post office now and on the mail route. She has a lot of health problems. So I tried to help her with the work when I can and Pat's there to help now that she is up for the graduation. So that's a big help to Debbie. She's getting ready for the party and all that.

We planned bees to go work at the camp putting on the new siding for Wednesday and Thursday before graduation on Friday. They all were there to help. Bruce came both days and brought his saw and sawed all the lengths for the siding as they measured it and told him the measure and didn't get around to go back and saw another bunch for those two days.

David and Isaac and other kids came and helped; they did odd jobs around. A lot to do on a day like that. Lloyd puts screens on all the windows and a screen in the new door. I'm bought screens and they did that.

Bob painted the screen doors and I painted some screen doors and screens for the windows. And the men did the big work putting on the siding.

That was a nice day; we had a big picnic dinner there. So that made it nice. And I stayed all night there. Some of them come back home. Most of them in fact came back home and then came back early the next morning. It was a very nice time. I'm always remembered that.

There was just one thing bad that happened. They were all finished and had to come back but there was just a little bit more to do so Bob and Dick said they would go back early Friday morning and do that. And so the rest of them all came home and stayed home. But while they were there for some reason, Dick's ladder slid into Bob's ladder. So they both went crashing to the ground. Dick broke some ribs and Bob broke his wrist. And they were both in so much pain. I didn't know anything about this. And when they got to the party after the graduation for Dan, I found out that Dick was in such awful pain that he finally had to leave with broken ribs, of course. And Bob's wrist was all wrapped up so he wasn't painting right then. But he had been of course. It was too bad. Everything was so perfect. The house was all finished and everything was fine except that. But of course they weren't seriously injured. It was just a very painful injury.

The graduation was real nice. Dan got a lot of awards and honors like they always do at a graduation. We were enjoying it all so much. As I said, I didn't even know about broken bones so I enjoyed it all. I would have felt awful if I'd known that but of course they were nice and kept from me.

Camp time there was upon us again and Carolyn and Lloyd stayed in the cottage with me. It was real nice. Only thing that was bad was a temperature was 100 or 90 most every day. There was no breeze much. It was just a very hot time. They held a conference over in Victory Highway Church but the evening services were right there at Chambers.

But it was all right. And we enjoyed it all.

It was time for the summer picnic again. That was set for the last of July. Dick and Gerry came over with their camper and stayed all night Saturday to be here for Sunday. Sunday morning was a special service up to our church because Lee and Noelle and Paul and Arlene both had their babies there and they were dedicated in that service. It was a very nice service. Arlene's mother and Lee's mother both came to the service.

Then we all came home and had our picnic at our house. There were 40 there. It was a nice crowd and we enjoyed it all.

Eva called that she was in New York State and she was down to Hammondsport then visiting friends down there and then she wanted to come up so Bruce went and got her. She was here quite a long time visiting. Linda and Ralph came over for meals. The kids came in to see her and that's a nice long time that she was here.

At this time Dick and Gerry had their 40th wedding anniversary celebration. So we went over to that with Bruce. Was nice. Their whole family was there and Eva hadn't seen any of them a long time. She enjoyed it all. Kara and Steven were there and I gave them their quilt and they seemed real pleased with that. It was nice to see all those when we get to see Carol's husband, and we hadn't met him or at least not seen him many times. I don't know if we met him before that or not.

Eva went over to Linda's and stayed a few days. And then she came back to my house and I invited Juanita up and some of her girls were there visiting so they came up. Gerald came in. He hadn't seen Eva in a long time either. So it was real nice.

The Alderman picnic was held down to the Painted Post area at a picnic ground there. There was a nice crowd there and Eva went to see all of them again. And Harold came to get his mother and she went back up to his house with them. Harold lived in Oswego, he's lived ever since he was married.

Kris was up quite often. It was so nice to have her. Maria stayed with her. And she enjoyed that a lot. And then Maria decided to go New Mexico to school. She felt bad over that because she knew she was going to miss her great deal. Thanksgiving time was coming and I planned Thanksgiving dinner as usual. Dick and Gerry were in South Carolina where he was teaching again.

