

Dear Friends and Relatives,

This year I made two long distance trips. From February 10th through 17th I was in Chandler, Arizona visiting my daughter, Carla and her husband Rick. They now have a lovely new home with a beautiful swimming pool built into their backyard. We enjoyed summer-like weather, and went to various places including Thompson's arboretum in Mesa, and a horse show. It was fun.

My other trip was to Redwood City, California to attend my niece Evelyn's wedding, August 6th. Evelyn is the daughter of Carl's brother, Clarence. It has been 20 years since I was there last. The wedding was lovely, and I enjoyed meeting all the guests. The weather was ideal—such a great relief from our very hot humid weather at home. How fortunate I am to have such good relatives!

It is always enjoyable to participate in the various one day trips planned by the Batavia Park District and the Batavia Senior Club. Now that I'm Vice President of our Senior Club, my duties include helping to plan these trips.

Most every Thursday I pick up my friend Irene Nord Anderson to attend the morning Bible Study class which Pastor Ahlstrand teaches at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Charles.

Dan has been very busy with his illustration work and has had a good year. He bought a new blue Dodge Caravan in November to replace his aging Honda. And he likes it very much.

We were invited to my niece Patty's house for Thanksgiving. Their lovely new home is almost complete.

Gordy and Sally will leave Dec. 12th in their motorhome for Texas to spend Christmas with Sally's sisters. And I've invited Don, Joann, Pat's family, Elaine, and Ruth Lundine to my home for Christmas Eve. It's always fun to watch Pat & Gary's children open their gifts after our meal.

Last May, Dan and I decided to try a prepared meals program called "Diet Carry-Out". It consists of 21 meals per week, with three meals per day totalling 1200 calories. Dan succeeded in losing 30 lbs. for his 20-year high school class reunion last July. And I have lost a total of 51 lbs and plan on losing 30 more. My doctor says this weight loss made my blood pressure go back to normal. He said he may take me off my medication depending on how I do over the holidays.

Mildred is at Geneva Retirement Home. She was happy to have her sister Bertha and husband Art come to visit her from Washington state.

Gordy has been busy all summer and fall helping a friend build a house in North Aurora. Sally keeps busy with part time nursing work and with caring for their grandchildren. They have also travelled to Alaska, North Carolina, and Disney World.

This pretty well covers the 1988 news. So I will close now and join Dan in extending our warmest greetings for a blessed and joyful Christmas. And may you enjoy health and happiness in the New Year.

Elsa & Dan

