

Kirt Hine

Letters To His Son Ted 1962 and 1963

(Compiled by Ted Hine - March 2003)

The following 3 letters were written to me by my father during the fall and spring of my senior high school year at Sterling School in Craftsbury Common, Vermont.

The fall 1962 letters were written shortly after Kirt and his new second wife Mary had moved to a rented house on Avery Road in Garrison, New York. For the first two letters he was still using the letterhead from his former business address in New Jersey.

In the September 23 letter the reference to the “outboard” is to the approximately 16 foot outboard motor boat (with a 40 horsepower motor) we had named “Argo” which had been purchased in the spring of 1961 and used by the family on Cape Cod that summer. Garrison had a small marina and Yacht Club on the Hudson River where the boat could be launched and kept. “Dede” and “John” refer to my aunt and uncle (sister and her husband of Kirt’s recently divorced first wife, Betty). On page 2 the reference to “Gene” is Gene Williamson, Mary’s first, and recently divorced, husband. “Jerry” is Mary and Gene’s son. The letter provides a detailed description of Gene’s death in an automobile accident. Kirt’s reference on page 3 to driving “out West” refers to he and I having driven back to the east coast the previous summer after his stay in Reno, Nevada (to obtain his divorce) where I had flown to visit him and our subsequent visit to see relatives in Seattle, WA.

In the Nov. 1 letter he refers to setting up his work shop in Dix Castle (also sometimes spelled as Dick’s Castle) which would be his work location for the next 6 years. “Model 101” was his designation for his hands free lawnmower development project which he was just about to start working on.

The “Bertram 25” mentioned in the May 20th letter is the inboard motor boat he named “Aba-Daba” which would provide his nautical recreation till 1967 when he sold it at the time of the purchase of his 44 foot sailing ketch.

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MAILED SEPT. 23, 1962

EDWARD K. HINE

ENGINEERING SERVICES

~~295 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE, CALDWELL, N. J. CAPITAL 6-6370~~

Avery Road, Harrison, N.Y.

914 Ga 4-3120

CONSULTING
DEVELOPMENT

- CONTROLS
- SERVOMECHANISMS
- BEARING APPLICATIONS
- MECHANICAL DESIGN

Dear Ted:

Here's a letter to bring you up to date on the news from Harrison, and to be sure you have my address and telephone number.

I put a new hose on the outboard and removed the generator. Gave it a short run in the river and it ran a.k. after a few sputters. So Sunday Mary Dede, John & I motored up river to a beach for a picnic. Had a good picnic but the motor ran worse and worse until right near here it sputtered out completely. I gave it a crank and it ran just long enough to get us to the dock.

A new set of plugs make it good as new. Turns 5100 R.P.M. with just me and a tank of gas. I guess the salt water it breathed in when you and Corey were with us fouled up the old plugs.

(over)

(2)

We were getting about $\frac{3}{4}$ the settled in our new location here when a very upsetting thing happened. Gene had taken Jerry for the week-end and returned him Sunday afternoon late. Gene stayed for an hour or so, good discussion on the terrace etc and left about 8:00 P.M. in his fuel injection Corvette. At 3:15 A.M. the phone rang. A stranger told us the state police were trying to get in our house and couldn't wake us up. We let in two policemen who told us Gene was killed on route 90 this side of Bear Mt. Bridge at 8:15 P.M.

We subsequently learned he had passed four cars about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile this side of the bridge, lost control, climbed the steep up hill side of the road, turned over, slid 40 feet upside down down the road - killed instantly. The car is in a Peekskill garage a most unpleasant sight. A total wash out - and Gene is in Restland Memorial Cemetery. It's all a gashly thing and a little thought will make one a safe - not a racy driver.

(3)

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We drove fast out west Ted but it was where we could see miles ahead and there was little or no other traffic. In this part of the country the roads and traffic necessitate much less speed and much more caution and ~~not~~ watch out for what foolish things the other driver may do. Neff. Said -

So we're just getting back to normal here - I did get my office + the shop items we went over moved up here Friday last. It is now parked at Dix Castle 10 minutes from here. Next week I will get it sorted out and set up and I hope to be in business -

Write me all the news about you and the new school set up, and particularly about your progress on alternate colleges. (What other than R.P.I.) And let me know when I can take you on an area week-end or to look over a college -

Much love
Pop

EDWARD K. HINE

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~~295 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE, CALDWELL, N. J. CAPITAL 6-6370~~

Avery Rd. Garrison, N.Y.

Nov 1, 1962

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Dear Tod:

I have had your letter and report card on the desk in the "do today" file for weeks. Kept putting off writing because of the rat race of getting settled at home and getting set up at the office-laboratory. It's coming along if slowly.

Betty and Dede said they found you in great shape as student, librarian, and "engineering" boss. Sounds great. And Tod I can't tell you how proud and happy I am about your report card - the one dated 10-5-62. 90 in physics-chem. Wow! And the math. + English look real good too. Keep it up. (Mr Field had a very complimentary note on the back too).

(over)

(2)

We're now more or less settled in our house in our country living in fashion and enjoying it particularly since we are the proud owners of a horse. We bought a 4 year old buckskin mare, a pretty little horse, a couple of weeks ago and are having fun getting acquainted with her and vice versa. Bring some warm clothes Xmas time and you can have a ride.

I'm ~~riding~~ writing this in my office-laboratory in Dix Castle mid the pounding and sawing of two carpenters who are putting up a wall for me. Whata racket. The room I am in is 22 ft. x 50 ft. and I'm dividing it in two so one room will be heated - that's for the office + lab. The other, ^{the} unheated room, will be for storage. I'm well equipped with 22 ft. of work bench, 40 electrical outlets, desk, table, drawing board, files, etc. even a couch - Tools are going on a peg board and in a storage cabinet due to arrive in a day or so. In a few days I'll be

(3)

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in shape to get to work on model 101.

Tonight I'm headed north to get Greg for his Fall week-end. He's all pepped up about going to the Dartmouth-Yale game. Has to go back Sunday instead of Mon. I guess his grades need a little improvement.

I trust you are receiving the "Y" Football news and the Popular Mechanics and Electronics. Let me know if you are not.

How are you making out on the forrest job for next summer? Write and let me know.

Much love,

Pop

EDWARD K. HINE

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May 20, 1963

Dear Ted:

Attached is a copy of my acceptance of the invitation to your Commencement Exercises and Luncheon. This is a letter of a very and justly proud father. You too should be very proud of your accomplishments. You have come a goodly distance on the road to an excellent education which will fit you for a useful and fulfilling life.

Although his school was somewhat reluctant, Greg has received permission to get away Friday afternoon so we will see you, your mommy and Hank at the Hob Nob at 7:00 P.M. for dinner.

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Nothing much is new here except a shining new Bertram 25 now tied up at the Yacht Club. She runs like a Thoroughbred.

Plan to spend some time with us this summer, all the time you would like. However make these plans very secondary to doing a good job on some gainfull employment if you can find it and helping your mother as she may need it. We expect to be here all summer except for a week or two in early-mid July. We expect Margo + Bill will be with us all summer. Let us know when your plans jell.

Much love
Pop