Fall was upon us again. In the last of October it snowed real deep snow. Schools were closed. It was unusual. They didn't have the plows all out or anything ready yet, so it was a bad time.

November came; deer season open. The family from Pennsylvania came up to stay at Gerry’s again to hunt with them. And the lady went to church with Kathy and I. That was nice.

I did all I could to get ready for Thanksgiving dinner ahead of time, tables all set and all that like I always did and peeled potatoes the night before. I roasted the turkey, took dressing out and put it in the refrigerator, had it all ready to slice the next day.

Dick and Gerry were down in South Carolina so they weren't coming. And Lee and Noele were here for dinner and the regular ones, Debbie’s and Gerry’s and Bruce’s. It was nice to see them all. Dick is going over a Pat's and have Thanksgiving with her.

I worked on Christmas gifts to get things ready. Went shopping down at the mall to get the rest of my gifts for the little grandchildren and great grandchildren and so forth. Christmas Day, I was snowed in. I couldn't go anywhere and so I called Debbie and said I wouldn't be over. She sent Matt over after me so I had Christmas dinner with them and Christmas morning we opened the gifts like we always do there at Debbie's house. They have a lot of fun exchanging just their family gifts and opening their stockings and they always have a stocking for me that I enjoy, too.

The get together was the next day after Christmas, there at Deb's. It was still very deep snow a lot of places so the whole family didn't get there but there was a nice crowd. We had a good time just like we always do. I have such a wonderful family as I have been so grateful for them, so considerate and thoughtful, so happy to be together. It's a very nice time each year.

Dick and Gerry of course were there because they came up from South Carolina for the Christmas and they said I could ride back with them. That was nice because they have the camper and it's pleasant to ride back in that. So we started back on January 3 [1994]. We had a real good trip down. It's always fun to go with Dick and Gerry there. They are lots of fun. We ate most of our meals in the camper but we stopped a couple of times to eat and that was real nice. We stayed all night someplace in Virginia. I forgot the name of it and then we got there okay at their place in Central. I stayed there for about three weeks. I always enjoyed being there because I know some of the people I've met them other years and I also know them from New York, too. And we play games and work puzzles and I enjoy their church. There was deep snow in New York, very cold weather I kept hearing from the family how cold it was.

Deb is having a hard time because of the deep snow. She has to get out and shovel out some of the mailboxes. I'll be glad when she gets a job inside. It'll be so much better for her.

I came back to the Pat's for a while. I always enjoyed being here. It's a nice place. beautiful weather, usually. This was a cold time and for early part of February it was real cold. But it's usually nice here and certainly a lot better than New York when it comes to weather.

Dick and Gerry were going to go back to Florida and they asked me to go with them later so I planned to do that. They were also going to go to the children's home in Georgia where they had helped before. I was interested in seeing that, too. So I went with them there. We stayed there a while and he heard about the plans for the new place that they'd bought and the new buildings that were going to make there.

Then we went on to Eva's--or I did-- they called on other people in Florida. Harold and his wife were there to Eva's. I enjoyed them. Ebert the alligator was still very interesting to me. Eva couldn't see why on earth I'd want to look at that horrid thing, but I always found it interesting.

Then I came back to Pat's. There were a family from New York here visiting. People I had already met is Saugerties and so I enjoyed them a lot. They were real friendly people and they had come down because Alva Cody was very, very bad. And he was one of their close friends. In fact, Bob's old boss when he worked in New York and he lived near Atlanta now. He was very bad. So they had come down just to see him. And they stayed at Pat and Bob's and that was interesting. I enjoyed them a lot.

About this time we heard that Lloyd was going to go to Germany and work for a company over there. Caroline was feeling a lot of stress over being over and running the business all alone and running her household all alone because she never but I was sure she'd be able to do it. She's very capable.

Tom and Trudy, Bob sister, came after the other couple left. They came for a visit. I enjoyed them. I enjoyed Trudy a lot. She's always so interesting to talk to.

So I had a pleasant winter here. All different people here to visit and time I spent with Pat and Bob and so forth.

Bruce called they were going to come home and then I could ride home with them and they'd come around this way. They were down in Texas now. So that's what I did. I rode home with them. We had a nice trip home. They took me to my house and got me all settled and all was well.

