

Elizabeth Seward Hulburd Hine Alderson

“The Betty Book”

Letters to Family Members – 1972 to 1981

Digitally Compiled by her son Edward K. Hine, Jr. (“Ted”) in June 2002
from letter copies provide by Barb and Locke Alderson

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Introduction

I first recall Betty writing regular, though not evenly timed, letters containing news from home when I headed off to northern Vermont for high school in the fall of 1959. At this time long distance phone calls tended to be awkward to make and were extremely expensive. Letters were thus the primary means of communication.

Betty's letters were usually, but not always, typed using a small manual portable typewriter which she had had for as long as I can remember and continued to use for the rest of her life. It was a black Royal "Quiet Deluxe" which, as I write this, is stored in a closet in my Louisville, CO home.

When my brother Greg headed off to school in New Hampshire, Betty started using carbon paper to make multiple copies of her periodic family updates. When she moved back to St. Louis in 1963 after her divorce she added her sister in New York to the distribution list. After her marriage in 1968 to John Alderson her three new step-children were eventually added as was her youngest son Henry when he no longer lived at home. This made for quite a stack of carbon paper in the typewriter (one original plus at least 6 carbon copies) and the copy quality thus suffered severely. This explains why some of the following letters are quite hard to read. (Note that all her letters were written before the advent of readily available copy machines and/or services which didn't appear till the late 1980's)

Her periodically written family updates became less frequent and finally ended entirely in the early 1980's as she developed arthritis which made it difficult to type or write. Regular communication with family was then continued via long distance phone which by then had become much more reliable and affordable than in the past.

The following letters were fortunately saved by Barb and Locke Alderson. In the late 1970's the original "Betty Book" was compiled and given to her as a present. After her death in 1996 the Alderson's added additional letters written after the original was compiled and had copies bound into a booklet which they called "The John and Betty Book". Copies of the booklet were distributed to all of Betty's children and step-children.

The letters span the years from 1972 to 1981 and provide a fascinating look at Betty and John's life together including the trials and tribulations of retiring to an old, but historic, farm house 6 miles from the small town of Hermann, Mo. and the constant stream of visitors, both family and friends, they hosted there. The first 2 letters were written when they still lived in Vacaville, California and the rest after the move to "the farm". I don't think all of her letters from this period were saved but the ones that were are priceless.

Ted Hine
June, 2002

Locke and Barb's Note to Family

Dear family,

We hope you enjoy rereading through Betty's letters as much as we did. These have become a wonderful family history from August of 1972 to November of 1981.

Sorry for the poor quality of the copies of some of the carbons and I think a page may be missing but you'll get the general idea of the scope of their lives together. They had many happy years in Hermann as did we on our visits.

All our love,

Barb + Locke



The John and Betty Book

These letters reflect the many happy years that John
and Betty Alderson enjoyed together.
May we all be so blessed.

“The ultimate goal which parents should wish for their children is
independence. So leave the nest, little bird, while you still have the
desire and the courage to fly.”

(This quote was found in Betty’s jewelry box after her death.)

08/02/72

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AUG. 2, 1972.

Dear Everyone:

Dear everyone because we have just added two fortunates(?) to the list of those on my carbon list. Brad at 431 Jefferson...Apt. G., Delano, Ca. 93215.....Tele. 805-725-4349 and L. and B. at home at 8111 Vicksburg Ave...Los Angeles, Ca., 90045.....Tele. Home 213-823-1762 and Locke at work...213-646-6859. Please record for future use.

L. and B. were to move in last Mon. and I am sure that we would have heard if things had not gone as planned. They bought an attractive small house, with a usable swimming pool and enough property to enlarge their quarters when needed by two bedrooms and a bath. Very short commute for Locke to the Continental Airlines Building (or complex) at nearby L.A. International Airport. It all sounds RIGHT and we are extremely happy for them tho' we will miss seeing them and our bridge sessions.

Brad is working his tail off in all that Delano heat. Has found that the 'old Italian papa' type boss is a hard and demanding ~~W~~ man, and I am sure that we will not see Brad again until after the harvest, pressing (no longer bare feet, darn), storing, blending and bottling is over. Sounds like 10 hours a day, 7 days a week for him until Dec.....and, as an added insult, he is part of management not labor so he gets no overtime.

Molly and Pat are on their way home from St. Louis and should be back this coming weekend so I shall incorporate their news in the next installment.

It has been so long since I wrote one of these that I don't quite know where to start. we had little black dog until the week Sister arrived. Had played bridge several times with Booths and others; worked across the street with the environmental committee, cleaning up the Town Hall area and replanting etc; talked to Greg and Hank on their B. Day's and Ted this past Sunday.....but mostly.....Until Dede arrived I did nothing but paste trillions of pictures in books. As of next Monday, I shall start again. AND continue until all three are finished. Up to date as of summer 1972 then it is up to you three Hines.

Harvested our first grapes yesterday..Hot Ziggity. The crop was not large this first season but I was determined to get my share.. Had to beat off the Mockingbirds and the new Mother Robin and child who have been living here for a while. The crop (my share) was four small bunches of juicy Concordes. Found six bunches that had become raisins and left two bunches to ripen for a few days. Took one bunch to the Booths because we share our produce with them. Discovered that they had just harvested their first crop. ONE ALMOND. But then they haven't been in the farming business as long as we.

Sister arrived Sat. 7/15. Both John and I were shocked at her appearance 'tho she maintained that she was just tired and had seen her Dr. and was taking a few pills for Blood Pressure. Brad came for dinner that night which was great. He had driven to Davis to pick up the rest of his stuff which had been stored at Molly's. So , Sister got to meet Brad.....Sun. morn the Booths entertained a small group for Brunch to meet Sis. It was a good party and a very nice thing for them to do. ...Monday we toured TL.T. and Vacaville and Tues. Sis drove up to Anderson to visit John Malley's parents and brother and family.....Wed. we drove her up to Tahoe, one of the spots she wanted to see; toured the lake :(I won two nickel jackpots) and even showed her the Wellers house before returning early. That eve after a quiet dinner here, she told us that she couldn't stand the pain in her arm any longer. Since Sis has never been a complainer, we jumped and took her to the Hospital in Fairfield. The Dr. felt that it was associated with her blood pressure which was 210 over 194 or something equally horrible....gave her a massive shot of something and pills by the quart and we came home. She slept for days but was on her feet to meet L. and B. when they and the Booths came for dinner Sat. night 7/22.

From then on Sis improved and Mon. we took her to Muir Woods, Tues. we went to play in my favorite city, S.F.....and Wed. we left for Carmel for two nights. While there, we drove down the Big Sur to Nepenthe and had dinner with the Nashes Thurs. night. We returned home Fri. and put Sis on the Travis bus for the Airport Sat. morn. We hit the most important wonders of Northern Calif. with her, and she loves this piece of the world as much as I. Before she left her blood pressure was down to approx. 180 over 140 and she was better.

I am very worried about her. Though it may not be a wise decision healthwise, she insists on staying in N.Y.C. until Lex finishes school next June. Then I think we can bring her out here. Anyway we shall work on it.....Lex is fine; loves Spain; has Sister's ability

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to pick up languages immediately; is studying hard; and at the ripe old age of 16, has fallen **HARDLY** in love with a 19 year old from Conn. and wrote Sis while she was here asking permission to drive his Motor Scooter over there.....well, so much for that.

Letters from Ernie Nurse indicate that he is doing poorly. Is now tube fed all the time and does not understand nor comprehend letters that she reads for him. I hope if his time has come (and it would seem so) that the Good Lord will let him go quickly. John thinks that we should go down, but if he wouldn't know we were there, I see no purpose.

It is now Friday 8/4 and we are about to take off for the wellers at Tahoe for the weekend. Really wish that we were not going for last night Molly called to say they were home and were moving to St. Louis as soon as they could sell their Mobile Home. Hah we want to hear all about it. They will buy the little house in Webster where Betty Fuchs lived from Frank Bradley. Molly has hopes of a job in the admittance office in a Hosp. and Pat will take a refresher at Maramac Jr. College and then hope to get into Webster College. Will know more next week.

We suddenly feel that we have been deserted!!! So many changes for all six of you during the last few months.....and I must add.....all for the best. We miss you all so keep us posted once in a while so that we can keep up to date.

Much love,

Betty

Just re-read and discovered that I had forgot a most important news item. Barb and Locke will become parents late winter or very early spring 1973. whatever time of year it will be a great day. Just wish that the new alderson had the advantage of being born in Northern Calif. instead of the foreign country to which the parents have moved.

Ha!

Locke and Barb will be in Colo. , Labor Day weekend if the Bradleys are in Buena Vista then. John and I shall get to either Colo. or Mo. sometime this fall.....lets try to coordinate something.

Dear Barb and Locke,

You see what happens when there are six children in a family! Takes me feel like a clearing house. But it does keep all up to date. F. and G. and working like mad and Jere will be out sometime in the fall to keep in touch with back east friends and contacts who might buy their product(s).

The rove went well. We are so happy for you. FOR EVER AFTER.

John is reluctant to fly to Colo. Feels that he wants transportation out quickly if he needs it. Will be in touch with you about this.

Molly found the Bradleys to be OLD. Of course they are aging and as soon as we get the dope we will shoot off the news to you. she left them in good shape however and we will find out more.

Love you both and so appreciate your effort to get here for dinner to meet Sister. Now she knows why I love you both.

Lo.

08/21/72

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Thursday, Aug. 21, 1972.

Dear Family:

First things first. We leave Sunday for Delano to take Brad out for dinner on his B.Day. (or rather, the night before, to celebrate.) We will arrive there early enough in the day to see something of the Winery etc where he is now happily working. He called us Monday night to say that he was now out of the lab and was blending and doing all the things that he had hoped for. Hooray.

From there we shall drive to San Luis Obispo and spent Mon. night at the fabulous Madonna Inn. Then up the coast to Carmel for my B.Day 8/29 and 8/30 and home 8/31. This is our annual pilgrimage to celebrate our big events. At Carmel we will be staying at the Spinning Wheel Inn. Couldn't get into the Sun Dial Lodge.

Loeke and Barb will be in Buena over Labor Day weekend. The Bradleys are there until the end of Sept. We will not be making a trip to Colo. in Sept for several reasons. One... on our last two trips to Tahee, John had breathing difficulties (Dr. checked him over on Wed. and he is fine except for the altitude bit.) ; and Two.....we hope to start building a house around the 15th of Sept. HOW ABOUT THAT.

We have weighed the pros and cons of living in an adult community and the pros won. We know what is wrong with this one so we decided that it would be foolish to move to another and fight the battle of settling in someplace else. Besides we like being in the bay area. Everyone gets to San Francisco once in a while so we can see friends as they come through.

Now about the house.....We have always known that this was too small so we will build the house that we wanted originally which will have built in privacy with two bedrooms and a den. It will be like the Booths except for taking out the living room and dining room walls to make a larger living room, no family room, with dining room where their family room is. We will back up to the golf course down near the street the Powells live on. These lots have just been opened up and we should have an 'open' feeling as opposed to living behind walls. If the building starts when promised, we should be in by Xmas. Don't think that we will have any problem selling this for the new apts which are being built on the golf course near town hall are smaller and of poor design. (And expensive.) If we can't sell, we can keep it as rental property. We are pleased and happy about it. Another big plus is that in that location the back of the house will not get the hot afternoon sun. Hooray.

Am so happy about ^{HANK}Hank's car. A green Vega Station Wagon. I knew how happy he is to have wheels and hope that he can get the insurance problem worked out. Both Hank and Greg will be moving shortly so by next letter we should have some word on this. Pat told us that Greg had called about Mobile Homes so natch we are curious to know what happened about this. Sounds good as long as it faces into that horrible Boulder wind so that it won't blow away during the first storm.....Thank you Greg for sending the picture. How did you get involved with the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group? How on earth do you find the time? I think it is great.

Ted's friends have not come through yet. Will be glad to have them should they come this way. We still operate a 'Wayside Inn' for weary and hungry travelers and enjoy every minute of it. We still have the electric grinder, Ted, but that is a most necessary Mother type toy. We use it all the time for projects and John just made me large knitting needles from dowels with it. (Remember when you did it for me in St. Louis?) Can't buy double pointed needles in very large sizes so this solves the problem. Sorry but I think that this has to stay home. Put one on your Xmas list and maybe Santa can help out.

All of you are invited to Joanne Patty and John Hilliard's wedding (class mates of Hanks in Concord and old Alderson friends) to be held in Armstrong Redwoods Natl Forest(?) near Guerneville on Sept. 10th. A lovely invitation (quite a departure from the usual engraved one) inviting us "to celebrate this happy occasion with them". We are certainly going and if any of you want to join us ...great.

Lex is back from Spain and had a MAGNIFICENT time. Sister's blood pressure has responded to treatment and has dropped to a new low. Uncle Ernie's condition has not changed, poor fellow. How awful it would be to linger that way.

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We had a very pleasant time with the Wellers at Tahoe the weekend of 8/14 and went up to the Lake again last weekend to visit the Schocks at South Lake Tahoe. They really have made a go of the 7/11 they took over up there. Have doubled the business and have reached the point of needing more help desperately. Employees are hard to find up there. Any one looking for a job?

John and I have both been busy with the Local Environment Improvement Committee and have played bridge with the Booths (They are still millions of points ahead of us.) The time seems to fly by and I guess that our only discouraging news is that we have to find a new dentist. Ours just moved from Vacaville. Damn. we still Pool Sit on Fri. afternoons and are trying to think of something to make for Xmas this year.

Milly and Pat have had no takers for their Mobile Home yet, and are a bit discouraged. Pat is very busy however. A state inspector came through their park and found many violations in hookups etc which have to be corrected. Perfect for Pat.

I know that there is more to talk about but I've run dry at the moment so I'll get these in the mail.

Love to you all and please keep us posted.

Mother, Mom, Me, Betty, Susan.

Hi -

Don't be discouraged about the "morning sickness" it won't last forever. Have you found a M.D.? Hope so.

Thank you for calling. It is always better to hear your voices than to rely on the P.O. (However I'm not keeping that !!)

Have a safe trip + have fun.



06/17/73

RR2 Box 88
Hannan 65041

314/486-5791

Sunday, June 17, I think.

Dear Ones:

We moved in Thursday from 9 till 7; 00 P.M. T8 was a hot day...humid etc. But, oh so beautiful.

Our neighbors (whom we met the next day and who seem to be the wealthiest farmers around and who farm our corn field) had cleaned the house, removed the dead birds and animal terds and general mess of country deserted farmhouse. They had washed the windows inside and out and even got into and cleaned the smoke house. Which is not a smoke house at all but a dandy 'slave quarter ' clapboard house with a wainscoating and brick chimney for the stove that isn't there. These neighbors also mowed everyplace with their tractor. Just the way a farm should look. Weedy.

Since we have been in town we have heard so many conflicting stories about where the property goes that we will have it resurveyed. The latest is that we own a point across the road, several hundred feet up the front of the hill and not quite to the creek in the back. But whatever, it really doesn't matter ' cause it is all so beautiful.

We have had storns ; we eat our meals on one of the three perches; cook on an electric frying pan and pers. We cart our water in old bleach jugs until we can mail samples into the board of health, the washer is next to the toilet in the kitchen and the dryer in our bedroom behind the store. We have ordered the kitchen cabinets, new electricity, a well, a septic tank (after we discovered that everything drains out to the creek) . Next we will find someone to fix the leak around the chimney so we can start painting the upstairs.

We understand that it takes weeks and weeks to get the work done, once one gets an estimate but everyone seems to be most sympathetic toward us because we bought from Mrs. Feil, whose reputation is not the best. But it doesn't matter as long as we can be ~~1/2~~ in reasonable shape by winter. John found some old screens and put them on; we have met the big HUGE black snake in the front yard. I named him Jerome and hope that he doesn't go away..... Last night a cat snuck out of the woods and looked us over. Today it came back and sat about 20 feet away. John said that it must approach us and that we must not coax it. It's a grey and white job, not too old but not a kitten, furry coat and in good shape.

Birds are everywhere. Two Red headed woodpeckers love a post between the house and the barn. We hear quail and what we think are turkey but we haven't seen them yet. Deer...Yes. And the townsfolk playing in the creek today. ✓ Could hear them but couldn't see them.

John just put up a beautiful post box so we will start to get deliveries but we haven't been able to find the newspaper man in his office yet so we don't know what is going on in the world. Will have the T.V. antennae by the end of the week but I am not sure that I want the interference of the boob box.

Our only concern is the lack of phone. I don't know what we can do but we may investigate putting a phone in the car, We haven't hiked our property yet cause we haven't found our boots yet and the grass is high.

It's time to sit on one of the other perches and watch the sun go down. We love it and so far I have only one chigger bite. (I hear a grouse.)

Happy, happy, happy, happy are we.

Love,

Betty

I bought some geraniums yesterday... We are sleeping like babes, John's skin has cleared up and he hasn't snored since we reached this humid country. Ha.

P.S. Your letter was a joy!!!

What does Locke want for his late B. day present?

06/27/73

Wed. June 27, 1973.

Dear Ones:

We are in a moment of great joy. A time to remember. At 2:15 and the well digger is about to drill into the front yard to search for water. He was to come Monday, but you know how these things are.....Next day....We sat outside and watched and it was fascinating. Am sure John pretending that we were drilling for oil and I know that I was just as excited when the clear water suddenly burst forth, as I would have been if it were oil. 4 hours and 210 feet. Such teamwork in changing bits, pulling stems and welding and dropping casing, etc. Water was very close to the surface and when they drilled through a clay layer, volcanoes of bubbling ooze appeared all over the yard and kept spewing all over everything until the drill had gone thru a layer of limestone below. The front looks like the leavings of a quarry this A.M. with a steady stream of water flowing through. Now the plumber comes to cap it and put a pump in the basement etc. When we don't know for everyone works at a slow speed around here.

Our fine neighbors, the Bruens had been going up and down the road all day with their trucks, tractors and combine (cutting hay at one of their distant fields) so they invited us to drive to their property across the river to examine it to see if it was plantable yet. Nope. There are still lakes from seepage during the floods. Am sure that they depend on that rich river bottom land for a lot of their income. They farm everything in sight around here including our corn field and they are the ones who cleaned the house and mowed everything for us before we moved in. She even came over this Tues. with a small mower in her pickup to mow our front lawn. With neighbors like that who can go wrong. On the way home last night they took us to the Concert Hall in town (which is the local farmer saloon) bought us a beer and introduced us to several of the locals who had worked on the place to put in the furnace etc. So we are getting to know the locals as well as the city folk who have retired here or who weekend here. This is what we want to do.

Since we have no phone, people do drop in to see if we are in need of anything. And back to Mrs. Bruens for a minute, you should see her on on of their big tractors , driving down J. She reminds me so much of Gina Higman. Cute, pretty and works like a horse.

We have found a plumber, electrician, T.V. people (all the same family but different sons etc.) We have ordered Kitchen cabinets and appliances but coordinating it all will be a problem. Kitchen will not be in for at least 6 weeks but we are doing fine on our hot plate . We even had the Lones for dinner last Thurs. eve.,.

went into St. Louis last week to The Travelers office and did see the older Bradleys and the Gilheolys. Brad and roommate at Davis , Jim, will arrive this coming Monday to stay two or three days before returning via Boulder and Buena Vista for back packing and fishing. So you can expect them the 5th or 6th in Boulder.

On our way to St. Louis, just about two miles from here, a huge eagle swooped down over the car. Seemed that his wing spread was almost as wide as the road. Then Mon. we saw two in flight at the same place. Tues. at 5:00 when I was struggling with stew at the kitchen sink, I looked up and there was a beautiful young buck standing between the barn and the chicken coops. He stayed for quite a while and then just wandered off. He and a doe were across the street yesterday morn.

We have the biggest groundhog I have ever seen out back so I will have to find my shot gun (or maybe Teds rifle...or does he have that) and do a bit of stalking.....Our cat brought a little lame kitten out of the woods several days after she had approached us. They are both still very wild and mother hides kitten in the drain pipe when there are any unusual noises. Am sure that the condition of the kitten was the reason the cat came to us. Cat was so skinny and was still trying to nurse kitten. This A.M. was the first time kitten took a little from the saucer of milk. We do not want to feed them too much for the will have to remain hunters. We do have animals and since we seem to have lost our beautiful snake, we need something to catch rodents. Sunday we heard a loud gnawing and traced it to under the guest-smoke house. Since we were darned if we were going to crawl in after it, John took a long handled fork type thing and banged the side of the house with it. Whatever the animal was it must have had a bang up headache and we have had no more problems. Our neighbors think that it was probably the groundhog.

The people who run the German Haus Motel invited us to their home Sun. night. It is two miles from town and they spend very little time ther for they must stay at the motel in order to pick

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2.

up the business. Their home is on a bluff and is an old winery. 150 feet long, all stone and arches and a perch the entire length. We sat outside till all hours star gazing and looking for U.F.O.'s which seem to be bugging a town 100 miles away from here. Fun.

Mary Lee and Malcolm brought their grandchildren and a big picnic about 4:00 Sunday. We took the children down and waded in the creek. The first time I had been down. Oh boy, what a creek. Some big perch and catfish. Millions of minnows....crayfish, mostly small tho' there were two very big ones in someones trap which was tied under the bridge. But the biggest surprise of all were the tadpoles. They were six and seven inches long some with fully developed legs. Literally hundreds and hundreds of them. John did not believe until the Gilheolys came out to spend the day Tues. They brought their rubber boat so we all went to the creek and then John believed. No wonder we have no mesquites. And when those tadpoles become bull frogs I'll bet every one in town comes out to catch them for their legs. I'll cook them if John will do the cutting off. I don't think I could face that and then enjoy the meal. Maybe in time I'll become accustom to skinning and cooking but I doubt it. Think we will have to con our neighbors into doing that for us. Ykkkkk.

The Gilheolys were overjoyed with the setup. Have never seen the four kids (two adult and two young) so happy. This is a house to explore and get lost in and with the barn and fields and creek and hill...oh, my it is heaven. Can hardly wait for you all to see it. There are creepy crawly things such as left over reaches which drive me up the wall. But as we continue to exterminate, they will disappear. Have to expect some drawbacks in an old building, I guess.. It is just that I have never had reaches and I CAN'T STAND THEM. I'll take the snakes anytime.

The one builder who we have contacted says that he can't get here for a year. So heaven only knows when we will be settled. However we will concentrate on getting storm sash and proper screens and do what we can ourselves.

Saw the Bradleys on their farm on Sat. I opened my big mouth and told him of John's bad knee which has been twice it's size since we left Calif. and he is going to make arrangements for John to see the best joint man in the city. John did agree that it was time to do something about it so we shall see what developes on this. It has been giving trouble for almost a year and tho' John doesn't complain, he has certainly been in pain and I don't want him to suffer with it any more. Will let you know when we go in to see what has to be done.

The well digging rigs were left here all night and now we have several additional trucks and drivers all having a picnic outside. Seems the biggest rig developed trouble while they were reloading the drills and stems last night. Guess they are waiting for parts and enjoying the countryside while waiting. Life is never dull.....A little farm boy came by this morn to see if we had seen his dog. He just came back on his bike to tell us not to look any more for his dog was dead. Sad.

Well dears this is all for now. Let us know how things are going with Hank's Sawmill business and with Snowbridge. Post cards will do. And by the way, a warning.....When any of you decide to drive out for a visit, do not take any highway J except the one in Gasconade county. We discovered that every county in Mo. has a "J." How confusing can things get?

Love to you all.

Patty.

Happy anniversary today! We will raise a glass to you tonight as we settle on a porch to watch the world go by.

I'm sure I explained my carbon copy system to you but if not - it is the only way I can write to 6 kiddies - & be sure they all get the same news. Think of how boring it would be ^{for me} to write 6 hand written letters all the same. Whew. Anyway - I then add to the bottom (like this)

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if there is something personal to say. And indeed there is! It was nice to have a letter from Barb awaiting us. Maybe since we have no phone so they can't call us, all the boys will learn to write!!!!

We will expect you sometimes in the fall. Will find a baby bed for Beahy. It should be gorgeous here then (it's beautiful now) with the fall color.

The St. L. word is that Beahy is beautiful & your visit was a blessing. We are trying to get the Bradley out here. Frank needs a new interest & they would love this old place. Would give them something to think about.

The Gillelosh brought out the pkg. when they came on Tues. We had missed them at their house (where the pkg. was) when we were in last Thurs. but she had told us it had arrived. - what a beautiful "Parent Day", "Pap's day" & "Happy House" present. Yes - we do love it and it is so beautifully framed. How very thoughtful you both are. We are not quite as rustic as the photograph but there are many such places round & we may be as overgrown if our neighbors stop helping us out. In any event, the picture belongs here and we do love you for sending it.

John's "proud lion" is still beaming at us from the buffet. A splendid Father's Day card & what a "ride" he has.

Love you three & many thanks.

Betty.

08/23/73

14

August 23, 1973.

Dear Ones:

Here we go again and I do apologize for the time in between letters. At least we talked to all of you when the phone came through for us so you know that we are alive and kicking. The other seven parties on the line haven't been giving us too much trouble but then we do not use the instrument very much. But, oh boy, it is great to have. Even tho' we are with United Tele. of Mo. you can still call us collect in times of need or stress. The four party line cable is not too far from us now and we are on the waiting list for that so it may be that we will get it in a couple of months. Two party line ...no hope...and private line .. never. That costs 75¢ per quarter mile from Hermann per month extra. About \$27.00 for us just as a starter.

Weather has been great. Have slept under blankets (downstairs) every night but three this summer. Days can go either way. Humid or resort. We prefer the latter.

Last wrote on the 28th of June (shame on me) and I don't remember the size of the corn then but it is now about 12 feet high and beautiful. Even tho' it is fodder corn (called roasting corn here) we picked some of the new ears when the Reeses were here and it was delicious. If we had a freezer, I would have it brim full with the young ears. At the moment we cannot buy one. Not a freezer in the middle west. Don't know what we will do when our DEAR neighbor slaughters that beef for us. Nor what we will do with the deer we plan to get come the season. We have had summer sausage made from venison and it was the best I have ever tasted besides John loves Venison and we could use some to help the budget. People have fished out the creek and now that frog season is here there is not a frog to be found. Had hoped for some frog legs. Any one with a fishing license may take frogs and one may even shoot them with a 22 or b.b. gun. Plus gigging and hand lines and the usual nets etc.

Great White hunter John now has 3 groundhogs to his credit and one stupid possum that came at two in the morning to finish off the cats food right under our bedroom window. He knocked over everything and made such a racket that he signed his own death warrant. I held the flashlight and the screen door and John couldn't miss at five feet. So the next morning we threw him up on the hill and soon he was gone. The eagles were around that day but most anything could have taken it away. Same thing happens to the Groundhogs. The deer is still around but not inbetween us and the barn since men (boys) have started to work on the house. However his tracks are all over the garden mostly in the Brussel Sprouts which were planted too late to mature anyway. So .. about the garden. Around the end of July, Mr. Vidro drove in on his tractor and told us he had come to dig us a garden. AND HE DID. The following Sat. morn at 7:00 A.M. we were awakened by the sound of voices and there was his wife Lorene out there planting. She saw me at the door and said "PLANT". So I did after breakfast and a quick trip to town for some seeds. All the goodies she had told me to get were gone (obviously sold to those in the know) so I planted turnips and radishes and lettuce and the above mentioned B.S. and a few watermelon seeds from dinner the night before, in neat little rows and then started to tease Lorene saying that my turnips would be bigger than hers. HA. She broadcast her seeds and they are five times the size of mine at the moment and the deer doesn't even sniff at hers. Anyone for Turnip greens?

