

Western Kentucky University

TopSCHOLAR®

---

Ray Family Papers

Manuscripts

---

1987

## 1987 Ray Family Papers

Department of Library Special Collections  
Western Kentucky University, [spcol@wku.edu](mailto:spcol@wku.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ray\\_fam\\_papers](https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ray_fam_papers)



Part of the [Nonfiction Commons](#), [Other Rhetoric and Composition Commons](#), and the [Public History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Department of Library Special Collections, "1987 Ray Family Papers" (1987). *Ray Family Papers*. Paper 13.  
[https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ray\\_fam\\_papers/13](https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ray_fam_papers/13)

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ray Family Papers by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact [topscholar@wku.edu](mailto:topscholar@wku.edu).





817 University Avenue  
El Paso, Texas 79902

# The University of Texas at El Paso

January 1, 1987

JOSEPH M. RAY  
President Emeritus

To recipients of the Reagan the Fagin December 1986 Traduction:

I owe all of you letters. I owe two to Jack Ray, and Joanna Ray a massive letter with her Christmas card (I've got about 20 such to write, but I just can't take time to do it all in the predictable future; Rudy Gomez in his ~~now~~ <sup>new</sup> presidency at New Mexico Western University; I owe Kin coming out my ears; Stan Drazek wrote one of his ~~sten~~ <sup>sten</sup>winders; Jo, tell Pam I'll answer her good letter some time before next Christmas; Glenn & Sonya I'll answer your good letter, and Sonya you take a New year's resolution to write your Uncle Joe, and you read Marvin Jones Memoirs. \*\*\* You see why I'm so far behind letter writing. Letter from Emily, always a good one, two from Jack, but the Offprints & beaucoup Fagin traducing cartoons in the mailing that I spend all day today getting out, only occasionally taking a glance at the New Year's Day football telecasts, still going on. \*\*\* Scott got here on December 30, and he & Jettie will leave by airplane for New York State and she for Austin and Salado on January 9, leaving me to rattle around alone. Scott Joseph is the best company any old folks ever had, fix house wiring. \*\*\* Jettie has been a bit down, but she's feeling good today, I'm O. K., walking 4 blocks in front of the house each cold morning. \*\*\* Scott tucked us in and went out to Sally's & George's for the late hours New Year's Eve, and is still out there with our car watching New Year's Football. <sup>4 P.M.</sup> Jettie & I saved some special extra steaks that George & Sally gave us for Scott's visit, but he hasn't had one yet. \*\*\* I plan to do two pages (52; I have 200 clerihews ready to choose from and copy off <sup>to</sup> for get fun off by Niftee Copies; Scott took me over there and got \$26.50 worth of copywork done yesterday, and I got it ready to mail tomorrow. I used all the postage would carry; I can mail 5 pages for a stamp. \*\*\* I love you all, and I WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR AND PROSPEROUS ~~NEW YEAR~~ 1987. Joe

OVER



DECEMBER 1986 CLERIHIEWS

Repubs. 've taken some heady assumptions,  
Fagin has taken some ruling presumptions.  
Reagan takes on divine right of Kings  
Trots front & center when his number rings.

①  
DEC  
'86

Renewed offers for arms from Khomeini  
Has wrecked two American presidents, a meany,  
Agrees help for hostages for arms,  
The old bastard earlier sounded alarms.

The biggest lie yet to be told by Reagan  
Arms shipments may be 100 times larger'n  
Almost sure were his assertions too small  
His voice was rising, becoming a squall.

One wound up loser, Kans. Sen. Bob Dole  
Iran trade hostages for arms, bad in the hole  
Goes up or down with Reagan the Fagin  
He no longer resembles Chinese dragon.

The only thought he entertains, Jack Kemp  
Since what he uses for brains is hemp  
Is a primary assumption favoring Supply Side  
Always think first of the Supplier's side.

Wouldn't know Civil Right if met it, Reagan  
He would throw it out and betray 'gain  
He'd deny, astonished, say "I'll be blowed,"  
If he met civil right in middle of the road.

Can best carry on Reagan Revolution, Jack Kemp  
With brains made out of old-time hemp.  
He'll be distracted with predecessors in jail  
With no one to do the work, sitting on his tail.