Caroline called and said she'd be down. She'd be here for the weekend. That was going to be nice. I was looking forward to seeing her and she got here Friday night. And we had a good time. Kris came up and visited awhile Friday night and Saturday. It was nice weather and CarolINE went for walks up the road and around like she always did when she was a kid. There was baby calves to see. And Kris's horses and so forth. So it was an interesting time for her and we had a real good time. She stayed till Sunday night so that meant that she could go to church with me and so forth. I enjoyed it all when she's down here and it was nice weather.

My car acted up a lot. It always is acting up. And Bruce is always so faithful to fix it for me. I just couldn't have a car if I didn't have Bruce because it would cost a fortune to keep it running unless I had him to put in the new parts and fix things that come unhooked and so forth. He is always so good.

About this time we heard that Kevin and Cindy had a baby girl born the 12th of April. The baby had a bad birthmark over a large part of her body. But it wasn't on her face, just the main part of, trunk part of her body. It was going to require many, many operations. As I look back on it now I think we never knew how much that poor little girl had to suffer to get that birthmark removed. They said it had to be removed because it would turn cancerous so there was no doubt about leaving it.

So it was time for Debbie's birthday so I had them over for Sunday dinner for her birthday. It was nice. We had a nice dinner and a nice time.

We heard just about now that the Wesleyan women of Penfield Church had put together money and bought a ticket for Caroline to go to Germany and back to be with Cindy through the stressful time. They thought that couldn't be a nicer gift for Caroline to spend time with Cindy and for Cindy, too. So that was so nice of them and there was so good for Caroline and Cindy.

Kris's mare had a colt about this time. That was exciting because this was the first colt she’d had since they'd had the horses here on the Pawling farm. So we'd all been looking forward to it and that was an interesting thing. I didn't get to see it for quite a while because they kept it in the barn at first. But when it got out to the pasture then I got to see it. It's a cute little thing running around down there.

About this time Noele called up and wanted to know if she could have Morgan's birthday party in my front yard because it'd be more room and it was easier place to get than down where she lived. And so I was very glad to have them up here. That way I can enjoy it. Lee's mother and Arlene's mother came. Arlene and Zachary were up visiting at that time. So they came and they have a real good time. Noele got the whole meal they had ready. And the little kids had a lot of fun. They blew bubbles and the little kids chased them and chased them. I never realized kids could have so much fun with bubbles. That was a nice time and I enjoyed it all so much.

It was time for Matt's graduation now. We went to the Baccalaureate service and I helped Debbie, ready for Matt's graduation party. It was real nice. The graduation was real nice; Matt had both of the prayers again just like Dan did. And he got some awards. And the party was very nice. They always are. It was a nice crowd there. All of Phil's family and some of my family and of course, kids that Matt knew and so forth.

It was time for camp again. And my cottage was full of time because Andy and Heidi came with their little kids. And Karen Climo was there. She had charge of the crafts. So she was staying there and of course Caroline and Lloyd were there. So it was nice. I enjoyed it all. I always liked it when there's a full cottage there.

Mr. Bentz said that he saw a bear on the pig road. They said there had been bears on the Mattoon road several times and even on Kathy and Gerry's driveway. Kathy said, "Everybody sees them but me. I never get to see a bear." And that's the way with me. I've never seen a bear. They're around there though but they don't seem to make any problem as long as people leave alone.

The bridge by Helen and Earl's house was being replaced so all the traffic had to go up the pig road and around and out through Haskinville. It was going that way so there was a lot of extra traffic by my house right them. And Gerald was in and out quite a lot. He brought me fresh vegetables from the people he sprays for, like zucchini and yellow squash and tomatoes and cucumbers. I always enjoyed them. They're so nice and they was nice to have him pop in once in a while.

Kris came up and brought me a book on the history of Avoca. In there was a picture of the old mill van and the mill. Of course, the mill was there long after we moved back here and were….

….of beans and I just enjoyed them so much. I can then didn't make very many and that was just enough so I . . . that was gone. So I was interested in seeing those pictures and Gerry took them and got some copies made so that was nice. It was in a book that Tom's mother made. She was a historian.