The first plantings from the neighbors house gardens started coming in in July and never have I seen so much produce. On our front porch. Barrels and buckets of cucumbers. Thousands of zucchini and baskets of tomatoes. Lorene came at five the eve of the first box of cucumbers. Now you understand that 5:00 here is the cocktail hour. No way, she had come to show me how to grate pickles for Bread and Butter things. She left and I unpacked boxes of books to find a cook book and was at it till 11:00 that night. On a two burner hot plate and carting the water no less. Well I ended up with 6½ jars (QTS) of the most delicious Bread and Butter pickles one has ever tasted. After three weeks we have ½ a jar left. John and I tasted the ½ jar left over from the canning and liked them so much we just keep eating. This system will never get me a stocked cellar for winter till it? We did give a jar to Lorene and she called for the receipt so I hope she thinks I have something going for me. The first and only crock of dills that I put up was thrown away., and one quart of tomatoes that I canned went down the drain.

To read - place on sheet of white paper.

08/23/73 - Page 2

2.

Spelled. And as I am sure you all know....it is impossible to have a failure when canning tomatoes. They are acid and do beautifully. HA. The sad thing is that next year when we are all set up and settled in no one will bring us goodies 'cause we will be expected to grow our own. Ky kosher pickles look fine but right now neither John nor I ever want to see a succini, tomato, cucumber nor pepper ever again. And I have two bushels of cuc. in on the kitchen floor. On the other side of the coin, we haven't bought a vege. except lettuce since early July. Prices here in the markets are just as high as anyplace else. Bacon now \$2.03 a lb. etc.

Wish I could describe the locals to you. I should have a tape recorder to tape as things happen for everything is unbelievable. Our property was known to everyone for miles around so ~~literally~~ literally everyone has stopped in. People from Stolpe (a town up the way a piece) all the farmers; the townsfolk from the Chairman of the bank to the sewer dredger; and all have a story to tell about the old FEIL STORE and the family who developed it. We have discovered

(The paper keeps tearing)

that the so called smoke house was built for Mrs. Gebler's father back when this was Gabler, MO. and the first P.O. long before the Feils. That the Feils lived in a little log house near J and 100 and bought from the gablers. That most everyone in and around Hermann are kin whether distant or otherwise and that there is a definite strain of Leukemia in some families. More on the people situation when you all are here.

Next day.

Minor and Major Problems: Ordered curtains (white country types) in June. Just heard this week that I would have to re order in another month. There have been delays upon delays, so I said no thanks. We will see what we can find when we go to St. L. tomorrow to the football game with the Whites. We will spend tomorrow night with Janet and Bill, have lunch on Sunday with Hoppy and her family and return Sun. aft. late. Don't know who the Cards will be playing 'cause the newspapers are on strike but it will be great to see a game again.

The T.V. antennae has been on the roof since June but still no plug in the cellar to plug in the booster so Bad reception on that. So we sit on one of the perches and look at the stars at night.

The washer works and I hang out on the patio. The dryer hasn't been hooked up yet. There is a satisfaction in seeing the laundry flep on the line but I'll be glad to get 220 to that dryer someday. Now, mind you, the electricians have been here many times but they just never seem to get around to finishing the work. We do have heavy service coming into the house now and I have my new stove sitting on the floor of the kitchen so I can now cook with a little more variety. Get some needed exercise too for the stove is a built in type and since we have nothing to build it into yet, it is way down there on the floor so I have to bend over to use it. The refrig is now connected and sits, sort of in the middle of the kitchen. At least I don't have to walk to the shed to get the feed anymore. And while we are on the kitchen....the man who was to have all the cabinets ready for us by the end of Aug. just told us that it would be Nov. so again we said no thanks and went to Washington on Wed. and ordered from another cabinet maker.

Early in July we found a contractor. The same man who is restoring the Bradley farm. He is a restoration expert but said he would take us on. His men have been here almost everyday and they have been digging the rock ledge away from the shed side of the store. Ferns are up and today they will pour concrete all along that wall to waterproof it. The point of all this is that we will use the back part of the shed for our Bath (door out to the patio and door into our bedroom which is now the room behind the store, and shall always be). The old stone wall will now be our bathroom wall. Beautiful. They will raise the floor to bedroom floor height and then move the bathroom from the kitchen. New fixtures, natch. Then we can get the kitchen in. They will insulate the upstairs and knock out the wall between the two front parlors and build a fireplace on the outside wall so the parlors will be one big room. After they fix and reline the old chimney in the hall, John and I can start fixing up the upstairs. It will be rocking chair-quilt-braided rug-country farm house.

The roof and storn sash man (who will also paint the outside trim and replace the gutters) will be here soon. He seems to be the only one working on schedule. Perhaps because he is a neighbor.

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3.

Marvin will bring us many loads of gravel from the creek so that we will have more driveway and less lawn. Now about the well. When I last wrote in June the well digger was here. At 220 feet we struck water. A beautiful artesian well; 30 gal. a minute, a second, or something. Anyway we had a tremendous overflow. It drained into the cornfield until the plumbers could get here and pipe the overflow to the sewer pipe from the house in the back. The well is in the front. Fine, except they didn't have a check valve so our well rapidly became contaminated. AND STILL IS. So we cart water. They came back early this week to cut the pipe and put gallons of bleach (chlorine) down the well under pressure and then cut the pipe and put a faucet thing on so that if the check valve failed, sewerage would ooze out elsewhere and not into the well. That was fine except the next day the hole which we still have around the front was full of water. They had failed to tighten the joints in the new pipes. They were supposed to come today to install the septic tank but, so far, no show. So that is the saga of the well. We do use the well water for everything but cooking and drinking and a bath in that chlorine really burns.

The reason behind all the troubles is lack of workman and too many jobs to be done. This area would be a gold mine for architects and builders. Everyone told us it would be a year before we would be settled and we now BELIEVE. The plumber and electrician are not connected with the contractor. We had hired them before we found him. However since they are the only ones in Hermann he may have to use them on some of his jobs instead of bringing in services from a hington which is his home spot.

Now for the fun.... Brad and Jim arrived here on July second and spent two nights. Wish they could have stayed longer but they were here long enough to watch the men dig into the cellar to connect up the above mentioned well. July was busy with many trips into the city for DR. app'ts and xrays on Johns knees. This was also People visiting month when all the farmers etc. arrived to say "Howdy". John should have an operation on his knee but since it isn't hurting at the moment and since they won't do the job until he sees a cardiologist, he probably won't have it done....Pat, Nelly and the children were out for overnight on his B. Day in July and he started digging around and exposed an apron in front of what will be the garage. Found old bottles etc. John spent so much of the month clearing the weeds and came up with some side walk and many stepping stone paths which we did not know were here. Also found some old rusty tools and insulators. So we are getting quite a collection of whatever one would like to call them. Marvin mowed clear back to the creek for us one day so that we could hike around more comfortably, and Lorene brings us pies whenever she bakes. Can't kick about neighbors like that....Mary Lee and Malcolm have brought picnic dinners over twice. We hope that they will come for Labor Day weekend...The Beeses were here Aug. 7-10 so I was not able to attend the services for Frank. John said that the church was packed and since it was a Memorial Service not funeral, the Chancellor of W. U. spoke as well as others....The Gilheoly's spent part of Nellys vacation here from 8/14 to 8/16 and that day Teds roommate from C.U. arrived to spend the weekend. Jill Nilsen and brother and baby spent Sunday with us and that was a bit exhausting because that child is under no control whatsoever. ..We did enjoy having them all however and maybe this gives you some idea of why it has been so long between letters.

We are delighted that Hank has decided to go back to school this fall. Ted and Greg are finding more outlets for Snowbridge packs. Tell everyone to BUY SNOWBRIDGE. L. and B. are thriving and L. likes his new job. Becky has really grown. We have new snapshots and she is adorable. Poor Brad ran into some expensive repairs on his bus but sounded cheerful when he called last week....Kitten is almost as big as cat. Wish I had recorded the growth and development of Kitten. The most amazing experience watching a wild cat teach her young one to hunt, kill and all the other things that are necessary to know when not domesticated. A fascinating adventure for us.

In clearing John found an asparagus patch and grapes. Oh boy!! Next spring...yummy. Had my hair cut as short for a gal as John's is for a Man. I can step in the shower and just shake my head when I get out. I should say that I had it styled not cut. I think it is great but John can't stand it so I'll let it grow again but only until the next hot summer.

We have a wonderful primitive hooked rug which Lorene made and was about to burn. I saved it so she gave it to me. They probably think we are as poor as church mice(which we will be when we finish this place). AND on wed. we purchased our first quilt. Small patches of bright colors on white with a bright green edging. Beautiful.

The men are now pouring cement....Marvin is here with his tractor and bushhog to mow out beyond the barn so it is time for me to quit. Hope you can wade through all this.

Much love to you all.

Mother, Betty and Susan.

10/01/73

17

Oh Happy Turkey Day!

Oct. 1, 1973.

Well, dears;

'Tis time for another chapter in that tear jerking drama of our lives in Bernam. Can't think of a couple of good titles but the usage of such words would corrupt your fine clean upstanding minds, so I'll leave this episode untitled.

The septic tank was relocated and connected on my B. day so they finally came last Fri. (one month later) to put in the pump. (The thing that stirs up the contents so that the flow from tank through laterals will be as pure as the driven snow). Since then we have had the most God awful stink floating around the back yard.....after another dose of chlorine, under pressure, into the well, the water is worse than before and this time green slimy stuff exploded out of the well. The overflow that is piped away is so fresh looking and clear that it is hard to believe that it is harboring lots of wiggly badies.The gutter has been off the edge of the roof where the boys have been working(?) on the retaining wall thus the cistern has not been getting the rainfall and thus the cistern is now stagnant.....The retaining wall was finished and filled in on Fri. so it rained Sat. and the wall leaked like a sieve. The electricians returned last week so we do have lights in the store part of the house now but the work is not complete and Lord only knows when they will return. The T.V. is absolutely rotten so we refuse to pay the bill until the antennae is changed. That was installed in June. The furnace is hooked up and works and we now have a huge tank in the back to carry fuel for some but the co. has not shown up to fill the tank. Oh Joy.....John and I counted the things that had been accomplished as we sat with a scotch last night and after three and 1/2 months we came up with one big ZERO. Naturally labor and some equipment has been paid for so we are some thousands of dollars poorer with nothing to show for it. We awaken every morning thinking that this will be the day when all will be served. HA. So this A.M. John took off for town and I imagine that the fur is flying. The contractor, the electrician, plumber, roof and gutter man etc. etc will probably all arrive on Thursday to start correcting their mistakes and guess what!!! We won't be here, so they will pass the time of day with each other or make some more goofs.

Thursday, Sister arrives from N.Y.C. for the weekend. Guess she couldn't stand not seeing our dream farm in it's present condition and since she has several vacation days left she will stay till Monday night. We are delighted. Our living condition has not stopped us from having folk here. We just tell them that they are fortunate to see the "before" and that they will have to visit again when we reach the "after" stage. Mary Lee and Malcolm were here labor day weekend and Harriet and Tom (John's oldest brother and wife) were here the weekend of the 21st. Our two extra beds are comfortable and the bathroom upstairs works so why not. It is really quite easy to have people for dinner because there is no possible way that I can FUSS about it. Paper plates a few candles and we have it made. I'm doing well cooking on the cabinet stove which is sitting way down there on the floor. Keeps my waist line limber leaning over to stir a pot or find a spice.

Two couples came out Sat. from St. L. to take a look. Old school chums of mine and their husbands and we had a wonderful time. we laughed for 6 hours because of our unbelievable living conditions.

The groundhogs are now wise and sneak around where we can't get a good shot at them.... we have a new black snake in the barn who is happily eating rodents. Good. The garden is producing so much lettuce and so many beans and just wait till those turnips come in. I know that you all love turnips!!! Will wait till after first frost to pull them and will then make Turnip Kraut under the watchful eye of Lorene. Believe it or not, that stuff is delicious....The trees are just beginning to turn. The countryside should be beautiful shortly...The cats are fine and fat and getting furrrier every day. They didn't come back to us for two days after we went for our football weekend. Guess they didn't like the food we had put out for them. The football game was great. We licked the pants off Miss. Colorado beware....Our phone has been out since Sat. Guess everytime it rains the phones give up. This time we can receive calls but cannot call out....last week we bought the largest, most tremendous wardrobe that I have ever seen. Fortunately our bedroom will be big enough to handle it. we will start refinishing it as soon as the rain stops so that we can work outside to strip it. Had to have it delivered in a dump truck. It was too big for a pickup and won't come apart. That will be one closet. have done some antiquing but haven't found beds yet. we are collecting old hooks and pegs. Bought an unusual hook arrangement at the opening of a new shop in town yesterday and Marvin has given us permission to rip a board with pegs off the wall of an 1830 french trapdoor house which will soon end

2.

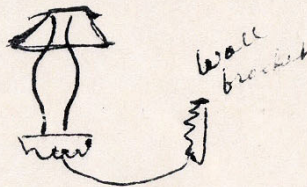
up under his new lake. (The house not the pegs.) The pegs will end up in one of our upstairs bedrooms or in the bath.

There was a hatch of dragon flies the other night and the sky was immediately black with swallows and bats. Amazing....Dove season is on and we are getting a taste of what deer season will be like. Can't find NO hunting signs in Hermann (no surprise for there is not much shopping here) so we will have to get some in St. L. we do not want people shooting all over the property...Found a beautifully formed and marked butterfly in the driveway the other day. Wondered why he didn't fly away. Picked him up and attached to his body was a small green striped caterpillar. Next day the green creature was gone but not before he had eaten the Moth's body and head except for the bone like structure of the Moth's head. I thought that caterpillars only ate vegetation. Can anyone explain?

John has joined the Lions Club which is not only THE service club to belong to here but which gives wonderful dinners for the wives all summer at members fishing camps on the Gasconade and other fascinating places. we have joined Historic Hermann and the Brush and Palette Club both of which do good things and restore houses etc.

A letter from L. and B. this A.M. brought the great news that they would be here for Thanksgiving. L has a business trip around that time so they will fit this in. Hooray.

And speaking of holidays, Xmas is the one after the Day of Thanks. Since shopping is necessary to make kiddies happy, Santa and Mrs. Claus need ideas right away. So please think and let us know. NOW. DO IT TODAY. and if anyone would like to know what we want.... we will need some kerosene lamps. Ceiling, table, wall bracket....anykind. Old or new. will be nice to have something to read by when the ice storms come and by that time we may have a fireplace and a wood burning stove in the store for warmth. I really need a great big sewing machine so that I can make quilts but John and I will solve that.



Can't draw these old Victorian types

Next chapter to be published in the not too distant future. Love you.

Betty

This carbon on this paper does not work. - Sorry. Anyway - we are happy as clams about your visit - Yippee. Bring warm things for Becky (& her mother needs sweaters & coats). It could be beautiful Indian Summer or it could be nasty winter but we will keep you cozy warm.

Let me know what Becky needs - equipment & food & we'll borrow beg & steal. Crib naturally & blankets but what else?
= Goodby =

Love, Betty

hobby can borrow from John & you from

03/05/74

March 5, 1974.

Dear Ones;

It's about time for one of these however I am sure that it will sound like the same old record being played over and over again. At least I know what date it is...by late Xmas present from John was a Lady's electric Timex with a big readable date on it and a large face. Nifty.

It has been springish for a week now and we are so anxious to get started outside. We had thought that we would be all ready for planting and garden and painting outside by this time but I guess we will be tied up inside for a long long time. We will take time to plant but it is too bad that we are so far behind with the house.... We get back into the living room 10 days ago after living in our bedroom and the kitchen since the 10th of Jan. That was a mess for we couldn't find a thing and had furniture all over the store and bedroom. The plasterer did a fine job of the ceilings in the living room, dining room and upstairs hall. Also the badly damaged walls.... We have painted the double bedroom upstairs, the up hall and bath except for the woodwork and the living room walls. Two coats were planned but since the old plaster and paint kept peeling, in spots I'm sure we have four. We primed the walls and rolled the paint on and off came the primer and the old paint and the new making one heck of a mess on the roller.

As most of you know on 2/8 our contractors best carpenter quit. There had been so many goofs and delays that he said that he couldn't work for Crosby any more. The next day we fired Crosby. A week later we got Larry back (the carpenter) and he is finishing the job alone. Crosby is no doubt one of the best restorers in the state but he is not a contractor. What an expense ~~it~~ it was to hire him. He was a theiving, lying, goofing, cheat. So there.

Eugenie Mische

John wants to carpet the downstairs so we will probably go that route. It will help to insulate and we won't have to go through the mess of having all the floors sanded and stained. We really can't go through another mess at this time. I mopped every floor in this house six times to try to get up the dust from the plastering and the thought of moving the furniture out again is too exhausting. When Larry has finished we will find carpeting and light fixtures and maybe wall paper for the hall and that and painting will be it.

We had multiple drainage problems when the thaws set in. Had to dig a new line to the creek to drain the well and lateral field from the septic tank. However the good honest Mr. Granneman picked up half the tab on this. Bless him.

On the good side, the kitchen is now in. Shall not clean the cupboards nor unpack anymore until the bathroom is torn out which should be the end of this week. HOORAY. Our new bath will be connected up tomorrow. ANOTHER HOORAY.

Have fence posts but can't get barbed wire to repair the fence lines. Many things are in short supply at this time. We are still looking for someone to help us clear the trees from the fences but no luck yet. Maybe Marvin will be able to find someone for he does want the pasture for cattle.

We have registered to vote and have taken our drivers tests. Now we must get to the taxes and catch up on all the paper work that has been accumulating while we couldn't get to the desk.....Had a marvelous time with the Booths here. We needed the break and love them so much that it was a joy to have them here. Wish they could have stayed longer. They were traveling Amtrac and had to ride about 10 hours out of their way to see us. Had lots of bridge and the ground was dry enough to do lots of exploring. It was great.

The town is already planning for the Maifest (3rd week in May) and it looks like John and I will be actively involved. He, serving at the Lion's Club Beer garden and I, at the Chamber of Commerce Flea Market and the Brush and Pallet Club Walking & Tour. I may be a hostess at one of the houses which will be opened too. Will have to make myself a costume and I think sunbonnets are in order too. It's a big festival and people come from all over the midwest. Why don't you all come too. Last year Lorene's church served 5000 meals and that is only one of five organizations serving food. Guess the tour of the restored houses is the biggest drawing card for they are beautiful.

Spent John's B. Day and weekend at Mary Lee and Malcolm. Went to the theatre and played bridge. Fun.

Love you all.

05/??/74

Mother's Day 1974.

Dear Everyone:

About time for one of these...isn't it? Thanks to Bell Tele. I've been able to catch most of you from time to time but I do apologise for not getting out the typewriter sooner.

We had a marvelous time with the Booths. Wish they could have stayed longer for there is much to do in the area that we wanted to show them. Besides we like to be with them and do miss them very much.

We had two snows in March and several serious freezes which managed to kill all the early bulbs (daffs and croci) and ruined veg. gardens which had been planted in Feb. Wasn't I smart not to have the time to start planting until after John got home from the hospital. The fruit trees on the hill were all nipped so there will be no crop this year. No lilacs either. Darn. But the wild flowers were beautiful. Five varieties of violets, spring beauties, vetch and wild phlox etc. Lovely. Between the snows the weather was warm and spring like and I love it. We are now surrounded with Iris. All kinds from the usual Japanese and Dutch to a lovely white orchid one to Siberian which is a deep flimsy purple one that grows in a big clump by the gas tank. This week was a busy one out side for the bull dozer finally came to contour the place for proper drainage. We are now pretty bare (including the honeysuckle part of the hill) but 10 lbs of perennial rye and 100 lbs of fertilizer will take care of that, I hope 'cause if the job is any bigger I'll be too tired to spread any more. The weeds were high when we got back from St. Louis so, I have spent the better part of these two weeks pulling and digging and getting part of the veg. planted. Haven't started on flowers yet but shall AFTER the rest of the veg. are in. None of the seeds that I started in the basement thrived and the Mushroom farm which I gave to John for his B. Day is a flop. ...The corn field was planted just as the bull dozer left. Marvin had been waiting for the drainage had to go to the creek. Marvin fixed a lot of the fences but had to give up for lack of barbed wire. So he will not be able to run cattle here this year. Damn. The young farmer far across the hill pasture repaired the fence up there because of his cattle so that side of the property is done.

Construction is finished except for the two windows in the store. We will try to find old ones to put in. Painting is slow. The gutter boys will be able to give us more time after school is out but the outside is shaping up. The inside will have to wait for rainy days now for there is too much to do outside and the weather is too yummy to wáild a brush in here. We have bought another wardrobe, two washstands and a funny little crooked table, and are about to order a big braided rug for the dining room. What we need now is a strong back to help me move the furniture around. Wait till you see the quilts for the twin beds up stairs. Tiny little patches in bright colors made by the same women who made the one on our bed. Crazy and wonderful. The only thing to go wrong of late is a bad stain on the new living room ceiling from the radiators upstairs. Ugly.....Our light fixtures are here. We ordered some months ago and have found a beauty at the local antique store for the dining room. We are all set to have them installed as soon as Maifest is over. Need only one more and that, for the back hall. We can collect lamps at our leisure.

Our drivers licenses finally came so now we are legal.....Several weeks ago the Lions Club had a turkey shoot. John had to sell a big target card full of chances so we paid for all of them and put your names on the back. Two chances for all of you including the grandchildren. How we would have gotten the turkey to the winner we do not have to think about because I won. So we have the most expensive turkey we have ever purchased sitting in the freezer with the side of beef which we bought from Marvin.

Shortly after the Booths left, we went into St. Louis to a party at Dot Rumseys. Had a splendid ride in Mothers packard. Runs like a dream. And the same weekend we stayed overnight at the Dick Bradleys and young Chris pharced my ears. Yippee. So now I have little gold mushrooms in my ears. Appropriate, don't you think?

On March 26 Kitten was suddenly very thin. On March 27. the same thing happened to cat. But where were the kittens? Well on the 27 of April at night we saw four little ones in the drain off the back terrace. Cat had brought hers in. Four little fuzzys, 2 striped, 1 pure black with blue eyes and one black with a white face and black nose. We assume that kitten never took care of hers or that they didn't live for that was a stormy snowy time. Cat kept them in a box nest we put out for her for only one night and then took them down to the wood pile in the middle of the back yard. The night before the bull dozer came I told Cat that she had better bring them up again and she brought the two striped ones, and left the two others behind.

07/05/74

July 5, 1974.

Well, dears, 'tis time (overtime) for one of these. However I do believe that I'm ahead of you all in the letter writing department. My last was just after Mothers Day so I do have a lot to report on.

First... we are fine. Happy, healthy and, I think a little less frustrated that the last time I wrote. The Carpenter has not been back even tho' he left his record book and saw horses etc. He took the old window which we had found, to go in the store, to work on it in his shop and that was the last we have seen. However we have a 'just out of the army' painter and three school teachers who are doing the outside in between fishing trips etc. Anyway the gutters are done and the place is perking up with a coat of white on all the porches. Still have to have them do the decks and that will be a problem now that we have 10 cats. Kitten had 5 on June 11 in a box on the kitchen porch. They are just beginning to peek out of their home and walk around a bit on their shaky little legs. They join 3 of Gat's litter, who are now pretty big. We still hope that Marvin will take the two females. He doesn't want the Black male. We are also the displeased owners of two (or more...saw two last night) possums so the gun is out and ready for tonight. The cats don't seem to mind them but we don't want them right outside our bedroom window every night. They are ratty looking things close up, and make such a racket 'cause they knock everything over.

Our driveway looks as tho' someone cares too. Gravel out to the barn between the corn field and the garage and a bigger parking area in front and a big turn around in the back. It's creek gravel and there are some beautiful fossil stones in it. Brian found a treasure when they came to visit after their return from Hawaii.

Our garden is waist high with weeds but we are getting lots of goodies from it. Snow peas, peas, string beans, corn almost ready, lettuce, limas, radishes, cucumbers, succini with tomatoes and peppers almost in. We can't find the okra. It's buried and I really don't know what it looks like when it is growing. For all I know I could pull it out and leave in the weeds. I just wanted it for pickles..small new pods only...so it doesn't matter. Guess I told you that John had to move the asparagus bed after the bull dozer was here to redrain the back. Well we still have asparagus growing up in the driveway so I guess we missed a root or two.

Found a neighbor boy to mow for us so once a week we look slick. With all the earth moving this spring we did not get in any flowers so in the fall I'll broadcast wildflower seeds on the hill. Pretty.

Maifest was a success and John and I enjoyed our volunteer duties. The House Tour committee opened seven houses Sun. before last, for free, for all the Hermannites and those who had worked at Maifest so we drove in and saw seven. This is the first time this has been done and it was a good thing to do. We have been playing bridge with the Harrisons and we put the bug in his ear. He's chairman of the committee. The townsfolk and surrounding farmers seemed to appreciate the tour. We took Lorene and Marvin and they loved it.

On the sixth of June, we went in to the Harrisons for an early game of bridge. It was a miserable day so we were invited at 3:30 and for supper. They live in a beautiful old house on a bluff overlooking the river with lovely boxwood gardens and a forty mile view in all directions. This was our first time there for bridge and we had a great time. Thunderstorms, cloudbursts etc but we really were not aware of how much rain was falling. Left at 11:15 between storms. The water was really rolling down the hill as we drove the 2 miles to town and there all the gutters were overflowing. Turned on 100 and just as we approached the High School we hit water again. John was the first to rell realize that this was not just runoff and slammed the car in reverse to back up. Engine died...tailpipe was under water and my shoes were getting wet. All in one instant. We were surrounded with water. Then we noticed that the car coming toward us lost it's lights. We 'Howdyed' the driver who replied that he was fine and the next thing we saw was his car being swept across the road and into the ditch. He flew out the passenger side just before his car disappeared from sight. By that time we were sitting on a very wet seat. Meanwhile I had yelled to the men in Brachts Machine shop just behind us on our side of the road and they said they would call for a tow truck and to sit tight and they would get a boat. The town sirens went off, lights went on all over the town and a young man went by to rescue the other driver. Evidently that was a problem 'cause

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even tho' the current was really going by carrying limbs etc by this time, he didn't want to leave his car. Don't know how he could have hung on another minute. The boat dropped him on the high side and came for us. I was just about to head for the roof but went out the window with John following just as the water reached the top of the window sills. We could have floated out. I sprawed over the stern and John fell into the bow and before we knew it we were at the door of the Machine shop. By this time the rescue squad had arrived, with boat behind the fire and emergency trucks and bright bright headlights and spots. They had to park 3/4 of a block behind us but it was nice to have great big friendly men walk us up the side of the road and help us over the flooded ditch. We were sopping wet from the neck down, but in spite of that a man put us in his pickup and drove us to the Grannemans Motel. His truck must have been a sight for we were also covered with mud and sand. We turned around before being driven away and all we could see of the car was the back window. J. and I were still as cheerful as could be and I even suggested that we go to SHARP Corner for a drink (one of the local pubs) for I knew that I would need one but John didn't hear me. He regretted that at about 1:00 when, after a hot shower, the shock set in and we couldn't sleep. We were able to call Marvin and he and Lorene picked us up at the Granneman restaurant the next morn at 7:00. Had breakfast in our still wet clothes and of course everyone in town knew about it. Never had so many people come up to greet us. We were instant celebrities. The tow truck waited until 3 in the A.M. before he could get the two cars out. Both had been taken to the Chevrolet place and there we saw our poor little 4 wheeled friend. Inside, mud up to the ceiling, engine full of weeds and sand everywhere. Lorene and I dug through the water in the bottom of the back and were able to retrieve the reels and rods and tackle boxes but J. and I didn't get the rest of the stuff out for several days. It took us two days just to clean up the reels... On our way home we were able to figure out the why of all of this. The good old Army Corps of Engineers had built a little bridge over the creek with two small culvert pipes underneath when the new High School was built not too many years. It was under their authority because Ryne Creek dumps into the Mo. River at the other end of town. Every time there is a flood down the creek trees and branches get stuck there and the road gets flooded. That evening out our way there had been over three inches of rain in a couple of hours and we drove by just when the flash flood hit the plugged up bridge. NEVER TRY TO PASS THE SCHOOL AFTER A RAIN. HOLE UP IN A MOTEL AND WE'LL FOOT THE BILL. Many towns folk have been caught there and some have been swept down creek. Visitors came Fri. eve, Sat, and Sun., all bringing small gifts such as onions from gardens etc. just to let us know that they were glad that we ~~we~~ were all right. Bare acquaintances offered the use of their cars 'till we could get a replacement. There is no question but that Hermann has taken us into it's heart and we are very grateful for the many kindnesses. Of course there is much teasing too, but as John said, they don't tease outsiders. The drug store man handed me a Marine First Aid Kit when I went in to replace the one that was lost. I surprised him and told him that I thought it might be a good idea and bought it. Etc.

