**side 10**

[1998]

….down in my flower bed by the flagpole and planted the flowers that Gerry had brought me for Mothers' Day. Deb and Bruce and Erin came to lunch. Kathy stopped in, too. Caroline left for home about 1:30. At night, Kathy and I met Deb and Phil and Estella and Dan, David, and Beth at the fish fry place. It was a nice evening. I enjoyed it all so much.

Later I had a bad, bad pain in my side. I kept putting off. Finally I called Kathy and said, I better go to the emergency room. And they took x-rays and found my hernia was back again. The doctor worked it back in and said, I'd have to see Dr. Foreman. I made an appointment to see him. And he said, no, there was no answer, but surgery. And I'd have to go to Dexter Randow to have a test made to make sure I was able to have surgery and so forth.

Surgery was set for June 10th. Kathy came and took me in and stayed there with me. And it was delayed because there was an emergency in the emergency room and the doctor was held up. But I got back to my room about noon. Kathy stayed until I came back, Bruce and Erin and Deb came that night.

Everything was well. It just hurt me to move, same as before. I got up twice to walk in the hall, and went to the bathroom, too. Had the same food, jello and broth and ginger ale.

I was to go home Friday. Dick and Gerry came for me. They had to wait because the doctor was a surgery and hadn't signed my discharge paper. We had a nice visit, anyway, while we were waiting.

Dick and Gerry came for me and we left late afternoon. Geraldine got lunch and Dick left. Deb came up a minute and also Kris and Kathy. Gerald called. Gerry stayed there with me. It was nice, we visited a lot. Kathy was in a lot.

Pat came up to be here when Geraldine left. She got here at 7:30. She drove up all alone in 13 hours and 21 minutes. She was quite proud of herself.

Dick and Gerry were going to a conference where Dick had to speak and he got here about 11 to get Geraldine. Pat got lunch and Deb came for lunch.

I was thinking of what clothes I would want to take to camp. And I thought I'd certainly feel well enough by then to go ‘cause I always went with Caroline anyways so she always helped me. And I was making my bed and my feet caught in the bedding, I guess, or else the electric cord, I don't know which, and I fell and I couldn't move.

They called the ambulance and X-ray showed I had a crushed hip, not just broken, but really a bad break. I decided to have Dr. Collins and Dr. Foreman. Surgery took a long time, but it was all right they said.

Next day, the twins and Dick came. Deb, Phil, and Elizabeth. Later Dan came. Evelyn came, too. They took me to PT, but I couldn't make my feet work at first.

Alumni banquet was on in Avoca and it was Dick's 50th year graduating and it was Debbie's 25th year. So they were both there together. They have a lot of fun over that.

They both came to the hospital to see me. So Bruce and Erin and Paul and Noele and the twins, and Arlene and baby Zoe and Zachary. And a lot of people came. Juanita came just about every day. She's just a faithful, faithful friend.

They said I'd have to go to Elmira, to the rehab center there. They say that's one of the best ones around. So I was very fortunate. So the Hornell ambulance had to take me, Fremont was tied up.

It was very nice at St. Joe's. They just do everything to make you as comfortable as you can be. It's very painful, the PT is, but is something you have to go through if you're going to get better.

All the family came. Caroline and Lloyd came on Monday. Dick and Gerry came. Kathy came down. Gerry called several times. The ones that couldn't come called. Paul called. Pat called. Caroline called when she couldn't come.

Pat called and said, Bob had to have open heart surgery. That was a scary thing. I hated to hear that.

Steve and Kara were out from Colorado and they came to see me with their little girl. I so pleased to see them. I was surprised. They knew it would be a surprise when they came.

I developed a blood clot, so I had to go to the other part of the hospital for treatment for that. And that took two weeks. Sorry about that, because all that time I had to lay perfectly still, I couldn't walk.