Lots of beans, and I've just enjoyed them so much I could, it didn't make very many and that was just enough so I could pick myself a mess of beans and have them completely fresh. I enjoyed them a lot.

Robin was in a play over at Houghton. Oklahoma. So Pawlings were going and they asked me to ride along with them. So I went to see that play. That was nice. She had a singing part mainly but she had some lines. Of course it's a very familiar play that we've seen many other times, so it was enjoyable.

Phil's 40th birthday was coming up so she wanted to have a funny party for him. She bought black napkins for the table and she had drapes, black drapes in the house and they brought the craziest gifts. It was a complete surprise party. She took him out for supper on a pretext that was his birthday supper. And while they were gone the whole crowd came in; there was a big crowd of people there. I don't know the exact number but it was a big crowd. They bought the most comical gifts. All kinds of things like a broken false teeth and a cane so he'd have something to walk with and a lot of funny things like that. There always was always laughed. And the cards were ridiculous like he was about 90. It was a lot of fun.

Cindy had to come to the United States to go to different doctors here to confer about the surgery and the baby. The German doctors were real sure that they could handle it. But they thought they should come and confirm with United States doctors and they, she did. She went to several and they all agreed that Germany was going to do was fine. And it would be much simpler for them if they could have been over there because she would just have to come here in the States and stay with a baby and he'd have to run the Mission and the kids all alone, so it was really good that she could have it there in the states. They had 18 operations but at the time we didn't know that.

Dan was going to Roberts Wesleyan to college and so he was to leave along the first part September. I went over and helped Debbie. We made a lot of cookies so he could take some of them with him when he went.

And Kris came up about then and said that they were going to be married, she and Tom, and invited me to go with them when they were married. They weren't going to have a wedding, just go and get married. So Tom's parents came and picked me up. I went with them and the four girls were there. They sang all kinds of crazy songs to him. It was a lot of fun. It was very relaxed, because it was not so proper like a church wedding would be. Kris and Tom went to a motel for overnight. They didn't go on the wedding trip at that time. That was the third of November.

Virginia Preston, Francis we heard was very bad having to have dialysis every day. I hadn't realized how bad she was. I was sorry I hadn't been in to see her. I could have. Just didn't hear how sick she was.

About this time the doctor found that I had a hernia that would need surgery. So on the 18th of November, I went and had that taken care of. Kathy and Debbie both took turns. One of them brought me and the other came when I was just out of the surgery. Gerry was in and both pastors were in. I was well taken care of. And I wasn't there only a few days. I got along just fine. Juanita came several times.

On the day I was to go home there was very bad storm. Deep snow. Deer season was on so the roads were full of people travelling, going deer hunting but Matt came to get me and he said there's cars all over the road and across the road and over banks and everything. Storm come on so fast and it was icy. But we got home okay. He's a good driver, no problem.

Thanksgiving Day, Debbie got the dinner this year, of course. I was able to help her some and I could sit up to the table to eat. I was really pleased. I didn't think I couldn't get well that quick but I did. Dan and Phil had both gotten deer.

Debbie was very busy. She was working all the time. I was able to help her. I could fill the dishwasher and I could fold clothes. I said the Thanksgiving dinner.

When I got well enough, I went back home. Set up my Christmas tree. Isaac came and got my tree out and helped me set it up.

I went to the mall and to Hornell and so forth and did my Christmas shopping for all that I hadn’t done. I'd made a great deal of my Christmas presents. I still had great grandchildren and grandchildren to buy for.

Dick and Gerry came and they stayed all night and slept in the camper. And we went to Ponderosa for my birthday. That was nice. I went up to Gerry and Kathy's Christmas morning and open my gifts up there with them. When it came time to have the Christmas get together, Pat was there so she got things all ready. Debbie had to work but she got home in time, ready to serve the dinner. It was a nice crowd of people. We had a good time. Always a good time. I got a chance to talk to them all and see the new babies and see the older children as they grow. So nice I can have this every year that I get a chance to see the children. Most of them could come.

It was New Year's Eve again. I didn't see the ball fall. I intended to but I went to sleep and missed it. It was a little thing but I was sorry to miss it.

