

Saturday A. M.
Feb. 17, '68

Dear Jeanette and Hugh!

It is late, I know, in getting around to answer your nice Holiday Card and letter. We do thank you heartily for remembering us at that time.

Due to getting over tired, I did not get our cards and notes out for Christmas this past season. I am sorry as I do enjoy keeping in touch with relatives and friends.

I will fill you in on the reasons for, more or less falling by the wayside.

As I told you before, we had our trip to the family get-together on July 22nd. The aunt who was 90 years old, is not on the Kennedy side of the family. She is Mom Davis Kennedy's sister-in-law. Ruth & Nick attended this

get-together, too.

On our way home from this affair, we stopped by my brothers and sisters-in-law home. They live about 25 miles from us. They asked me to help organize a reception for their golden wedding anniversary which is actually Feb. 4th. Due to that being a time of year when weather might be a big factor, we thought it best to have it in the fall. So about mid August, I had some of both families here to start the ball a rolling. As you know, there is much to be done so I was busy. Then, I had three guests about Aug. 21st from California. They had just left, when Nick called us about Ruth's massive hemorrhage. We went to Corvallis Aug. 27th the day Ruth died and stayed until after her funeral. Nick's cousin and I took charge for Nick and that

too, was a busy time and an emotional drain.

During September, I was again busy with the golden wedding activities, making a money tree, addressing invitations, answering mail, etc., etc. Nick called the latter part of Sept. and asked R.D. and me to come to Corvallis on Sept. 30th so I could select some of Pudd's things. So this we did.

For over 10 years I had been sort of looking after a senior couple who lived in one of our retirement homes. The woman was and is mentally and physically frail and was in the infirmary at this place. Her husband 81 years old committed suicide on Sat. Sept. 30th. He was not found until Mon. a.m. Oct. 2nd. They had made a will appointing me as guardian for either or both — so I was at once thrown into taking

over their affairs. Their belongings had to be moved out of their room at the retirement home, furniture stored, his belongings separated from hers so I could give them to his cousins, all linens laundered, ironed, sorted, etc. The reception was Oct. 8th and many last minute details to attend to; see my attorney every few days, get her social security changed and on and on it went. So finally I just had to call a halt in activities and get some rest. I really was over tired so I did not bounce back as quickly as I would liked to have done. So I had to forgo Christmas and all that that entails.

My senior friend is still in the infirmary. She will be 86 years old Feb. 25th. I doubt that she will know what it is all about but I will get a

birthday cake and be with her
on her day.

We surely would like to
meet you people but R.D. does
not seem to want to do much traveling
any more. Thank you anyway for
your generous invitation. It sounds
so very inviting.

We do hope that you two
had a very happy Golden Wedding
Anniversary. It is wonderful to
reach that many years of wedded
life.

It would seem that you two
lead a very busy and interesting
life. Hugh is a year older than
R.D. and you, Jeannette, are a year
older than me. Yet, you two seem
to have perennial youth in all that
you do. Just keep on as you
are. It is wonderful to be able
to keep going.

Your mother, Jeannette, has truly lived a long life. It is hard to be paralyzed. Poor soul.

These past several months has surely placed me in a position to see elderly people in all stages of incapacity. I sometimes wonder if longevity is worth it!!!

My reasons seldom show up for a snack anymore! To many dogs in our area, I suspect. We do continue to feed many varieties of birds and a cute pine squirrel. We are both lovers of nature.

For over a week now, we have been enjoying the Olympic Games. Today, we will see if Kelley can win his 3rd gold medal. Kidd or Hues could upset him. It should be most interesting.

Nick comes to Portland quite frequently on business - usually brings a patient in to see a specialist

R.D. and I went downtown to have lunch with him about a month ago and R.D. had lunch with him again about 10 days ago. He is doing quite well under the circumstances. Fortunately, his cousin remains with him and keeps house. She is a darling person. I'm so thankful Nick has her to help him.

We had 12 days of sunny windy weather but a change to fog and rain today.

My nice just dropped in so I will hastily sign off and get this into the mailbox and get it on its way.

Again our thanks to you for your Xmas mail. we did surely appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Bess & R.D.