

Dec. 9, 1982

Dear Ida Rose and Tracy,

If I wrote you as often as I think of you you'd be too busy reading my letters to do any work - could I possibly use that as an excuse? I do still appreciate getting your letters so very much. I'd be more happy though if there were no more news of any kind of accident or mishap. You seem so far away and there's too much time to wait for news of your sore middle and "bruised" ribs. I do hope you're both feeling fine by now and that the "panel beater" have had your car for the last time.

Here in Centerville, Utah its winter and nearly Christmas but I suppose I'll survive both. I think I'm in better shape than I was at this time last year but it has been a difficult year to say the least. Did I tell you in my last letter that Mother really failed after Ray died - needed daily care. My sisters and I took turns caring for her until July, when she had to go to a nursing home where she died on July 16. Then mother's sister, my favorite aunt, died in September. I've felt a little like everyone deserted me at once. I had thought I'd just



feel relief when Mother died but it hasn't worked that way - its lonely having your mother gone too.

I've got lots of supports for which I'm truly grateful - kids, sisters, grandchildren, church, friends - all of whom are wonderful and I really am adjusting and I don't complain much - honestly (did I hear you say "Oh, yeah?" but I really would like Ray to see our Christmas decorations and ask the blessing when I have our dinner group here Saturday. - Enough of that!

President Wood talked in our Sacrament meeting last week. He's a good speaker - he mentioned several people I recognized from your letters. I talked to him afterward and he spoke highly of you (natch) and asked to be remembered to you.

I'm still teaching Cultural Refinement in Relief Society. I went to a seminar on the first of next year's lessons given by Glade Hansen from the Y. Do you know of him? He was vastly entertaining as a speaker for more than two hours and knows just a bit more (!!!) about literature than I do. I'd love to take a class from him.

I hope you've heard by now that Ema is through with her surgery and is doing well. Ray's mother, Mel, had open heart surgery last



month and seems to be fine - Its quite the  
fad (or something) Orlo Maw (Rosella's husband)  
Dean Flanders (Arlene Jensen's husband) and  
Worth Wheelwright, among others, have all  
had open heart surgery this year. - Arlene  
Flanders has had surgery, chemotherapy and  
radiation for a tumor - looks and feels fine  
at this point - still functioning on the R.S.  
general board.

I wonder if this will reach you by  
Christmas - I hope so. It brings all my love  
and best wishes to you both. I think of you  
often and pray for your health and success.

I was glad when you were transferred  
from Zimbabwe. - Seems a bit more settled  
and civilized in Johannesburg. - Is that an  
advantage? You certainly are seeing a  
passel of places and having some experiences  
I never imagined any of us would have as  
I thought ahead when we were young -  
Enjoy them all (well, all you can) and I  
will vicariously.

Much love  
Mary Christmas  
Barbara

Thinking of you  
during the holidays  
and hoping that your Christmas  
will be an especially  
happy one.

Barbara

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