

Friday evening, November 12, 1999

Dear Family,

I took the afternoon off today and went to see Dad at Bronson in Kalamazoo - with low expectations. But the news is good. He was awake and alert and smiling. He is still in Intensive Care and attached to tubes and cannot talk because of the tracheotomy. I couldn't get in to see him right away because they were giving him an enema, and the 2 or 3 subsequent visits were cut short when the enema started working. Whenever he tried to tell us something (Mom was there), it turned out to be that he wanted the nurse so she could get him a bedpan. When we couldn't understand him, he wrote "nurse" on a piece of paper.

Mom was her usual calm, business-as-usual. When I asked if she thought he was going to be able to come home, she seemed absolutely confident that he would. She chatted and read her book in the waiting room. She said she got apples out of the barn this morning and made a batch of applesauce because she didn't feel like sitting around.

Anyway, I feel better. After the last 2 reports, I was starting to get worried.

Steve