



Dear Classmates,

Last Friday, on December 26, 2008, as I sat curled up in a corner of our couch starting a new book I'd received as a gift this year, I glanced up at our lighted tree and thought, "I wonder how many years I have spent the day after Christmas reading a book." I remembered, particularly, when I was reading all the books in the *Cherry Ames – Nurse* series, probably about fifth and sixth grades, and was thrilled to unwrap one on Christmas Eve. I could hardly wait to read it and did so as soon as there was a quiet moment during the holidays. That had to be at least 57-58 years ago, but I still feel the wonder of looking at our tree, enjoying the quiet of the day, and knowing the peace of being at home with a good book. Some things don't change even after all these years.

But many things do – especially over fifty years! Most of the people from our class have retired from lifetime jobs. A number of us have changed residences. New part-time employment and volunteer positions have become part of some classmates' schedules. People are spending more time with hobbies and travel. Others are spending more time with children and grandchildren. We have a number of "snow birds" in our class who now "fly" off to the southern states during the winter. And while these changes have been happening, most of us have also experienced the loss of family members – spouses, parents, children, grandchildren, sisters, and brothers – who have passed on over the years. Some of the occurrences have made life different for us as the years went by. We changed. Our lives changed. And with those changes, we became involved in different activities. We met new people. We embarked on new journeys. You might not ice skate any more, but maybe you've started woodcarving. Perhaps you're not at work at 6 a.m. each day, but, instead, you're working out with weights at 7 a.m. What changes have you experienced...in your lifetime...and even in the short span of years since our 45th Reunion in 2004? And, what new activities have you begun as a Senior Citizen?

I hope you'll think about some of the things (1) that have remained constant in your life since you were five-years-old and starting kindergarten AND (2) that have changed through the years AND (3) that are new activities you've begun since the 45th Reunion. In our *Class Newsletter*, which will be mailed to you at the end of January, we'll be including a form with questions about some of those things, and we will ask you to mail it back to us. We'd like to use your answers as part of the program for the 50th Reunion. We promise your answers will be used with total respect and regard for the person you are, so please share when the newsletter arrives at your house, and **SEND BACK THE QUESTIONNAIRE!** Look for the *Class Newsletter* before February 14, 2009. If you have not received the newsletter by that time, it might be because we don't have your correct address, so please contact me if you do not get it by that date.

Happy New Year! See you in Eau Claire in 2009!

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