

Friday June 4, 1993

Dear Lena ... and this note is for Howard, too, of course:

I'm so glad you are well - no sniffles or problems - for the forthcoming BIRTHDAY PARTY on June 8th.

I hear that there may be a spatter of rain this week-end, maybe. But that will be nice - because then all the flowers in your flower garden up on Coreopsis Hill will have their faces washed and be nice and fresh for your birthday.

Now here are the plans: in the first place, maybe you know and maybe you don't know that THE NATURE CONSERVANCY conducted a course (like a school study course) for the subject of HOW TO LEAD TRIPS OUT IN THE NIPOMO DUNES in the areas (like the land out there that used to belong to Mobil Oil Corporation) which are now given to the Calif. State Parks Dept. and which are officially managed by THE NATURE CONSERVANCY. (They do a wonderful job. They are really protecting and preserving all that beautiful land. They are experts. And you know they manage very special land in a great many places in many parts of the world.) Anyway, as I started to say, they put on this study course - that was during several months in the early part of this year and about twenty people volunteered and took the course. I did. So did several of my friends, who love the sand dunes. Now we have graduated- and the NATURE CONSERVANCY has joined with THE SIERRA CLUB and THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY in helping protect the dunes. And, as you already know, many, many outings are now scheduled and led for taking people out to enjoy and study all the natural resources as well as the beauty of the dune lands.

We are all so grateful and appreciative that you permit all these people to go to and enjoy your flower garden. I have been doing it for years. You know this and you have always said I am welcome. Again, many many thanks.

Many trips are scheduled for the dune walks. Lots of people attend the ones on Saturdays and Sundays, but very few people come along on outings which are scheduled for mid-week days. Your birthday is a mid-week day - and the

"slow senior stroll" walk that I am the leader of on June 8 may not have more than half a dozen people turn up. When a person phones me and says they would like to go on June 8 to see the famous Coreopsis Hill I tell them it is the birthday of the lady who owns Coreopsis Hill. So we may have just a few people turn up. But I guess that will not matter to you. If only a few people come, then we can cut larger pieces of your birthday cake!! Did I tell you that your cake is being made by Don Patton and decorated by his wife who makes her living as a professional cake decorator? But I have told her to please keep her decorations very simple, because this is a very very simple party.

First, people will meet me and my artist friend Leonard Michal in the Oso Flaco Parking lot at 9 a.m. and then we'll walk over down into your ranch and I've invited Del and Florence and Mike, of course, to come - and they say they will. Remember, I told you to invite any of your relatives or any old friends who may remember your ranch the way it used to be.

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So you go ahead and invite anyone you think of. But just in case you invite several, probably you had better phone and tell me on this Saturday, so I can make sure that the cake Don Patton bakes will be big enough. But I think we will probably not have a lot of people ... simply because so many people work on weekdays and cannot go out for a walk during work days.

I hope Monday, June seventh is a nice day. I plan to go out to Coreopsis Hill on Monday and try to find some late wildflowers, ... I want to have a little wildflower decoration around the outside of your cake. This way, you may not be able to take a walk up onto your FLOWER GARDEN but I will try to bring a little bit of your flowers down for you to enjoy.

After we all say HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you...and sign the little birthday card I have for us to give you... then the next thing will be to say goodbye to you and Howard and I will lead the few who care to struggle up the big dune -- and will take them up on Coreopsis Hill.

We will walk around - and that will not be a long hike. I imagine we will be back down again in an hour or two. And my next idea is that I will suggest to them to go with

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me, to the Far Western Restaurant for a BOWL OF SOUP. What is your favorite kind of soup? The cook is named BARBARA... and she has even sometimes phoned me on some days to tell me she is making ALBONDEGA SOUP. I like that best. But she makes Cream of Broccoli and Cream of Cabbage and a very good soup called Rocky Mountain soup (with hamburger in it. On Fridays she only serves Clam Chowder. On Saturday and Sunday she makes only Beef-Vegetable, but it is very good.

I have been thinking that maybe we should ask you to join us for a late lunch of just BOWL OF SOUP OF THE DAY and their good toasted garlic bread. Think about it.

If you have never been there for just soup, I should tell you that a person can order just a comp of soup for 75¢ - or a medium-sized bowl of soup for about \$1.25 - or a simply simply HUGE BOWL for about \$2.00 or \$2.50. But this does not "break the bank" - and always the soup is served with good garlic bread.

Well, this "short note" has gotten to be a LONG letter. See you both next week.

LOVE,

Kathleen (Kathy)