

February 14  1977

Dear Nell,

So often I have thought of the very special afternoon that I spent with you just before Christmas. It is one of my favorite memories of what turned out to be a very beautiful extended Christmas. One of the other best moments was sharing all of the books that you had so sensitively inscribed to many friends and members of our family. The reactions to the books have been as appreciative and joyful as I knew they would be, and I want you to know how much happiness your work brought to each of us. Helen and I will always treasure our three copies, and I am already looking forward to sharing your books with other friends on coming Christmases.

Our holiday continued well past

The middle of January, and ever since then I have been working very busily to get caught up on the illustrations I'm doing for fall books — and to keep warm! But we have had a pleasant winter compared to most people — no freezing pipes and plenty of firewood — and I hope that the same has been true for you. Our new Great Dane puppy, (who we got to replace our old Dane, who died just before Thanksgiving) is growing like a spring capping, and I get outside with him for two long, brisk walks every day. But otherwise I am upstairs in my studio working hard on my soon-to-be published books. As soon as there is a slight thaw in my work schedule and the weather, I am going to telephone you, and I hope that you will let me come up to bring you to our house for a visit, as we discussed when I last saw you. In the meantime, thank-you again for that beautiful day and for all the happiness that your books have brought to the people in my life. Helen joins me in sending love. From your friend, Steven