That Fri. morn driving home all the country roads showed signs of flooding. The culvert flooded at the OLD IHON ROAD and a huge truck had been swept off the road. The fields across the creek here were flattened and the corn lying in mud but all was well on our side. No damage. The corn has recovered now..... Haven't had a proper rain since and except for three humid days, the weather has been unbelievable. Cool, blankets at night etc. Amazing.

The dealer in town found us another Chevella Station Wagon down in Mid Mo. someplace so we have a new car. It's a dark brick reddish bronze...stunning....drives like a dream ...and we love it. The old one only had 25,000 miles on it so we hadn't really expected to give it up so soon. It was totaled but I think the Insurance co. did alright by us. They gave us better than Blue Book Value for the old one, and then sold that for salvage.

John painted my closet for me. We have paintings up on walls, not that the walls are finished but we got tired of not having the things we like around us. Saw JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL and recommend it heartily. First Ladies night for the summer was last tuesday (Lions Club) at the Fricke's Club House. Beautiful Bar.B. Que set up. They can do 64 steark at one time. Had a good time. Have played more bridge and we have painted twelve sections of the fence. Looks great. Went to St. Louis Sun. night. Stayed at the Bradleys for two nights and shopped for house goodies. Found the wall paper for the hall. A gold ticking (Just like pillow ticking only for walls.) Found rug for the dining room (oval) with matching carpet for the living room. Schumaker no less. Didn't know that they had carpeting, but evidently they have gone into the braided, hand loomed rug business and, of course, their things are too expensive. Ah well, it's only money. Don't know what delivery date we will get but we are excited. Will be in Jeff. City with the Epsteins this coming weekend 7/12 and 7/13. Oh, also bought floor and woodwork paint. You'll love the rugs. Aren't you sorry that I don't have the room to tell you the colors?

Love to you all and H. Birthday to Hank.

Betty.

07/11/74

July 11, 1974.

Dear Ones:

It does take me a long time to finish letters doesn't it?

We want you to know that we are holding open reservations for two adults and one child for anytime after Oct. 24th. This way you may be assured that your old room will be waiting for you no matter the time of arrival.....Nor the day of arrival. Rachel will be available anytime, as will we, so why don't you plan your visit with those in Union first, then just let us know sometime in Oct. when to expect you. Yippee.

We are very proud of what you both have done and are doing in the Church. Congratulations to Locke and hooray for Barb and choirs. It's fun(choir) ; Locke's new duties are solid responsibility. God bless you both.

Sorry you mentioned the swimming party! These last few days have been horrors. And we are up on ladders painting around the ceilings and windows. The results are so spectacular that it has been worth ruining the hair do'(sweat). Think I'll take John for a swim-fish in the old swimming hole tomorrow.

Gilhooly's were here on Tues. We all went up to the pond on the hill in the THING and there are fish in the pond up there. Frogs , I can understand, but fish? Eggs carried by birds or deer claws and hooves I guess. Amazing.

Excellent house colors. Love yellow and white. Glad you , at least, can get painters. Our outside boys haven't shown for two weeks.....Don't change the planting around the house or we won't recognize it.

Poor Brad has had the Valley Virus. We are grateful that he is a W.A.S.P. It can kill (and does) Orientals, Blacks and Mexicans. Any future Xray's will look like those of a T.B.patient but he is fine and will now be completely immune to the disease.

Hank and his house mates had a party last Sunday and he fell and sprained his ankle. Went down to Boulder to get xrays. Can't drive and his school work is up at the mountain estate and this is the last week of classes. He hopes his Profs will understand. Other than that his grades are of the best as always. So are Pats. He is sailing along.

Hope Greg will have a sales trip to St. Louis some day. Except for a few Bike Bags they consider it out of their area. Hope things are going well for them.

Hope you saw Cindy et al. I like that little family. Those two are doing a good job under difficult circumstances.

Let us know in advance Beck'y needs . We will beg borrow and steal. There is no point in you bringing millions of things to weight you down.

Love you all.



WHEW!

10/01/74

October 1, 1974.

Happy Rabbit Day everyone:

Tony, the carpet layer, has just finished those five steps and the hall looks great. No troubles. The new carpeting matches that which was laid just before we left. Tis hard to believe that something has been properly done. WOW.

John is painting the woodwork in the living room and boy, what a difference that makes. We found some stuff that one puts on old varnished or shellaced surfaces and then can paint over it after $\frac{1}{2}$ hour and the paint will stick and not craze. A great time saver for without this new product we would have to strip the old stuff off (as in refinishing furniture).

we had a good trip home. Saw Ted and Hank again in Boulder. Greg was still selling in Ca. so we missed him. Snowbridge has really grown since we were last there and Hank has a nifty apt. in an old house on a nice street with trees etc. He had everything set up and arranged most conveniently and seemed most happy about his new arrangement. His courses sound pretty heavy to me but he is happy about them. He has room to gather possessions that others have been storing for him so I think he's going to have a good year.

Snowbridge hopes to be able to move into new and larger quarters. They were really humming. Sewing machines stitching like mad, cutting machine cutting, grommet machine being grommeted or whatever one calls it, shelves stacked high with neatly packaged packs. It was a very happy stop for us.

Arrived home to find evertthing in pretty good order. A couple of leaks on the new ceiling in the upstairs hall and a non working furnace $\frac{1}{2}$ p. When we went to get our mail at the P.O. the furnace man was in that parking lot so he whizzed right out and discovered a burned out transformer. That week was spent calling all the men who had been working here before we left to tell them we were home and to call when they could come back to start again. It was the following weekend when Marvin and Lorene came rushing down to see if we were O.K. that we discovered our phone was not working properly. We could call out but no one could get back to us. The Bradleys had tried for three nights and finally alerted Marvin. Seems that we must have had trouble with lightning while we were gone...thus the furnace trouble and the phone. Thank goodness no other motors were blown. Meanwhile without the phone we missed an incoming call from the Higmans who were going to visit on their way to Fla. where they left for Colombia to pick up their boat. A great disappointment for they will be sailing for a year or more. Don't know how many other calls we missed. The Walkers were due here sometime after 9/15 so I guess we missed them too.

Our living room rug was delivered several days after we were back. Damaged in transit and unbound. So it is still rolled up in the hall. The Co. will send us binding and we will have to find someone to do the job. DAMN. The dining room matching rug(oval not rectangular) is lost. Oh unhappy day. That is the one which was delivered while we were away...or rather the one they tried to deliver...They took it back, stored it somewhere, and can't find it. When they asked the value of the rug they nearly flipped, so we are sure that they are searching like mad.

On the good side.....Two of the cats are back. Cat and Stripe. Kitten and her little Blackie and Blackie are still gone. Lorene fed them while we were gone. For all we know maybe Cat decided it was time for all of them to go off on their own and chased them away. They were having a few family fights after Kitten had her litter. 1

John and I have started seeing wonderful Dr. Hunter. Never thought I would be glad to be going to a dentist but we are as happy as clams. Made our appointments months ago when we discovered that the dentist in town was not taking new patients so here we are happily driving into St. Louis to be drilled and polished. He asked about Hank immediately and it was sort of like old times. While in the city last week, we drove down to a plumbing supply house and walked out with a splendid shower rod. John installed it on Thursday and you have no idea how great it is to take a shower again. The local plumber has had it on order for over a year. HA. Guess we sure pulled one on him. John is not going to tell him that we just waltzed in picked one up. Wait till he gets the bill. We probably should have done this for all our equipment. Next we will do the same for the kitchen hood. The one which was installed doesn't work and they tell us they can't get parts. It has been in less than 6 months. Then we can do it for the T.V. antennae which has never worked. This new approach

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offers endless opportunities to foul up a lot of bookkeeping here in town but it may get a few of our local contractors off their fat you know whats and we may get this place pulled together. we did buy some handsome fireplace equipment so we don't have to use stones for andirons anymore and we returned the Bradley's screen. The only thing we are really in trouble about is finding a Franklin Stove for the store. We have had orders at three different places for almost a year with no luck. They are being manufactured but the back order list throughout the country must be tremendous. We do want to be able to use the store this winter and we do need the stove to help heat that end of the house.

The Jefferson City Clan invited us to have Thanksgiving again this year. Guess there is something good about going to the FARM for holidays. So we hope for a good day so the millions of little kiddies can be outside.

AND SPEAKING OF HOLIDAYS: We need Xmas ideas NOW. When we finish at the dentist we will not be going in due to a few things that obviously need doing around here. So now is our time to start shopping. Sister and Lex already have their plane reservations and will be able to stay a week. Hooray. Lex will get in her skiing trip after they get back to New York, and I guess Sister has vacation time left. The Alderson Farm has room for all and we will accept reservations up to the last minute so come one, come all and we will try to arrange some snow.

We are already having cool weather. Frost this A.M. (Saw our first snow when leaving Boulder). The predictions are for early and spectacular color and a hard winter. will check the farmers Almanac on this. Color is already beginning and neighbors are harvesting like mad. Deer season is about to begin. Which reminds me. Dear Snowbridgers: May I buy one yard of the bright orange material? Want to make 'slip over the head' type vests (tie on each side) (slit for head to go through) for us to wear during the season. With deer all over the place and a hunter behind each one we dare not go outside without some sort of protective coloring. And your material (strong and waterproof) would be right if you have enough to spare. If available just ship and bill.

went to a wedding last Sat. night. The oldest son of the Tobacco Roaders was married in Rosebud, Mo. We received the invitation about two weeks before we left on our trip so we wentbut never again. Couldn't help but compare it to the wonderful wedding we had attended in Delano. T'was a sad comparison.

How about the Cardinals? Wish they would get a million games out in first place early in the season then I wouldn't get into such a stew this time of the year. I'll catch up with how football is going after this is over.

Don't forget about Xmas suggestions. (Early isn't it....sorry). Love to you all.

Betty

Hey, have you moved yet?

Have some splendid snaps of J & Becky. Will get them reproduced & send copies.

Need new address.



11/14/74

Nov. 14 (almost 15) 1974.

Well, Dears:

Tis certainly time for another journalistic effort , isn't it. Good Lord!! I haven't really written since the first of Oct. Have talked and Post carded, but no real " this is what we have been doing" type thing.

First of all..... Happy Thanksgiving to you all. We all have so many blessings to count and that is a day to give thanks and to sit down and remember that we are all blessed . Not for the food on the table , but for the love which we have for each other and the close family ties which we hold so dear. We will be thinking of you all. God bless.

Second.....Thank you who have sent an Xmas list. We have been bogged down for several weeks and will not be able to get back to shopping until after Thanksgiving so what little we have been able to do will help us in the busy days to come.

Third.....Locke and Barb have moved.....and were able to do it in a way which I have never experienced. The company packed them and unpacked them and they were sort of settled in with no problems. Their address is: PLEASE COPY:

26511 Lope de Vega

Mission Viejo, Ca. 92675

Phone: 714-581-0717

I have always dreamed of that sort of move. And so have Ted, Greg and Hank, I'm sure.

Fourth.....Sandi and Brad are working too hard and too many hours and I would think that they must be absolutely exhausted. But this should be coming to an end soon . We hope that they will be able to get here in the spring. Spring and fall are the beautiful times of our year, but one never knows when those seasons will arrive. This year October was gorgeous. Flaming color. Warm days, cool nights, brilliant stars. lovely.

One can smell spring. The discovery of little green things suddenly appearing on the hillside is pure magic and maybe the Delano Aldersons and the Mission Viejo Aldersons will be able to come at the same time.

Fifth.....Hank is studying like mad and worrying like mad and coming out on top all the time. Don't know when he will be home for the holidays but when Greg was here a short time ago, he mentioned that Hank might drive out before Ted and Greg were free to come. Hooray. Maybe he will be here in time to help us cut down the Xmas tree and help us cart it home.

Ted and Greg are expanding. Moving to larger quarters and opening new shops. Greg was here overnight on his way east. Before this they have sold only in the west. We expect to see him again on his return in early Dec. Their employees have voted to take time off during Xmas week so they will be home. With Sister and Lex here too I'll have to think hard to make up GOOD treasure hunts for Xmas morning.

John spent most of Oct and up to this week painting the living room (the woodwork, over and over again). The under coats kept bleeding through, in spite of liquid sand paper etc. One of the problems of an old house. The furnace man has been here and adjusted everything. Put new valves on the upstairs radiators so that we won't have leaks and is about to install the modern stove - fireplace we bought for the store. We had ordered Franklin stoves from three different places but none of them came through (orders in for at least nine months) so we picked up one in St. Louis and brought it home in the wagon. It's not a Franklin , but it will be great. The electricians came Mon. and Tues. of this week and put up our fixtures, even outside spotlights front and back, and our water softener so we are just about finished in that dept. What a time we had trying to trace the circuits. I think the upstairs bath is on the front spot light and the sink light but who cares as long as things are in. I now have a fixture over the sink and I can see to cook and John has a matching one over the bar area so he can see to mix. And upstairs one can now see to shave in the bath. It's great.

The living room rug is still rolled up in the hall. We had some professionals come out from Jeff. City to lay it but they wouldn't touch it. It's a 27'10" room size - 13'10" job that came unbound on both ends. The other sides are finished because of the braids. So we have thrown it (the problem back into the hands of the house in St. L.

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from whom we purchased it (supposedly bound on the ends) and Schumachers in N.Y. who sell the things, or rather, loom the rugs. The dining room one which was lost was reordered and arrived a week or so ago and was two feet too big all the way around. So instead of going through the hassle of sending it back, I removed one foot of braids all the way around and the' it is not quite the shape we ordered, it is great. Some day I'll put all those nice expensive braids together again for a rug in our bedroom hall. So nothing will be lost.

while the men were here from Jeff. City, they laid the upstairs bath carpet and our bedroom rug plus putting down the Terrace Drive indoor-outdoor porch rug in the so called BLUE ROOM upstairs. so we have a feeling of warmth and bare foot coziness even tho' there is still lots of decorating to do. I'm sure we have the only bath in the country that has an old tub on legs (exterior painted red), carpeted in stripes (the floor not the tub), car siding from an old kitchen cupboard around the basin, a very old dry sink and country chair and three original oil paintings on the walls. I shall not even begin to describe the downstairs bath with it's marble topped wash stand and stone wall. You'll just have to come to see for yourselves. I'll try to get up my needlepoint frog before you see it.

There is much interior painting to be done and it will not be done before Xmas but we are getting down to the fun part. John and I have spent the last two days hanging pictures and paintings and etchings. We did not realize what a collection we had, for many were not hung in Vacaville nor in Concord. The Lones and Bradleys were here last Sat. night and remarked that it was getting to be quite a show place and when we are finished, I think it might be. In a country farmhouse fashion to be sure. We have lived with such a mess for so long that I think that no one truly believed that we were normal people. Well, we'll show them.

We must pause (pause ?) for a while. Deer season opens Sat. and Tim and Betty are coming for the weekend to hunt. (John's nephew and wife.) Then Monday, the Powell's from Vacaville arrive for three days. Then we clean up for one day before leaving Fri. for Jeff. City for a football weekend with Malcolm and Mary Lee. Then home for one day and then to St. Louis for a Dr.'s appointment for John and a party in St. Louis and then home with 14 people coming for Thanksgiving. Then we can start thinking about Xmas. Thus no more housepainting for a while. Just so we won't be bored, the piano man is coming to repair the leg and to tune it; the furnace man is coming to connect the stove in the store, and I hope that is all.

Our weekends are always busy. Usually with the Bradleys who do not have kitchen facilities in their farm yet. The weeks roll by and we haven't had a game of bridge with the Harrisons since early Oct. We went down to Silver Dollar City with them in Oct. for the National Craftsman convention. Fascinating. I've decided that when I grow up, I am going to be a Pewter Caster. Chose that over the tinsmith whom we saw working. He was an Amish from Penn. but the man from Penn. with his Pewter work was more of an inspiration. (The man wasn't, the work was.) All of this will come after I pot a few pots and design a few more pieces of needlepoint, etc. Lou's birthday was 10/29 and we went in to the University Club to her B. Day party. Couldn't think of a gift to buy so I designed a primitive of their farm and have just finished working it for her. It's one of the best things I have ever done. I'm really quite proud for it is adorable.

The corn was harvested and winter wheat has been planted. This will be harvested in July so maybe we can get in a late crop of soybeans after that. Depends on the weather, of course. wheat will not bring in as much as corn but the crops must be rotated every now and then to keep the soil productive...We had our first snow Nov. 4 and snow flurries this A.M. Early, but this is to be a rough winter according to the Farmers Almanac. It is due to snow Dec. 22,23,24. How about that?

It's Friday and the stereo man came. While doing the house work, I've been enjoying MUSIC. Records only, the radio unit went in for care and treatment. Bob Granneman was wide eyed. He remarked that he had only seen one other Macintosh in his life.

Now where were we? Went to an Historic Hermann dinner the other night. Good Food and an excellent speech on Restoring and it's benefits by a former pres. of the A.I.A.....I've had my first flu shot. The next one comes in Dec. HAVE YOU ALL HAD YOURS?.....The Gilhooly's were here in Oct. just before Molly went on days down at Barnes and Pat fixed the leak

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around the hall chimney so that we will not have anymore leaks on the ceiling plaster. They are all delighted that Molly has a daytime job instead of the night one. Certainly a more normal way to live. Saw then a week ago today in St. Louis. Greg had popped in the night before (here) on his way east, and since he had two stops in St. l. and we had to go in for a check up for John, we all met at the Gilhooly's and they took us out to dinner at the most fun place. Called 'Jack's or Better.' Peanuts all over the place and the customers are encouraged to throw the shells on the floor. We all did so. The children were delighted. Such fun to watch their faces. Excellant hambergers and we had a good time. Boy, but we were happy about Greg's surprise visit. He'll be back early Dec. and then home for Xmas. I'm a lucky Mother.

I doubt if I will be able to get off another one of these long things before Xmas but you'll be hearing from us.

Much , much love to you all.

Becky

Wowee....What news!!!!!! I did not broadcast the word for I didn't know whether you wanted me too and I also rather thought that something this special should be your privilege to tell. We are so happy for you both. Remember that you said that you wanted another after you had moved. Perfect timing....approx. 2 years apart. And the only really bad thing is that damned morning sickness that happens all around the clock. You lucky, lucky people. God bless.

The Monkey Ward pkg. will come here. Then we will mail. Seems that M. W. would not guarantee shipping it from their factory or warehouse before Xmas. They are only worrying about their catalog stores. So. Don't sit up nights waiting for it. I will notify you when I mail pkgs.

Becky will go through difficult growth patterns and years but she still seems to be a living doll. Can hardly wait to have you all here come spring.

Take care of yourselves. Our love to you.



01/13/75

Finished 1/15

Jan. 13, 1975.

Dear ones:

Our Christmas was unbelievably wonderful. We decorated the house on the 16th so that it would look festive for the Sooths when they arrived on the 18th on their way to Vail to ski with their son and daughters over the holidays. This visit we not only played bridge but took them on a quick tour of Hermann. Including the winery. I discovered that the wine being sold now is of much better quality than it was a year and a half ago. Goody.... They left early on the 20th so John and I took advantage of the beautiful warm day to drive to the Sea Ridge Xmas tree farm to cut down our tree. At the farm one is driven into the hills to the field that is currently being cut on a hay wagon; presented with a sharp saw and told to drag selected tree to a designated clearing which can be seen from the starting shed, and wait till the wagon comes to pick you up. We were the only ones there and it was beautiful to walk through the Xmas trees on such a glorious day. (Last year we did it in freezing rain and blustery winds.) We found a fat beauty and had it up in the stand on Sunday so that it would be ready for all hands to trim after arrival times..... Sister and Lex arrived Monday and Hank drove in Tuesday at 4:00 A.M. Hank and Lex picked the others up at the airport about 5 and arrived home for Xmas eve dinner in spite of the then slippery highways and freezing rain..... Tree was trimmed that night and the house seemed to glow with happiness.

In spite of the fact that the upstairs rooms are not yet painted, and some walls still to be done downstairs, with rugs down and fire burning brightly the house looked like a home and felt like one.

Molly et al came the day after Xmas and stayed both Thurs. and Fri. nights. We had borrowed two cots from the Bradleys and the children had sleeping bags. We kept a fire going in the stove in the store and with the cots in front of it sleeping could not have been to bad. So you can see the house was full and John and I had a wonderful time for this is what an old farm house in the country is for. No snow since the weekend after Thanksgiving when I took the picture for our Xmas card. There was just no time for the letter after all the visitors we had in Nov. and early Dec. Next year we will make up for it..... The sad times come when departure time arrives. The Nalleys left Sat. 12/28 so that Lex could go skiing for the rest of her vacation, and the Hines left the following day. It was fortunate that the Upsteins came for New Years eve and Jay for we had cleaning up to do so I did not have a chance to sit down and cry and feel lonely. Since then the lones have been here for dinner twice; we went to a dinner at the Country club to meet old timers and some very interesting new comers whom we hadn't met. A great evening. It amazes us how many young and interesting couples are moving here. Some commuting to Washington and beyond and some brought in by new small industry. All restoring or remodeling old homes. This community certainly has more going for it than meets the untutored eye.... Played bridge with five couples at a party the other night so met more of the local residents. Someday soon we will have to have a blast of a partyif we ever have a free weekend.

doc

Dick and Lou, daughter Chris and her friend Jim Wilson were here this weekend. Very relaxing with a lot of chatter for we hadn't seen them since middle Dec. They went to Fort Worth for Xmas with their daughters and Chris and Jim came home with them so Chris could have five wisdom teeth removed and have her nose unplugged. Evidently one nostril had never been open.

Ted asked if the sun ever shown in Mo. in the winter. After they left I tried to get a picture of the decorated house from the outside and the sun was so bright that the shadows made photography almost impossible. The weather is crazy however. 65 degrees last wed and Thurs. Fri. night the barometer dropped two inches and we had awful Thunderstorms and the temp plummeted to 12 below. It's bitter cold today and snow clouds are headed our way. Our back porch is literally filled with birds. Even two new varieties today..a nuthatch and a red bellied woodpecker have joined the group. Our usuals are Juncos, Tufted Titmice, Cardinals, Black capped chickadees, Red headed and Downy woodpeckers and a shy little Wren which Sister first spotted at Xmas. We haven't seen Cat for several days but Stripe is around and is huge. Most of it is winter fur coat I am sure.

02/27/75

Feb. 27, 1975.

Dear Ones:

First....That nice little list I sent to all of you is already out of date. Change Sandi and Brad to: 418 North Lower Sacramento Road
Lodi, Ca. 95420.

We do not have a phone number as yet. The children and Sandi moved up the weekend of Feb. 15 and we think that is great. The house is bigger with bedrooms for all and most important, they will all be together again. Hooray.

The weather has been cold the' the locals say it is not as cold as a normal ~~winter~~ winter. Don't know which is worse, our heating bill or the food for the birds. We must be feeding the countryside, and they all are getting very bold and perhaps careless for they will feed even when the cats are around. I enjoying watching the woodpeckers the most for their legs pop out at such a weird angle that they really sit on their tummies to feed. This morning in all the snow we saw a Killdeer. Don't know why he is here. The robins came in early (dumb things) and the blue birds have been eating the flies off the side of the house. God bless for we still have a fly problem. When we returned from the weekend with Mary Lee and Malcolm 1/18 we discovered that the living room ceiling had another leak. When the furnace man came he discovered that the flies were in between the floor and the ceiling, and down the walls. Eggs must have been laid when the fireplace was going in and we have had continuous hatchings. Now John sprays in the floor around the radiators upstairs every day and we are winning. Must say that the spraying has produced generations of genetically unsound flies. Peculiar.

The following week we received a call to see if we would rent our barn for a couple of months to stable two horses. One very pregnant..due on 2/22. Sure...and we sold all the old hay in the barn to them too. They come feed every evening(The Martins...he's the top executive or owner of the Boat Building company in Hermann) and have only missed once so Dick and John fed that night. The mare still hasn't foaled so young Scottie is now being driven out twice a day by his mother to check on her. Any minute, I guess. When the big time arrives, I'll bundle up and walk up to see the little one. The weather has been so bad that I haven't been up at all. Had a slight cold and then a touch of the flu so I didn't want to tempt fate by getting thoroughly chilled. Did that the day we went up to the old Planters house to pick up old nails. That's what brought on the cold.

We seem to be busy every weekend and will have to cut this out if we ever plan to finish the painting. However it has been fun and passes the time during this gloomy time of year. We even went to see a MOVIE. "That's Entertainment." Marvelous. The Bradleys are here most every weekend for dinner and we've seen a lot of Lorene and Marvin. She has made four of her beautiful primitive rugs for Lou and two for the Lones. What a talent. She only hooks in the winter time and since spring will be here any minute she is working like mad to finish the last one. The rugs are expensive and she is investing her wealth in gold coins. Said she had always wanted a gold coin so now she has many. Good. We took them out to dinner in Union for her B. Day so they are taking us out the 8th to celebrate John's a week late. We are having ten for dinner on his B. Day 3/1/ so tomorrow we will be cleaning up the house and paint for the great event.

The kitchen is gorgeous. Oh boy, what a joy. The bedroom hall is finished and our bath will be next. We really are looking up. This project has taken so long that we think most of the locals think that we are odd clods who liked to live in a mess. Just wait till they see the finished product. HA!!! Most wall and woodwork need three coats so it does not go fast.

I'm now a member of the Garden Club. Meets once a month at the Rock House Cafeteria and should be interesting. Maybe I'll even learn something.

This past weekend we went to Kansas City with Dick and Lou. So that we could do some errands we drove into St. Louis Fri. and parked our car at their house. Dick got tied up so we didn't leave there until 4:30 and after dinner on the road, arrived in K.C. at midnight. Stayed at the Alameda Plaza, a beautiful place. Spent Sat. browsing through the fabulous shops in Crown Center and dressed for dinner Sat. night. What a treat for this farm gal. We really enjoyed the expensive antique shops and galleries etc. Never thought I would ever be going to K.C. for a glamorous weekend. Didn't even know that they had anything there. Must be an "East Coast, West Coast, St. Louis snob."

02/27/75 - Page 2

Harvin broke our hearts by burning down the old French Planter's house just beyond us on J. He had to for there was no way to keep the cattle from wandering into the place and hurting themselves. How I wish that that house could have told of it's history. J. and I wandered through the rubble a week ago yesterday. There must be thousands of hand made squareheaded nails (all sizes) lying around and the old glass melted on the ground where it had fallen. The old clay walls (six to 8 inches thick had fallen out and were lying on the ground in great squares. One could still see the straw in the clay and here and there were pieces of the old split hickory lathe in the walls. The supporting logs had burned away except for the ones that had been so termite ridden that there was nothing left to burn. The stone cellar walls and steps to the old veranda are still there and J and I want to go up with the metal detector and give the place a good going over. We hope that Harvin will let us pick up the nails and whatever else we find. We did find a tiny flat iron and some hinges. The Germans came here in 1836 (?) so this old house predated that by plenty.

