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ITALY
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Dear Henry,

We greatly appreciate your remembrance of our golden wedding anniversary. Fifty busy years with some sorrows but mostly happiness, a sense of some things done well -- raising, educating and sending off into the world three wonderful children, accomplishing less than we would like but still enough to warrant some satisfaction.

It is good to look back and think of the younger people we helped; we are proud of their developments. Professionally whatever my achievements may have been, I profited from help at every turn. How lucky to have had Henry Taylor as a pupil at Harvard, to have had Paco Grande and Yoshka Bozek escape to me from difficult circumstances, to have found loyal colleagues such as Joe Anderson, Olaf Mickelsen, and Austin Henschel and Nedra Foster and Angie Sturgeon as loyal helpers.

You know that Carl Chapman came to me at a critical time and you did better because you stayed on and had still more influence in making me, a non medic, less illiterate in medicine. Among early things you did for all of us was to create, with Geoffrey Rose, the Minnesota Code for the ECG. And you helped put Henry Taylor straight in the examinations of the railroad men. Most important, perhaps, was that you convinced the cardiologists to acknowledge our competence to advance knowledge in the epidemiology of their specialty.

Think of all the colleagues who made things possible -- Gaylord Anderson who opened the door to public health, Frank Mc Cormick who "gave" me the Stadium, Ralph Rossen who made possible eight years of dietary experiments at Hastings State Hospital, Harold Dienl who encouraged me when I talked about a prospective study on coronary heart disease, Paul White who persuaded the cardiologists that I had something to offer. Vittorio Puddu opened the doors in Italy and found Alessandro Menotti for me.

You know the fine men who joined with me in the Seven Countries Study -- Martti Karvonen, Ratko Buzina, Noboru Kimura, Daan Kromhout especially, but also Christo Aravanis, Andy Dantas,

Srecko Nedeljkovic, George Lamm.

All this talk is about me and us without telling you how we enjoyed learning more about your background and activities outside our immediate ken. The tale about midnight at Acciaroli was a great chapter in nostalgia. Now you have built an "empire" of many people doing good work. I marvel at your skill and fortitude -- I would never have been able to carry the load you bear. Frankly, I shudder at the thought of trying to do so.

We hope to see you at Key West in spite of my disabilities. In the meantime I poke at the computer all day while Margaret takes care of everything else, including me and correcting my mistakes that show on the computer screen. I enclose a table showing the ... of the CVD ... years after entry. Attached is