

January 29, 1970

Dearest Gram,

Hi! How are you?
We're all fine - I'm
just getting over the
flu, and everybody else
has had it, so maybe
now that it's made the
rounds of everyone, it
will "exit gracefully."

We haven't seen
you for awhile - we all
miss you. Heidi too!

She still walks into
"your" room and looks
around as if to say,
"Well, where is Gram?"

Mother says come
spring you may be
moving up here. That's
really great! Then we'll
be seeing a lot of you,
and you can sleep
here sometimes too.

You made a lot of friends up here who will be glad to see you again. And you'll undoubtedly have many visits from friends in Collingwood too?

Hiddi's a real character. She stayed in bed with me while I was sick and wouldn't leave me, just as if she knew. Right now she's sitting on a chair in "her" den watching the birds. Should you believe a bird-watching dog? She moved in and took over Don's den.

She lays in the sun in there, and sleeps by the warm radiator in there, and drags all her toys in there. Don comes home every nite to wall-to-wall dog toys in his den.

She loves pizza, sauerbrant,

and jelly-toast, among other
rare delicacies such as celery,
apple seeds and birdseed.

We now have an adorable
baby hamster named "Snoopy."
He looks like a miniature
teddy-bear, and Heidi's ~~so~~
jealous! You should see
her -- she sits up nose-
to-nose with the hamster
in his cage. He's not scared
of her at all. Of course,
Heidi would hardly have to
play with him. She had
to oil his wheel - it kept
us up at night squeaking.

Hamsters just love squeaky
wheels, but people don't, so
he'll have to play on a
quiet one. (Should you
believe it - Snoopy plays
with parakeet toys).

He has a little maze on
wheels he pushes around
the cage, and a ball he

rings).

My plant room really looks nice with sheer yellow curtains printed with daisies; those blue ones fell apart when I tried to wash them - they were quite old.

My plants are all doing pretty well. I made up 5 winter gardens and gave 2 to mother. My neighbor and I went to the woods, and even in Nov. we had to dig thru snow to find the vines and plants we needed to make the gardens. Mother's are growing like crazy, and she loves them.

I planted 20 Holland tulip bulbs in fall - I hope they come up this spring. I have 2 indoor hyacinth bulbs starting to grow already. She may have an

early spring-- indoors), at least. I had a gorgeous red-sulphur colored rose, no bigger than my thumbnail, or my miniature rose bush.

Any plants you don't know what to do with, save for me. You should see

how those variegated snake plants you gave me are growing! They're beautiful.

I have over 26 different varieties of plants, and in many cases, several of each kind. Plants, of course, are my hobby.

I bought Don, for Christmas, something he's wanted more than anything else for 15 years.-- a

beautiful Cox & organ. He was so surprised and delighted he nearly cried! The look on his face was well-worth the monthly

payments. It's a beautiful full 2-manual church-type electric organ. Mother has played it and says it's a good one. She chose it carefully, of course. Don plays it almost every spare minute. We have it in our recreation room next to the piano, and we have many hours of pleasure playing duets on piano and organ.

Sat. nite we had company, and we spent the night singing everything from popular songs to hymns accompanied by piano & organ.

Also, I am taking voice lessons at the Skyomish Institute of Fine Arts. It is the best school of instruction around here. I am doing well and progressing

rapidly, my teacher says.
I hope to eventually go into
opera, at least locally.
I have quite a high range,-
and the support to back it
up.

There are many good
concerts in Reading, in fact
the Moscow Philharmonic was
here last Wed., but un-
fortunately they're usually
when I'm working. Don
goes sometimes without me.

He especially likes - you
guessed it - organ concerts!
I haven't seen much of
him around the house since
he got the organ -- but
I hear plenty of him!
He's really interested and
progressing well.

Well, I've been long-
winded enough for 1 letter.
Take very good care of
yourself & Lucky, and me
(over →

hope to be able to come
down as soon as the
weather (and flu) permits.
Don and Heidi send their
love, and me too!

Love,
Leslie