Hine/ Snowbridge has moved to bigger and more handsome (and workable) quarters.... Hank said that he had his best semester ever which is really great for his courses sounded like mathematical and chemical nightmares to me. I'm proud....lex arrived home to find her letter of acceptance to Utica College which she wanted. She will transfer after she receives her A.A. this June....Brad is working in Jodi while Mandi and the children finish out the school year in Delano. A tough row to hoe but a better opportunity for Brad.

We are going to help the Hostains celebrate their anniversary this weekend. Will drive to Jeff. City Sat. and stay till Monday morn. Their party is Sun. night and we don't want to drive home after.

We did not get a drop of snow during the mess in St. Louis last night. Took Lou 2 1/2 hours to get home from school. A trip that normally takes 10 minutes.

Enough for now. Love to you all.

Betty

Hine/ Snowbridgers....let us know how the sales go at the shows in N.Y.C. and Texas. If you drive, you'll find a candle in the window to welcome you home.

Hope you noticed (over the tube) that all Skiing Secret Service were wearing Hine/Snowbridge Powell jackets.

Ha!

04/??/75

Easter Sunday. 1975.

Dear ones:

hope your day has been glorious. This is the first time in a million years that I hav- not colored an egg; hidden eggs; baked the traditional Easter rabbit cake; etc, etc. I really do not know whether or not I've missed it.....John and I slept late this A.M. 'cause we were up till 3:00 A.M. Friday night (Sat morn) doing dishes and till midnight last night doing same, so we really had our Easter celebration early. Mary Lee and Malcolm came Fri. and stayed till last night and we played bridge and looked at the horses and colt, and had a good time. So that was our adult type weekend. Mary Lee is head of the Altar Guild but traded laundy Thursday for her duty sat. However she did have to be on duty this A.M. at 8:00, so they couldn't stay today.

had a bit of excitement. The switch on the water pumping system went out so we had no water late yesterday, but good old Ralph Brammeran came at dinner time and fixed it up so we could finally flush the ever important toilets etc. I must be a good cook under emergency conditions for dinner was delicious in spite of the fact that we had to delete salad. (No water to wash the greens.)

we told them that we would not be able to go to Lee's wedding (Mary's son) in Rochester in May. Somewhat of a disappointment to us, needless to say, for we were going on to Sister's and to Lex's Graduation and then up to the Cape and Marthas Vineyard to visit. however, after taxes (which really grabbed us this year due to the fact that a fund which I have chosen this year not to prepay taxes) and the fact that John is going to have a rear and repair next week. He enters Barnes Hospital 4/3 and will be operated on 4/4. This is long overdue, but John is a stubborn man and nothing I could do (nagging me) would make him take care of it until it became almost unbearable. DAMN IT. anyway we expect no problems and John will be in about a week. I will stay at Dick and Lou's (see your address list) from the 3rd until John is released.

we've had two beautiful weekends, temp. to 75, but then down to 20. Marvin couldn't plow our garden until day before yesterday and still has to disc it, so, hatch, nothing is planted yet. We are still feeding the birds (and two cats who have just produced their annual spring litters)/. This A.M. I saw my first Pileated woodpecker. Beautiful//. Thus we can check off all known woodpeckers.

Dear old friends were here the weekend before this. Mary and Sel Spencer. Had a marvelous time with them. (I was one of their bridesmaids in 1939.) John had met them only once before in 1970 but all worked out so beautifully that we expect them out for thifest. wonderful people.

The kitchen is so gorgeous that it is a delight to work in. John has the first coat of off white in our bathroom and 1/2 of the bedroom. We're going to get this house finished someday.....Spring must be coming for we killed the first copperhead (a baby, who had the nerve to sun himself on the front stoop) the other day....The foal was born on John's birthday. A cute little Red thing who gets bigger everyday. we had 7 people that night to celebrate the B. Day (John's, not the Foals). Marvin and Lorene took us out for dinner and dancing the following Sat. night to celebrate the same. That was the night Greg arrived so we did not see him until Sun. morn. I was very disappointed but there was no way for us to get out of the Bruens party....Next time we shall be there.....There is a BIG ground hog under the little white house and we can't get a clear shot at him because of the gas tank.....Molly has been having constant Migraines so the Dr. made her give up school and has told her to slow down. Thought at first that is was a viral infection of sorts but finally settled on tension. Pat and the children are fine.

Hank is in Florida for the Easter break. Visiting friends. Kirt is out to sea so he hasn't been able to connect up with him yet.....Greg is in Calif. And Ted must be working like mad at Snowbridge. What's this new little bag Pat told us about?

Will send another report after John is out of the hospital. Love to you all.



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2.

It snowed all day Sat. so we decided to get an early start back/ on Sun. We stopped at Arrow Rock (the town where Tom Sawyer was filmed and an old restored village) and hoped to find some lunch and some antiques, only to find everything closed and the snow getting deeper and deeper. I-70 was a mess. Cars and trucks all over the place stuck in drifts etc. Just after we passed the Columbia area, the highway was closed for 1 1/2 hours. We did arrive back in St. Louis safely however but thought it best that we stay Sun. night at Dicks. We did ... and also Monday and part of Tues. Turned out to be the worst blizzard in St. Louis and /or Mo. for generations. We couldn't get home. Tues. afternoon , the sun came out and the roads were fine. Arrived home to find that Marvin had plowed for us. God bless good neighbors. Believe it or not , the snow is almost gone now. John went into the city this A.M. to see the dentist but I opted to do this instead so I'll spend my day doing paper work.

we are looking forward to seeing Greg as he returns from his eastern trip. Probably sometime next week. Think he is due in Las Vegas and Ca. March 22.

The Gilhoolys are great. Brian is a Wolf with many arrow points and Katy is as jealous as hell. Molly loves the daytime job and Pat is a top student and is currently working weekends. Did I tell you that Molly is back in school two nights a week? She will be a full time R.N. student as soon as Pat finishes.

From reports from his brothers , we understand that Hank is doing beautifully and studying too hard and too much. Wow and great.

Will do this again soon so in the meantime take care of yourselves and let us hear from you.

Love,

Betty.

For T.,G.,H.: Cousin Ann and Bob Lynn moved from Tacoma to : 7812 Alto Caro Drive
Dallas, Texas. 75240

Hi dear, - I was flat out before Valentines day so we missed sending this year. (Makes me feel guilty!)
Thank you all for remembering.

Did you know that Saudi's mother had a Radical (malignant) Thirus. 7/13. Saudi was distraught - moving with mother in hospital etc. We have heard nothing more. She went in on Tues. for a biopsy but they didn't do the test 'till Thurs. Saudi had not notified Brad so it really hit him when he arrived ^{in Dallas} Friday to help with moving luggage + small items. It is certainly a difficult time for them + maybe you both could cheer them a bit.


Your lines sound so full + happy and I'll bet Bechy is really a little doll. Can't believe it's been almost two years. And how is Bechy's little "sibling to be"? Probably kicking like mad. Hope school is over before "it" appears.

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We are so proud of Locke and his climb up that
big ladder. A million of hurrahs. His perfect for the job.

John is in great shape. Has shed a few more
pounds (lucky John) and looks marvelous. In spite
of moments of frustration + an occasional back ache
from chopping wood (He doesn't know when to stop + won't
when I tell him too), I think this move to quiet
countryside has been marvelous for him. Am very
grateful.

Much love to you all.



04/18/75

4/18/75.

Dear Everyone:

Spring has sprung....Very late for Mo. (We usually get this in Feb and then have a late freeze which ruins the fruit.) The lilacs and fruit trees are about to burst; our lawn is covered with Johnny-Jump-Ups and the ground between the Store porch and the warehouse is a sea of violets....all kinds and colors.....solid. Between the warehouse and the road, purple and yellow wildflowers have popped up everywhere. Tulips are not quite out but other bulbs are. Wild things are peeking out of the dead weeds on the hill and I can hardly wait to walk the creek to see what has appeared in two short weeks.

The winter feeding birds have gone to nest in the surrounding trees and as soon as the trees are in full leaf we will see them only when they are on the wing.....Marvin has almost finished putting in the necessary fence so the cattle(his) will soon be here.

Lorene is getting rid of her remaining sheep. 5 were killed by night animals this winter and the other night the mother of the only lamb was killed as she tried to protect her little one. All Hermannites hate sheep anyway, and never eat lamb (we love it and can't buy it here) so I guess their experiment was doomed before it got off the ground. They will have a nice tax deduction next year.

The horses left day before yesterday. We had rented to them only till 4/15 for we knew Marvin would be ready to put in cattle about then. The colt has grown so and was so wild. It took four men two days to get two horses and a colt into the horse trailer. Funny.

Cat started bringing in her kittens 4/15. One at a time. They look to be about two months old and she must have been hiding them quite a distance away. What a Mother she is. It must have taken her five hours to bring in the five kittens. She led each one individually from over the road and through the field. When we noticed, she had two stuck up in the rocks under the gutter by our bathroom. She sat out back calling them down and bringing them in and introducing them to us before she started out for another one. The talking between wild feline mother and children is marvelous and, boy do they mind. When she tells one to STAY it stays even tho' the wait may be several hours. We think she had them in a hole up under the bridge but when the bridge was cleaned a week ago she must have taken them far down Marvin's field. They are too big to live in the drain this time so they are in the wood pile. In fact she is already bringing them moles and little shrews to eat. She did get one woodpecker damn it.

The couch has been recovered. Was picked up just before we left for St. Louis and delivered night before last. It is a modified tweedish olive and dark green. Mr. Houser then took the two chairs. They will be covered in a Belgian linen...Jacobian design in earth colors. Gorgeous. Now John wants me to do a needlepoint of Game birds for the Piano bench to go with the Game Bird Prints we have on the living room walls along with our paintings, natch. We are beginning to look up. There always seem to be delays tho' in getting the house together. Now we have to plant the garden. I want to pull the hillside into something...like a wild flower haven. The outside is a mess and fishing season has started. And this year we are going fishing.....! And Maifest is coming and I have a gem of an idea for a piece of sculpture which I really should do now while it is fresh in my mind. Oh dear. But the window isn't in the store and the store is still full of O—, and we have to paint those upstairs bedrooms before the ALDERSON REUNION which will be June 29th. 29 of the Alderson clan will be here as of now and that includes none of you. So think about it and let us know.

Looks like we will have Brian and Katy 4/28 for a week or so. Molly is going into Barnes for a tube ligation and a Sinus fixing job (she hopes she can coordinate both). The Dr. has wanted her off birth control pills since before Katy, and she must not have any more, so this is what they decided was best. Hope the weather is good or John and I will really need another recuperating session. It will be fun tho and we will do a lot of Cub Scout type things.

Delivered John to the hospital 4/3 and he was operated on 4/4 as scheduled. I had an appointment with Dick that day to watch another lump in breast. Discovered same in Feb, saw him in March and this was second appt. We decided to get rid of the thing as soon as possible, so I was admitted to Barnes 4/8 and had the thing removed 4/9. John on one floor, me a floor above. Until I went in, I spent all day with J. and after I went in he was well enough to spend some time with me. Pat and Molly visited every day during coffee breaks and I am glad

04/18/75 - Page 2

2.

to have the whole thing over with. John has healed rapidly and did not endure as much pain as he had expected. Everyone who had gone through a Hemorrhoidectomy had told him of the horrors so he was really prepared for the worst possible. Brad and Bandi sent him a small barrel cactus and we don't know whether he was supposed to "shove it" or not. I inherited it when he left the hospital, and now it is home.... My cyst was benign, as expected. This is the third one since 1967. Nonetheless, it is always a worry and my feeling is/ to get the darn thing out as soon as possible. Had a problem this time, however. The evening of my surgery I got up to get something for the nurse out of my purse which was in the closet. The closet was behind the door of the room. I turned around to start back for the bed just as the boy came in with my dinner tray. He entered with a rush swinging the door wide and hard and I was pinned to the wall by the door handle (a big metal thing) and guess where the door handle hit me? Right smack in the bosom which was filled with stitches and drains. Wowie..... That set me back a bit I can assure you. Was then so filled with dope that I don't remember much for a few days.

be

It is now the 21st..... Dick came out yesterday, Sunday, to here for the beginning of the turkey season this A.M. so he made a house call, gave me a good looking over and said that all was healing nicely. So we invited him for dinner. Lou did not come for she had school this A.M.

Mary Lee and Malcolm came Sat. to see us, to bring us up to date on the final wedding plans (we cancelled and are not going for the wedding in Rochester nor our trip to N.Y. and New England.... too broke at the moment). She also brought me 4 German Penny dolls over 100 years old to dress for a Bazaar in Jeff. City in June. Lordy, I haven't dressed a doll since I was President of the P.T.A. and you can imagine how long ago that was. These are bvery primitive. Hand carved and pegged. I'm almost afraid to touch them. They were carved by the early Germans for their children and sold for a penny... thus the name. These came from Williamsburg and are 4 of the ten that they had. The women working for the Bazaar bought all ten and I do not know who is doing the others. They are about a foot high and all joints move as joints should; the shoulders even swivel around. Amazing. Don't know what they will finally sell for but they should bring a fat price.

Harvin brought in the cattle this A.M. Don't know how many for I haven't been up there yet to count but since I plan to prune after I finish this, I'll count.

Hope both Sister and Ted had wonderful Birthday celebrations. Hope that Hank's finger has completely healed.... that Greg is having a good sales trip.... and that everyone is well.

Until next time, blessings and love to you all.

Betty.

4/22/75

Dear ones,

Thank you for keeping in touch with John during his trials. He's in the tent now soaking his rear. But, really it was not as bad as expected and we have walked the property (3 times) & replaced bench marks (once) so he is fine.

How's Barb? She has the only really good reason for going to the hospital.

J. + I stopped by to see Rachel the Fri. I was

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released from the hospital. 4/11. He was glad to see us, looked well, was breathing with difficulty and sneezing. Had a good time.

Molly later reported that Rachel was delighted. Lou later reported that Rachel had asked her why we had bothered to come etc. So, I guess, it depends on Rachel's mood when she speaks to individual members of the family. - As I said, we enjoyed the visit.

Know that you will not be able to come to the reunion so we will take lots of pictures for future generations to view. = "Who's that Daddy?" = "I don't know, Kid. Some cousin, I guess." =

Love to you all.



04/22/75

4/22/75

Dear Ted,

Several questions: - 1:) Wasn't there something about the Small Business Loan that had to be re-financed or? within six months? NOT THAT I KNOW OF.

2:) From whom do you purchase your material? Are you having difficulty in obtaining more? Mr. Spencer (old dear H.L. friend asked this) he was with Bemis Corp for 32 yrs. (retired) but knows the field like all V.P.'s should + is interested.

"HOME + BARNWOODS"
NO SUPPLY PROBLEMS

(with partners I believe)

Bob Higman's boat business in Canada is - TANZER INDUSTRIES - DORION, QUEBEC

WILL TELL SAEG

(one, two, or all) he set up: Craig, Jimmy + Jerry (+ maybe Jill's husband) in: TANZER YACHTS

Box 355
18902 59th N.E.

ARLINGTON - WASHINGTON - 98223.
(206) 435-5111.

They will remember trips to New Jersey. We saw Jill in Co. Nina + Bob visited us in Concord + Uacaville + were coming re last Sept. but we missed them. - John + I hope to be able to charter with them next Feb.

Give this for Greg. Did not repeat this info. to him.

4/22
is this day we marked the
red marks with flags cut from
our red material. Will have a

Love,
Mother.

How's THAT
FOR A LETTER

Ted

05/27/75

Tuesday, May 27th, 1975.

Dear ones,

Yesterday and today, our quiet days have been filled with the constant songs and imitations and bizarre antics of a Mocking Bird, obviously trying to attract a mate. He has been zooming to great heights, then plummeting to a perch doing all sorts of acrobatics on the way down. What a showman. Hope it works for him. He must be worn out. Guess he must have lost his mate for it's a bit late in the season for that sort of behavior.

We have cherries on the trees. Crabapples and peaches too. What a spring. No late frosts. Iris and other flowers that haven't bloomed since we have been here all over the place, including the hill. Lots of severe thunder storms too. And rain. Thus humidity a good bit of the time. Today has been gorgeous, and so far the nights have been cool. We are still sleeping under blankets but it is certainly time to start thinking of removing the ones upstairs.

Sat up and watched the eclipse of the moon Sat. night. Weird. No wonder the ancient ones were superstitious. Did any of you enjoy that show?

(May 5th)

The vegetable garden is already ahead of us even tho' we didn't get it in till late. John has been keeping too busy out side trying to get ahead of all weeds plus the fact that we wanted the place to be in order for Maifest. The deer are back (eating everything in sight), eagles wheel overhead most every day and I saw my first wild turkey in flight the other day. Most amazing thing of all was HALF A SNAKE out here on the rocks. It was alive; flicked it's tongue at us and absolutely glared at us with it's eyes. And it did not die at sundown as the old saying goes. It's raw stump was about 3/4 of an inch in diameter. Probably chopped in half by Marvin who loads and unloads at the little warehouse in front all the time and tries to kill every snake he meets, no matter what kind. Any way I asked Dick about it and he said that if it still had some intestines that it could live as long as it got some food and until some fast animal came along and devoured it. It could still move, but not fast nor not far.

We went into St. L. on 4/28 to see the dentist, John's Dr. (John doesn't have to go back again. He's fine...after operation check-up): and to pick up Katy and Brian. They were here while Molly was in the hospital. We fished in the creek, walked the fence lines to look for breaks for the cattle had got out some way; found turtles, swam in creek; Brian dug some clay and made pots and all in all we had a lovely time. They happily spent 2 1/2 hours in the Hermann Childrens Museum. We drove them back on Fri. Then the following Thurs. all the Gilhoolys came out for two days before Molly had to go back to work. Spent Mothers day in peace and quiet and started to clean up the house for the next weekend ...MAIFEST....

Maifest starts on Monday night (work for it, I mean) when all the Service clubs gather to clean the streets. REALLY. Then they go in the next night to start putting up stands etc. Friday night it really starts to GO. People arrive to camp in the park by Thurs. and the traffic is terrible in town. All things open on Fri. John ran the Beer Garden on Fri. night from 8:00 till closing. Worked at the Soda Stand in the park all day Sat. for the Airport Commission. (Hermann now has an air strip and needs the money to build a road into it.....cart before the horse dept.) He crumped out on Sunday except that he did entertain our guests. I worked all day Sat. (in costume, natch) at the Graft Shop at the Winery for Historic Hermann and at two houses for the House Tour Group on Sunday. Lou had called to see if we had available beds over that weekend. We did, so she brought her Mother and father and daughter Chris (Dick of course) and said she would bring Sat. dinner. (Mother, Dad and Chris from Texas). She brought the steak burgers and buns and when J. and I got home we discovered that she had also brought the Wissmaths and Lones for dinner plus the Wissmath's son and date who arrived late 'cause they were driving in from Wyoming that day. In spite of our exhausted state, we had a ball. And, wow, was I glad that we had started cleaning the house the weekend before (and finished it later in the week.) The Wissmaths and Lones both have beautiful restorations out here and are very good friends. Wissmath is a Dr. in St. L....they weekend outside of Hermann. The Lones live here. Any way...Lou greeted me when I got home with...Rhine/Snowbridge was on the radio today." Seems that OUTDOOR, INC, (a store) is advertising that they carry all/the famous brands and H/S leads the list.

Then Dr. W walked in and said that he had purchased a H/S bag and loved it and used it for his fishing trips. Then his son came in and said that he worked in a store in Wyoming while in college and had a back pack of H/S. Wow, I floated through the evening.

2.

Next Day.

Patrick did tell us while they were here that a Bike store near him had done a rotten job of displaying this winter. That the shop really looked sloppy. However it started to pick up about when spring started. Maybe Greg will want to check that store again.

Mary Lee, Malcolm and her daughter Helen were here last weekend. Helen was over from Scotland for the wedding we missed. Loved seeing all of them. The wedding was a glamorous affair. Large, formal with full orchestra at Country Club after. Lee and Joy had the "Song of Solomon" incorporated into the Catholic service and Helen said that she and her sister would have cracked up if they had not been forewarned. The thought of their brother leaping like a gazelle nearly got to them.

Hank was here last Thurs. night. He and Mary Kaye (nice gal) were on their way to Florida for a quick visit before summer semester starts June 9th. Registration 6/6. Hope they come back thru for one overnight is really not enough time to catch up. Hank has been accepted to the School of Pharmacy (HOORAY). Had all A's and B's this winter and will take Marketing and Business and Gov. this summer. AND MORE TENNIS, which he loves. He wasn't wearing his "I Am Radioactive" shirt, so I guess the $\frac{1}{2}$ lives and $\frac{1}{2}$ lives and $\frac{1}{2}$ lives are running down or what ever they do. He had the Iodine 131 Scan the 5th and 6th of May.

Brad and Sandi ...hopefully...have their dream house by now. They called May 15th to say that they had found it but had to work out how they could swing the deal. Sounds like a perfect set up for them. We are holding our thumbs.

Lex is about to graduate with her A.A. and will transfer to college in the fall. We may see her at the farm this summer. Great.....Sister has a new job as a receptionist on the executive floor of some corp. She likes it and I'm glad.

Thank you all for remembering that I am a Mother. You made my comfortable day happier by remembering.

Must get to dressing those *#&!* antique German Penny Dolls for that Bazaar in Jeff. City. why do I say yes when asked to do things like this?

Love to you all.

Betty.

P.S. Next time I'll write a sane letter. One that will be easy to follow. This is a mess.

The old Becky pictures are on John's dresser + the new ones are on mine. So we see grinning, happy Becky no matter which way we turn. She is a doll + it makes me happy to look at her. You could not have sent a more thoughtful Mother's Day surprise (unless it could be a picture of all of you - hint! hint!) It was a great joy to talk to you. Thanks for calling. Wish we could come out for the Laguna Beach Pageant but I'm afraid that there is no trip in our future for this year. Inflation - unexpected taxes (a whopper) + the need for a garden tractor with rot tiller - worn wagon for handling loads + blade for pushing stuff, will

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Keep us "down on the farm" this year. I simply will not have Jake carting wood in a wheel barrow + shoveling gravel + digging big weeds any more!!!! We have a boy who comes into mow the grass area; Marvin now takes care of the pasture +, of course, wheat field, but we still have the hillside + back area up to the barn.

Hooray for the swimming lessons for Becky. They are a must even tho' she is part fish. Am curious I can be about the solar heater for the pool. Sounds like such a wise move. Wish all heat could be supplied that way.

Hooray for raised; hooray for Locke + God bless you all. I am so blessed to be a member of your family.

Love,

Betty.

Trinidad June 1st.

How was Barb's B. day?
Hope our stuff arrived.

06/21/75

June 21 st.

Dear Everybody:

Boy have we had a stretch of humid weather. The last three days have been almost unbearable. And today is a repeat. It's alright if one can sit quietly by a window, as I am doing now but I simply cannot go out in the noonday sun, so to speak. There are bushes of beans and snow peas to be picked but that will have to be done tomorrow morning before the heat sets in. Certainly hope that this seige doesn't last for next weekend. The family staying upstairs will roast.

Ed Powell wrote some time ago to say that he was tired of hearing GOOD things about the farm and asked if we didn't have people on dirt bikes and snowmobiles to spoil our peace and quiet. Well..I have never answered...but we don't. We do, however, have runs of these humid days (starting now through the summer....with breaks of lovely weather inbetween.... & the insects are horrible. Little ones creep through the screens and literally cover the sills and tables every night. We simply cannot keep ahead of the weeds; and I have something blistery all over one hand (not poison ivy), from pulling something. So now someone can tell Ed the bad things about the place. Because of the two above badies, we have been drinking our cocktails out on the store porch and sitting there after dinner and maybe until midnight. At 7:15 night before last, a deer ambled the lenght of the wheat field and across the road. Last night, in the far far distance, a coyote howled and started a chorus throughout the countryside. The nights are beautiful, bright stars and a symphony of night sounds. Frogs, Whip-o-wills, owls, night insects such as Katydid's. There is always a breeze so we are not brèthered by bugs out there when we sit in the dark as we do. We can even hear the twigs snap as animals traverse the hill beside us. Lovely.

Children are in the creek most every day, and adults fish there over weekends. The other day some clod decided to shoot down there. John went down to stop it but the clod was gone by the time he got there. We can not stop people from playing at the bridge because that is not our property and we certainly would never stop the children from the surrounding farms from swimming there/. Now the summer is here the traffic is heavy. 10 cars passed by last night, heading for their places on the Gasconade river, no doubt, between 7 and midnight. That's lots.

Our wheat is golden and dry and will probably be harvested this week. Looks like a good crop. Marvin is about to cut a door in the top of the barn so that he can load winter feed up there. His cattle and our cats are growing big and fat. Mother cat disappeared for 10 days. Has finally come back and is in a horrible humor. She growls at her four children and won't let them eat and is a mess. Probably pregnant again, and she wants to drive her others away.

June 26th....Here we go again..... It has been as hot as hell. AND we are rapidly approaching That Weekend. There will not be a break in the weather so pity those who sleep upstairs. We are getting pretty well in shape outside with our brand new Garden Tractor.. Ha Ha! It's red (first things first), has 16 horsepower, a mower, a wagon (Orange, I think), cultivator (cream colored) and blade. Don't think it can do much more than our big power mower as far as mowing goes but John will have a cart to carry trash up to the gully and a blade to cover the trash and a cart to carry wood and a blade to push light loads of gravel around and will be able to ride while mowing. Can't cultivate until we replant the garden. Our current rows are too close together.....The garden failed on lettuce this year but the beans and snow peas have been delicious. Too many radishes...shall serve them to all the Aldersons this weekend. They will have to eat them to be polite.

John got a ground hog the other day and just a minute ago, an opossum. Tried for two with only a luck. They were out back eating the cat food.....Cat is still mean and the kittens are adorable. They think of John as their Mother I'm sure. They wait for us to sit on the store porch at night so they can jump to his lap and purr.

Have made lots of frozen Strawberry Jam which is delicious. Lorene continues to give us her produce after she has put up as much as she wants.....The finished dolls were adorable so I suppose it was well worth the effort. We went to the Fair in Jeff. City with the Lones and all the dolls had been pre sold. John and I donated one to the Hermann Museum and took one by John Wilding's Craft Shop so that he could copy same to carve to sell for the benefit of Historic Hermann or John Wilding.

Over love to Wain & Stans, too.

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2.

Went to my 40th reunion at Mary Institute on the 7th. Had a marvelous time, believe it or not. My class had cocktails before luncheon (at the school following the Graduation; the luncheon was at the school, not the cocktail party) and then J and I had cocktails with classmates and spouses after....then dinner and we spent the night with another classmate. Breakfast at another house the next day. A little shopping and then another party. Spent that night with Dick and Lou and then home. For some reason, which I can't quite explain, there is a tremendous feeling of loyalty and devotion to this school. Women fly back from all over the world to gather for the reunions, and it is great. On the other side of the coin, I have never been back to a reunion at Finch College, even tho' I was so close when living in N.J.

