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December 2012

“Merry Christmas”

Greetings to All,

In the beginning of this year the weather was mild, but later it began to snow. This is how the weather is in New England; if you wait it will change. On January 15, 2012, Greg treated me to see the *Color Purple* at the Shubert Theater in New Haven along with a lovely dinner. It was the coldest night to be out but it was an enjoyable one.

In February, Marvin and Greg drove me to Massachusetts to see Kenya and Nairobi, my two lovely granddaughters, where they performed in a dancing recital. Sometimes when they perform, I drive myself, if it is nearby. As Spring was approaching, I began to think and prepare for my vegetable garden. This year my garden did not do very well because of the animals and wildlife got to eat before I could harvest it for myself and hoping to share with others. In July, for the past five years, I travelled to North Carolina to the C. M. Epps High School Alumni reunion. Each year it gets better and better. The food was good and to see classmates and family was great. I went on a great bus trip to Pennsylvania to see the play of *Jonah and the Large Fish*. The play was enjoyable, it looked so real.

Marvin and DeÉtta make sure that their mothers are taken care of and not alone. Marcus and Jordan stopped by early on some Saturday mornings and we broke bread together and chat. They have grown so much. Marcus enjoys his job and travels a lot out of state but he has time for family. Jordan is a junior in high school. He's getting taller every day to me because I'm so short ☺. Jeff and Linda have two wonderful sons.

We are looking forward to next year when Kenneth Jr. will be graduating from high school. He is already planning for college. He plays football at the Granby High School and he plays very well. I went to see him play the final game on Thanksgiving Day. His team is called the Granby Bears and he scored the last touchdown for the year. Malachi is doing very well. He is a junior in high school. He continues to swim and he is good. Kenya is in the fifth grade and goes to dance school. I see her rehearse and she is good. Nairobi is the youngest of all of the grandchildren. She is in Kindergarten and she also dances. She knows my phone number and calls me every week. Sometimes she says she forgets but then she calls me. She and Kenya play with me and show me how to exercise. I spent Thanksgiving with Kenneth and Rose. They stay busy with work and their family.

I do attend a class for senior ladies and exercise twice a week. It is fun and it keeps me active. I get to see some of the people I worked with at Yale. Dr. Gerald and Miriam Putterman are very good friends. They remember me and call me to see Greg perform Shakespeare each year at St. Joseph's University in West Hartford. Greg was Antonio in *Twelfth Night*. This year the play was presented on stage because it rained so hard that they could not perform it outside in the courtyard. But it was enjoyable because we got to sit in comfortable seats and we could see the play better.

On October 29, 2012, our winter storm named Sandy caused lots of people to lose their homes, families, and personal things. I lost power for five days and lost food in the freezer. My sister Peggy and husband Jimmie invited me to stay with them although they lost power too. But they had a generator and we were able to eat and stay warm until the power came back on. Some still do not have power or their home and family. I am truly blessed for what I have because I am able to still eat and sleep and have my home.

In November, my family surprised me with a lovely brunch at Anthony's Restaurant in Guilford, CT. I celebrated “three quarters of a century” birthday. It was so nice to have all of my grandchildren, sons, daughters, two sisters and two nieces. Marvin picked me up from church and drove me to the restaurant. Now we are counting down to the end of another year into a new year. May you and your family have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Love,

Thelma L. Mouning