Pig turmoil over arms to Iran: Carlucci  
Trouble draws him like style draws Gucci.  
Can he do master job on beleaguered Reagan?  
Can it be belittled after suffering Fagin?

Did Iranian arms deal break any laws, Reagan?  
Experts say a dozen or so might apply, Fagin,  
With what we know now, who can say?  
If participants zip lip, anyone can play.

Homecomings usually warm, but Ron Reagan  
Home from Khomeini meetings, betray 'gain;  
This one was cold as hell,  
Won't hear laudatory talk for quite a spell,

The SEC hasn't given up on Boesky  
They popped him big fines, huge doughsky  
He operated like any ordinary thief,  
But not according to Wall Streeters' belief.

Biggest hazard in this traduction, Reagan  
Is to remember who is doing the renegin'  
Just remember, keep your eye on the ball  
On Reagan the Fagin & weathers a squall.

Man considered above the law - Reagan  
Champion reneger of history, renegin'  
No longer profitable to kiss his ass,  
Only that puts Bush in presidential class.

There was plenty of time for O. North  
For access to files for what worth  
If his papers've been rifled,  
Any investigation's been trifled.

A Pittsburgher sues Fagin, P. Resnick  
Vows he voted for our head prick,  
Who promised to follow Constitution  
Voted for Fagin, want it back, ablutio

Vice President only loser, George Bush  
Presidential Candidate needs push  
Principal push is reflected Fagin glor  
Fagin popularity not transferred: gory

One Demo. Chmn. loaded is Joe Biden  
He'll be busy far right Sup. by ridin'  
To keep Sup. Ct. from the wrong hands,  
And being seized by far right glands.

Now's the time to tell all, Geo. Will  
Never put the Nation first, never will  
Wants to bail Reagan out of his hole,  
Has the same goal as Sen. Bob Dole.

Headline on Dec. 1, Reagan, Ron  
Boasts he'd do same again in Iran  
His credibility fell to all-time low  
He still hasn't time to stop & blow.

Panic laid hold of realm of Fagindon  
Cream of their crop, prison in Reagan  
On Dec. 2 chose Tower, Snowcroft, & Muskie  
As review board for NSC, plenty husky.

When arms for hostages blew up, Iran  
Biggest losers were poor hostages & Ron  
Their whole immediate world blew up  
Ron & hostages, they all threw up.

Resigned going to Merrill Lynch, Speakes  
Feb. 1, salary pf 250 thou, squeaks,  
Longest in that high pressure job,  
Kind words for Regan, more'n watch fob.

He's firmed us up 'gainst raids, Boesky  
SEC fined him one billion in doughsky  
Hopped on wagons of raiders,  
Became master inside traders.

Of all sins in Iranian ploy, Reagan  
The worst have yet to surface, betray 'gai  
If I frame clerihew on each little whim,  
Most will relate to others, not to him.

One of the Iranian ploy principals, Regar  
Ought to withdraw, says Nancy of Hegan  
"It seems to me like I'm the turkey  
He still hangs on, old turkey-lurky.

He gave an emphatic refusal, Reagan  
Not now or later fire Casey or Regan  
Now bluster won't longer cut any ice,  
He can only be gentle & try to be nice.



Old crony at Colorado College, Tom Cronin  
Fagin now hopes Catch 22, what he's ownin'  
Either didn't know or wasn't in control or  
Did know and now covering up, what for?

Is it conceivable Lt. Colonel North  
Working White House basement, back & forth,  
Have run of Contra-Iran ploys on his own  
And throw crap as far's that batch's thrown?

Who knew? That's a tricky point: Ploy Iran  
Hegan, Meese, Cap, Bush, Shultz, and Ron  
Secretary Baker as nigger in woodpile,  
By whole gang outclassed by a mile.

She was stunned, hurt, & dressed Nancy Fagin  
Had her picture took, very pretty Nancy 'gain  
Heads ready to roll, Watergate mentality,  
With Commie Hater in saddle, need brutality.

Fagin had proof Paid for bombing, Iran  
Of marines in Lebanon reneging Old Ron  
When 253 peace-keeping marines killed,  
To assure that Iranian dream fulfilled.

The NSC is staffed with Haters of Commies  
No Chance (says J. Anderson) of promise  
Of fielding agents with finesse,  
Will they ever again? Anybody's guess.