John and I attended a lecture on furniture refinishing a week ago here in town and it inspired John who then refinished our bed. It's up (we bought it at the local Antique shop about 1 1/2 years ago. It's great. We are now six feet off the ground. Not quite but it seems so.....This Wed. the "Sgt. Floyd" docked at Hermann and John and I were Hosts. We in costume. Part of the Bicentennial bit. The boat will be up and down all the rivers (MO., Miss, Ohio, Ark.) for 22 months. Hermann was designated as a stop only because we have the only River boat Museum in this area (up and down the Mo. river) and because there were River Capts who retired here in the ancient days, and built some of the houses we came here to find and buy but couldn't find nor buy. The other stops will be in big cities like St. L and K.C. and New Orleans. Fun and I think the crew enjoyed stopping here. The local German Band went aboard and played and the local folk dancers danced and it was corny and good. I guess like small town America. By chance a group of touring Germans hit town that day. They came aboard and our locals entertained them with their 'Shoal House' German and even got them into the German folk dances. German was the main language here until W.W.1 and was spoken in most homes until W.W.2. At that time all German was taken out of the schools but this fall it will again be taught. Anyway our locals speak Classical German (if one can use that expression) and the German Tourists seemed charmed by it, for their language has changed over the years such as ours has.

Am about to take a course in weaving. Teacher will come from the U. of Mo. in July. Am also trying to arrange to take a concentrated advanced course in Needlepoint design in St. Louis. Figure this may be a good field to get in 'Cause designers are getting \$85,00 for individually designed canvases. I've been doing this for a couple of years now so all I need is a brush up on the new techniques and equipment.

Sorry you all can't be here for this weekend. It boggles my mind. 30 Aldersons on Sunday. 13 on Sat., with 8 staying here 'till Monday AND none of them ours. I think J. and I will hide the car and lock all doors on Tues. and sleep all week.

Love to you all.

Betty, Mother and Susan.

*Again - The Father's Day picture is marvelous.
Can't believe how Beeky has grown.
Hope Barb is somewhat comfortable. The last
weeks are certainly difficult ones.*

Our love + blessing to you all.



08/08/75

August 8, 1975.

Well, Dear:

It has been a long time but the days seem to slip by....but here I am ...so fill in the enclosed chart and return to us.... and here we go.

The family reunion was grand. I had a big sign up in the kitchen proclaiming John Locke Alderson, 111 birth so that when people arrived they would immediately know the good news. The Hills (Ca.) and the Hawns arrived (latter from K. C.) Sat. afternoon and stayed here/. Couldn't ask for 8 better house guests. Little Amy Hawn won me over immediately. 10 or 11 years old. She organized all the kids and had them playing store in the store and when one of them got sick, she arranged the upstairs into a medical office and keep youngsters busy being nurses and making app'ts etc. Don't know who played Dr.....reunion dinner was catered by our local Cafe and was excellent. The only thing that threw me was the unexpected arrival of the St. Charles contingent at 8:15 A.M. FOR BREAKFAST....bringing two ringers with them. That meant 11 extra for that meal and I was already feeding 13 invited ones. I think that by 2:00 I must have been walking around with a plastic grin on my face and I know that I had a drink in my hand. The invitation was for drinks at 12:00 and dinner at 2:00 except for those who were here in Hermann. Everyone left that night except the Hills and Hawns who pulled out about noon on Monday.

We have been to Jeff. City three times to see Malcolm about rearranging my investments. What with inflation we figured that we could get more income by reinvesting. We'll see. Had a great weekend there last weekend for an early B. day for me. Other guests were Eadi and Bill Parnell, an old school chum of mine. We had lots of bridge. Dinner at the Country Club Sat. night, and the theater (MAME...musical version) on Fri. So an excellent time, and fun for we country folk. A celebration was due early for we shall spend my B. day in the dentist chair and then see Dick to have a mole removed from my back. Soooooo.

We've been doing some antiquing. Have a new wardrobe and a little washstand for upstairs. Other things too. John cleaned out the store and now it is filled to the brim with furniture to be refinished. That and research on a new needlepoint project of mine has kept up seeking and searching. We have an excellent little library here in town so I have made great use of that.

I just finished a two week course in weaving. Three full days the first week and two the last. So arranged so that we could do the homework in between. It was most interesting and the teacher was great. A Ph. D. from Columbia, who now in retirement conducts four seminars (four weeks each) in various states in weaving. She came here only because she has dear friends in Hermann who urged her to do so. Hope she comes again to give us advanced training. I still have one of her looms so that I can finish my last project.

We have pickled and frozen and our garden has been a mess. We have only had $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of rain in 7 weeks. The midlands are really drying up. Our wheat was harvested just before the reunion so that was O.K. but Marvin is losing all his corn and Lord only knows what will happen to the soybeans. When the middlewest doesn't produce there is little for the table and nothing to feed the hogs and fatten the cattle. Prices will go up. We had a great crop of onions. Had bunches hung all over the garage shed but I am using them up fast. Our potatoes (planted by Lorene as a surprise were about the size of marbles. They are good tho' and we are teasing her about them.

Our very tame and loveable kittens started disappearing in mid July. One by one.....they all must have been ill for it would seem that they crawled under the white house and died. There was no way to fish them out so we had to live with the stench for several weeks. Mother cat is fine and seems to be happy getting all the attention herself. The kittens were bigger than she and she had been trying to drive them off.

We have taken several day time trips with local groups. The best was to see the Churchill Memorial in Fulton. Plus Historic Houses(one was the only house Robert E. Lee slept in in Mo.)!!! and gardens. Our garden Club had entertained the Fulton one early this summer so they invited us back.....It all keeps us busy along with the misc. guests we seem to shelter and guests for dinner at regular intervals. All our overnight guests seem to be here during the most impossible weather.

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2.

Reunion was 90 so odd degrees and as soon as everyone left I had to get out my heavy winter long sleeved nightgown, it turned so cold at night. Ed Booth, lll was here on his way west and it was unbelievable... then back to the winter sleepwear. We have had the most gorgeous weather this past week but during the weaving course (held in the Jr. High Building) it was 101 one day....no air conditioning, natch. We all nearly passed out. It will probably get very hot again for the Reeses are due the 19th and will stay a week. To compound the problem, the insects come out in hot weather and swarm through the screens like mad. We haven't had a gnat all this week. Ah, well. Sister wrote of all the floods in New England. We could use some of that water.

Since I haven't written, I'm a little behind on news. Hank went to Oregon for his vacation after the summer courses were over. He should be back in Boulder soon and ready to start in the School of Pharmacy the end of this month.....Hine and Hine are thriving. Business is growing and they can now take time out for fun things. Ted has been playing a lot of tennis ♣ (took lessons to get back to his former excellent game) and I think that Greg is going east soon to sail with Kirt.....Molly gave up her job in July and is now a homemaker. The last we heard, Katy and Brian will be going to Parochial school in the fall. They thought there was to be a bussing problem to integrate the schools in Webster Groves so opted for this. They will still have a transportation problem for the school is quite a distance from their house. Pat will graduate in Dec. Yippee. He loves it.

We know that Barb and Locke are busy with John and Becky. (I still remember those new baby days) and we hope to see them here sometime this fall. Because of the weather, I would suggest, LATE FALL but it depends on Locke's schedule. Don't think we will have our usual fall color this year for, because of the ~~Abby~~ drought our leaves are changing now.

Sandi, Brad et al, are happy and busy in Iodi. Last we heard they are looking for a nother house. They have been camping, fishing and doing good and fun things.

For the Hines: Bruce Draper was married in April and Susie Johnson will be married the end of this month. Wow!

John has several more groundhogs to his credit plus at least one opossum. It may seem cruel but it is very necessary when one has so many and the distruction is so great.....we have the biggest darn night bird I have ever seen. It has a Cree, Cree type cry and one evening I saw it out beyond the creek. Even through the glasses, I could not be sure whether it was an eagle or the most tremendous owl that I have ever seen. Does any owl go "Cree??". It calls most of the night. But, wow, is it big. Our deer is in the field every night. We think it is the doe with the two fawns. The cattle on the hill are growing fat so there still must be water in the pond up there. Marvin hasN't checked on them in weeks. Not since we had to put Big George (the leader and only bull) back in. Marvin then walked the fence line to see how he had escaped. I held the gate, when we saw that he was out, while John, brave fellow, ran into our field with arms out, to herd him back into the barnyard area. There was one moment of a confrontation but Big George (my name for him) backed off and John won. I had a brief eyeball session when the animal rounded the utility pole and tried to decide whether to come my way or to go into the barnyard. I said "Boo "or something equally intelligent and frightening to that monster, so he behaved. He really isn't so big but he looks huge face to face. The steers will go to market this fall. Big George....who knows. Marvin may have other plans for him.

Well, dears, that does it for now so until next time....much love to you all.

Betty

09/15/75

Sept. 15, 1975.

Dear Ones:

Thank you all for remembering my Natal Day and our anniversary. We had dental appt's on the 29th and then were taken out to dinner by the Bradleys and had a marvelous meal at the new University Club Building. (On Brentwood Blvd. just a couple of blocks from 1112 Terrace Drive. They obviously took their chef with them when they moved for the food is still just about the best in St. Louis. We spent the night with Dick and Lou and then caught up with so overdue 'city' shopping on Sat. and came home. Spent our anniversary quietly at home. The best possible way to celebrate this year for we had been so busy that it was nice to just be by ourselves for a change. Frank Tucker is still working in the house (started 8/13) and that.....someone else always around.....ruins our peace and quiet not to mention the complete mess of sawdust and paint etc. HOWEVER we are now getting the last things done around here. We have the window in the store....the upstairs is PAINTED...no more spackle stripes on the walls. Storm door has been ordered for our bathroom door, all doors will be weather striped.....the bar sink is in the kitchen and I am designing and shall punch tin to set in the doors under the little sink. New electric heaters have been installed in the two bedrooms over the living room so there will not be a little man in the wall (the one who pounded on the pipes in the middle of the night) this winter. This will also solve the problem of leaks on the living room ceiling. Frank should be finished by the end of this week which will give us time to clean up before the Booths arrive next week. Yep they are driving to Indiana again to see their son, so, you Boulderites may have visitors. Look forward to seeing them again.

Molly, Pat and the children came out 8/15 for the weekend. Probably the last free weekend for them until after Pat graduates in Dec. He will be on a school all week and work every weekend schedule this fall. He won a scholarship so that Molly will not have to work this fall. Brian and Katy are attending Parochial school and love it.

The Reeses arrived shortly after the Gilhoolys left and were here long enough for us to show them something of the surrounding area. We even took them on an Historic Hermann bus trip to Bethel, Mo....the first Commune west of the Mississippi. Settled in 1830 and now starting a restoration. A long, but interesting day. They solved that night bird problem for us. It is a night Heron. We have been seeing herons in the creek recently. They may have always been there but since the creek was low this summer, they have gathered near our deep holes instead of spreading out up and down the whole creek bed. While the Reeses were here, Greg popped in fresh from an eastern trip. GREAT. He has already, or about to, purchase a Town House which is under construction in the Boulder area. Ted has already, or is about to, purchase a house which is under construction in the same area and they are about to, or have already enlarged Hine/ Snowbridge. AGAIN. WOW. Henry loves his courses and declared that he has never carried as heavy a load. He is in the same apt. as last year and has two roommates so all is coming up roses for him.

Things are humming around Hermann. The fall season(?) has started. We of the Woman's Club gave a dinner for our husbands at the Country Club. The Garden Club has started to meet again after a rest this summer. The Weavers Guild, of which I am now a member, is meeting here next month and I have to give a paper on weaving with ~~many~~ things from nature probably because I took straw to the first class and wove some into my first sampler. I would like to have a loom but the size that I would enjoy is too darn expensive for a hobby so I'll do without until we can find a second hand one. Just returned the one I had rented for a month after the class was completed.

We finally had some rain and have had about four inches since the end of August. Funny things are happening tho'. It was 39 degrees the other night and we seem to have gone into a very early fall. We are sleeping under blankets and the heat is on. Sept. is usually warm in Mo. Indian Summer comes in Oct. (late). Hope it is not too cold for the Octoberfest. This is the wine festival, every weekend in Oct. Next, we will be helping out in town. Art show and Bazaar, 1st. weekend and Antique Show, 2nd weekend....then we can relax. The Lion's Club had their annual Tractor Pull on Labor Day. Big event in a country community. John took tickets at the gate and I peddled hotdogs, cokes and fish sandwiches for four hours at the food stand in the park. We women made \$1000.00 for the Lions in 8 hours so you know that we were busy. Life is never dull.

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2.

On Sept. 6, we drove into St. Charles for the afternoon wedding of Chris Alderson. Had to forgo the night time reception 'cause the lones (neighbors out here) gave a B. day party for us. Small but fun.

Have taken the needlepoint chair to be reupholstered (my needlepoint which I finished in vacaville for the chair but we had not found anyone who would upholster it) and the desk chair too so ~~everything~~ everything in the living room except the piano bench has been done. Not the leather things naturally. We are ending up all earthy colors. Greens, rusts, golds and yellows. Pretty I hope. We will do the piano bench when we can find the material we want.

Cat is about to have another litter and a poor little puppy wandered in yesterday. Four deer in the field absolutely unconcerned about our household activities and noises. At 11:30 in the morning and we watched them for about a half hour. beautiful.

John and I both had a slight bug in August which left John with some breathing difficulty. Dr. said Asthma and emphysema. Gave John pills and told him to give up smoking. He is pretty fine during the day but has difficulty sleeping....so we get up in the middle of the night and play that damned Tri* Ominoos game 'till all hours. John won the last three games. This not only puts me in my place but ruins my record. His score in Tri-Ominoos will soon wipe out my Gin Rummy and Domino winnings.

Must get back to important things like punching tin....Much love to you all.

Petty.

Dear - Received the well traveled pkg. and mailed yours to you last Thursday so watch for it. Thank you for the cards, call + the "stockade". Am going to use it to hold a plant!! Hope that is its intention - if not - it is now!! Spent last Friday re-potting, so will be able to put it to good use.

We look forward to your visit. Have already picked up everything from Mary Lee except the high chair which we forgot. Will Becky sleep in a bed? And does she need a patty seat? It's been so long, that I simply don't remember. We'd love to have you for any amount of time! Anytime; so you make your arrangements with Rachel and your friend in Union at fit times around their schedules. Once we get you here - will lock the door & never let you leave.

Love you.

10/22/75

49

October 22, 1975.

well, Dears:

Today is a quiet day. Sortof, the lull before another pleasant storm. John is painting the door sills and patching the floor paint where necessary. The weather continues to be absolutely glorious. Have never known a fall to be so beautiful. Mostly 70ish degrees, with sun and a nice breeze. AND it has lasted sooooo long. We did have lots of color after all. Early October and particularly south of here in the deep Ozarks. This certainly makes up for our absolutely stinking summer.....Because of the weather we are inviting (and have been) people for weekends. Our last people weekend will be Nov. 8th when the Pannells are flying in Fri. night (Yes, the Hermann airport has officially opened...It's a 3000 ft. strip across the river in the bottom land) and 3 couples from St. Louis will join us on Sat. This is a Mary Institute group and will be fun. Then we shall see another football game at Columbia, Mo. on the 15th and spend the night in Jeff. City. Then we can get back to fixing up the house a bit more before Thanksgiving, which I think will probably be here again this year. Friends and family do seem to enjoy coming to the country and that is what the house is all about. Every now and then I get bored silly at cooking all the meals, but folks must eat.

Sister and Lex think they will come for Xmas and last week I received a wonderful LETTER from Hank saying that he was coming and would leave that Sat, for a sail with Kirt. So things are shaping up .

Family news: Hine/Snowbridge is expanding.....Greg has been off on a months long sales trip in the west and she uld be back about now.....H/S now has an Eastern sales rep to ease the load. Hope this doesn't mean the middle west too for then we would never get to see Greg. Always seem to find Ted at the office so I figure he is working his head off. He is building his very own house (having it built) and I guess will move in soon. Greg has already moved into his Town House . We will have to get out there to see these new houses....Hank loves Pharmacy. Sounds like all they do is take tests. However he is so interested that he says that he has never been so happy.....Mooray. Haven't heard from Brad and Sandy but this is the BUSY season so we don't expect too....Lecke, Barb and the children will be in St. L. Friday night and will be here on Monday so we will catch up on them and Becky and will meet Johnny for the first time. Wow. They will be here 'till the following Sun. when they will fly home. Oh, by the way, Greg's new address is 1620 Bradley Court, Boulder, 80303 buy so far his mailing address is the same.

You will all be surprised and pleased when you see the house . It is a joy to have the up-stairs painted and pretty. We can finish the odds and ends this winter when the cold winds blow. Maybe I'll even find time to punch the tin for the bar sink doors. Thought I would have that accomplished a month ago but we do lead busy lives and there isn't quiet time to design. We both will start a WELDING course a week from Monday. This is practical walding so if any of you have a tractor that needs fixing, hold on and we will do it for you. That is really not the purpose for our taking it. We want, so called, Art Welding, but it is all the same thing so we can learn to adapt the practical to theaesthetic.

Very dear Michael McKelvy died Oct. 4th. Dana (Bill's wife) and their children were visiting her so they called me immediately. It just doesn't seem possible for Michael was so vital and alive. We had an extremely close friendship for 34 years and she was so much a part of my life that I shall miss her very much. I really feel as tho' I had lost a large chunk of myself.....Bill and family now live in Memphis and he is flying for a Cargo line; Bruce is unmarried and lives and works in Chicago.

Cat had kittens ,5, on Sat. night Oct 4th. She surprised us by bringing them in the next morning bright and early. Her last litter were not brought here until they could walk. Any way, silly cat with one kitten at a time on her mouth, came down off the hill, jumped the stone wall, then up on the table and then jumped into a box of dried teasles on the table and established that as their home. John did remove the sticky teasles and replaced them with tassels (corn).

10/22/75 - Page 2

2.

Farm cats simply do not have litters in the fall, to quote Marvin, so maybe cat brought them to us for winter protection. Their eyes are now opened and they are trying to stand up. Adorable...but now what do we do with them? 2 greys, 2 blacks and 1 tri-color. Marvin also says that all black cats are male. Think he's going to be wrong on one of these.

There are deer all over the place and at the damnest hours. 8 by the trash burner the other evening at 5:30. 5 does, 3 fawns. The stupid things don't know that they shouldn't be that close to the house and in the daytime!!! Amazing to look out the kitchen window and have a herd not twenty feet away. 11:00 in the morning is a good time too. Hope they continue to come so that Becky can see them. When they are that close we have to remain very quiet for any strange house noises run them off. They browse in the grass, then head for the barn area and then into our wheat field where they chop all the tender new shoots off. Marvin just replanted on the ~~1st~~ and the crop is already 8" tall. You may be sure that

2nd

when the season starts they will all be well hidden someplace else. I am having fun keeping a chart on them at the moment tho'.

we had a marvelous time with the Booths. Had some others in for dinner and bridge with them, and our days together went much too swiftly. As soon as they had left on Fri. 9/26 Mr. Hauser delivered our needlepoint chair and reupholstered desk chair. Why couldn't they have come sooner? We enjoyed the Missou- misc. game at Columbia that Sat. arrived home Sunday and then started to work up to the busiest month we have ever had. Octoberfest. Now. We were not active last year for we had just returned from the wedding trip. I won't bore you with the details but will give you one example, and this with variations happens every weekend in Oct. (This weekend we are having 3 couples for both days. The Spencers, the other Spencers and the Wilkens... all old friends from St. L.) Anyway.. example; work all Sat at Antique Show...10 for dinner that night...2 dealers overnight and breakfast cause there was no place for them to stay in town and then 4 invited guests for lunch and to see the town in Aft. All this means cooking and cleaning ahead and our weeks have been full of meetings too. Weavers Guild here last Tues. and Federated Womans Club here yesterday. We did take off 10/7 and drove down to Silver Dollar City for the National Craftsmans Show. The pewterer was not there this year, nor the tin smith which were the two reasons we wanted to go back. However, we had a wonderful time, spent the night, and most of Wed., we watched the Craftsmen cast Armetale and do metal sculpture. Lovely. I haven't even had time to get My Flu Shot yet. Have you had yours?

Because of inflation...sons buying houses....sons supporting families....college expenses etc,etc,etc,....we feel that Xmas presents should be something that people need and want not just misc. guess work. We sent all of you yellow sheets which would help us if they were returned....add comments on back. We are thinking and will send ideas.

Hope you are all well...we are. Will try to get letters off more frequently in the future.

Much love to you all.

Betty.

Welcome home. Hope your trip was not too hectic.

Love,

01/17/76

Jan. 17, 1976.

Dear Everyone:

It has been a long time since I did one of these. In fact I am not going to tell you how long for I am a bit chagrined by the whole thing. (I keep a record of these family letters in my calendar so I won't repeat too badly....so I know the date of the last.) One of these days I am going to count up the number of meals served this past fall. Had guests most every weekend 'cause the fall (and Spring) are so beautiful here....Had our last ones here Jan. 9th weekend and that is the end for a while 'cause we will be in St. L tomorrow night at Lou and Dicks so that we can make early Dental appt's on Monday morn. Then next weekend, the Hermann Militia is having a GRAND BALL -costume- and then the next two weekends we will be visiting two different friends in Festus and Crystal City Mo.

Deer are all over the place this winter. The only problem is that they never come down the hill during daylight when we have guests. I don't know whether they can count cars or notice extra lights or what...but it never fails. They just don't come....Cat is gone. she and a car meet on the road last Monday and that was that. Am now very sorry that I did not keep a better chronicle of her methods of teaching her young for we will never have another experience like that. We have three of her kittens left. 3 1/2 months old and the cutest ever. Must be some Persian there someplace... however these are the most domesticated of the bunch. Will never be able to make it on their own while we are off. So we have advertised in the local sheet and hope to place these adorable things elsewhere. We will miss watching our little families grow and already miss Cat. There will never be another like her.

Took a Needlepoint class, held by the Extension Service of No. U. in Nov. Not much gained, by me, I'm afraid for the instructor was a beginner, poor thing, and because of class pressure I ended up running the class.

It was marvelous to have Bar^o and Locke here the end of Oct. Johnny is adorable and Becky, exceptional. Lordy but we hated to see them leave. Thanksgiving was a warm one with the Gilhoolys and Bradleys here. Then came Xmas and we think it was the best one ever. And now the sad doldrums of winter. We wish that every one were still here....Of course our comfortable, busy lives continue but it is always a let down after the Christmas season.

Garden Club and Womens Club meetings were iced out this week. But not welding. We finish our welding adventure this coming Tuesday, at night, in a Blacksmiths outdoor shop. Oh, boy. 17 above (which has been our average for the last two weeks) will be a bit cold for two hours outside on a windy hill. We have enjoyed the class and did learn...however the instructor is still wondering why I enrolled and I am still being kidded around town about taking the course. The kidding is fun and done with humor and I don't mind that, but I do object to the discrimination I encountered in class. First time this has happened to me and I did not take to it very well. We, second best, try harder and I wish I could add that I can now out weld all those kids and plumbers and farmers, but I can't so

Kelly is back in school... Pat has a job. Hank loves the School of Pharmacy and Mine/Snow-bridge has expanded again. They now have an Eastern Dep. so I doubt that we will see much of Greg any more. Darn. I think their East is anything east of the Rockies. Greg bought a Townhouse (stunning and angular) with lots of room. Ted bought a house in a development which according to the plat, reminds me of the house B. and L. had in Pleasantville.. only his has 4 bedrooms. They both said that now they have the room for everyone to visit. Sandi and Brad bought a house outside of Lodi (I think). Ranch type with nut trees and from the snap shot looks much like those around Vacaville. Shaded and nice and room to move around in. Marvellous. Wish we could take a trip tomorrow to see all of these.

We are fine and seem to be thriving on country living. It is demanding enough and, yet, relaxing enough to keep us in shape. We will lose a few pounds come spring.

Love to you all and blessings,

Betty

03/26/76

March 26, 1976.

Well, dears:

It has been a long time and I suppose that I should feel guilty....but since we have talked to you all, on and off since Jan.....I really don't.

1st things 1st. To bring you all up to date on what we know about everyone: Sister and Lex are in the Canaries. Left yesterday and will be gone about 10 days. This is the trip we thought we might take with them (even to getting passport photos) but then thought better of it because of funds needed for I.R.S. Darn. Sister will take the rest of her vacation at Amas to come here. Lex hates Russell Sage and will quit in May. Plans to take a vacation in her new little second hand car , to come here and Colo. and who knows where else before taking an apt. and working in the Troy area . Her beau is at H.P.I. so she wants to stay up there.

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Mary Lee is working for MISSOURI LIFE a scrumptious magazine like ARIZONA HIGHWAYS. She has been Pres. of every organisation in Jeff. City and this gets her off the 'volunteer' hook. Plus she has her Masters in Journalism. Malcolm is still running the Stock Shop and the reason our tax is so horrendous is that I traded this year so that we would have more income.... thus very high Capital gains particularly on the Emerson previously invested in the Fiduciary Capital Exchange Fund. Wow.

Pat is working at the Vets. Hospital at Jefferson Barracks. Took his boards in Feb. but hasn't heard yet. Wanted to work for the Gov. because as soon as Molly gets her degree in Nursing they plan to head for the Marshalls (Kwajalein) where his Sister is now employed. Molly is back in school, getting straight A's and is a T. A. in Anatomy. She hopes to be accepted to Nursing school in Sept. The children will be here for 6 days early April so that Molly and Pat can go to New Orleans with friends of theirs. We shall be busy for that is the time that the Booths and their good friend , Brad Russell, will be here too. They are currently in Vail, skiing with daughters. Isn't it nice that their son is in Indians so that we can see them twice a year as they drive through?

Ted and Greg went to a convention in Chicago in Feb. and then Greg went on to N.Y.C. for another one and then back to Boulder and is now in Calif. somewhere. This is the traveling (or one of them) time of the year for him. He will not really be back in residence in Colo. until mid-June and that is one of the reasons we plan a trip west in June or early July. The only delay in our departure would be if Dick and Charlee can come here in June after he does all sorts of important things and gives lectures in St. Louis for their Bicentennial Arts Celebration. More on this later.

Ted received his first Patent in Feb. For "Fannier Bag Construction and Method of Attachment". YIPPEE. We have not seen their new plant, nor the addition to same, nor their houses....so I am anxious.

Hank loves the School of Pharmacy , is working very hard and keeping an average. Will drop back to a B., he tells us (with the blessings of his Professors) because he has pledged to Phi Delta Chi, is a member of SAPHa (Student division of the State Pharm. Society) and plans to run for Class Pres. He is currently the Treasurer of SAPHa now and will be in New Orleans 4/1 for a Convention. Then the Colo. Convention June 1st. Then summer school and internship. Sounds like his first two years in College, when he loved every minute of involvement.... All Pharmacy students must work at their trade while studying and must serve internships, 4/5 in Medicine, so he has a busy life ahead of him.

Locke is still searching for a job. Has had some interesting interviews which seem promising. They do so want to stay in their current location and I don't blame them for they have made wonderful friends, have a beautiful house and have become so deeply involved with their church and activities. The children are fine and Becky continues to amaze us with her vocabulary. Johnny is a handsome and content little fellow so the Locke Aldersons are a fortunate family.

New Address: Don't know where I got the misinformation before...but Brad and Sandi are at 5155 E. Woodbridge Rd., ACAMPO, Ca. 95220. This is just outside of Lodi. My last letter to them was returned three times and we were getting a bit desperate. Damn the U.S.P.O. They are all fine. The boys, busily involved in Scouting (along with Brad who is a Scout Leader of some rank.)

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2.

REPEAT FOR THOSE WHO GOT A BAD CARBON : After LODI.....My last letter to them was returned three times and we were getting a bit desperate. Damn the U.S.F.C. They are all fine. The boys, busily involved in Scouting (along with Brad who in a Scout leader of some rank.) Their house has nut trees and room for horses. It really sounds perfect. A definite plus is room for TWO St. Bernards. (Greg take note.) Their new puppy is a big ball of fur with monstrous feet. It will probably be as big as I am by the time we get there this summer. Erin just had her 15th Birthday. Wish we could have been there to help celebrate.

