

4 April 1977

Dear Harold:

As you probably have sensed from my growing silences, Jenifer has developed further ~~problems~~ that have preoccupied us both for some two months. Shortly before Christmas she developed muscle pains which came on irregularly and which caused no great alarm to the two doctors she immediately consulted, our regular GP and the surgeon who did her colostomy a year ago. However by February they became frequent and severe enough to begin to cause disablement, and a series of tests were begun, all of which showed nothing wrong.

However things didn't improve, and as the tests continued to show nothing the doctors were reluctant to hospitalize her, so she stayed here, painfully climbing the hill up to the road when necessary to go for another X-ray or some other test. During February and March I took over the cooking, as she could not stand long enough without pain, and we got along quite well except that she didn't improve.

Finally a bone scan showed metastasis in several parts of her bone structure, and she went into Marin General on March 31. She is much more comfortable now and today began radiation therapy. This may be supplemented later with chemotherapy.

None of this is pleasant, but she continues just as calm and determined as ever, and we both are greatly relieved finally to find out what's wrong so that what needs to be done can be done. The prospect now is that she'll probably be hospitalized three or four weeks, depending on how things go.

I spend as much time as possible at the hospital, of course, as I can be helpful with her colostomy and ~~xxxxxx~~ other problems with which I'm familiar. She is glad to have someone around who understands these things, and it makes things a bit easier for the nurses, who are good and extremely kind and attentive but who have several problem patients in the same wing. This means of course that while I can keep the house running (cats fed, necessary washing and other maintenance work) I have little time for clipping and filing, so it looks like that aspect of our life is suspended indefinitely. There is no reason, of course, why I can't continue our repository function here, but I can't promise when I can find the time to write in the immediate future. I shall, of course, try to keep you informed of anything important that develops. Meanwhile Jenifer's attitude is just what you'd expect, full of hope and confident in her ability to do her very best. As you know, that's very good indeed.

I would have written much earlier, but we frankly did not know enough to give you any intelligent picture until yesterday and today. I know this will reach you at a time of great pressure, and regret it very much, but I am grateful at last to be able to give you a real idea of what's involved. We know we have your best wishes and support, and that's what counts.

Best from us both,


jdw