

Jan 6, 1997

Dear Barbara and Robert,

What a busy and productive family you are. I can't imagine how you squeeze all those things in, work and tend kids as well.

More and more Charlie and I are enjoying our retirement, though Charlie's still working part time on some projects of his choosing. I have rejoined the Unitarian Fellowship and find my self attending innumerable meetings and pot lucks. We've got a neat new minister and her husband, the first full time minister we've had and I must admit to some scepticism since we've been an independent lot, set in our ways for a long time. But its working well though she gets to give sermons only twice a month so we maintain our usual raucous voice. Her name is Nancy Anderson from the central states and she just completed her training at the age of approx fifty. She has a son in Madison. Anyway, though I don't always agree with their social action projects (I'd rather march to support the CBC than aids research) I find that the group fills in well for my no longer existent work projects and contacts.

We made a trip to Myrtle Beach before Xmas to play golf and drove up the US Atlantic coast, non of it too impressive I thought, my golf either. Now we are planning various ski trips one of which will be to yours and my favourite mountains in Utah in March. The skiing here has been slow starting because of lack of snow..You got it all..But we're on a roll now. Our Dog Susi has gone blind almost overnight (Cushing's disease) so we have to make sure she can handle the kennel before any definite planning can be done.

There is no new gossip here. We had a grand Xmas with all numbers of grandchildren here and about. At the moment there appear to be no family crisis, Linda is working her buns off (tenure should soon be forthcoming) and Tony, as

usual is tearing off at tangents. He tried using a different kind of sugar in his blueberry syrup this year. The stores he sold it to were not impressed when it all turned a murky grey so he had to collect it all from around town to be reboiled and rebottled. Such are the hazards of private production. Jennifer's dog grooming business is booming and all the kids are doing well in school.

I'm enjoying the Iceman book immensely. Its, as you say, very difficult to put down. We skied on the Stubai glacier and stayed in Innsbruck quite a few years ago. It was the first time I'd skied above ten thousand feet. Impressive country it is and the author captures it marvellously. Thanks loads.

We're glad that you also enjoy Nova Scotia and we hope to see a lot more of you after you retire. Say hi to all the sons for us. It was indeed wonderful getting to know them all again at the reunion. They are a talented bunch and you done a great job.. Such all round interesting and nice kids they are. I hope we can follow what's going on in their lives.

Keep in touch when you can.

Love as always

*Betty*

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*Charlie*