

March 25, 1985

Dear Children,

I have some news and I'll do it this way so that you all get the same story. I have another tumor in the abdominal area. The Dr. can touch it but hasn't made all the decisions about how to get rid of it. We have a number of options: resection of the abdomen (that is another go-round with the same surgery that I had before), a vaginal entry and removal, or treatments with a nuclear pellet that is placed in the center of the tumor and kills the cellular structure from within.

Whatever, we are in agreement that we will go after the problem aggressively. Dr. Loughead and Dr. Brady are my immediate caretakers. I am not sure where the procedure will take place but the first test, with some fancy sonic waves will be this Friday at Berks Imaging Center. This is a holiday weekend so I suspect that I will be scheduled for Monday or Tuesday.

I probably will be able to be home this weekend if my funny symptoms don't get worse. My body is filling up with fluid from the adrenal blockage. I have fluid in the abdomen (called ascetes), swollen ankles and legs and now I have a odd sounding voice because of fluid in the throat area. I'm on medication for all of this, so the symptoms should not get too bad.

I do want to stay in school until Friday. Far be it for your Mother not to leave a clean desk.

My last scan was the first week in April and clear, so this little bugger grew fast, the size of a pullet egg they say. My case is atypical and puzzling to the medical men but I have some of the best medical men in the country on my team. They want to win, and so do I, so I am sure everything will come out alright. (Pun!)

Please don't change your happy ways. I know you love me. I feel your prayers and your strength. We made it the first time and we will do it again. I haven't finished my book yet. I am only sorry I have to burden you with this but great things come from adversity. So look for all the greats we can make of this.

Speaking of greats, I'll enclose the PR that was sent to me about your Grandfather. We all have much to achieve in our lifetimes to aspire to his status, so get going and don't waste time on my setback. I'll catch up and go around you yet.

I love you. Some extra prayers would help.

5/25/88

Mother

Dear Mother & Dad,

I'm sorry to worry everybody  
so don't! This is just a setback  
and I can handle it, but I  
don't want you upset.

Just say your prayers for me.

I love you.

Hancy