Thievery as inside trader not over: Boesky  
Licentious behavior is Wall Street Showsky.  
Not just a billion fine, but more,  
Got to row Wall Street boat ashore.

Wants Big Rich license to steal: Reagan,  
Let 'em cheat & steal & keep on draggin',  
Going to nail Boesky's hide to the wall,  
And maybe that ain't all.

It's easy to blame Iran ploy on Regan  
He can't abide answering to citizen Hegan  
He flowered as exec. behind closed doors  
Dislikes answering to public boors.

This round it's all President's midgets:  
Unraveling yet another govt. decoder  
Five weeks ago asking voters for Senate  
By good luck he got only 45 in it.

Developed a cult of secrecy: Iran ploy  
CIA & Regan Use powers of our Ron Boy.  
Quest of neurotic secrecy undermines faith  
Jettisons responsible govt. like wraith.

Fagin's admission of errors: Arms for Iran  
Is too little & too late by lying Old Ron  
In midst of Iranian uproar  
Our helicopters hauled Hondurans to war.

Revealed retiring Colo. Sen. Gary Hart  
Burdened with \$4.5 billion debt, not smart  
When he's that far deep in the hole  
Behind all others, his task has swole.

Reagan lied before Congress: McFarlane,  
NSC Adviser in '86, Ok'd Israeli plane  
With arms for Iran, nothing to hide  
Not at all unusual that Ron Reagan lied.

Shultz dismayed that Leb. Amb. John Kelly  
Revealed for months handled a smelly  
Deal with White House direct & Ron  
Hostage & arms trading with Iran.

Iran Arms Story just starting, EP TIMES  
Apparently Fagin not rolling in slimes,  
Possibly off the scandal will slough,  
Chooses to believe he'll have it real tough.

Officers take Fifth, North & Poindexter  
In spite of Nancy's saying they vexed her  
Immunity improper says EL PASO TIMES,  
Depredators should be punished, betimes.

Democratic House & Senate, for Ron Reagan  
Won't be so supportive of warlike Fagin  
Opponents won't dry up & blow away,  
His getting in war'll be another day.

I've always known he was daffy, Casey  
And now it's revealed reasons he's spacy  
At last it's revealed he's got brain tumor,  
A fact which 't'dl now was only rumor.

A new epithet in Repub. lexicon, Buchanan  
Is "Adversary Press" crippling Presidanan  
Old Pat'll discover worse'n he thunk,  
When he gets in pissing match with a skunk.

First evidence of Swiss bank accts: Casey  
\$35 million controlled by North, Dick Tracy  
So secret only North had access,  
This essential to bank robbery success.

He tries shrugging off Iranian ploy: Reagan  
He's a complete master of art of renegin'.  
Apparently this'n won't shrug off,  
It goes a bit deeper than hacking cough.

Scandal not new to Wall Street: Reagan  
They're crooks by nature, betray 'gain  
Boesky paid one billion fine,  
Still on his tail, we'll hear his whine.

Silence builds with taking fifth: North  
Maybe time is here to call it desertionkorth  
A man in uniform is betraying his trust,  
Republicans view it as a Democratic bust.

FBI investigation stalled by Ed Meese  
One day soon he will run out his lease.  
FBI agents are little Jesuses  
They showed under Nixon they ain't geniuses.

Three-judges choose Irangate Counsel: Walsh  
74-year-old lawyer Oklahoma to dance waltz  
Only 1 of 3 would agree:  
Have to check again how often he goes to pea.