But I've had a good year. And I'm just so grateful for my family. All the people did for me all of the time. Such a good life I lead.

[1995]

Sunday was New Year's Day. It was a quiet day. Dick and Gerry called that they'd be here next week to pick me up and to stay all night at my house. Caroline called that Brianna was through with another surgery and was doing okay. I keep thinking “Poor Cindy”, what a strain all of this is on her, having to leave the other children home and staying at the hospital with Brianna as she has to do.

I ordered a new roll of stamps. They were 32 cents this time, quite a jump from 29.

Evelyn called and invited Charlotte and I to supper. We had such a nice evening; she's a good friend. I always enjoy her so much.

I went to Deb's one day and baked up some batches of cookies for her. She's so busy all the time.

Dick and Gerry came Monday night and we left at six o'clock on Tuesday. Dick and Gerry came down and Gerry and Kathy came down and also Kris came up. She's going to be lonesome with Maria gone and that's nice for her to have someplace just to stop in and visit while she's down there alone so much.

We had a real good trip down, no problem. It's always enjoyable to go with Dick and Gerry. We got to Pat's and she was busy as always. She had a student teacher this year. It makes her extra work but she enjoys it so they always ask her to do it so she does it.

I enjoy their church. I enjoy their Bible study that's during the middle of the week so Pat can't go but other ladies pick me up. It was on different, less known women of the Bible. Very interesting study on things we wouldn't have read about before.

I received letters from the folks back North. Kathy wrote that Isaac was enjoying his senior year. He'd made 11 points in the basketball game and that would make him happy.

In March Dick called and said they were going to Hepzibah and that I could go along. So I planned to go and went with them. Geraldine always worked in office when she was down there. So much paperwork with a set up like that. Dick did everything. They had bought a wooded area to make into a new campground, and with buildings and dorms and school rooms, and so forth. So there was an amount work to do. So Dick cut trees and dug ditches and laid pipe line and did all the manual labor that's required and he enjoyed it thoroughly, come home at night all covered with mud and looking so tired, but he enjoyed it. It was something different.

All over the United States, people sent Campbell's Soup labels in there. And it was our job to put them in packs, cut them down to a certain size and then put them in packages of 100. And they were mailed to a certain place. It took better than a million of them to get one of the vans that they got with them for, to transport the kids around to different activities that he had to go to. So it took a lot of soup labels. I did those and they brought to the house where we stayed and I did those. I enjoyed that. It was satisfying work. I remember one day I did 1200. I did a lot of them while I was there, as I said it took a million, so they needed a lot of them.

David had joined the Marines and Kathy wrote that he had left for his basic training at Parris Island.

As soon as school was out where Dick was teaching, he was going to start home. And he said it would be the first part of May. So I planned to go back with him. We started and had some trouble with a camper off and on. It just didn’t work, it kept stalling and bothering. And when we got to High Point, it quit entirely. And we're right in the busiest intersection. People were honking and backing up and pulling around us all the while and it was sort of noon time. So it was a busy time of day that we were stuck in the middle of traffic in the big city like that.

And we sat there wondering what to do. I supposed all of us asked the Lord for help. And a man stuck his head the window and says, "Well, what on Earth are you doing here?" He was a man that Dick that worked with at Houghton and he lived in High Point. He said, "I go for a walk every day. And usually I come downtown and walk around. But I've never gone on this street before." He was amazed and we were, too.

He had somebody tow us home and we stayed there all night. And Dick worked on the van and he found, it was just some simple thing wrong with it and he found it and we went the rest of the way home with no problem. It's just another reminder of how good God is to watch people. We got home and Dick and Gerry stayed there overnight. Kathy had come down and got the house ready and bought a few groceries so I could have something to eat 'til I could go to town. Dick and Gerry left the next day.

A robin had built a nest and there were eggs in it right over my kitchen door. It was a nuisance. She was so mad every time I went outside; she's scream and yell, sit on a branch and call me everything. Well I couldn't help it. I had to go in and out that door.

I made new curtains for my living room and Deb papered the one wall than I had papered in there. That was my Mother's Day gift.