They were talking about me going home now, and where would I go, who would I stay with and so forth. About this time, we heard Ingrid had a big boy, nine pounds, 10 ounces. His name is Elijah Scott. All went well. Pat called later. She said, she and Bob were going down for two days. School hadn't started yet, just teachers work days so she could take off.

I came home the 12th of August. Bruce and Erin came and got me, the nurses helped pack my things and showed me how to go down the steps and so forth.

We got to Gerry's about one. It was a good trip. Gerry had fixed lunch for everybody. I rested in the PM and evening. Will, Karen's boy was there for awhile. He's so much fun. I got all dressed with all my paraphernalia, my sticks and things so that nobody has helped me.

I did exercises that I had to do every day and then Will and I played games and then watched the Dick van Dyke show. Robin came in once in awhile. Of course, in Houghton, easy for her to come.

Geraldine and I had nice visits. Dick, of course, is already in South Carolina, where he's going to be teaching that year. Geraldine will join him soon. Kara is having a hard time with her pregnancy. Her mother has to be there with her because she has to stay in bed all the time. I think Geraldine will probably have to go after she gets down to South Carolina for awhile.

I had an appointment with Dr. Collins to see how I was doing. He took x-rays and said that my leg was starting to heal. That really was a shocker. I thought, of course it must be just about healed now. I was going to go, leave here from Geraldine's and Kathy said that I could come to her house and stay awhile. So they got ready to take me.

Bruce and Erin came and got me and we had a real good trip. Kathy had everything ready. I had a good rest and slept well. Things went well there at Kathy's. She'd get home and do the things that I couldn't do, but I was getting so I was getting along pretty good myself. I still had to have blood tests taken real often, but they worked it out with the hospital.

We had a borrowed wheelchair and I even went to church. They had a dinner at church and I had planned just to go the church service because it was in honor of Dorothy Jones because she'd done so many things for the church, been treasurer for so many years and taught so long and so forth. Two men carried me down in the wheelchair and then two other men carried me back up. So I got to go to the dinner. Kathy sat with me and filled my plate. It was a very nice day.

Then on September 17th, I was getting my breakfast just like I had been doing right along and I fell. I feel real slow to the floor, not a hard crash, like I had the other time. So I thought, well, I really didn't hurt myself any. It pained real, real bad; but that I thought I was just like, maybe I had sprained my ankle or something cause that's where the pain was.

Kathy was sleeping and I didn't want to disturb her. Mrs. Kniver had said, anytime you need help, be sure to call me. So I called her to come down to help me get up but she insisted that I go to the hospital, so they call it an ambulance. My ankle was broken, a big bone and two little ones. I was terribly disgusted. How could that be with that little bit of fall.

It was a year of hurricanes. There had been one earlier and now there was one in Puerto Rico. And of course we all were very concerned because that's where Dick's daughter Cheryl lives. But she called and said it was terrible, he hurricane but it didn't hurt their place, only just it broke windows like that, but their place was still up. So they had a place to live.

I was there at St James for several days, but then they said, I'd have to go to Bath for PT there. And they have a place like Elmira. They came with a Fremont ambulance this time and they took me.

This was a very nice place too. I went to PT a little in the afternoon and did some; she explained a lot about what I was supposed to do and so forth. It was very much like Elmira had been. They were very nice and helpful. I got along good and gradually got so I could walk more all the time.

Kids are so faithful in calling me on the phone or coming to see me. So many people came to see me. Dorothy Jones, Pastor Ken, and his wife. Pastor Bentz. And Arlene's mother, many people besides just my children coming. I had lots of company. Ward Silsbee came stayed a long time one time. Dick came at the same time, so they had a good visit.

We had heard that there was a hurricane in Puerto Rico. There had been hurricanes and bad storms all year, but of course we were interested because Cheryl was in Puerto Rico. She got word that they were all right there. Their windows from broken, but their house was solid anyway. It didn't get carried away. They said it was awful the way the smaller houses where demolished.

