

*Lynn + Dave*

4 March 1992

Dear Relatives,

Well, Aunt Helen has the VCR and the Ann of Green Gables and the Ann of Avonlea tapes and there's money to buy either more tapes or gift certificates to a video store or PASS (can't forget the Tigers). Aunt Helen was thrilled, both at the items and the thought. She sent me a letter and stamps, intending that I would send it "round-Robin," but I thought it was easier to photocopy it. Just imagine the flowers yellow and orange with green leaves.

I realized too late that I might have been making her children look neglectful. They really weren't. Aunt Helen did have an older black and white TV after her color one died and I think she tries to be independent, though she accepts gifts gracefully.

Last week was winter break so I went North to Kathryn and Lloyd's for a few days. Aunt Helen and a friend of mine, Ardys Hayden, went with me (actually we took Ardys' car). Ardys visits her sister just down the road from Kathryn and Aunt Helen stayed with Unk. Unk seems to be contented alone. Peg comes every other weekend and Jim and Debbie look in often. Somebody deserted a puppy near his place, so now he has Skunky. I think she must be part Border Collie. She's a bright, impish puppy, currently in the shoelace-untying stage, and Unk is enjoying her. The Benghausers and others have been including him in social events, so he's not too isolated. Aunt Doris is planning to be there for the summer. She had surgery this winter to remove the aneurism and by-pass a clogged artery to the kidney. I hope that will help her feel better and that the two of them will get along a little more happily.

The hard part of the visit to Unk was that Kathryn and I got stuck in that little dip in his driveway. We tried every way imaginable to get the darn car out, backing up and taking a run, etc., but would get stopped on the ice right about 6 inches from freedom. Aunt Helen was running around sprinkling ashes and putting rugs under the wheels which we were spinning off into the wild blue yonder. Unk was urging that we stay over night so he could pull us out with the tractor in the morning. Finally we gave up and called Lloyd who came out with the truck. He got in the car and drove it out on the first try! We were so mad. He could have at least had a little trouble!

The snow up North was perfect and I went skiing in the woods every day. Mary Kay came up for the weekend. After a stressful year with a fertility clinic, she and Daryl are expecting. As you can imagine, they're thrilled.

We stopped at Johnny and Carols on the way back. They had dinner waiting and we had a good visit. Johnny continues to feel better. He and Ardys got laughing. During his radiation treatment the "spot," which happens to be where he sits, got more and more burned and nothing seemed to ease the pain. Then one of his secretaries brought him some Bag Balm, which did the trick. Bag Balm is the stuff farmers put on cows utters to keep them soft so milking is easier on the cow. Ardys, who grew up in Flynn Valley, a part of Alcona County that makes Spruce look upper-crust, had also experienced the healing power of Bag Balm. Matt thought the whole conversation was gross.

*Page 14*

Carol went right back to work, which she says is helping with the daily pain of losing both parents this year, but it's tough as most of us know.

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2-21-92



Dear Neena and  
 Mepherina and Great  
 Neena and Mepherina,  
 What a row of boys?  
 Except what GREAT  
 + GRAND neena and  
 Mepherina + G. neena +  
 M. Mepherina I have!  
 I feel very fortunate  
 and privileged to  
 be the mother of  
 such a terrific  
 group and how  
 I'd love and care  
 all I can do to thank  
 you.  
 Today my party came - they from  
 their friends and Mepherina  
 with neena + G. (I think) my  
 next present like the "Came"  
 (Thank You note from Aunt Helen for  
 and Anne of Green Gables tapes

of "Green Gables" - neena + G. neena.  
 If you check your "knows" ?  
 You'd mind that letter for neena  
 it. I just got for G. neena  
 Mepherina's letter of neena's  
 experience by neena's  
 I wish I could know & exactly  
 who is involved (either I hope  
 or pretty good idea) myself. It  
 can travel from all the  
 and once up back of neena's  
 The letter shall be per-  
 mitted to out of neena's  
 sheet, I hope you can  
 read this. In many ways  
 out-shape  
 (neena's letter) again  
 I love you all & very much.  
 Aunt Helen  
 St. Louis Station etc  
 VCR Payer  
 we bought her)