About this time the robins left from over the door and was that a relief.

Graduation came upon us. We went to the baccalaureate. It was so nice to see Isaac in his cap and gown. Pat and Bob were up.

The kids went together about a Mother's ring and a stone for each different kid's birthstone.

Kathy and Gerry and Isaac went to Parris Island for David's graduation from basic training. That's nice. I went when Gerry graduated. Very impressive ceremony. I enjoyed it.

We had a party for Isaac, and David came home after the graduation. Debbie made a pretty cake. There was just family there and the preacher. That was nice. The cake Debbie had made had a graduate on it and two little soldiers. It was for both the boys. It was a nice party.

Camp and conference was on us again. Cindy and Kevin were going to be at camp this year so that would be interesting for us to hear. It was bad weather some of the time. Very, very hot. It was 106 one day and hot around all summer. In fact, they said cows and big flocks of turkeys were dying from the heat. It was unusual.

One day the wind came up real strong and blew down the big tent. No one was in there because they'd been ordered not to go in there when the storm was coming up. So there was no one hurt. They had to have the meetings over in the Victory Highway church. So that was nice. Everybody went in there with loads of cars and went over there.

Pat and Bob went on a trip through the West. They had a three weeks trip and they had a real good time, they said. They went up through Michigan and Minnesota and that area. They had never been there and they knew different people along the way where they stopped to visit and it was nice trip for them.

We went to Pat's for Scott's wedding, Kathy and I rode down with Dick and Gerry. It was a nice trip. It was a very pretty wedding. We enjoyed that. The reception was very nice too. And we all remarked about it. The cake was so nice. Debbie did that but it was a little different. It was a very nice wedding and I was so glad I could go.

When we got back, it was time for the summer picnic. We'd been wanting to have a shower for Beth and David like we did for the other kids but there didn't seem to be any time so we decided to have the people bring their gifts for the shower at the picnic. That worked out good. Debbie made a little cake just special for that. We had later in the afternoon after the picnic dinner. She got nice gifts and it worked out that we could do it that way and not have to have them all make a trip down again.

About this time Debbie and Phil got their first ostriches. That was interesting. They're such odd looking creatures. It's fun to watch them.

The water didn't work good in our house. The pump kept going off and on and off and on and we had to keep turning the pump off because it was going to wear it out and they dug up different places to see if they could find out what could be causing it and they finally decided that the pipe itself had rusted through. That pipe from the spring to the house was an iron one and they had put that in 1947 when my father put it in and this was 1995 so it had a right to be rusted through. So they put a plastic pipe on top of the ground and hooked it at both ends like it would if it was underground and then it worked perfect so they knew that was it so then Jerry got people there and they dug a ditch and put it in and then that was. It was perfect ever since.

It was time now for David's wedding, last of September. Jeremiah, Andy and Heidi's little boy, was going to be ring bearer along with Diane's little girl as flower girl. They looked so cute. Andy and Heidi came Friday night to stay all night. so Jeremiah could be here for the rehearsal. That's so nice to have Andy and Heidi and the kids there for overnight. I just enjoyed that so much.

The ceremony was very nice and the dinner was great. The reception I sat with Juanita, so that made it nice, someone to visit with. And Kathy filled our plates and brought them to us because there was a long line, of course, like they're always is and neither of us felt like standing a long time. So that worked out real nice. It was a good time for both of us.

Once a year, Evelyn takes Charlotte and I down to Appalachin to visit Helen, that's near Binghamton. We always enjoyed that. We’d go down and spend the day mostly with her. We'd go out to eat somewhere and have a nice visit. And then usually Evelyn takes a roundabout way home. So it's usually along toward evening time we get home, but it's just an enjoyable day. I always looked forward to it. And so does Helen. She always liked it so well, too.

In Bath they had a torch bearing program like they do when the Olympics are going to start. Eric was the one who carried the torch for a given distance. It's a once in a lifetime event, of course, if you were at the real one, but this is one that they imitate. They have everything just the same, the police cars and official cars preceded the whole thing.

And then each of them stood in line and they were handed the torch and they had to run and carry it to the next place where somebody else took it. And it was very enjoyable to watch and I was so glad I could go. Kris came and picked me up and took me down. The kids are so nice about doing that to see that I get to these interesting things.