I was there about three weeks. It was a nice stay. The people were so friendly and helpful. And then Debbie said I could come to her house. And so Bruce came and got me and took me to Debbie's. She had everything ready for me. And Bruce came up mornings and got my breakfast and stayed awhile and talked and did anything I needed doing. I had Meals on Wheels for lunch. They brought them, set them right around the table by my bed. I stayed in bed all the time when nobody was there. And in the afternoon or evening when Debbie was around, then I'd get up and go into the living room wherever she was. I gradually got so I could walk better.

Bruce came him up every morning until they left to go to Texas early in November. After that I had a lady come in named Wendy Jenner. She was very nice. I enjoyed her so much. She had been on a short mission trip to Kenya, and she told me about that. And we knew the same people so we visited a lot. She was very active in the Buena Vista church, so she knew all the people there. It was a pleasant time. She came and got my breakfast and did anything that I needed doing and that I couldn't do.

Elizabeth's birthday came, they had a party for her. Dan took them on a hay ride and they played games and had eats and had a real good, noisy time. I always enjoy kids. They just are so much fun to have around.

Bruce called. They got to Texas all right. They were going to Charleston for Thanksgiving time to just see this sights there. Rachel goes to college there and she had an apartment. So they stayed in her apartment because she was home visiting her folks over Thanksgiving and it made it nice for them.

And we had a nice time there at Debbie's. She had Thanksgiving and the usual things you have that time of year. I had a good time there.

I went to the doctor and got my cast off. So then I could walk easier than I could when the cast was down over my toes. It was a painful to walk, but I could walk good and I could fold clothes and I could do some things that help Deb a little bit. She has lots of baskets of clothes to fold so that I helped her some.

I forgot to mention that I went to Kris and Tom's for Thanksgiving. They were having the Pawlings over and Jumbo and his wife were there. That was real nice. I enjoyed visiting with them and seeing Kim and seeing Kris's house. The baby's growing up and walking around, getting into things, just like babies always do

I could help Deb a little more now. I wrapped quite a few of her Christmas gifts and folded clothes as usual and sorted things she needed sorted and so forth. Different little odd jobs like that I could do.

On the 17th of December we had our first snow storm, that had been, the roads were dry right up until then. The weather had been cold, but no snow.

I went and got my glasses. Had my eyes tested before and got my glasses. We went shopping at Aldi's.

David and Beth were home for Christmas. They came over and spent a little of time. It was so nice to see them. I was so pleased they came.

On my 88th birthday. Deb and Phil took me out to eat and when we got there, Dick and Gerry and Kate and Gerald and Jessica, her daughter, and David and Beth were all there. And Dan came as soon as he got through work.

It was so nice. The kids are so good to me. I just keep thinking how the last time Bruce wired up roses and they were on the table. Kate gave me a big box of stationary. Dick and Gerry gave me a subscription to the Reader's Digest big print. So I had a very nice birthday.

We had the Christmas get together at Debbie's, same as we’ve been doing for the last few years. We had this good meal. I peeled the potatoes for the scalloped potatoes. Usually I made the dish, but this year I could just help with it.

There were 39 here to the dinner. Isaac called and Brock was here, too. They played Rook at night. Robin always enjoys that. Matt was down, too.

I had to keep having blood tests all this fall because of the blood clot I had. I was on Coumadin and they had to test my blood all the while to make sure that it was the right dosage. So Wendy took me down for my blood test. It was real cold, but we got along fine.

Lucy and Paul came up to give me a perm. I wanted a perm before I went south. And they came and Juanita and Mary came also; they were such a faithful people to call.

This has been an unusual year, but it's a time when I've had a chance to really count my blessings and realize what a wonderful family I have.

There was not a New Year's Eve party that we were going to so we went to bed fairly early. New Year's Day we slept a little later than usual. Deb didn't have to work. I sorted the clothes that hadn't been packed in the suitcase and put them in a bag to take down with me to Pat's. Bruce called to wish me Happy New Year. They had a New Year's party in their church down where he was.

