

December 31, 1990

Dear Ruth,

Is this really your 65th birthday?? Can't believe it. When we all get together it just feels as if we were the merry Belmont group. Many years have passed since then!

This is New Year's eve and we are invited out for a party starting at 9 o'clock so we will have something to eat in a while and then have something more at the party. The people giving the party are Latin American so I hope there will be some good dance music - look forward to doing those South American rhythms!

Nan wrote that your ankle was healing very slowly - don't get discouraged - it really sounded like a very very bad break and of course it will take a long while to heal. One of our neighbours in Dublin was knocked over by a car in Dundrum a few years ago and she was in a wheelchair and then using a walker for a long time but now she is walking very well - and she was in her late 70's or early 80's when the accident happened.

It sounds as if you are missing Sandy and Kevin and Galen and Josh a lot - they live so close to you in Milford that it must be strange not to have them nearby - and also to drive past their house and see someone else living there. I always disliked having some stranger in our house in Dublin no matter how nice our neighbours might have said they were. But it never took long to reestablish ourselves once we got back into the house - after cooking a meal I usually felt that the house was ours again.

We had a good week down at the Coast the week before Christmas. My boss Ruth had booked a cottage for 3 weeks and then could only use one week of the 3 so she was looking for someone to take her booking. We were happy to oblige. It was a self-catering 2 bedroom cottage with a fully equipped kitchen. We were in a compound with about 8 other cottages within walking distance of a sandy beach in a little cove. Really quite lovely. Several problems to sort out though before we could really enjoy it - namely, we had to drive about 15 miles to get any supplies or anything to eat. And then it also took a couple of days before we realized that we could hire a cook instead of slaving away in a very hot kitchen. But once we got used to the place we really liked it. I think though that another time we will look for a place within walking distance of a restaurant and also not necessitating such a long drive to get essentials. Fortunately we had brought our own sheets and towels but we just didn't have room in the car to bring a lot of groceries.