Erin was retiring from the police force in Bath. She'd worked there 20 years and was now retiring. And they were having a special party for her at this time. It was real nice. They gave her a lot of different gifts and said real nice things about her. I went and enjoyed it a lot. I was so pleased for her. She had worked so hard there and tried so hard to do a good job. People always said, what a good job she did. It would be better though. She was getting awfully tired and having to drive home late at night and so forth. She worked the night shift.

We had a deep, deep snow storm. I was completely snowed in. I said it didn't matter to me. I wasn't going anywhere anyway, but they came and shoveled me out in case I needed to go somewhere.

We had Thanksgiving at my house, same as we usually did. We ate at four o'clock this time in the afternoon. So the men could hunt all day. Sometimes they stop, usually they stop at noon time and eat but this year they wanted to do that.

I was getting ready for Christmas and getting things bought, made and packaged and so forth. And they said they were going to take me out to eat. And we went to a place in Bath. I don't remember the place we went that time, but it was very nice. And Dan and Matt and Elizabeth and Deb and Phil and I. And we walked in there and there was a table set with the whole family there, Pat and Bob were even there. They had just driven up and they got there in time to join the supper. Kathy and Gerry were there. And Bruce and Erin. The whole family was there. It was very nice and I enjoyed it a lot and it was a nice surprise because I hadn't even thought of their doing that.

We had to get together before Christmas this year, the 23rd. That was nice. They had 41 there this time. Most of the family got there. It's always the case, that some of them, the kids are sick or some of the family went to visit the parents on the other side of the house and so forth. So they aren't always all there, but it was nice. We had a nice crowd and we had them real good time.

Christmas day I spend it at Debbie's like I always do. It was so nice to be there. And we always have a good dinner. I enjoyed all and I went back home. It was very cold, a long session of very cold weather, sub-zero most of the time, and deep snow. I tried to get everything ready to leave. Kris came up and stayed awhile. I always looked forward to her coming and seeing her.

Christmas Eve Kathy took me to the Christmas Eve, or New Years Eve service at church. That was nice. Always is. We played games and watched a movie and then gathered around the alter for prayer until midnight.

I had another wonderful year. Family is so good to me. I do appreciate them so much.

The first part of January was cold and blustery, deep snow,12 to 18 inches. Gerry got us plowed out. It was eight degrees and I was planning to go to Pat's again. Evelyn came and also Kris to say goodbye. It's been so nice to have them close by and coming in every so often. Kris has come up so many times just to spend a few minutes and I love to have her.

Bad storm all up the east coast. Washington DC was all snowed in. They had two feet there in some places. Dan was going to Pat's. So I planned to ride down with him. We had to postpone our start because the snow was so bad, but we got off okay. The roads weren't too bad. They were all plowed. In Pennsylvania the road was real rough. They didn't get down to the surface of the road. They just sort of plowed over the top. Dan is such a nice person. He was so thoughtful and did so many things to make the trip nice for me.

Pennsylvania and Maryland were, there was a lot of accidents. Those people aren't used to driving with deep snow. There was a lot of people over the bank and like that, but we got through fine. We didn't have any trouble at all. Of course, Dan is used to deep snow. So it wasn't anything new to him.

We got to Pat's about nine o'clock that night with no problem. So the schools were all closed there because there was two inches of snow in Greenville. There had been deeper snow before that. This was a bad year for snow all over the East Coast. Dan got up the next morning and went to work with Bob and Scott.

Ingrid announced that she's going to be married in August. So that was something for us to begin to plan for. Church was good as usual. Mrs. Bell's class is always so interesting. I guess I've told you before, she was a missionary for a long time and she knew the Bible so well. And it was always so interesting in her class.

Then a warm spell came and the snow was all gone. And we heard that Jumbo's mother had died. She was 97, Geneva, such a lovely person. [1996]

There was an ice storm then with no electricity. They were, Ingrid was in a passion play in Atlanta. We went and stayed at Steve's house. The play was very good, very authentic and followed the Bible so completely. I had a good visit with Steve. I hadn't seen him to talk to him very much before that.