# 1987

## The University of Texas at El Paso

JOSEPH M. RAY  
President Emeritus

817 University Avenue  
El Paso, Texas 79902



SAMPLE © 1986 The Florida Times Union  
KING FEATURES Syndicate

T  
1-1-  
87

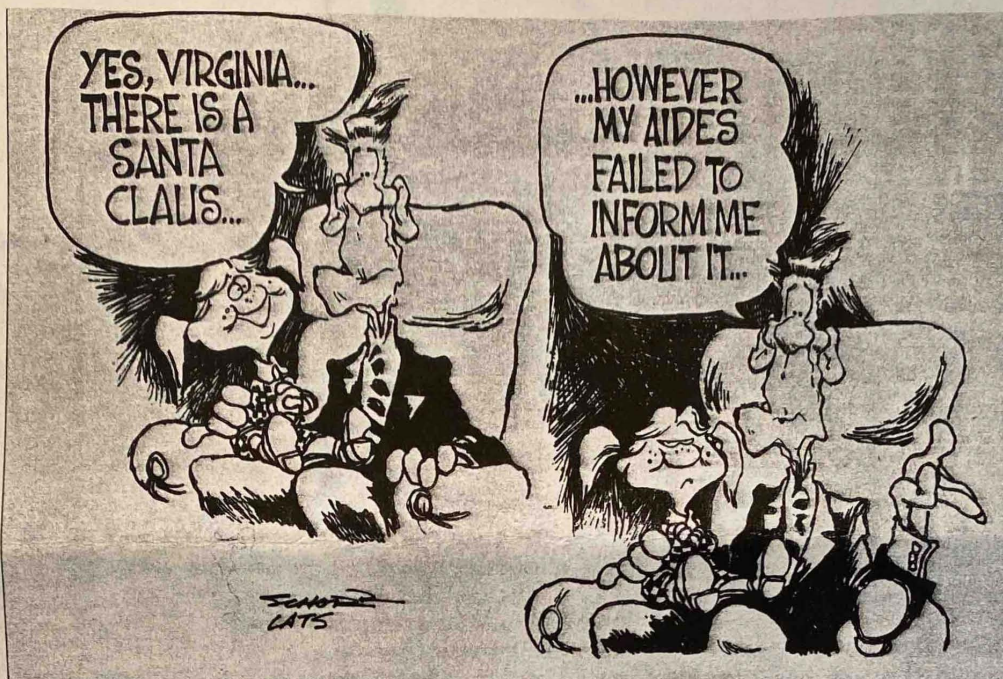


## Overheard

**W**e were a little suspicious, because this guy came in here and never said, 'Ho, ho, ho.'"  
*Newark, Calif., firefighter TONY CONNELL, on a man in a Santa Claus suit who stole \$100 worth of Christmas toys collected for poor children*

**I**t'll never replace sex—I've been waiting all morning to say that."  
*Test pilot CHUCK YEAGER, on setting his latest speed record*

**Y**ou have to remember. In the beginning we were all furriers."  
*FRED (Fred the Furrier) SCHWARTZ*



© 1986 SCHORR—LOS ANGELES HERALD

**N**orth touches a deep wellspring in the American spirit."  
*"Heartbreak Ridge" coproducer JAY WESTON, who wants Mel Gibson to star in a movie about Iran-contra coordinator Oliver North*

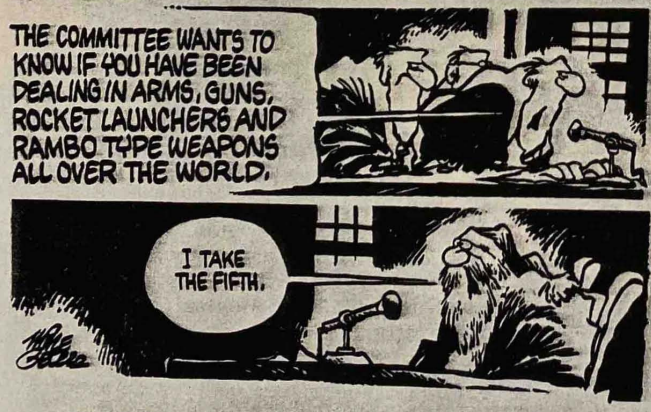
**B**ob Duvall would be perfect."  
*Agent SWIFTY LAZAR, on who might play Vice Adm. John Poindexter*

**I** used what was left of a burned matchstick and wrote on a bar of soap in my cell. I would read it and read it until it was committed to memory. Then with one washing of my hands it would be gone."  
*Soviet dissident IRINA RATUSHINSKAYA, recalling how she wrote 250 poems during three and a half years in a Soviet prison*



© 1986 MARLETTE—CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

"... then the North Pole plant shut down, and I got squeezed out in a hostile takeover by Mattel! ..."



© 1986 MIKE PETERS—DAYTON DAILY NEWS

**T**hey happened to pick the one word that Ronnie never, ever uses, ever. He'll say 'damn.' But he will never put those two words together."