Now about us.....we are pretty darn fine....John is about to be the Sec'y of the Lions Club. A singular honor (?) because he is so new. I am the Treasurer of the local federated womens Club. Also a member of the Garden Club and the weavers Guild. we both belong to historic Hermann and the Brush and Ballet Club , none of which are really important but which contribute heavily to the Maifest which is coming up soon. The National Vagon Train is stopping here (only three stops in Mo. and we are one.....The Bingham prints are being exhibited here which means two full days of hostessing for me(in costume, natch). The New Yorker Mag. just sent a reporter to Hermann for a week of interviews. Wonder what will come from that.As in all little towns, Hermann has many fighting factions and I am interested in what will be printed.The reporter and wife were a charming couple and we had the pleasure of taking them out to dinner on their last night here , along with others from town. We were not interviewed for we live outside of Hermann. Ha.

Just before the Booths get here, we are entertaining two couples from Festus, Mo.for the weekend. So for two weeks we will be completely snowed under. And this is suddenly spring when we should really be working outside. Now.

We bought a permanent bridge table early in Jan. (a nice one that folds out for a poker table with room for storage underneath. But very Victorian (it is old) with the funniest looking legs you have ever seen.)each leg has a huge buldging knee sticking out. Anyway we will refinish our three funny Victorian chairs (of the Rocking Chair Brigade-dining room variety) and set same up in the living room. Where, I do not know.....But John has always wanted a permanent bridge table and now we have one.

I am the proud owner of a 100 year old solid walnut loom. John encouraged this for he thinks it can take the place of needlework when and if my habits get any worse. So far , we have not solved the problem of getting it set up. It is a direct tieup and has no lams, however we will be able to get a lot of help from the weavers Guild Members,I HOPE.

John has a Trash Compactor. A dandy contraption that scrunches bottles and cans into a bagged brick. Much neater for dumping into the gulley and much easier to handle than the big garbage cans. He can load them behind 'Bruce' and travel up to the gulley in style. That is, is we can just get Bruce working again. It got tired this winter and needs a little care and treatment.

John and I are proud recipients of Certificates in welding. Issued by the Dept. of Ed. of the State of Mo., Vocational Division, Agriculture Dept. Now about that! Finished up in Jan. in almost zero weather, at an old Blacksmith shop on the Old Iron Road. I took a cake..... which the entire class enjoyed while we all huddled around the forge with hammers swinging and toes freezing. Nice.

Had a grand time at the first annual Hermann Guard Militia Ball in late Jan. Costume , of course. Anything to do with the bicentennial. So John dressed as an Indian and I, in the Maifest Costume Molly made me for Xmas. Such goings on. Each couple was announced upon entering and was greeted by the Lt. Gov. of the State. Of course it took 1 1/2 hours for everyone to be introduced. What a shambles.first ball Hermann has ever hadand it may be the last. But for all the goofs, the guests entered into the spirit of the thing and it was fun.

Wait till you all see the doors we designed and punched for the bar sink . There will be so much if ourselves INSTALLED in this house , that if we sell, we will have to tear the place apart to remove our personal ART ? touches.

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3.

Did I tell you that all our kittens were adopted and have good homes. We miss Cat but have no intention of replacing her with a domestic one. We did not keep a kitten because they had become too dependent on us after Cat was killed, thus could not have taken care of themselves when we were away. No doubt the mole and mouse populations will increase tremendously from now on.

We had two marvelous weekends visiting old friends (different families) in Festus, Mo. in Feb. and one of the groups is coming here this coming weekend. We were really wined and dined with champagne breakfasts with croques. What in the heck can I serve them? Local sausage and Max hocks?

John and I spent about ten days, mid Feb. arranging for a showing of Lorenas rugs in Hermann. We collected, mounted, hung, arranged publicity in paper etc, etc. She has such a unique talent (and her way of working is truly a local craft) that we felt it should be shown. The month long show ended this morning and we are sure that the Bruens are very pleased by it all.

Had a delightful evening in St. Louis for dinner at Westborough Co. Club and then the symphony as guests of our St. Louis dentist and his wife. Our first symphony since moving here and it was thoroughly enjoyable. (Hank and Greg will remember Dr. Hunter.)

Whenever we go into St. L. for an evening party we arrange to spend the night in there. It usually is so late for the drive home. The Whites, Spencers and Bradleys leave the door open for us whenever we ask. It's great.....and wonderful to have old school chums that we both enjoy so much.

The Bradleys and Wissmuths gave a 3. Day party for John out here at the Wissmuths Farm. It was fun and John's cake was a 'Cookie Monster Cake' which Jane W. had brought out with her from St. L.

We are becoming more and more involved with couples from Hermann and John is about to take up his golf clubs again. Don't know whether or not we will join the Co. Club. Don't know that we want to become that involved, for there are doings every Thurs. nite and on weekends and that could be a bit too much.

The deer are trampling everything. Don't even know if we can get in a garden. 64 in Marvin's wheat field below his house the other evening. A Giant Blue Heron paused in the creek the other evening only about 100 miles off his flyway. Duck and geese has been flying over. Had two weeks of 80 degree weather in Feb. and then, snow,. Horrible freezes, so who knows what to expect. Most are predicting another serious drought again this year.

Well, dears, keep us posted.

Love to you all.

Sunday - Betty.

Rachel just called to thank us for honey Dick had delivered to her. Said she was fine - arthritic pain gone. Sounded cheerful. (She wanted Native Honey & we happened to have some - that had been given to us.) No hives hereabouts which seems amazing doesn't it.

Love, again.

Betty
P.S. Isn't it fascinating to observe the differences in development in a girl & a boy? Will we ever fly over the corn water.
love you.
C.R.B.

05/24/76

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Monday, May 24, 1976.

Dear Everyone:

Think that I should call these epistles News Bulletins for we certainly are a depository and dispersal center for family news. Heard from everyone on Mothers Day (God bless you all) so I am brimming with news.

Starting on the Pacific coast: Locke has accepted a position in Carrollton, Texas with Westek (Carrollton is outside of Dallas.) He drove east and started working a week ago. They sold their house in Ca., no problem, and he just bought one in Carrollton. Barb and the children will fly to Dallas June 3rd and they will move in on the 7th. The company is moving them and someone is driving their other car so all is beautiful. New address is: 2708 Quail Ridge ~~W~~ Drive, Carrollton, 75006. Locke's business phone is: 214-242-0444, Ext. 427. House is 4 years old...2200 sq. ft.and sounds lovely. All this has happened so fast that it boggles the mind. We shall not swing by Dallas when we drive west but shall make that another trip, probably early fall, after Chris Bradley's wedding. Both the Bradley girls, Lou's Mother and Father, an Aunt of Barb's all live in Fort Worth so B. and L. will have friends and family there.

B. and L. and Greg have all told us how beautiful Sondi and Brad's house is. Lots of land and we can hardly wait to see it. They have decorated and fenced and planted and trimmed and gone on camping and fishing trips and are both working and we hope that they are not completely worn out by the time we get there. Must say that they live a full, active, and most happy life.

Greg, after 8 weeks on the road, returned to the plant to help bring production back to normal. Ted had to fire the production manager and found that things were in a tangled mess. Rec'd the new catalogs for Mothers Day and they are producing a number of new and handsome items. Greg is a most successful salesman and they must be working 24 hours a day to keep things going. They have a new Comptroller and, I hope, a new Production man, by now. Greg said that he would do the rest of the west coast later in the year. He plans to go east in July to spend a week of his father's boat (with friends) and do some selling up there after the trip. Will return to Boulder for a Bike Race the first weekend in Aug. Don't think he plans to race.....will probably just make the products known. I think that Ted just works all the time. He did tell me that after our visit to Colo., I would have a long list of ideas for Xmas. Says he needs everything for his house. The Booths and Bud Russell, all visited the plant after leaving here and we received splendid reports from them.

Bank, too, is living a full life. Enjoyed the Convention in New Orleans....just finished a most successful year at school and between now and the start of summer school, will fix his car, fix bike, find a summer intern job (all Pharms. students must serve internships) do a long paper on $\frac{1}{2}$ Alcohol abuse and play some tennis and a little guitar when time allows. Other than a split above his eye (where a handball hit him) and a bad sunburn after a good picnic, all goes well with him and the others in Boulder.

Will take a brief minute with some news from Jeff. City. Mary Lee's daughter Helen and husband (a Britisher) and two children, plan to immigrate to the U.S. this summer, from Scotland where they have been living for the last several years. Bruce is a civil employee (a meteorologist) in the Queen's Service and tho' he has had several raises and grants in the last three years, they are on paper only since the Gov. is so broke that they cannot pay them. Helen teaches day and night and because of the horrible inflation, they simply cannot make ends meet. So here they come. Naturally, Mary Lee and Malcolm are as happy as clams. They have a job offer in Fla and one in Mo. thru our friends the Biancos so I don't know where they will settle. Helen is a Micro-biologist, (I think that was her degree) and a talented musician (she has developed and is running her own music school in Scotland) so they should be able to find something. She is also a polio victim and life is just too difficult for them.

2.

Malcolm's son and Mary Lee's ex-son in law (same person) just got re- married. To explain: Malcolm's son and Mary Lee's other daughter, Mary Boyd, were once married to each other. There.....

Now to Molly et al.... at is still working for the Gov. Think he is a bit disenchantad with the waste and inefficiency in the hospital but the pay and Benefits are good. Molly finished at just about the top of her class. She has not been accepted to the Jr. College nursing school for next fall, however, (not until Jan.) . The Community College suggested that she go to St. Louis University and apply for a scholarship to their Nursing school and get her R.N. and B.S. She is exploring this at the moment and if she is accepted all her U. of Ca. , Davis, units will be accepted. Thus she would have the two degrees in three years. It would take her 2 1/2 years to get just an R.N. at the Community College. St. L. U. has diocesan scholarships and since Molly is an active Catholic with children parochial school, there is lots of hope. at present she plans to continue part time studies thru the summer.

farther east: Lex has finished . She will move into her apt. in the Troy area June 1st. Have no address on this yet. Then will get a job. Has decided that she cannot afford a trip west this summer and just hopes that whoever her employer will be , will let her come to Missouri for Xmas. We hope so too.

Sister and Lex thoroughly enjoyed their stay in the Canaries, during spring break. When Sis arrived home she decided to fly here for Easter (long weekend) which she did. She came in Thursday eve announcing that she had had a rather severe Gall Bladder attack the night before but that if she had not come , I would worry, which I would have done. we had a delightful weekend with Sister living on Jello and NO scotch. By 4/24 she was in the hospital in N.Y. and had the darn thing removed on 4/27. Thank goodness. She is still home recouping but will start back to work this Fri. we wonder if this has not contributed to her ill health during the last five years or so. Any way it is over and I am glad.

Now back to beautiful outside Hermann: Namely us.

This spring has been an amazing one. Little rain, lots of late freezes but a beautiful one nonetheless. Crazy. Never knew what to expect. Trees and bushes in bloom one day and after a heavy frost- dead the next morning. Farmers are plowing under and replanting the corn. winter wheat , tho' it looks beautiful in the fields, has not headed properly and Marvin is starting to plow it under. It is worth about 35¢ a bushel instead of 2.65 per bushel it would have brought had it developed properly this spring. At that price, it is not worth harvesting. Don't know whether the Soybeans have frozen out or not but all of this is going to make a tremendous difference at the market next fall. We had another heavy frost last week, lost most of our Iris which were beautiful so we didn't even put out our Geraniums until yesterday. They are usually planted in April. Veg. gardens are gone. We will plant but then if there is the expected drought, nothing will grow late. Some fruit had started to develop and will come through but most is gone. Our little cherry tree lost most fruit but is bravely hanging on to about 5 cherries. The birds will hate us.

With no cats we have the most amazing variety of new birds. Each day we see something new. Kitchen window bird watching is great. Rabbits and squirrels abound and quail eat out back where the cats were. Best of all we have beaver in the creek. They are building. The saplings are gnawed off and one big tree is almost chewed through. Twigs are stored in the creek after the bark has been eaten off. Fascinating to watch and I just hope that Belmer (farmer across the creek) doesn't shoot them.....We also have mice and moles. Cat certainly must have eaten a lot of those. Mice have been in the loft over the store but DiCon got them before they got the kitchen. Surprisingly, we have seen no snakes. Guess Cat had cleaned all those out.

I last wrote March 28th and we continued to have a busy social life with many guests and several weekends away. The Pannels and the Biancos from Festus; The Booths and Brud Russell twice. Once on their way to Ind. and then on their way back. Katy and Brian for 6 days so that Molly and Pat could have a long weekend in New Orleans. They both got sick . ugh. Lou's Mother and Father from Texas....the Valentines, Alderson cousins from New Orleans... It was fun and this is what the house is for. Spring and fall are so gorgeous that we enjoy showing it off. The above visits seemed to work beautifully in with our usual activities

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3.

of having people to dinner; Johns Lion Club activities (he is about to be installed as Sec'y- Treas.) Women's Club convention in Evansville and the spring banquet here; artist appt thus nights in St. Louis and all sorts of goodies. John even finished punching the doors for the bar cabinet and installed them. They are MARVELOUS. am so blessed. May even build a cabinet and punch/ doors for that, to hold the stereo. Great success.

Then on 4/22 I suddenly felt punk. Chest pain and arm pain that didn't get worse but simply wouldn't go away. Saw the Bradleys that weekend and he said I should go to the hosp. for a checkup. I think they called from St. Louis every night the following week (while the Souths were here the second time) and he put me in the hospital Sun. 5/2. As a matter of fact, they drove me in so that John wouldn't have to make the long trip. I do thank them for their love and concern.

John stayed home and cancelled our future weekends and straightened up and weeded and painted, etc. while I went through all the horrors of xrays and tests that you wouldn't believe. Was released on Thurs. Spent that night at the Bradleys and came home on Fri. Then came Mothers Day and you all called and sent cards and made me feel so GOOD.

Went in to St. L. again 5/18 for more xg's and tests and still do not have the results. of these tests. Chest, thyroid, stomach, gall bladder, intestinal tract and heart all FINE. Cholesterol-normal; arthritis is osteo not Rheumatoid. Eyes are splendid (with correction). So far, the only thing out of whack are my Triglycerides. (Have fun looking that one up). and I am a good 10 lbs over weight.

Have spent the last few weeks doing absolutely nothing except the bed and the dishes. I do feel some better but no where near perfect however I am sure that Dr. Perry (my internist) will come up with something other than pain pills. I'll call him if I don't hear from him today.

Missed a fun weekend in Festus; Rachel's party for Betty Fuchs and her new husband; the entire Maifest and the National wagon Train which stopped here for two days. Must have been a sight to see. The wagons were on two gaily decorated river barges and there must have been 50. The National train was joined by the Mo. wagon Train and one from someplace else here in little Hermann, so of course, wagons and people were camped all over town. we entertained them(Hermann) so they entertained us with a parade of wagons and 126 horses plus mules and oxen. Costumes, dancing, music....the works. Hermann is so small that it must have been an overwhelming festival. However I do wonder who cleaned up the streets for the Maifest which started two days later. From here, the trains go east by river to arrive in Valley Forge on July 4th.

With Dr.'s permission (hopefully) we shall leave here in time to celebrate Gregs Birthday with him in Boulder. Ted and Hank too. Then on to see Sandi and Brad and then back thru Colo. and home. Of course, more on this later when I talk to Dr. Perry. Hold your thumbs and Love to you all.

Betty.

Dear Barb + Locky,

You know most of this 'cause we have talked. Thank you both + Beely + Johnny for Mom's Day cards + calls. Am glad to be part of this family.

Take care + don't get too exhausted during the move.

Blessings + love.



Dear B. - Saw for

Locky + me. The move transition has been easier as you well know. No one after for dinner.

08/06/76

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August 6, 1976.

Dear Everyone:

This report is long overdue but somehow it seems to take longer each year to get back into the household routine after returning from a trip.

We did have the most glorious vacation. It was fun, most relaxing and accomplished exactly what we wanted.....and that was to see our sons; see where they lived worked and played etc. It was perfect and we enjoyed every minute of it.

Arrived back to find no rain had fallen since we had been gone and that we were having a dandy heat wave. In the 90's, humid and terrible. The grass was completely burned out, but trees and weeds still thriving. everything crackled under foot and it was scary. That heat broke last Sat. and this week has been gorgeous. 70 degree days and cool nights down to the forties. AND last night we had 5 inches of rain. Think we must have been in the center of the storm for the lightning was continuous for over an hour. The storm only lasted for a couple of hours and after it was over J and I walked down to the creek and happily watched the water surging under the bridge. It was high, thus all the algae and green slime is now gone. The front by the road is squishy and I could swear that the weeds are a foot higher. The birds, insects and damned groundhogs are all dancing and singing and the world is again bright. This rain is too late for the corn and beans I fear. Wheat crop was a mess. Only 6 (total) bushels this year instead of 43 last year.

Marvin and Lorene left the Sun. after we returned so we have been checking their house, watching their animals, etc. Kenny, young neighbor boy who is feeding and weeding for them, drops by every day to report his progress to us. Lorene arranged this as a safety measure. Since he is all over the place on their tractors, the theory is that if he doesn't show up, we start looking for an overturned tractor with a small kid under it.

Our first weekend home, Dick was here and we had a fine time catching up. Lou got back from Texas the following week and came out here on Tues. and Wed. to get away from St. L. heat and brought Granddaughter Anna (age 2). Then last weekend, Mally, Pat and the kids were here Fri. night through Sun. so I guess we have been somewhat busy.

John has spent at least 6 days and many evenings catching up on the Lion Club books and letters. He is now Sec., Treas. and the end of their year was just as we were leaving. Soooo. Guess who types all the correspondence?

I always come back from a vacation filled with good creative ideas...full of happiness and energy...and all that sort of stuff. Think what I should do, is lock myself in the store until the end of Aug. either contemplating my navel or making things. The end of Aug. will be active 'cause there will be another weaving (advanced only) seminar and Chris Bradley will be married and we are even invited to the rehearsal dinner because groom Joe has visited us here. They are both great young people and I love them both. Think that J. and I will find a motel room in St. L. for the wedding. Sept 4th and the night before. No point in doing all that traveling.

Ted and Greg had a successful trip east and, I hope, had an opportunity to sail with their father, while in Maine.....A week after we returned, Hank surprised us all by leaving for Thailand for a month. He bought a H/S bag....(back pack)...got his shots etc. flew to L.A. for a visa and took off from S.F. via Pan Am. Declared that he wanted to see the country from which so many of his toys came when he and brothers were young and where ~~John Nalley~~ John Nalley had lived before the Commies took over. My spirit house, funeral masks and so many possessions are reminders of those days. His promotion of the Taj Mahal concert and a Potato Chip venture were successful so he had the money to split. Plus the courses he had planned to take during the last semester of summer school were cancelled. Hope he gets lots of pictures and has lots to tell when he returns.

Plans for Thanksgiving are to drive to Dallas to spend some with L. and B. and wee ones. Barbs parents will come here first for a few days and then we shall all go down together. They will then visit kin there and J. and I will drive down to Padre Island a place that John loves and that I would like to see before it has been completely built up.

We do thank you all for the wonderful times that we had this summer.

Much, much love.

Bette

09/22/76

September 22, 1976.

Dear Ones:

T'is CARBON TIME again so I shall start by thanking again for cards and goodies for my natal day and our anniversary. It is splendid to be remembered but I think, best of all are telephone calls for that makes me feel closer. We and Ma Bell think alike. There is nothing better (except being together) than hearing a voice.

Had a great B. Day. Took a chartered bus trip to Alton, Ill and Elsa and Principia college, all on the bluffs above the Mississippi, with Historic Hermann Inc. Saw restored houses, antique shops and the lovely little town of Elsa which is an Historic landmark. Arrived home about 6:30 and had a Pizza for celebration dinner. Then on anniversary, we pickled pickles late into the night. That Monday and Tues. were weaving classes in town (teacher from Columbia) and one of the Weavers Guild from across the river brought me bags of cucumbers, okra, egg plant and tomatoes. So something had to be done with all the stuff. So every jar of pickles we open this year, we can say Happy Anniversary.

Hank arrived home from Thailand safely but exhausted on the 30th. Took him 31 hrs to get home from Hong Kong. All we know so far is that he had a marvelous time, got some sort of flu, went north to the mountains, south to the beaches, spent ten days traveling with two German girls, went into the jungles, saw Kings palaces and wats and spent money. He said that he would tell us all about it at Christmas WITH PICTURES. Hooray. He'll have to get here early so we can pull out the projector and screen... We received his last card long after he arrived back in Boulder. Mail was slow.... Is back in school with a less demanding schedule than last year so maybe he can catch up on a little rest.

Ted and Greg are still working like mad, and probably too many hours, at H/S. I think that this is the season for Greg to be off attending and displaying at many shows so he might be any place in the country at this moment..... Sister is still working in N.Y.C. and, I think, bored with her job a good bit of the time.... Lex is settled in a new apartment in Troy and is with Merrill, Lynch, Fenner, etc etc etc. Hope she can make it here for Xmas. Christmas should never come on a weekend..... Sandi is working daytimes at her old job (the company is closing soon and they want her to stay on till they do) and working at the winery at night. Good grief. Thus when the company closes she will have the job at the winery. It is crush time so Brad must be beating his brains out. How they manage a home and all this too boggles my mind. But they do, and most successfully. Good news is that we will be able to buy Brads wine at the St. Louis 905's. It is not on the shelves yet, tho' Dick reports that there is a wine from Lodi there now but not the label that Brad told us to look for.... Barb and Locke have found a wonderful new life in Carrolton. They are as happy as clams and we are looking forward to hearing all about it at Thanksgiving time.... Molly is back in school and Pat is happy working again at Barnes Hospital. He got fed up working for the Vet. Ad. Said that every one was lazy and there was so much waste that it made him sick. He has been making the beautiful wooden things (towel racks etc. and hopes to sell them through a consignment shop in the city..... Really seems that all is going well with everyone. A great way to start a new season.

And this season our weather has been beautiful. We had our first fire in the fire place (this year) two weeks ago and tonight it is to go down to 30. I've been sleeping in a flannel nightgown for three weeks. This in mid- No. at this time of year is unbelievable. It should be hot. Days are 65 to 70 and clear and beautiful. However, rain is nil. I do not believe that Marvin has one cash crop this year. He is harvesting his beans (soy) in the bottom land now. All wheat and corn just went into silage, it was not worth marketing. Cattle is so low in price that he will lose a bundle if he sells but he may break even on the hogs. Amazing how some areas had so much rain and others none. Bad. They had a marvelous time in Europe. Thought the prices too high and inflation there much worse than here.

John has been busy with his new duties as Sec.-Treas. of the Lions club. I get to do all his typing. He has also fixed an old washstand for a tea cart for the dining room; built a beautiful primitive bench for the porch using old square headed nails; made a stool for me to sit on while working in the store; put two more coats of paint in our bathroom and lots more. (Cool weather brings on shots of energy.)

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2.

I've been busy too. AM now Treas. of THE GUILD which is the local Federated Womans Club. Not a big job 'cause by charter it can only have 20 members. Truly elite. Meets only once a month but then there are conventions and Bake Sales. Bake Sales are big in Hermann. Held in the banks and the population lines up to buy the goodies. Everything is sold out in an hour. These women can really bake. Wow. Thick, gooey delicious things and every one tries to outdo the next...Gave a lecture at the Garden Club last Tuesday. Had been Assigned 'Teasels or Teasles or Teasles etc. Found some interesting facts on same...made some dried arrangements...took lots of samples and it was a smashing success. We tried to grow Calif. ones on our hillside with no luck when we moved here. Found some Mo. ones about 30 miles away last year. Before we left for Boulder this summer, John swept out the back of the wagon and we arrived home from vacation to a gravel driveway filled with growing Mo. teasles. There were obviously seeds from our gathering in the wagon. Can't have them in our d gravel so now we have more weeds to kill...Both John and I worked at the Antique Car show for the Chamber of Commerce in August and now that Oct. is coming we will do some volunteer work for the Octoberfest, and the Brush and Pallet Bazaar. Hope this weather holds.

Chris Bradleys wedding was beautiful and a blast. I went into St. L. for a shower the Wed. before, and had a marvelous time. Made her (and outfitted) a big sewing basket which she loved. Bought a dress to wear to the wedding in Jeff. City when J, had to go down for a Lions Convention so I looked pretty. The night before we were invited to the rehearsal dinner (at Bellerieve Co. Club) so our lives were filled with city doings for a while. We stayed at the Breckinridge Inn West for Fri. night and Sat. night and left at noon Sun. to visit the Pannells in Festus, Mo. Played bridge Sun. and Mon. (labor Day) and were vulnerable only twice in two days. But it was quiet and peaceful and fun. Returned home Tues. morn thus avoiding traffic. A splendid mini vacation.

Time to make some Fondue (in my new B. Day Fondue pot) for dinner and besides I've written enough.

Love to you all.

Betty

P.S. Carter is an ASS. So there. !

P.P.S. Got a Solid*OXY welding set for our Anniversary. Can hardly wait to try it. Uses propane and solid oxygen pellets.
Hot Ziggety.

10/27/76

October 27th, 1976.

Hi People:

Don't forget to vote....I'm voting for FORD and Hank is voting for carter so I guess that will even out in some poll. Good Grief, in this election I think that Snoopy would win hands down if some one would put him on the ballot. Maybe even ME. We will no doubt be watching the returns 'till some small hour of the morning.

Another issue..... John and I had our Swine and A/Victoria (bivalent) shots yesterday. No reaction except for my sore arm. I had really expected a baddy 'cause the usual yearly booster puts me under for a day or two. Anyway...Sister....you get this, and the rest of you youngers consider very carefully taking a Swine flu shot. I won't do any harm and may do a lot of good. Why take a chance? I don't remember 1917 but I do remember that people were still talking about that epidemic in the twenties. So.... be braveand get shot.

This has been a reasonably domestic and creative time. Have washed windows and curtains, and put up countless of things that people have brought us from their fall gardens. We even put up (freezer) quarts of tomato juice. GOOD. And we bought a side of beef from the butcher at the grocery store. Now there is no more room in the freezers for anything.

Made the wine jelly today and now , never hope to cook anything ever again. Particularly since I cleaned the big oven 4 weeks ago and we had to pull the circuit breaker to finally ture it off. The electrician came to replace the switch, after three weeks, put it in backwards and blew something big. Sparks all over the kitchen. AND he hasn't been back since. At the same time our 3 year old disposal gave up the ghost, and since it had never really worked well, John told them they could shove it and we bought a new G.E. which doesn't drain. Ah well. The fall color has made up for a lot of this. In spite of the gloomy predictions, it has been absolutely gorgeous. No cash crop for the farmers this year around here ...but beautiful color.....Hey, I could work that into the lyrics I have been asked to write, couldn't I? That would make a good, sad country western. And maybe I could make it even better if I added the trauma of the Bradleys farm being entred three times in the last month. John and I check almost every day now after last Thurs. when we went by without the key and noticed the front screen had been broken again. we went on to town because of appointments , came home and got the key and went back to discover that an upstairs window had been left open, another window had been closed on the curtain , and the door which our key fitted had been latched form the inside so that we could not get in. we finally got the deputy who deftly climbed the outside chimney and pulled himself up into the tiny upstairs window so that he could get in to let us in. Ah well. Seems to be a youth who drinks their beer, uses a bed and the plumbing facilities (which makes a mess for the water is turned off) . Or at least , that seems to be the picture. No proof yet unless the finger prints turn up on the beer cans.....Life is never dull.

Have seen no deer for months tho' I did find some prints out front yesterday. Finally had rain,two days ago and our field is now planted again in wheat. Have two baby calves in the barn. One was almost deserted by its mother when born up in the pasture so Marvin keeps them from the Mother until feeding time and then sees that the little one nurses first. Old cow moos and moos if Marvin is late either morning or evening.