I started reading the Bible through again. I had a program where you could read so many chapters each day and be through by the end of the year. So I started that.

I was to go back down south with Dick and Gerry and they said they'd be here at 10 to pick me up and they were right on time. The weather forecast said it was going to rain and freeze on. So Dick was in a hurry to get started and get as far as he could, before that started. We got just north of Richmond, Virginia and stopped at a motel there.

But the roads and sidewalks were just a glare of ice. It had just started freezing on so they hadn't put any salt or anything. We had quite a time getting in, both of them, one on each side of me and it was just like glass to walk on but we got in there all right. During the night it rained so the ice was all gone by the time we left in the morning. Then next day, we left about eight o'clock and had a good trip down and got to Pat's at about four in the afternoon. It's always enjoyable to be with Dick and Gerry.

Pat has to leave for school at seven in the morning so she got my breakfast always before she went. I had a girl come in to help do the things that I couldn't do and get lunch and so forth. Her name was Sarah Hughes. I enjoyed her. She was here all while I was here.

I got a system worked out so that every morning I could have my breakfast and Pat could help me dress my feet. I couldn't manage that yet, before she went to work at seven. It worked out good we got along fine.

Pat had to go to a teacher's meeting at night to meet the new student teacher. She was a different this year. She was a paraplegic and she had a dog that came with her to open her doors and pull her along the hall. Pat was sort of dreading that because she thought that children would be crazy to play with a dog and that rules were that they were not touch the dog.

It was a real friendly dog, it turned out to be. But they didn't, they wanted him trained to just take care of the woman. They didn't want him to be playing with children like that while he was there. So they were real good. They had been instructed and told and told that they were not to touch the dog and they didn't even try to. They were real good about it.

Caroline and Pat wrote faithfully about the things going on in their part of the world and Bruce called a lot, and Dick and Gerry called and came up quite often. So it was nice being here with my family all keeping in touch with me.

Church was nice, as usual. Everybody's so friendly down here. Act like I'm a long lost relative. I always enjoy this Sunday school so much. Mrs. Bell is still the teacher and she's so very good.

Ingrid came up and brought Elijah. Cute little guy. Rolling around the floor, he hadn't started creep yet but he managed to get where he wanted to go real fast and easily.

I could help with some of the work. I folded clothes and put them in piles, according to who they belong to. I peel potatoes and I could clean little in the bathroom, a few things to help Pat some.

Caroline's letters kept us up on how Brianna was doing with her surgery. Poor little girl, so many of them, but she was doing fine.

Pat and Bob went to visit Rachel in her apartment early in February. They took the wood because she had a fireplace and she wanted to have a party and wanted to have a fire while the party was there. They took ostrich steaks too.

Dick and Gerry came up and stayed while they were gone. So that was nice. Geraldine always brings food with her so I enjoyed that. We went out to eat at Ryan's for supper Saturday night. Sunday we all went to church. I went to my regular class and Geraldine went with me. Dick asked around and found out what class he was supposed to go to.

He rested in the PM. Pat and Bob got home later. Pat had to meet someone to show him the trailer and Dick and Gerry left about five.

Carol called that they were coming down to get the things out of the trailer ‘cause they had finally sold it. Pat had made so many trips down there to show it to people. Now somebody was really buying it so they had to get furniture out of it.

Steve and Ingrid were going away for Valentine's day and Pat was going to watch Elijah. So they left for their bed and breakfast in Nashville right after church and Kate and Gerry got here around supper time. We played Mexican train dominoes at night, and that was the first time they've ever played it. So they had fun.

They've been having Bible studies in the evening this year. So Pat and I both went together. She was in a different class than I was, but we could both go together and I enjoyed that so much.

The whole east coast of the United States was very cold this year in February. Caroline wrote it was zero a lot of the time up there and the snow was so deep that they hadn't been able to get their car out. And Lloyd shoveled and shoveled and shoveled and then he still only had a little path to get to the road. It was so deep. The pile got so high that they had to shovel on. It was hard.