*NANCY REAGAN, denying reports her husband told her to get off his "goddamn back" about firing Donald Regan*

**D**ear Ted:  
 Thanks for the invitation to question four distinguished liberal journalists. But 11:30 p.m. is long past my bedtime."  
*White House communications director PAT BUCHANAN, declining to appear with four White House correspondents on Ted Koppel's ABC-TV special on coverage of the Iran arms scandal*





817 University Avenue  
El Paso, Texas 79902

# The University of Texas at El Paso

1-3-87

JOSEPH M. RAY  
President Emeritus

310 N. HARRISON, LUDINGTON, MI, 48631

DEAR JO:

MY TYPERITER GETTING AN OVER HAUL WHILE SCOTT'S  
HERE FOR CHAUFFEURING. SHABBY TREATMENT FOR SUCH  
A FINE LETTER, THE HOLLINGSWORTH TRIBE IS SO NUMEROUS, JETTIE  
HANDLES THEM & LEAVES THE RAYS TO ME. YOUR LETTER DESERVES  
BETTER THAN ME. ~~IT'S~~ IT'S COLD, BUT NOT BAD, 44° DOLDERIN  
30° THERE, \* CONVENIENT LUNCHES WITH 2 GRAND CHILDREN \* JETTIE  
ON TOP OF EXHAUSTION, LOSING ENERGY. \* IT'S GOOD TO HAVE SCOTT \*  
HAD GOOD LUCK WITH REMOVAL OF SKIN MALIGNANCY; ALSO WITH  
BLEEDING HEMORRHOIDS. GOOD SHAPE NOW, CONSIDERING \* JETTIE  
DOESN'T LIKE BARBARA WALTERS & fails to guide me to her \*  
FAGIN IS GOING TO FUMBLE CONGRESS OUT OF IRANGATE; I DON'T  
THINK HE CAN. 4 WEEK VACATION + PROSTATE OPERATION \* I WALK  
4 BLOCKS EACH DAY; MY LAST TWO FALLS HAVE BEEN ON MY  
BED; THE ONE YESTERDAY WAS ON THE EDGE & I ROLLED OFF  
WITH A THUD THAT SHOOK THE HOUSE. SCOTT CAME RUNNING  
TO SEE WHAT HIT & HELPED ME UP - NO BREAKAGE. BIGGEST  
BATCH OF CARTOONS ALL TO YOU 2 DAYS AGO \* FAGIN'S ARROGANCE  
HAS REACHED ITS LIMITS. HIS FIRST REACTION TO MEDIA BREAKING  
HIS COVER FOR HOSTAGES, NOT DISCLOSURE OF Duplicity. REPORTS  
ON GREAT GRANDCHILD ARE WELCOME, BUT NOT USEFUL FOR RE-  
SPONSES. NOT A LINE, NOT A WORD FROM PAM SINCE JOE WILSON  
DIED. CHRISTMAS LETTERS FROM ELIZABETH THIRKAS & LOUISE HER SISTER  
I'LL HOLD THEM 'TIL I'VE ANSWERED THIS & ENCLOSE THEM TO YOU.  
THIS HAS BORN ME TO A FRAZZLE. LOVE YOU.

JO  
WRITE PAM  
BEFORE YOU



Jan. 18, 1987

Dear Robins,

The Robin arrived in the middle of the holiday activity and has been here much to long. I will get my part done and take this back to mom. Mom said she will do hers tonight, also.

So much has happened since I wrote last that I don't know when to start. Em reported on the wedding, and I will send some pictures. Laura and Bob were home for Xmas and seem very happy if terribly busy. Laura was doing an internship for her master's that involved counseling every morning at a private marriage counseling





center. She had to go into Chicago one day a week for classes. Besides that she was working a forty hour week at a resort as the activities director. She seldom got home until 9:00 PM in the evening and worked most week-ends. I'm happy that she has now quit the resort and is working counseling at the county jail. She only works 32 hours for the same salary and gets all the same holidays as the Post Office. She is enjoying it but did meet a really crazy inmate this week. It works in really well with her undergraduate degree in criminal justice.

Right after the wedding the rain came and stayed for a whole month.

Roads and bridges were washed out



and still aren't replaced in some spots. Our basement flooded again, and we've finally got it dried out now. We need to have the floor broken up and the drainage system repaired. There must be a broken tile in the storm<sup>rain</sup> drainage system. I'm really dreading the mess.

