

1991-01-29 (29 January 1991)	Post date: 1991-01-29	Postmark: South Suburban
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Clarence, Evelyn, Betty & Elaine	
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Pages: 4 plus envelope	Family news	

Tuesday, Jan. 29, 1991

Dear Clarence, Evelyn, Betty & Elaine,

Thought I would try to write about some of the happenings since Lorraine's death a week ago yesterday along with the enclosed programs & obituary. You most likely will receive more news from some of your other relatives.

The first I heard about it was when Harry called here Monday eve. on the 21st when he was making arrangements for his stay here in Illinois. I gave him Dan's phone number where he lives in St. Charles. We are all sad that she is no longer with us but we are certain that she is now happy to be with the Lord in her heavenly home.

Dan drove his little Mazda Miata into O'Hare airport to pick up his Uncle Harry. He was over an hour late due to a cancellation of his original flight but was able to get another one. Dan decided to take him up the Hancock tower & other places in Chicago which Harry seemed to enjoy. It was necessary for me to attend our Swedish Vasa Lodge that evening because those having January birthdays were on the serving committee. Besides serving our own members we also served the group of installing members from Lockport, Ill, so the meeting was long lasting & we had to clean up afterwards and it was also very cold that night which was Thursday Jan 24th.

On Friday Jan. 25th my step-sister phoned. She is Mildred's daughter Elaine Lockhart. Elaine desired to go to the visitation at the Aurora Grace Lutheran Church but didn't know where it was located so I suggested that she could come here and the 3 of us could go together since I know the way. Dan came later in his little car which was more convenient for him.

There were many friends and relatives at the visitation. Lorraine had arranged her own funeral. She wanted to wear the pretty blue dress with white collar & cuffs that she wore on their 40th wedding anniversary last Easter Sunday. She looked very natural as if she sleeping peacefully and has kept her same neat, trim, youthful appearance. All five of her children were at the visitation & funeral. Ann had her whole family & so did Barbara. David flew in from Colorado by himself & rented a car and of course there was Mary, Paul & Bob. Art, Helen Eileen, her family and Art came on Saturday to the service at Grace Lutheran Church. Art sounded better than he looked. Harry kept close to Art & looked out for him.

The weather had warmed up a little on Saturday and we had lovely sunshine every day. There were many of Bob's & Lorraine's friends attending the 11 o'clock service and as you will notice by the program the service included communion sacrament which was most impressive. As I understand it Mary Carol had decided to give the sermon both in Tennessee and in Aurora instead of the fairly new pastor in Grace Luth. She felt that her

mother would have liked that. She gave a beautiful talk even though it wasn't easy to do. I noticed most everyone had tear's rolling down their cheeks. I'm glad I sat in the last row because I couldn't get at my handkerchief in my purse (the zipper broke) so I went out into the hall & got a handkerchief in my coat pocket. I asked Mary if I could have a copy of her sermon so I'm hoping to get that and will send one to you. Seems to me someone said that Mary is going to New Zealand. I suppose it's connected with her church work.

After the service we all went in the procession to the service at the big mausoleum at River Hills Memorial Cemetery in Batavia. Then we returned to Grace Lutheran Church and had a delicious lunch in their fellowship hall. Naturally there was a lot of visiting going on. The Carlson family had been very much involved in many activities of that church.

That Saturday I was invited to my niece Patty's home to celebrate their son Kyle's 8th birthday so I stopped to see them on my way home. Harry had joined the other relatives who were staying at Gen & Everett's home in St. Charles. They truly had a house full including the little children. Gen & Everett to do this for their long time close friends Lorraine & Bob. They even had me stay at their home for a week after I had a hysterectomy back in 1984. They are most wonderful Christian people.

Gen told me while I was sitting with her Friday that Lorraine had written & sent her a birthday card the day before she died. I understand she could write when Bob lifted her right hand; no wonder Ann remarked that her mom amazed her. Mary brought out many incidents similar to that in her sermon. Yesterday Gen said she had 10 sheets in her washing,

Bob had purchased a beautiful new good sized van so he could take Lorraine to various places during her illness. They tell me she didn't really suffer until the very end. I do believe that their strong faith in God their trials had eased and were able to cope with the dreadful ALS disease.

I invited Harry to attend our 8AM church service here in Batavia. After that we went in my car to Bob's sister Dorothy's home in Plato Center near Elgin where she served everyone breakfast consisting of pancakes, bacon, ham, coffee cakes, fruit & juices etc. She had a lovely home there and there were toys for Ann's & Barb's boys to play with. They are darling children & so good. Some of them went out to ride in a snowmobile including Bob. Bob was not feeling so well Saturday but he managed to get a good rest at Wilson's home & that helped a lot. He has been so used to getting up a lot to turn Lorraine over in different positions. We think its remarkable he was able to keep her home all this time. They did have visiting nurses come. Well you folks had similar experience when Ruth was ill.

This is quite a lengthy letter so I better bring it to an end. Dan drove Harry back to O'Hare yesterday. They left at noon and were going to have lunch together on the way.

There has been quite a lot of snow on the ground and still remains but the streets are all clear but another cold spell is due to arrive & perhaps more snow. I know you would have liked to have been here if it were possible. Hope you are getting along better by now.

Hope you can read this scribbling.

Love & good wishes to all of you, Elsa