

April 22, 1997

Dear cousin Lorraine:

How nice to hear from you and learn of your plans to visit Indiana friends and relatives this May. We are also glad to hear that you may be planning more trips in the future because this May is not a good time for us. We are sorry to disappoint you this trip, but perhaps you can do as the stores do and give us a "rain check."

We appreciate your nice, newsy letters at Christmas time and we should be ashamed that so far it has been a "one-way" correspondence. Will try to atone a little for our disgraceful conduct with some news about our activities here. We are both in what our doctor considers excellent health for our ages {Bonnie 74 and I 86}. I suffered what the doctors said was a "mild" heart attack in December 1985. Mild or not, shortly after they got me to the hospital I had a cardiac arrest, but some pounding on my chest revived me. Then I went through angioplasty for one blocked artery, followed by a course of rehabilitation. I still take a number of pills daily to keep me in good shape.

Bonnie fell off the lower step of a ladder in early March, 1996 and broke her right wrist. It took until the middle of August for the doctors to finally tell her not to come back. (Here Bonnie points out that the fracture healed fairly quickly; but while in the cast the fingers "froze up" and when the cast was removed it required an extended course of hand therapy to restore control.) Meanwhile, I quickly learned how to tie her shoes, button her sleeves, trim her fingernails and all the "little" things that normal persons take for granted. I even learned how to do up her hair! Boy, was I glad when she recovered enough to resume caring for herself. (One good aspect of her disability; I got to write all the checks!)

During the summers she raises flowers which she sells as cut flowers to a floral shop in the city, thus picking up a little pin money while doing something that she enjoys very much, working in the garden.

We both are active in our church. We run the church library, Bonnie bakes the communion bread once a month, and I use my computer to do the Sunday bulletin for the church. I got my first computer six years ago and have gradually worked my way up to a 120 megahertz pentium processor with an 850 meg hard drive running Windows 3.11. I am resisting going to Windows 95. After all, if one tries to keep up with all the new developments, you could be forever upgrading every 6 months or so and heading for the poor house. My main interest is in graphics and desktop publishing in a small way.

Since we will not be able to see each other face -to-face this year we are including a photo of us taken for our church directory in 1992. It's a pretty good one, if we do say so, perhaps to the point of flattering us a little.

Love,
Paul & Bonnie