Our weather has continued to be weird. We had a green Christmas and have only had snow twice since. There is just a powder on the ground - not nearly enough for skiing. Chicago and Texas have had much more snow than we. I'm not complaining!

Our school Superintendent left Sept. 1 and we have been very involved in a search for his replacement.



Last week we interviewed 6 people.  
This week we will visit two of them  
in their own districts. I hope we can  
agree on one of them. They both look  
good to me.

Sylvia, I was glad to hear about  
Uncle Brown's funeral. I agree with  
you that for him to be independent  
until the end was a real blessing.  
I wish we had had my Dad longer,  
but I was always glad he didn't have  
to be confined in any way or sick  
for any length of time.

We had so much fun with Abby  
at Xmas. She was very good about  
the tree and wrapped presents. Lura  
gave Boba robot for Christmas and  
Abby was fascinated with it. I had  
read that children mind robots better



than adults. I didn't believe it, but  
it seemed true with Abby. There is  
a microphone that you talk in to  
make the robot talk. Abby was  
almost frantic to do or find anything  
the robot said. I'm sure it would  
get to be an old thing but we really  
had fun with Abby and Roby for one  
week. I will send a few pictures.

Hope you and Aunt Jettie are  
getting better. ~~Uncle Joe~~. I can't  
imagine anything worse than having  
something wrong with an eye. Bill  
still doesn't read for any length of  
time. He has talking books on tapes  
and records and enjoys them. There is a  
big library of them in Mil.

Love,  
Babs



Jan. 18, 1987

Dear Robins,

The Robin arrived in the middle of the holiday activity and has been here much to long. I will get my part done and take this back to mom. Mom said she will do hers tonight, also.

So much has happened since I wrote last that I don't know when to start. Em reported on the wedding, and I will send some pictures. Laura and Bob were home for Xmas and seem very happy if terribly busy. Laura was doing an internship for her master's that involved counseling every morning at a private marriage counseling





center. She had to go into Chicago one day a week for classes. Besides that she was working a forty hour week at a resort as the activities director. She seldom got home until 9:00 PM in the evening and worked most week-ends. I'm happy that she has now quit the resort and is working counseling at the county jail. She only works 32 hours for the same salary and gets all the same holidays as the Post Office. She is enjoying it but did meet a really crazy inmate this week. It works in really well with her undergraduate degree in criminal justice.

Right after the wedding the rain came and stayed for a whole month.

Roads and bridges were washed out



and still aren't replaced in some spots. Our basement flooded again, and we've finally got it dried out now. We need to have the floor broken up and the drainage system repaired. There must be a broken tile in the storm<sup>rain</sup> drainage system. I'm really dreading the mess.

Our weather has continued to be weird. We had a green Christmas and have only had snow twice since. There is just a powder on the ground - not nearly enough for skiing. Chicago and Texas have had much more snow than we. I'm not complaining!

Our school Superintendent left Sept. 1 and we have been very involved in a search for his replacement.



Last week we interviewed 6 people.  
This week we will visit two of them  
in their own districts. I hope we can  
agree on one of them. They both look  
good to me.

Sylvia, I was glad to hear about  
Uncle Brown's funeral. I agree with  
you that for him to be independent  
until the end was a real blessing.  
I wish we had had my Dad longer,  
but I was always glad he didn't have  
to be confined in any way or sick  
for any length of time.

We had so much fun with Abby  
at Xmas. She was very good about  
the tree and wrapped presents. Laura  
gave Boba robot for Christmas and  
Abby was fascinated with it. I had  
read that children mind robots better



than adults. I didn't believe it, but  
it seemed true with Abby. There is  
a microphone that you talk in to  
make the robot talk. Abby was  
almost frantic to do or find anything  
the robot said. I'm sure it would  
get to be an old thing but we really  
had fun with Abby and Roby for one  
week. I will send a few pictures.

Hope you and Aunt Jetlie are  
getting better. ~~Uncle Joe~~. I can't  
imagine anything worse than having  
something wrong with an eye. Bill  
still doesn't read for any length of  
time. He has talking books on tapes  
and records and enjoys them. There is a  
big library of them in Mil.

Love,  
Babs



William F. Sutter, M.D.  
220 SOUTH JAMES STREET  
LUDINGTON, MICHIGAN 49431

Jan. 18, 87

Dear Robin:

Happy New Year to all. May it be  
your best year ever.

