November 4, 1993

Dearest, my dear, dear friend:

Bonnie's surprise Birthday Letter Albums—(and I do mean SURPRISE!)—literally put me in a state of ecstatic shock. So skillfully was she in carrying out her benign subterfuge that, now, for one moment, did I suspect the C.I.A.-style "covert action" that was in progress. A thousand thanks to you for being a co-conspirator.

More than three hundred angelic souls responded to her plea. Some of the letters were short, some long, a few funny, many deeply creative, most of them serious. But all rendered affection and high regard, which touched me more deeply than I can tell you, and overwhelmed me with feelings of infinite gratitude.

Your letter is a blessing and a treasure; it has added dimension to my joy in being a seconder.

I cannot believe that you, too, are seventy-five! RAAPA!! Thank you for the wonderful things you wrote about those long-ago years, when we had the God-given privilege of spending so very many happy hours together. Your mention of very minutes has touched me particularly.

I adore my relationship with you and Arthur, and I cherish our friendship with you, which is, believe me, forever. I am thrilled and grateful that you are in my birthday book, and Ernie and I send you our devoted best.