Dan left to go home. We will miss him. It was fun having him around. He was going to go as far as Joan's daughter in Pennsylvania and stay there overnight and then on home. Real nice to have him here and we enjoyed him.

Rachel was some interested in going to Houghton this next year for college. A man from the college came to interview her and talk to her about the college. That was nice. She enjoyed that.

Bruce and Erin went down to Texas to see Paul and Arlene. They called and I talked to Paul and Arlene and Zachary. That was nice. They were going to stay there for some time this winter.

March went by as usual, with just the usual things going on. For Pat's birthday we had a party, just the family here. That was fun, made a cake and Rachel decorated it. So it was real nice. I keep busy making baby quilts; Andy and Diane's family both had a new baby this year.

Deb and Elizabeth came down for Rachel's graduation. She got nice awards and it was a nice program, just like graduations always are. And then I rode back up home with Deb. We had a real good trip. We stopped at Gettysburg at the wax museum. And other interesting things we saw there. It was nice to be home when I got there and then different people stopped in to say, welcome home.

Nice to be back in my own church again. There were four people that had been to Promise Keepers and they gave their report; that's always interesting to hear.

Caroline and Lloyd came early in June. Lloyd always finds new jobs around the house to do to help me. Always so glad to have them come.

Camp time was on us again and I went to camp with Caroline and Lloyd. I didn't stay as long this year as I have some years. I didn't stay the whole time.

Pawlings all came up to see me and Colleen is going to Korea to teaching English in July. We went to Matt's wedding. That was very nice wedding. Reception was nice too, and enjoyed it so much. Pat and Bob came and they stayed at my house all night. Dick came over home with me and we went to church. Dick taught the adult class. That was nice.

And then we went to the Alderman reunion in Painted Post. Bruce and Erin were there. I rode home with them.

About this time, Isaac went to California with four other kids. They were just going up and back for the trip but then Isaac and one of the boys stayed out there. They found work and stayed.

Kris' little colt broke its leg and they had to take him to Cornell to get it set. This was real nice for the students because it gave them a chance to see how to work that, how to set a horse's leg, and it was nice for Kris because she let them watch, the students watch, it was all free, the boarding for the colt and his mother. So that was nice. She thought it was going to be so expensive, but she didn't know what else to do. Nobody around here would set a colt's leg and he's such an expensive horse, she didn't want to see him just put down.

Robin was in a play in Houghton. So we all went over there to see that; that was nice. I went to Keenagers with the Frederick girls, Mary Ellen and Eleanora. They stayed in my cottage and they helped me walk to the meetings like that. That was so nice. I enjoyed that a lot.

And there was Ingrid's wedding. I went to that with Bruce and Erin. Kathy went with Dick and Gerry. The rehearsal dinner was very nice and they had special music there besides the regular music that they planned. Trudy and Bob sang together, Erin played for them. And that was so nice. It was just improvised. They hadn't planned to do that, or just something that came up. We all enjoyed it a lot. The wedding was beautiful, too. She had a lot of little girls and that added to the usual wedding procedures that people have.

Rachel came to Houghton and got settled in and she came over to Debbie's once in a while for a weekend. And that was nice. We had the family picnic the first part of September of this year, too, later than usual, but that seemed to be the only time we could work it in, but that was nice as it usually is. There was the regular ones that could came.

Isaac left for California right after the picnic, too. So we all had a chance to say goodbye to him.

We heard that Mabel died just about now. That's Floyd's sister and Debbie took me to that funeral. Juanita's family was there and some of Fred's family, people that I don't see very often, it was sad but something that we all have to face.

I heard that Isaac was going to stay out in California. He had a job. He and one of the boys that went with them, both got a job in the Crystal Cathedral working with the youth. That was real nice. It gave them a good income and they roomed with two others guys so four of them were in one room, but then I guess that doesn't bother kids. They weren't there very much, anyway. They were busy with the other things they had to do.

He kept calling home and telling us what he was doing and so forth. They started in October getting ready for the Christmas program. It's always an elaborate affair there. And he just enjoyed working in that, working with the kids. He said they work completely different bunch of kids than he was used to.