Caroline had enjoyed being shut in because she found it a challenge to get all the meals with what they already had on hand. It was a good thing that they didn't have Dale and Frank there anymore.

We had a little snow and there’d be delay in the school opening in the morning until the snow was gone. But now not very much, kids were all disappointed because there wasn't enough to make a snowman.

March came in like a lamb, only there was some wind, but it wasn't snowing or cold, especially. It was nice day on the first day of March and we had the usual spring goings on at church and we played games nights quite a lot.

Doug had a job up in Asheville, North Carolina now, and we had been wanting to have him come down and see us sometime. So we set, they set a day, the 21st of March, where Steve and Ingrid came up, Rachel was here and Scott and Penny came and Dick and Gerry came over and we had a picnic. She set up two tables and we invited Doug down so he came. It was nice. He hadn't seen the kids, some of them, in quite a while.

Dan had two weeks off so he planned to come down and visit a while so he made a special effort to get here. So he was here for the picnic, too. It was really nice.

Dan left to go home the last of March. He visited a lot of different people. Stopped and saw Bob Evans and Sue in Washington and visited a boy at college on the way home that he knew, so he had a real good time while he was here.

Easter was early in April this year. They had beautiful services at the church with a lot of extra music. It was all very nice. I enjoyed it all.

I got packed to go to Dick's on Monday after Easter and Pat and Bob took me over and they stayed for supper and I enjoyed my stay there at Dick’s. Dick and I played games a lot. We worked the Cryptogram every day in the paper. I always trying to get it done before he got home. He was always better at it than I was.

Geraldine went to a Wesleyan women's retreat while I was there. So Dick and I bached it alone there for a few days, but Geraldine left food enough for an army. So all he had to do is warm up stuff and it was real nice. He took me all around the streets in Central and over by Clemson University. They're great on flowers this time of year down here in South Carolina, because that's the only time they can have them pretty much. The rest of the year is too hot and dry, but spring is beautiful here. The azaleas were all over and all kinds of flowers and flowering trees are used a great deal for decorations so he took me all around the streets there, around the university. And that was nice. I enjoyed that.

The middle of April Pat came down and got me at Dick and Gerry's and we went to Ingrid's. Bob was away to the wilds at a men's retreat so we stayed to Ingrid's all night. The next day they went shopping at antique stores to look at things. They didn't buy anything, but they had fun. And then we came home Saturday night. Real good time at Ingrid’s. I enjoyed Elijah. He's just getting so he creeps around and pulls himself up, but he doesn't walk yet.

Bruce and Erin were on their way home and they stopped, stayed for two or three days. That was nice. We enjoy having them here.

My brother Joyce's daughter lives near Charleston. And they have a cottage on a lake and they invited us all over there for a picnic. And they wanted Pat and Bob and Bruce and Erin and Dick and Gerry and I to come but Pat and Bruce had other plans and Bruce and Erin didn't want to go. So just a Dick and Gerry and I went. We had a very nice time. They have a long, long flight of stairs down to the lake from their cottage. It's on the bank and overlooks the lake, and there's a long flight of stairs. And then the two men, Joyce's husband and Dick got me down those steps in my wheelchair. And we went on the boat for a ride, a long time, all up and down. Really it’s a river that they live on, not a lake and it's real wide. I don't know the name of it. And we went a long ways down and turned and come back and it was probably a couple hours on the boat. It was a real nice time. It was a real hot day. Glad I had a hat on. They gave me a hat to wear. It was real hot. I enjoyed it a great deal.

In May we went down to Ingrid and Steve's again to be there for Elijah's dedication. That’s such a great big church that there were going to be 30 babies dedicated the same day. They just came along, the pastor did, to each child and said his name and prayed for each child individually. It was very nice, but it took a long time.

The church service was at 10 o'clock and we all went together, but the ones with babies had to go ahead and get instructions on how to come in and so forth.