Our Thanksgiving plans remain the same. We shall leave here the Monday before (with Barb's parents who will have been visiting us) to drive to Dallas to be with Locke and Barb for turkey day. It doesn't take all that long to drive down but we promised Mary Lee that we would stop by the family (Alderson) cemetary plot in Bonham, Texas on the way to take pictures of the headstones. She is working up a family history. Then we shall stay with L. and B. until the Sunday after Thanksgiving, spend a bit of time with Dick and Lou's daughters and her parents in Fort Worth and head back home. Barb's parents will fly back to Ca. from Dallas. On our way home , we will stop by the young McKelvys in Memphis and pick up the Candalabra. So after many years of being out on loan, they will return and join the other pair for Xmas.

*He is not here here in the house
1st time we were there*

2.

And that does bring us up to Christmas, doesn't it. I trust that we will have the usual Christmas attendance. As an incentive, we already have 'The First One Home' surprise and John is about to get on with that Christmas Day breakfast game. All we really need to have are some Xmas gift ideas. Our shopping tours are far and few, I mean, few and far between....so speak up now or forever hold your peace. Enough said.

If you all have read this far..I need some help on a quote. It is not in my aging Barlett nor in the more recent edition in the local library. I would like to know the author and the proper quote of 'Raisin In The Sun'. It is something like "If one cannot pursue a dream at the moment, does it dry like a raisin in the sun?" Let me know.

Dick tells us that H/S is in the L.L.Bean Catalog this winter. Greg should be home by now. Sandi and Brad told us that he was out there with a western Rep. Maybe now he can stay home a bit more. Reps on both coasts should help. Also, it looks like H/S is expanding into another building thus more than doubling their quarters. Wow....Hank and Ted are fine and we will catch up on the Gilhoolys when they come out this weekend. Sandi is now happily being a Homemaker. The winery has gone into receivership so she was no longer needed. Brad is exploring other areas tho there is no immediate emergency and he may well decide to stay on there. Wish we had lots of grapes here in Mo. It would be so great to have them close by.

John is busy being Sec...Treas.. for the Lions Club and it is driving him bats. Has spent the better part of the last three days trying to correct the last years income tax for them and that is not his cup of tea. My duties are more enjoyable. Weavers guild and Treas. of the Womans club, and Garden Club. Have been collecting and making arrangements of weeds. Pretty and shall do several big ones for Lou and her children at her request.

October is a busy time in Hermann. Maifest (in May)(natch) is the beer festival and Oct. is the Octoberfest (wine festival). Big Bazaars and Antique Shows etc. including visiting craftsmen etc. We cut down on weekend guests this year so that we could enjoy instead of work. The Antique Show is the real biggie and fortunately four of our invited guests couldn't come for the weekend 'cause I was worried silly because of a rather traumatic experience on that Fri. (If they had it would have made 7 guests instead of the three family members who were here(the Epsteins and Lou)(Dick was off on a fishing trip.) Most of the housecleaning had been done but we always do the downstairs last because of dust and wanting to put our best foot forward and all that sort of thing. Fri. morn, bright and early, I waxed the kitchen floor and out bathroom one and then started dusting the dresser behind the door in our bedroom (the bathroom door). There was a sudden heavy splat so I looked around the door to see what it could be and there on the floor on the sill half way between the bedroom and the bath was a big black snake. I called John who was in the kitchen, he took one look, grabbed a golf stick from the store and came running. Not wanting to kill a perfectly good black snake, he tried to prod and pick him up to put outside. The snake had other ideas and scurried into the bath, around the corner and hid under the freezer. So we blocked off the bath door after opening the shed door hoping he would go...go... go. I pegged him as being 3' long and rather fat. John said that he was at least five feet long. First time I've misjudged for I usually exaggerate. It was no doubt Jerome who slithered out when we moved in. The surprise was that he must have been behind all the photos on my dresser and I disturbed him into crawling up on the door from whence he dropped to the floor.

The Terminex inspectors had made their yearly visit the day before and they probably disturbed him in the old cellar under the store and up he came. Well, all weekend, whenever anyone had to go to the bathroom downstairs I led the way (they all knew the way so they probably thought I was crazy), talking loudly to tell Jerome to get the heck out of there if he was still there.....We haven't seen him since but I still think of India and Cobras suddenly dropping from the ceilings and brave men shooting them and saving the life of the gorgeous damsels. That is what happens if one read too many novels when one was growing up in my day.....We still haven't told the Epsteins but we did tell Lou and she howled. And added that she had grown up with Rattlesnakes in west Texas and that they didn't bother her at all. I do think that some of our other guests might well have become basket cases had they walked into Jerome however. I now understand why, when I was 14 or so, our maid would not clean my room when I had a pet snake in my top drawer. It is rather startling to come across one unexpectedly. Partically a five foot Jerome.

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3.

Had a fun time on cld 9/15. I was asked to be one of the three judges for the local highschool Homecoming Parade. John Wilding (local Craft Shop owner), Alice Jacobson (local talented Artist) and I. John drove us around so that we could view the parade from three spots. It was great. There were 8 or 9 floats and all the young people were so enthusiastic. We started at the assembly point, then drove to watch them all march down Market Street (remember it is wider than Market Street in Phila.) and then to the school parking lot. It was so cold and so miserable but the girls leading the band in their 'little nothing' costumes were so wonderful. It was hard to judge the floats for they were all good.....It was a warm and wonderful experience. Country corn? Yes. But ~~was~~ more sincere than any cup I have ever awarded at city horsehows or judging and timing any sailboat race I have ever done. It was great. Pure Americana and I am all for it.

Well, I guess that is all for tonight. It's midnight and time to hit the sack.

Love to you all.

Betsy.

Thank you for the pictures of our future debutant! School sounds good.

We will stay Sat night if O.K. with you & then leave Sun. morn.

This does seem pretty exhausting for you so we give you the privilege of kicking us out prior to that time. = So many relatives for you to handle.

Gee! gosh! Would love to see your Texas acreage on Friday.



Santa will wait. - We will bring stuff to avoid shipping but please hold it until 12/25.

11/16/76

64

Nov. 16, 1976.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL

You see, I have to say it now for we will be off and running as of tomorrow morning.

The St. Peters fly into St. L. tomorrow and they want to see the sights in the city so the four of us will spend Wed. and Thurs. in there at the Breckinridge West (off Lindberg Blvd.) and see things. Then we will come home Fri. sometime. The Gilhoolys and Bradleys will have dinner with us on Sat. night here; Sunday we will pack and Monday we start driving for Texas. Will arrive there Tues. night.

Then stay with Barb and Locke until Sun. Morn when we will spend the Day with the Bradley girls in Fort Worth and then head for home. Will be home Tuesday night Nov. 30th or early Wed. morning.

Then we really have to get ready for Xmas. So I expect all of you to have letters heree telling us what you want for Xmas.....Greg has already done so and Hank came up with one little lonely idea.....Lex is solved so the rest of you get on the ball.

The house is clean as a whistle. Have spent weeks washing windows, fixtures, curtains etc. ad nauseum. The store part still has to be done but nobody notices in there anyway 'cause it is such a mess. So we are pretty well set for the holidays except for presents. So without lists it will be coals and sticks in your stockings. SO THERE.

Locke's address is: 2708 Quail Ridge Drive, Carrollton, Texas, 75006.....tel no. 214-245- 6484.

Deer season opened at the crack of dawn on Sat. and this mornings paper said that 1010 deer had been killed in Gasconade County (ours) over the weekend. And to think that we haven't seen one for months. The herds are big and they will starve this winter if they are not thinned out...but, gosh, that is a lot.

Had a great time at the Colorado game but was sorry that Co. did not win. They really defeated themselves. Fumbles etc. However Mo. got it's come-uppence this weekend against Okla.

Our oven is still on the fritz. Its been since Sept. 29th and this morning the pump on the furnace went out. Hope it warms up a bit or the St. Peters will freeze. The little furnace will keep the downstairs pretty comfortable. Too bad. But this is the life in the country.

Molly has been accepted to nursing school and will start the first of the year. Hooray.

We cannot stop in Memphis for the candelbra on our way back 'cause John has a meeting here and Memphis is about 300 miles out of our way. Hope Bill will ship them.

Travel plans for Xmas are: (according to my two authorities, one in the east and one in the west)....Three Hines will fly in Dec. 23rd at 8:20 in eve. and will fly out 12/27 at 6:00. Sister and Lex will arrive Xmas eve and rent a car to drive out. They will be here about 3, or maybe before. Lex will leave Tues, and Sister will stay the WHOLE WEEK hooray.

We could use some pale green or pale yellow table mats. A canvas log carrying bag. Records, paperbacks, or simple surprises.

Hope you liked our special post cards. Also printed on my notepaper and will have some typing paper printed with the house in shadow all over it. Ha. We have the sketch and will have it framed. Dear new friend here, Alice Jacobsen, did it for us for free. The printing wasn't however. We think it is splendid.

Well, ~~dears~~ ^{dears}, do have a Happy Turkey Day. Wish we could all be together.

03/11/77

March 11, 1977.

Dear Ones:

This is long overdue but there hasn't been much to write about. Our winter weather has finally broken and we are having a good old fashion thunder storm tonight. Bulbs are beginning to sprout and we expect our spring frost anytime now. Was on the phone to Sister tonight and looked up and there were four fat deer right off the little building eating the little greenery exposed by the burning receptacle. Lovely. We watched for a long time. They finally climbed the hill, crossed in front of the house and went to browse in Marvins field across the street. Nice.

The winter was bad. Our heating bill was and still is horrendous. But this was exceptional. I am just beginning to get a case of "Cabin Fever" but a few blossoms will fix that.

First things first..... The NEW YORKER magazine had a 9 page spread on Hermann in the 2/28/77 issue. Am still trying to get copies for you who may not have read same. Sister sent it to us from N.Y.C. Because of this, Harry Reasoner (ABC anchor Man) is here with a full crew and his report will be on T.V. sometime next week. So watch for it. Brad and Sandi should read about the community before they come out this summer. Ha.

John had a marvelous B. Day. We celebrated on the first and then had a weekend party last weekend with the Epsteins, Bartons (from Festus) for overnight and the Wissmuths and Bradleys for dinner on Sat. T'was fun and I'm tired. Houseparties for adults are not as easy to do as they once were. Things have to be somewhat formal and correct so I prefer the 'put your feet up' young people type, family, blue jean stuff.

As far as we know, everyone is well. Sister and Lex leave for Peru on the 20th, the lucky dogs, to view the wonderful ruins that I have always wanted to see. I am green with envy. They take part of their vacations this time of the year and I think that is so smart. One should get away after a hard winter.

Elie Reese called the other night to report that she had gone right through Hermann on Amtrak, and cried as she went through. I told her to let us know next time she was coming so we could go down and wave as the train went through. The train stopped stopping here just as we were moving in. Darn. Maybe all this publicity will put us back on the map. She also said that they had been to a retirement dinner for Mrs. Erickson. Mrs. E was 195 yrs. of age when she taught all the Hine boys in the first grade..... retirement not from school (which happened years ago) but retirement to a nursing home somewhere. Anyway all the old teachers came from as far away as Penn. and all wanted to know about the Hine boys. So she told them. Dalnodar and Hesse sent their best. Remember them?

John has been very busy with The Lions Club. The Sec'y -Treas. job is really more demanding than he expected. But, he does enjoy it except when the check book doesn't balance. But then he has to fight that battle with ours too.

The Weavers Guild is in high gear for we are trying to weave things to sell ^{at} ~~for~~ the Maifest to make enough money to buy another loom. I am Treasurer of the local Woman's Club and, this year, the Pres. of the Garden Club. How about that? Keeps our little hands out of mischief. Plus, the meetings keep us up to date on the local news.

Marvin is repairing more of our fence so I judge he plans to run cattle again this year. The winter wheat is poor so far. Way behind last year. But the creek is coming up and looks so clear and pretty.

Molly loves Nursing school and is doing well. Pat is now working in the O.R. and is on days, all of which he wanted. Great.

Greg has been around the country for shows and selling but is now back in Boulder. Took a week or so in Fla. with Kirt before returning home from his last trip. Haven't heard from him so I judge he is well..... Ted has been busy at the office, as usual. Said that they would manufacture some of those wonderful log carriers which they made us for Xmas. Also said we could take orders. So we are..... Will they come in colors other than blue? Dick and Lou think that they could be sold on the open market for \$20.00. They have examined Gokeys and Orvis and think H/S is the best. Will send in our (and other) orders / later.

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2.

Forgot to ask Ted if his second patent had come through. Maybe there has been a third one by now!!!

Hank is extremely busy. Doing very well in college as he always does when he is too busy to breath. Good grief....He is an officer in everything he belongs to plus carrying two degrees. He, like I guess most of us, does better when overly busy. What is that old "saw" about " If you want something done, give it to a busy man"? True, and he is getting things done. He will be here the 25th of this month. HOORAY. The end of his spring vacation which will be spent at the Lilly Co. in Indianapolis, Ind. I'll be great to see him.

Locke is now working for Priority Placement Service in Dallas. He called in mid-Feb. to say that he and Mostak were parting company so, between jobs, he, Barb, Becky and Johnny came to the farm for a wonderful week. That was a bonus for us.

Ed Powell came to, see us early in Feb. He was on his way east to SKI since there was no snow in the Sierras. A great person who is welcomed here anytime.

Had a long letter from Brad and one from Sandi. Wow.....I'll have to pass the letters around for it would be impossible to relate all their news. They are all so busy and active that it boggles the mind, Sandi has a new job with a small local winery, three days a week, the only female and she loves it. At odd times she works in the tasting room at Brads winery. Fun. Also , she is taking a math course at the local Jr. College.

Brad is taking his Masters in Business Ad. on the weekends in Sacramento. Pepperdine University sends a prof up to Sac. to conduct the classes so Brad is not commuting to L.A. 10 units a semester. Pretty concentrated. We certainly are looking forward to seeing all of them this summer. Hope Brad remembers how hot it can be. We will borrow some fans and see to it that the creek is high and clean.

Enough for now. It is late and I must get some sleep so I can do Taxes tomorrow.

Love you all.

Betty

Presents off today to Becky.



04/18/77

April 18, 1977

Dear Sandi and Brad and Barb and Locke:

This will be a great machine when I learn how to operate it. Belongs to Mary Lee and since she has another, we thought she was going to sell it to us. But no, it seems to be on loan. Extended I hope.

Just finished sending checks and buying tickets to fly to Chicago on May 19th with the Friends of the St. Louis Museum, to view the King Tut Treasures. Wow. Will be a one day trip...no waiting...special luncheon amid all the Chi. museum glory and many other goodies. Wish we could have done the same when the Chinese exhibit was in Kansas City last year. But that was a bus trip and ten hours on the bus would have been too much for John. And me.

We are going to Kansas City this weekend with Dick and Lou to a fabulous Indian exhibit at the Nelson Gallery. Maria's (of Black Pottery Fame) son and daughter-in-law will be there along with several well known Silversmiths. Believe this is a by invitation affair. Invitation to The Bradleys who are sharing it with us. Dick and Lou have an excellent collection of Museum pieces. Will be fun I am sure.

On the Sad side...Kirt passed away on April 2nd. Both Greg and Hank were with him in Miami. Kirt had finished his radiation treatments the Fri. ^{3/25} before but he seemed to have difficulty breathing so on Mon. the M.D.'s did a lung biopsy. The boys were notified that there was no hope so Hank dropped out of college and flew down and Greg followed on Thursday night. Thank the Good Lord that the 'extraordinary ^{means} ~~means~~' did not work so that Kirt went quickly. We flew down on Mon. first flight available what with it being the beginning of the Spring break and all students were heading for the beaches, and were there in time for the Memorial Service in Tequesta. We stayed with a very dear old friend of mine there (John fell in love with her) and then flew to Pittsburgh ^{4/17} with Ted and Hank, and drove to the old family Cemetery on Poland, Ohio for the interment. The Hine family move there in 1700 from Conn. and settled that area of Ohio. Greg stayed behind to finish packing Kirt's belongings into a U.Haul which he ^{HAULED} ~~drove~~ back to Boulder. Dad a dandy

04/18/77 - Page 2

2.

blizzard in Pittsburgh and Ohio. We froze.....Memorial Service was 4/4 and Poland on Thurs. From Poland (Pitts.) we all returned to our home bases.. We to the Bradleys for the night before driving home. Planes were delayed. Our flight never did get to St. Louis (departure flight not return) so we sat in airport for four extra hours. Our luggage was delayed out of Pitts. so we had to sit up for 5 hours at Lou's waiting for the delivery of same. All in all the whole thing was a nightmare. But I am very glad we could get there for we were of some help and comfort to the 3 Hines.

Greg left Fla. at noon on Fri. ^{4/5} and pulled in here at 8:00 Sat. night. No sleep. He left here at 7:30 on ~~Sat~~ ^{Sund} morn and, because of foul weather did not get to Boulder until 3:00Am Monday morning. Poor fellow.. He was driving Kirt's diesel Mercedes, whcih I believe he intends to buy ~~from~~ from the estate..... Hank was able to get back in college; has much to make up but since he had spoken to all his Profs before he left, they have been very helpful. Ted and Greg are back at the plant trying to solve those problems as well as the estate ones so things are more or less beack to normal.. John and I slept most of last week and now much catch up on all the things we must do to welcome spring.

Hope your lives are great. Molly and Pat are doing very well indeed..

Much love,

Petty.

June 12, 1977.

Well dears;

It has been a while, but life has been a little confusing, and somewhat busy so I just haven't taken the time.

The best recent news is that Sandi and Brad and family will be HERE around the 13th of July. For a whole week..... They are driving and will come through Buena Vista, (Colo. on the way so Sandi et al can see where Brad spent summers and then on to here. On the return trip they will stop in Boulder to see Ted, Greg, and Hank (Hines please copy). I just hope the weather here will cooperate for their visit. So far our weather has been pretty darn good but we are running about a month ahead of time on bloom etc so I hope that August weather doesn't hit in July (which can be bad enough on it's own.) Bring boots and jeans for tramping, otherwise shorts. We do think that you should see the Arch while you are here too. Shall we send a marked map, or do you think you can find beautiful outside Hermann?

We had planned to leave for Boulder this Wed. but due to some damn virus which put both of us out flat for over a week we won't be able to leave that soon. John finished his antibiotic today and I have one more to go. Was also taking something (big fat pink capsule) for cough but gave that up when I became so disoriented that I didn't know which end was up. We will certainly be in Boulder before Greg's birthday on the 24th, and will I return here before July 4th for we hate to be driving on a long weekend.

Greg arrived for a short stay on May 12th. Did some business in St. Louis on that Fri. and then was here until Sun. noon when he took off for Chi. An hour after he left, a weekend neighbor up the old Stolpe road called and asked us to come up. We did and there were Elihu and Anne La Monte and many old St. Louis chums visiting for the day. Anne and Elihu had passed here and recognized the house from Xmas card picture. When they arrived at their hosts, the Tebbetts, they asked if the Aldersons lived there. So we were invited up. Had a great time and all were most disappointed to have missed Greg. Amazing coincidence.

Thursday the 19th was the big DAY. We drove into St. L. Wed. night and spent it with the Bradleys so that we could cab to the airport at 6:30. Met the tour director at 7:15 and the Meinbergs who arranged for us to join this tour. Then gathered at the gate to meet the other Friends of the Museum and boarded the plane en masse ahead of the usual commuting peons. Quick breakfast and we were in Chicago boarding our bus for the trip to the museum. Immediate entrance to the Museum and were led to the exhibit by the guide. In we went through a special gate and there we were for two and 1/2 most glorious hours. One walked through a long dark passage to get to the chambers to give the effect of entering the tomb. There were four chambers, the Ante, Burial, Treasury, and Annex and the artifacts were displayed in the rooms in which they were found. I believe there were 55 pieces and there is no way that I can describe this experience to you. All rooms were very dark; the exhibits sealed and temp and humid controlled in plastic or glass containers and beautifully lighted. The workmanship, the ivory, enamels, wood, semi precious stones and GOLD were breathtaking. Unbelievable that after 3000 years these are here to be viewed.Only so many people

2.

are allowed in the exhibit rooms at a given time. As viewers exit others are allowed to enter. There is no time limit once one is in. And one tours alone. It is so dark and quiet that the impact is terrific. I cried. And I know that I will never see anything like it in my lifetime. I do wish that Hank could have joined us and that we could have accepted Greg's invitation to drive up with him but since this was a special tour we were trapped. After our group regrouped we were driven across the park to the Chi. Art Institute for lunch. Private dining room, linen table cloths, delicious meal...and then we were on our own to enjoy that museum which is also (like the N.Y.C. Art Institute) a teaching institute. Wow. What a museum. We saw the Marc Chagall stained glass windows which had just been unveiled the weekend before and more than French Impressionists than they still have in France. Picasso before his cubist(?) era; one two story El Greco that some well heeled donor gave to the Institute and many things. All part of the permanent collection. Boy! Then back to the bus and to the airport and the plane and a wine basket supper (best idea in the world for a 55 minute flight. Bottle of wine, cheese and crackers, fruit and a hot corn beef sandwich...big) and then we picked up the car at the Bradleys and drove home.

We were still reeling when we started Malfest the next day. Whew....The Spencers came for the weekend knowing that they would be on their own while we volunteered our time. They even brought steaks for Sat. night to cook out. We threw in two more for Dick and Frank Wisnuth who were back...ing it to watch their properties during Malfest....

Seems that Malfest was a problem this year. The beer Gardens made a fabulous amount of money but there was too much sex in the streets (and on peoples lawns and their porches) One stabbing and one death from an overdose. Instead of the usual family crowd which we usually attract, they stayed in St. Louis to view the Lindberg celebration (and I would have too) and the Motorcycle types took over. Too bad. Don't know what will happen to Malfest now.

The following weekend we went into St. L. for a dinner party at Busch's Grove and had a great time. The next day the Gillooly's had a cookout which was great. Gave us a chance to meet some of their friends and to see Rachel.

Then last weekend was the Garden Club Display and since I am Pres. I had to be there all day and that was the night that John and I both came down with this 'awfulful'. We missed the biggest social wedding ever held in Hermann. 500 people plus reception at the Co. Club with orchestra. And a beautiful weekend at Festus this weekend with party Sat. night and Champagne breakfast this A.M....Lordy, it will take us a life time to 'pay back'. A few big parties will do it but that can only happen in spring or fall because of lack of air-conditioning. And this fall we plan to be in New England. Sol! ...Did we tell you that we went to R.C. to view the SACRED CIRCLE at the Nelson Gallery on Apr. 22 weekend? 2000 years of North American Culture. Plus the added joy of meeting Joseph Lonewolf, probably the greatest American Indian Potter and sculptor of NOW.

3.

This exhibit was showed only in London and then in Kansas City. Amazing to me that most of the Antiquities were on loan from the British Museum and those in Denmark. John reminded me that they were here first and took things back to the old country. So we have Egyptian things, and Greek etc. over here and they have our Indian things over there. Amazing. And it truly was. We went with Dick and Lou and enjoyed every minute of it.

Great hunter John has bagged two groundhogs and another snake in the bathroom. This time it was a little ting ringnecked (southern) behind the wastebasket. Two young deer have popped out at broad noon in the front yard and back by the barn at dusk. A big buck at dawn in the wheat field and wood ducks overhead every day.

We need rain desperately. Our well still flows but the crops need feeding. The creek may be a trickle by the time the Aldersons from Ca. get here.

I must add that all B. Day and Anniversary presents will be late this season because of illness. Please excuse. This has been a messy time.

Had a brilliant idea about a year ago and finally got around to it this April. A FRIENDSHIP QUILT. Have not finished sending out the squares yet, but you would be amazed at the response from those that have received theirs. John is amazed. (This is for my generation, not you young kids). I asked that those who wished could work their designs and the others to send them back and I would work them. Well....the first one returned was from a gal who said she had to look up embroidery in the World Book to find out how to do it. And she did. It has been great. My life is unfolding in front of my eyes.....on something. The things that people remember.....and draw!!!!!!!Well. It's fun. Sister said that since she couldn't draw she would send back a telephone doodle which she was great at. One gal sent back the design I had done on a clay piece I had done for her 25 years ago. I had completely forgot about it. Another friend sent back a drawing of a man proposing on his knees. She reminded me that she and her husband had become engaged at my parents house way back in 1938. It's marvelous and I have sent them to friends in Prep school and College and every area in the country. What a story this will be.

Guess that is it for now. Love to you all.

Betty.

How is the
needlepoint business?

07/04/77

1977
Our Grand and Glorious 4th.

Dear Ones:

Really didn't think I'd ever get around to this the way this (last month) went. T's machine belongs to Mary Lee (the cookie lady and/or Mary Poppins), and she borrowed it back the beginning of June. She has a better electric with regular type but on occasion needs this type. Thus this is on reasonably permanent loan. She will not sell it to us I am sorry to say. Anyway it is back so here I go.

We had a wonderful trip to Boulder. Stayed there 4½ days in Ted's splendid Motel and had lots of good food and, of course, excellent company....Not long enough a visit for me but we shall keep returning at least once a year. Henry graduated in splendid fashion. 2 tassels... 2 diplomas. HOORAY. I was tremendously proud, natch. We saw his film (which he declared unfinished because it did not have it's music track) and we thought it splendid. Said he something about it being used in school next year. It is about a drug bust and his amateur actors were excellent. Much, except the Drug Store theft, was filmed in Henry's apt. Am sure that he will get the music coordinated this summer after he finishes his flying lessons. Yep, he decided to take a short vacation and then to get his wings, before going on to get in his intern hours. He does need a change, I am sure.

I took all the old 8mm slides and movies out for the boys and we saw a couple of them. Would love to look at them all but that would take at least a month. T, G, and H were cute little kids.

We did not get to H/S this trip but will make up for that next time. Did get to the reservoir beach to watch Ted sail (Greg and Henry's boat) with Greg and I. Soe and had delicious his-ka-bob at their house. Fun.

All in all it was a beautiful time.

Returned home via Colo. Springs, Pueblo to Wichita and then up to Topeka to see Tom and Mariet. John wanted to see the Air Force Academy Chapel. It was "June Week" so we could not get in, but it was a long walk from parking to the Chapel at 7200 feet. Worth every minute for it is one of the most remarkable structures I have ever visited. I hope you all will get there some day.

Returned to be immediately called for Jury Duty. (I had to get permission from the Judge to go to Colo.) Seems that I am an alternate for the April session of the Circuit court. My session lasts till Oct. I was called three times that week and excused every time. Regular Jurors serve several times and then are excused but we alternates are on standby all the time. Can't plan ahead.....At least I was not called to serve on the recent murder trial.

We had beautiful cool weather until about two weeks ago then WHAM. We will determine how we can get some airconditioning into this house for I fear it has become a must. John's breathing has become steadily worse, and tho' it doesn't seem to have anything to do with cool or heat....we would both be more comfortable with less humidity. Last night at 11:00 John announced that I had better take him to the Hospital and I did.

07/04/77 - Page 2

he Doctor met us there and it was purely a breathing problem but they kept him until Sat. morning doing all sorts of tests. As he says, we know a lot of things it isn't but we still don't know what it is. John reports back Monday to find out the results of more tests.....By chance, as soon as we got home from the Hosp., Mary Lee called to invite us to come for the weekend...so we did. Just got home last night after lots of bh bridges and cool comfort. Thus John was in airconditioning from Wed. night until last night and it really hasn't made much difference. Anyway cool is more comfortable.

