

July 26, 1984

Dear Bob,

Your letter was one of the most expressive of feelings that I share in every way, of course. Sonny was a really exceptional person and we could reinforce each other in so many, many ways. I have now received dozens of letters of friends and acquaintances, all extolling Sonny's unusual personality, her warmth, her directness as you express it. On her last conscious day she said so lovely: "Ich habe dich lieb" [I love you] – which will live with me forever.

We had made the trip for Oetz early, better than last year and everybody felt happy to see Sonny in better health. Somehow she must have picked up a bad chest cold, perhaps in Zürich, or the plane. When we arrived on June 22nd, Friday, she started to cough. We called the doctor Wilhelm, who treated her last year, and he gave [an] injection and expectorant. But on Wednesday, June 27 he felt she needed hospital care and arranged for the ambulance to take her to Innsbruck. I went with her, of course, and Nadia, the nurse we took along from Zurich, came also. For 2 days (I stayed in Tyrol overnight) she responded well, and then the heart got tired, but Sunday the doctor got worried and then she weakened rapidly. Tuesday she had pain medication –likely the metastasis from her breast operation complicated matters. She died peacefully, towards midnight, July 3rd. Because the hospital had phoned me at 7:00 am on July 4th, that date got into print.

It was hard to make all the arrangements, fortunately, Nadia who loved Sonny though she knew her only a few days, helped a lot. Sonny is buried in Oetz church yard, the grave looks toward the house and the Acherkogel.

We had talked a few times about death and Sonny felt she could die in Oetz and would want to be buried there –making it a kind of pilgrimage each year for me and the family.

I will be here for some time yet. Greta has changed her plans and has been remaining here all of July. Nadia, the nurse, who is a friend of Greta of several years (I did not know that), now will stay as we had arranged originally so I need not be alone. It is very lonely, suddenly to not have Sonny to talk to, to help, to enjoy together the view of the Acherkogel – It will be hard to get to Tryon and Tah has promised all possible help.

As if the weather were unhappy too, it has been cold and rainy most of the time.

All good wishes

Ernst