

Wednesday October 27, 1999
178 School Street
Bedmont MA 02478

Dear Margrit,

I am sitting at the dining room table in Leah's house. She has already received some of her 4th birthday presents. On the living room floor is a large wooden doll house in which are neatly arranged 7 ^{recumbent} family members. They are grandfather, father, boy and grandmother, mother, sister and baby. There is also a plastic foam violin 1 1/2 feet long with wooden bow. I brought Leah a bag of hyacinth bulbs, which we will plant this morning, some in the front garden at 178, some at 174, and one "forced" bulb to sit on water in a hyacinth glass. Leah is wearing a flowered sun dress, so she is not quite ready to plant bulbs.

Tonight after Laura returns from work, there will be a small family party. The cake has been baked, Leah will help to ice it, and put on candles. On another day (Saturday) there will be a party for her friends. "Molly" is one. She says that there are so many others that she cannot tell me their names.

While Leah ~~eat~~ a banana, I'll tell you a little about my physical progress. I got up at 5⁵⁵ was dressed with elastic stockings and work clothes by 6²⁵, collected wash and started machine, laid out Jackie's clothes and baked a small bake & serve roll from freezer, then went next door. That series of simple tasks took 1 hour & 20 minutes, somewhat slower than before the onset of my lameness. With the aid of Leah's stroller, helpful like a walker, I hope to take letters ~~per~~ to the post office, perhaps

Visit the library, where the children's room is holding for me a copy of James Marshall's "Swine Lake", his last book, a sly satire of ballet with pig dancers and a wolf as member of the audience.

Jochen will continue to place involution ~~and~~ on the ^{ceiling} walls of the third floor in the painstaking manner which he thought might avoid the problems which he studied in the Kennarock house. He does try to learn from experience.

Fortunately some things can be learned indirectly, without demonstration, simply by reaching, by understanding general principles and by ~~believe~~ conviction and appreciation of information transmitted by an instructor or more experienced person. Thus I understand that baking soda is better than a Kettle of water to extinguish a grease fire on the stove top. Thus I understand that I'd better not soak my toenails preparatory to trimming them at the same time that I use the electric hair dryer.

If you had both my experience in ^{moving} watching a garage-door spring ^{tear loose} and crash down here in Belmont; or the spring on the Kennarock door flailing; or if you could accept Jochen's word that the doors are difficult to repair, the task dangerous and expensive, you would not be ^{so} unhappy as you now seem to be. Sometimes one has to cope with physical (bodily) imperfections and material decay - not to mention emotional problems.

I should get Leah warmly dressed so that we can go next door with bulbs to plant and the already broken styrofoam violin for repair.

love, Margaret