To get all this Hosp. foolishness over all at once, the week before I was in great pain (chest, shoulder, left arm) so after seeing the Dr. on 6/19 I ended up going to Physical Therapy everyday that week for traction. Seems that I had a Cervical Vertebra pinched nerve problem (remember that whip lash in 1971 or thereabouts?). Anyway the traction was great for the cervical section but played hell with the sacroiliac. I think we will just erase this June from our lives. It was a stinker. Of course because of all this, B. day presents are late....except for Greg (and that because I use did it for me) and the children. I figured that adults would have to wait. Please forgive.

Molly and Pat et al should return from Hawaii today. The Gilhooly's (elder) were to visit them here but decided they would pay half of the expenses to get them there instead. So M. and P. saved and went over there. Their plans are to move over there next Feb. anyway so this was a great chance for them to look around; price housing etc.

John is no longer Sec. Treas of the Lions Club. After two years he refused to do it again. Neither would he take on an offered officership nor a seat on the Board of Directors. He's happy.....Our Garden Club is now Federated so I'll be happy when my term of Pres. is up in Jan. 2 years is enough.

A T.V. crew from Germany came to film Hermann and it's crafts so I'll be seen in Gf Germany weaving like mad. Ha.

Please note and record: Lex's new address....Riverside Apts. ~~215~~ # 15-2
Huguenot Street
New Paltz, New York 12561.

She is going for a B.S. in Biology at S.U.N.Y. there.

John's delightful niece Mary and equally great husband Jack Hill of Piedmont, Ga. were here on June 10th looking for property to buy in Mo. Planning ahead for retirement in 10 years (they will be about 50 then) and they think Mo. is the best country and the best buy for retirement. Ignoring the summer humidity, which exists from the mountains east and worse in the south, they are correct for the Ozarks are beautiful and the living is certainly less expensive than either coast or the mountains. They want a creek and woods NO house for they want to eventually build their own Solar one and they feel that now is the time to buy before the farm land goes sky high.

When we returned home we ~~found~~ ^{found} many Groundhog kits in the field and we can't shoot them ' cause of kids in the creek and a gun whos sight is out of whack. They are ruining our field. Pop lives under the little white house and when John filled up the hole in the foundation the damn thing chewed the clapboard so that it could get to the stones to push them out of the way.....We also found that the few grains of corn left from feeding our deer under the front porch had sprouted and we have a fine crop of corn growing beside the

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front porch. We are teasing Marvin and Lorene about our corn being better than theirs.

.....

We have a beautiful Water Color of the house done by Alice Jacobson, the same woman who did the charcoal for our stationery. Gorgeous.

John and I are taking a Stained Glass course in middle July. Sandi has done the same thing and this is in no way a competitive gesture. I'll take her work anyday. It was available and we thought that it would prevent us from sitting in the BLAIS all summer.

We are both newly elected members of the Board of the Mo. (or something) Cancer Society. I really don't know what it's all about because John took the call yesterday and he didn't get too much info. about same. The Board meets only 4 times a year so if we have to travel someplace it won't be too much of a problem.

Well this is certainly enough for now... I'll try to get back to a regular schedule on letter writing and I hope you'll do the same.

Love to you all.

Betty

P.S. To avoid heat and really since we were invited several weeks ago, we shall be at the R.K. Barton's in Festus Mo. this coming Sat. night and be home Sun. night 7/9. It will probably be one of those "Wild Parties" to quote Greg. Same group we had for the weekend last Oct. when Greg was here.

Love again.

Me

Please start collecting all over again. (letters.)

And - someday - presents will arrive.



Christmas, 1977

Dear Friends:

Our last Christmas Letter was sent in 1973 and since we have had so many requests for a "Bring Us Up to Date" one, here we go.....

You will recall that at that time we were in the throes of remodeling and modernizing the farmhouse. We doubt that it will ever be completely finished (I don't suppose any home ever is) but we have come up with a cheery, comfortable and most livable house which we love. We have settled in so comfortably that it is hard for us to remember what the place was like when we bought it and those horrible (yet humorous) months of cooking on a two burner plate, carting water, no private bath facilities, etc. etc.

The sturdy old store building will always be in a state of disorder for we are using that, as intended, for a project room and work shop.

Since we do not seem to be of the idle sort, we have been and continue to be, involved in numerous community activities. John is Secretary-Treasurer of the Lions Club and Betty is President of the Garden Club, Secretary of the Women's Club and a member of the Hermann Weavers Guild. We are both active volunteers for Historic Hermann. We have both taken courses in Welding and Silk Screening (no connection) and Betty has attended several weaving seminars and recently, a session in spinning. We are proud possessors of a 100 year old, solid walnut floor loom which "Old Dad" is going to finish putting together one of these days - also a table loom which Betty is using. She has also been designing needlepoint and rugs which John happily helps to hook during the T.V. football season.

Naturally, with the house and acreage, we have not been traveling as much as we once did. We do a lot of "weekending", try to see our offspring once a year and we did catch the King Tut exhibit in Chicago last May and the Sacred Circles exhibit in Kansas City in June.

In September we took off for New Jersey, New York and New England. We had not been east for 7 years.....much too long a time. Thanks to Betty's Sister, we saw two wonderful shows in N.Y.C.....A CHORUS LINE and SAME TIME NEXT YEAR. Chorus Line was one of the best shows we have ever seen so don't miss it.

We visited some old friends and missed many for there was just no time to take in all of New England. We had also planned to drive the southern route home but Old Dad ran out of stuff so we headed for Hermann instead.

For those who have visited, we are still here and your room is ready. For those who haven't, we have plenty of room, and to quote John, good food and drinks, and we would love to show you our charming little town and our beautiful countryside.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to you all.

Betty and Dad

For news of our children:

Henry will graduate from Colorado with 2 degrees in June.

1. Pharmacy,
2. Business Administration. He is Treasurer of SAPH and will soon be past president of his fraternity.

Ted and Greg are going great guns with HINE/SNOWBRIDGE and KIRTLAND TOUR PAK. Happy 5th anniversary to their, now well established, company in Boulder.

Brad and Sandi and their three are in Acampo, Ca. (near Lodi) where Brad is the Winemaker at Felice Winery.

Molly and Pat and their two are in Webster Groves, Mo. Pat is now a R.N. and Molly will have her degree in Nursing in a year. After that they will probably be off to Hawaii.

Locke and Barb and their two are now outside of Dallas where Locke is running an executive employment agency.

Spook Day 1978.

Dear Everyone:

All good things come to an end....thus Mary Lee needed her typewriter again ...thus I am back to my Father's little fellow which has served me well during the years.

Figure I'll buy a new one some day but that thought sits over in the corner of my mind with a new camera, sewing machine, mixmaster and other things. However we should have our NEW CAR by Christmas and you will note a new paint job on the outside trim and the roof of the house. And porches.

We also have a Cleaning Woman (72 year old German Woman who needs a little guidance but does scrub). She started last week and I do hope she lasts at least until the house is pulled back together.

On the other side....the dryer is broken, the dishwasher is out of commission, the second refrig. gave up the ghost and the ice maker is still broken. Ah well. I keep saying that maybe by Xmas all will be fixed. They had better be!!!

The fall has been beautiful and Hermann broke all records during the three weeks of Octoberfest this year...maybe because we didn't hold a Maifest this year. I wasn't a very active helper this year but did a bit of weaving at the Guild last Sat. John helped at the Winery one Sat. and came home exhausted and cold. The young McKelvys wanted to come last weekend but we had to say no for we had a houseful Sat. night to celebrate Lou Bradley's B. Day.

And we went to a party at the Wissmath's on Sunday. Thurs. we received a surprise call. Ruth and Tom Darling (the Hine's aunt and Uncle) were in Hermann. So we spent a lovely day and evening with them. They parked their beautiful new R.V. out front and were gone before dawn Fri. Morn. It was fun to see them after all these years and we had a great time.

Am feeling fine....energy is coming back....and my only uncomfortable problem is skin sensitivity and scar awariness. Dick says I must get more exercise other than walking up the hill with the Darlings (I didn't even puff). I'm still down 10 plus lbs and intend to at least stay there. I sit a lot 'cause I still get tired but all is going so well.

Xmas is uppermost in my mind. NATCH. Sister, Lex, Ilse, Greg, Ted and Henry will be here in the house as always and we hope that Sister, Lex and Henry will be able to stay all week. Sis still has vacation time coming up and I hope she will take it this way. Lex may be free since she has a vacation then unless she has a job and Hank maybe able to stay too.

I think Henry is touring the country at the moment looking at Law Schools. Greg IS touring the country selling products and Ted is still on his five week saga in the South Seas. Oh lucky fellow.

Back to Xmas.....Our Motel Guests, Brad and Sandi, will arrive the Thurs. before Xmas and stay a week. It does not look like their children will come for it is the year that they are due to spend the holiday season with their Father. Locke and Barb and their little ones will also be Motelers. (We plan to rent the wing of the local hostelry). Haven't heard their arrival time yet but we do suggest that the Aldersons ,All, visit their Grandmother in St. Louis before Xmas Day.

The Nalleys and Hines arrive on Sat. and we will put that together after all Hines are back in Boulder and can confer with each other.

For you who are new to our Xmas.....bring your own Stockings or you'll get a paper bag to hang by the Chimney with care. ALSO bring the Squares for MY GREAT QUILT or I'LL greet you at the door with Gun in hand.

2.

We will play our usual games Xmas morning but I don't think John and I will want to see anyone before 10:00 A. M. on that day.

Would like to know if the ~~Ware Girls are coming~~ for the "Day after Christmas" annual shambles. It wouldn't seem right without them...and the annual snow....and the annual chopping of wood, etc. etc.

We think there will have to be a few new rules too.....

1. Only one JOINT gift for John and me. (Very small. Make us something).
2. Absolutely NO proliferating in gift giving between those who normally don't anyway. Brothers and Sisters take note. Just because the family is gathering on the Gilhooly's last Xmas here, we will not be part of a situation which causes all of you extra and undo expense. It is costing you too much to get here anyway. And "That, Said John, is That".
3. We, I said, We are paying for the Motel Rooms.
4. We, I said, We are paying for the rented cars. Nalleys, Hines and the Bradley A's take note. This is a convenience for us in getting people back and forth to airports so That, too, is That.

Other points that come to mind.

Ted: Bring a projector so that we can see your pictures. Our projector is sitting in your garage (I believe, with all the things about the Hine Boys growing up.) We have a screen.

Next:.....

We need Xmas lists right now. We do want to get the Surber children gifts off early and we do not intend many trips into the city this fall. So, please, do it now.

We enjoy books, records and homemade goodies (no fruit~~y~~ and fairs in mine) and John also requests that everyone look for Alcohol Burners for Chaffing Dishes (copper). We have three chaffing dishes.

From Brad and Sandi we would like several bottles of Brad's wine for Xmas dinner and that is ALL. Maybe Sandi could bring them on her lap.

In records... No Brasil '66 or whatever year they are in now...no Big Band (we have all of the above mentioned). Maybe a little Steve and Edie or 'Old Blue Eyes Sinatra or something corny and romantic.

Next... U.P.I. was here Thurs. to record the Clydsdales and Parade in celebration of 100 years of continuous serving of Boose at the Concert Hall. The National Geo. is coming to do a spread on the town and suddenly some of the locals are calling quits. The town is becoming too well known and folk are objecting. So the World Turns.

Time to go to bed. Hope this makes some sort of sense. Any questions?

Love to you all.



09/30/81

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Sept. 30, 1981

Dear Everyone:

Here I am, all psyched up to start writing a long 'catch up' letter and I had to go back to Dad's old machine. The beautiful I.B.M. will have to go to the shop. I played my will against it's, and it won. It will not RETURN nor backspace (and I even read the directions). Think it needs a bit of cleaning. So we will all have to struggle along with these carbons which I hope will be legible.

Am taking an Aerobic Exercise class two mornings a week and total exhaustion has set in. I return home and do sit down jobs or nap. Thus half the week is shot. Am the best at dancing but the exercises really do me in. After a month we can do all the Cardinal cheer leader routines...westart on the Cowboy girls routines in the morning and were told to bring our cowboy boots with us. I told our instructor to get us Pom-Poms so we could cover our hips while dancing. The studio is across from the German School House where all the tour buses stop. Thus people stare in our windows all the time and even tho' they are Senior Citizens too, I find it disquiting to be stared (laughed) at. The music we use is hot rock and heavy jazz and since windows are still open, the music blasts the community. Lordy.

The area is really blossoming. Property values are up. The Lunds (one of Dick's partners) is building an addition to his farm house up First Creek; the Wissmuths are about to start on one because they plan to retire out here in 18 months; Harry Baumstark, up the gravel road by us has already built a beautiful brick caretakers house and is starting on his Mansion above our high pasture overlooking Gasconade valley. Jim Dierberg who restored the Herman Hoff Winery and the old Slack farm behind us on 100, has put in 170 acres of Vinyards up behind and is restoring an old stone house up there for a hunting lodge. Maybe our property will be worth something some day. I know of no farm in the area that has not been bought up by 'City Folk' and the restorations are beautiful. Wish you all could get here sometime other than when the snow is on the ground so that we could drive you around. Dick and Lou are selling their place. Have one bite, which I hope for their sake, will go through. They can always come here to relax.

Our weather has been glorious. We had Sept. in August; only a few hot days in July; but because of this, we are due to have a bitch of a winter with 9 inches of snow (either on the ground or coming down) at Xmas. Dede is flying in the Tues. before. (Lex and Lou are not coming. It's the Ricci's turn, quite properly.) Will write to Biruta eager to see how she plans to travel but I would suggest to the Boulder group that they might consider coming by overnight train. We could pick them up in Jefferson City. A regular stop. The Train did stop here for Maifest and probably will for Octoberfest (3 weekends in Oct.) but won't anyother time, since they tore down their station here several years ago. DUMB.

You in Boulder, start thinking about the DAY AFTER PARTY and tell me which day it will be. It is lovely to think that Xmas is on Fri. thus giving us extra days to play.

After months of mostly being without a phone, we have been put on a 4 party line. As soon as that happened, our phone went completely out. The repair men work so hard... and have been in our area every day. It has to be the equipment. Yet why don't they connect us to the new cable across the street? We gave them the easement to lay that so it must be the lines from town to that. It's a mess.

Dede is now out of her cast. She has to exercise her leg in the tub twice a day and goes for Therapy several times a week. Haven't been able to find her a Rubber Ducky here, so that she can play in the tub; maybe you all could send her one.

Janie Mueller sent me a wonderful official souvenir magazine of the WEDDING in England. Also a Commemorative coin. Yippee. Her house in N.J. with 3 acres, is for sale for \$450,000. bucks. Wow.

We planted tomatoes, peppers and Basil along the fence. Thus we are freezins same like mad. Spent our Anniversary and my B. day putting up pickles that Lorene had brought us.

2.

And that is the extent of our farming.....We did have a lovely surprise a week ago. We returned home from a quick dinner in town to discover a package of red things in our refrigerator. The next day, Vance, one of the men who painted the outside this summer called and apologized for entering our house.....but said he had left a package of wild dove in our refrig plus more frozen in the freezer. He gave us lh. wowie. He is in college and is home to hunt only on weekends and he said that he remembered that we had said that we loved them and since he likes to hunt but doesn't eat them, he brought them to us. Nice indeed.

Everything has been repaired from the lightning this summer except the Stereo. And the many trees that we lost from wind this summer. Huge oak and Walnut plus too many others are gone. We haven't gone up on the hill to count 'cause the chiggers and ticks have been too bad this year. We will be able to do so soon. I seem to have developed BAD Allergies this year (at my great age). Now I know what Greg and Brad talk about. There are times that I can't breathe...I sneeze and cough and several of my bites caused a miserable ~~bought~~ with blood poisoning. I ran a fever and was miserable. Ankle still bothers. Maybe I was an allergic baby and it has finally come back to haunt me.

Brad and Sand^y called to tell us that the baby Sandi is carrying is fine. She went through the tests 4 weeks ago and the results were great. They did not want to know whether it will be a boy or a girl so come Feb. we will all be surprised. Erin is in Bakersfield, Tim is in college at Davis and Matt in school at home.

Haven't heard from Molly but know that they have Rachel Ann. She will be 1 year old 11/18.

Ilse and Greg had a marvelous bicycle trip through Switzerland and England this summer and I'll beat them over the head if they don't bring home the pictures this Xmas. Ted is working like mad. I have sent him some good travel brochures but he hasn't taken the bait yet.

Cindy and Henry are back in school and Anna has adjusted to the new school beautifully. She rides her bike down to the play ground and has made friends which is great.

Sounds like Barb and Locke are really thriving. Johnny and Becky really shine at school and Locke is doing too much business and Barb is creating the most beautiful stained glass work.....You'll see our Anniversary one hanging in the kitchen window at Xmas. It's there now...and beautiful.

Time to do something about dinner now so I must end. Maybe I'll take this up as a regular routine again if you all wish me too. I would like ~~for~~ to leave you with an important thought. The Medical Profession has now established thatgenetically, intelligence is passed down from the MOTHER. Ha!!!

Much love,

Mother....Betty.....Susan.

Henry reads Who's Who for Law Students. Will copy & send same later.

Dad isn't used to playing cards (Muppets) yet. Saving them for bridge. Our Edge is gone. ☹.

11/03/81

Nov. 3 , 1981

Dear Everyone:

There really isn't much news, but I swore a swear that I would keep going with letters, so here I am.

Just after my last , we had the local Chimneysweep come in to do a job on all three of our chimneys. And that is what he did. He did have the proper hat but not the tailcoat with all the buttons on it. The store chimney was in great shape; the living room semi clean.....but the one in the middle of the house to which all the 6416 (Feil) room stoves and our furnace was attached, was a disaster area. Since our furnace is gas, it has not contributed much to the soot problem but I think the old kitchen stove plus the upstairs room stoves had contributed a lot. That chimney was a mess. After the cleaning, that poor Sweep must have taken out two feet of soot from the little opening in the cellar. It was fun to watch him up on the roof , and in the fireplace and digging here and there. If you all are fortunate enough to have Sweeps, I would certainly suggest that you have your chimneys cleaned.

Our phone is doing beautifully since they really put us on a 4 party line. This took constant complaints to Rolla,mo. and finally to Kansas City, the home office. I kept records all summer's and when I started to write ; oh boy, things moved . Since our basic rate is so small ,I believe we only got only \$5.00 refund for 22 or more days outage. It is interesting to note that our basic rate of \$5.85 has not been changed, so I guess that we were always paying for a four party line,which of course is required by law. Just proves that the squeaking wheel does get the grease.....when things go very wrong.

October was a busy month with three weekends of Octoberfest. Since this is sponsored by Stone Hill Winery, every organization in town has got on the bandwagon because of the crowds that come to town.Thus it becomes rather exhausting after giving time for each organization to which one belongs. We did not have the color this year and we did have lots of rain; but everyone did make money,for service clubs and that is the name of the game.

girl

I just resigned from the Federated Womans Club here. I was a good/in that I waited until a year after I had been president before doing so. The meetings are at night and I really have never been interested in Lady Doings at night. When we moved here I was very glad to be asked to join because I met many interesting women who have become friends. They will remain so and I certainly do not need all that lonely night time driving anymore. I sit on the board of Historic Hermann and when my term of office is over (two years, I think) I shall resign from that . Again, night time meetings.

Sad to relate.....The aerobic exercise class has just been cancelled. Not enough Day time students. Th night time classes are packed. So here I sit in my gorgeous 2 piece sweat suit.Both pieces for \$7.00 at the \$ store here. It really is crummy looking but so comfortable%. Will try to find another daytime class.

Out car is in the shop having a paint touch up job. We ran into a lot of gravel and road repair on our trip last spring and figured that all those little chip spots should be fixed before winter (and rust) sets in. We'll get it back tomorrow.

The darned Face Flies are back again. Think it has been 4 years so I guess they run in cycles. Everyone has them but they are so ugly and big. And speaking of nasty things we are about to tackle the cellar and the store. We bought the masks that Greg suggested to keep from breathing all the dust and they were 89 cents apiece....so Greg if you can buy them for the price you suggested , bring us some for Xmas. While speaking to Greg he told me that in a few weeks, Ilse will have a new Mananagerial Job very close to Boulder. New King Super Store.....easy commute. YIPPEE.

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2.

Barb and Locke invited us for a Thanksgiving visit but we decided that it would be best to go another time when the weather would be more reliable, thus we will be home for Turkey Day.

This is a day of days.....~~We got our Stereo back. MUSIC...MUSIC...MUSIC. This is the last of the repairs from the bad storm last July.~~ Mark Cranneman didn't quite plug all things in the right holes, but things work and Ted, Greg and Henry can replug it all for us at Xmas. Anyway we can play records and radio and the speakers work and tapes play through both speakers so it is pure joy.

John is great. After he finished painting all the outside furniture he refinished two chairs and has made a list of all the things he wishes to accomplish. We both hope that we can get one of the men who painted the outside of the house this summer to give us some weekend time to scrub walls inside. The inside really looks dirty at this point. After all it has been 8 years since we painted. Too long for white walls.

After a quick trip to the Dentist on St. Louis, a short time ago we had a quick peek at Cindy's and Henry's new abode. Our first visit since they moved. They have done a beautiful job. The house is lovely and so comfortable and livable. Anna loves school, has made friends in the neighborhood and is so happy. So all is well there.

We had a great overnight with the Epsteins in Jeff. City. Little theater on Fri. night and the Nebraska....Mo. game on Sat. Good show and good game even tho' mizzou lost in the last minute of the game. Love live football even tho' there are times when I wish for an instant replay.

We have been going out to dinner with the Wissnaths and other weekenders with great regularity and there have been parties etc. so life is full.

Now is the time to think about Xmas. If you all want some thoughts, here they are: Johns list includes: Small, light weight chain saw.

Wallet

Alcohol Lamps for Chafing Dishes

Long sleeve, two pocket sport shirt...large.

8' folding carpenters ruler

A paper back book called "Street Games".

Betty:

Kitchen towels....dark colors....terry cloth.

Finger tip towelsterry, to be used as napkins. Rust, Mustard Avacado, brown, yellow. (House Colors.)

Barings.

Soup bowls.....informal.

Candle mold.....10 or 12" taper.

Tapes:(Both of us) Mel Torme LIVE AT MARTY'S IN N.Y.C.

" " and George Shearing performing together.

George Benson TAKE 5 or ON BROADWAY.

THE NEW group Association.

Or whatever your pleasure may be.

It is time for Tom Snyder so it is time for me to stop this.

Love to you all,

Mother....Betty.

Betty

When I first met you,
You were already old.
But that didn't make any difference.

I tried remembering you today.
I remember when you sat
At your desk that commanded the room,
It was as if Anastasia
Were in exile there,
Next to First Creek.
Your ever-present cigarette
Curled white wisps of smoke
Above your head,
Like oxygenated doilies.

Then you'd speak in that measured
Characteristic smoker's voice of yours,
"Ed, would you like something
To drink, a soda— a whiskey?"
I would demur to the softer kind,
And you would court your husband
With, "John, would you be so kind
As to get a drink for Ed."
And John would make the pact
Complete, "Certainly, dear."

And then you'd bring
The reporter in you up,
"Now tell me, how are you
Doing with..." And you'd
Press for how I was doing
On whatever project I was
Working on the last time
I came over. And you didn't
Miss a beat. It was if we were
Just catching up for yesterday's
Conversation over the fence.

I would sit there in the living room
On the edge of that green braided oval rug
That stretched a whole room
While you sat there before your
Desk of papers.
There we'd swap town tales
And daily memories,
As we cast our lines of conversation,
Pulling them in gently,

Like two kids sitting on the edge of a dock,
Playing hooky.

Even when you were in a wheelchair,
And your hands were so gnarled
That there was pain in me,
You held court with the dexterity
Of a queen: articulate, intelligent,
And charismatic as always.
Our visits became fewer and far between.
But I will always remember you—
For such a friend of poets
Always casts a long sustaining shadow
Across a poet's heart. I think so.
And Dick, I'm sure, thinks so, too.

Edward J. Steinhardt



**ELIZABETH ALDERSON MEMORIAL RECEPTION
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1996
TOEDTMANN & GROSSE FUNERAL HOME
HERMANN, MISSOURI**

Betty's Obituary

Elizabeth (Betty) Seward Hulburd Hine Alderson, age 79, (former) resident of (St. Louis, MO) (North Caldwell, NJ) Hermann, MO died Monday, September 9, 1996 of metastatic breast cancer in the Hermann Area District Hospital. Betty was born August 29, 1917 in St. Louis, MO, the daughter of the late Clarence Earl Hulburd and the late Hazel Elizabeth Caroline Coudy Hulburd. She was married to Edward Kirtland Hine, Sr. (of Seattle, WA) February 21, 1942 and divorced in 1962. She married John Locke Alderson originally of St. Louis, MO August 31, 1968 and lived in Concord, CA, Vacaville, CA before finally settling in Hermann, MO in 1973. Betty attended Mary Institute of St. Louis, MO and Finch College in New York, NY. During World War II she was active in the Northern New Jersey Red Cross Blood Bank. She lived in North Caldwell, NJ from 1942 to 1962 during which time she was a member of the PTA and active in many crafts, particularly ceramics. She moved to Hermann, MO in 1973 and was a member of the Garden Club, Weaver's Guild, and active with Historic Hermann and cancer support. She is survived by her husband John Locke Alderson of Hermann, MO, three sons from her previous marriage: Edward Kirtland Hine, Jr (51 yrs) of Louisville, CO, Gregory Seward Hine (49 yrs) of Boulder, CO and Henry Boardman Hine (45 yrs) of Brentwood, TN along with grand children: Charles Gordon Hine (14 yrs) and Richard Kirtland Hine (10 yrs) both of Brentwood, TN. She is also survived by John's children from his previous marriage: John Locke Alderson, Jr of Plano, TX, Brad (middle name) Alderson of Acampo, CA and Molly Alderson Gilhooly of Kanehoe, HI. She survived her late sister and brother: Harriet Nan Hulburd Nalley of New York, NY and Earl Seward Hulburd. A small memorial service will be held at: (place), (time). Memorials should be made in Betty's name to the Hermann Area District Hospital, Hermann, MO 65041.

John's Obituary

John Locke Alderson, Sr. age 83, resident of Hermann, MO (former resident of St. Louis, MO, Louisville, KY, Dallas, TX, and Concord, CA) died Saturday, September 21, 1996 in the Hermann Area District Hospital. With daughter Molly Gilhooly at his bed, John quietly passed away early Saturday morning less than two weeks after the death of his second wife, Betty.

John was born March 1, 1913 in Jennings, Missouri, the son of the late Irving Thomas Alderson and the late Beulah Humphries Alderson. He was married to the late Francis Bradley Alderson in 1940 in Clayton, Missouri, they had three children, John Locke Alderson, Jr., Molly Alderson Gilhooly, and Bradley Alderson. After the death of Francis in 1967 he married Elizabeth (Betty) Seward Hulberd Hine of Clayton, Missouri in 1968 and lived in Concord, CA and Vacaville, CA before finally settling in Hermann, Missouri in 1973. Betty had three sons from a previous marriage: Edward Kirtland Hine, Jr., Gregory Seward Hine, and Henry Boardman Hine.

John worked for Travelers Insurance starting in 1943. With Travelers he relocated to many cities as his career developed, these included Louisville, Kentucky and Dallas, Texas. He completed his business career with the Travelers in San Francisco, CA in 1969 when he retired. After living in Concord and Vacaville, he and Betty finally settled in Hermann where he joined the Lions and was active with Historic Hermann. Together in retirement they had many years of activities and friends in the historic Hermann community. John enjoyed reading, bridge, and conversation.

He is survived by his six children and their spouses, fourteen grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

In appreciation of the loving care provided to both John and Betty during their long hospitalizations the family requests that memorials may be made in Betty and John's name to the Hermann Area District Hospital, Hermann, MO 65041. Due to the recent death of Betty Alderson, the family will hold a private memorial service for John Alderson.