

FRANCIS J. SHIELDS

file

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Dear Jim,

Your card and associated note, recently received, were a welcome (i.e., in a social sense) piece of news from you. I had been thinking of calling you just before your card arrived, but we had house guests (old GE friends) for the last week in September, and when your card arrived we were expecting my sisters Ronnie and Betty, plus Ron's husband Roy, for a visit. They left for home yesterday, and I decided it was time to acknowledge the newsy note in your card.

I (as well as Anna, Ronnie, and Betty) got a laugh out of your report that the chemotherapy you're undergoing isn't making your hair fall out, small loss though that would be (at least you implied that was the case)! But you didn't mention if the other reported attribute of chemo treatment - being sick as a dog - was something that you were experiencing. We surely hope that is not the case, or at least that it is not a severe experience in your situation. I was astonished that you will be under chemo treatment a minimum of six months; I sincerely wish it were otherwise, but realize that you are doing all that can be done to head off further complications from your bout with cancer. Jim, you are in our prayers and thoughts for a complete recovery, and will continue to be. So keep up the good fight you've amazed us with!

Your invitation for us to visit is attractive, but not one we'll likely take advantage of during your treatment and recovery period. We will, however, be happy to enjoy your hospitality at some future date when your weekly treatments are over (and the weather there is mild or ours severe!). We have a number of friends in Florida, and would be pleased sometime to include them and you in a series of "renewals" of association and friendship. So let's wait for more favorable times for all of us; all Anna needs to set out is a nod from me!

I had known that Frank Monahan had died (I think you passed the news along to me), but nevertheless was saddened to hear that his wife Grace has now joined him in death. My mind's eye still sees the two wonderful, pleasant, and jolly people they were, though it must be near to forty years since I last saw either one of them. Surely they are enjoying the eternal reward they both earned.

Jim, the enclosed pictures were given to me by Ronnie during her visit here this past week. She has been going through her picture collection and believed these were of more value to the Kirwan side of the family than to ours. Therefore she asked me to pass these along to you, feeling you would know whether either Bob's sons or Gene's children would possibly be interested in these photos of their uncles or father. She also gave me a number of photos that I will pass along to Al Aiken, as they are of his parents and others at the "filter." Ronnie's action reminds me that I have somewhere in my photo collection a shot or two of myself, you, and my brother Joe when we were ushers at Al's marriage to Helen Gebe. I must send those on to him when I come across them again.

Jim, this will be all for now. Know that we have you ⁱⁿ our thoughts, as I said above, and will welcome a good opportunity to see you in Florida sometime, perhaps in 1995.

Keep the faith!

Yours truly,

Frank Shields