We had a very nice Christmas Season.  
Every body home. Of course the center of  
attraction was little Rhigil.

Now to settle down to a long winter,  
Has been very mild and almost snowless  
so far. Will wait to see what is coming.

Am out a morning by this time after  
the usual gate we met at the Rose Bowl.

One of these days it will be different ...  
again.

Bert is busy these days, The School Board is interviewing Candidates for High School Superintendent. They have it narrowed down to about two now.

Pill got called away from this & I don't know when he will get back to it.

B.



Joanna M. Ray  
310 N. Harrison  
Ludington, Michigan 49431  
Jan. 22, 1987

Dear Folks,

This is a beautiful, snowy morning - beautiful since it is our first taste of winter and this toward the end of January. The temperature is  $26^{\circ}$ , but zero weather is forecast for tonight. A squirrel is feeding at one bird feeder and chickadees at the other.

I have been on the phone all morning arranging the postponement of the meeting of the Book Review Club set for tomorrow. Four of our members live several miles away and probably will be snow-bound, since blowing and drifting are in the forecast. Barbara and the other members

of the school board were scheduled to travel to the schools where the candidates being considered for the Ludington superintendent are now employed! They probably are finding poor driving conditions. Southern Michigan has had heavy snow when we have been spared.

At the present time, I have plans to go to Louisville the first week in February and to stay there and/or at Radcliff through the month. I am checking out the bus route, as I am beginning to lose faith in flying. I had never been the least bit afraid of flying before. If I go by bus, I can get on a few blocks from my house; otherwise somebody has to take me to Muskegon or Grand Rapids. I think it has been three years since I stayed longer than three days in Ky.

We had a fine Christmas. I



Joanna M. Ray  
310 N. Harrison  
Ludington, Michigan 49431

had five meals - big ones - at Barbours in less than a week. All came to my house for brunch. Abby got lots of attention. Sue made a "kissing ball" for me, and Abby caught on immediately that she would get kissed under it.

Celeste, I had a wonderful trip to Greece in September of '77. I think I was there only eight days, which was not nearly enough time. We flew to Rhodes for a day and spent a day cruising among the Greek islands of the Saronic Gulf - Mydra, Poros, and Aegina, I remember. We spent a full day on a trip to Delphi and another to the Peloponnese (I remember Corinth, Mycenae, and Epidauris). We spent seven nights at the Athens Chandris Hotel in Piraeus. While we were waiting for a taxi to the airport for our return trip,

4.

my friend fell down a marble stairway and broke her knee. She was in agony all the way home.

I would like to attend class with Beth, Interior design has always appealed to me. Also, I like to wash my car! I felt sorry for the Bears.

The girls are so sweet in their costumes, Sylvia, and I would really like to see the dance. I think that both Ed and Brown would have been miserable invalids, and it is a blessing that they were spared that. I remember my mother's saying that she had never seen Ed sit still for five minutes. Both he and Brown loved activity.

Scott, I hope you had nice weather in El Paso. I heard by TV that El Paso had a 3" snowfall recently. "Pippin" was just accomplished in your last report, and so I guess you are deep into another production by now.



Joanna M. Ray  
310 N. Harrison  
Ludington, Michigan 49431

Thank you, Joe, for the letters from B. S. Do you hear from Wilma and the boys?

I had not heard of Billie Ray's death in Oct. until Christmas notes came. Would he have been 57?

Jettie, I hope your eye is much better and that you have your glasses. A letter from Joe reported that you were to be off on a jaunt, and it is good news that you are up to travel.

I must brave the elements to take this to the post office. It is a good thing that the trip is only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  blocks. I will stop by the library to get Pam's contribution.

Love to all,  
Joanna

January 24, 1987

Dear Robin,

I am doing something unprecedented for me. I am writing my Robin letter immediately after reading the Robin. I'm delighted. It's wonderful to enjoy the letters so much and get to contribute right away.

Now Uncle Joe, please understand that I will never again fist upon you a half baked Robin that feels like washing your feet with your socks on. I'm glad Barb sent pictures from the wedding and their Christmas. Abby does indeed look fascinated with Roby.

Abby, Darling - welcome to the Robin. Let's hope you are a regular contributor, just like your mother. We need to encourage more from Pam's generation to contribute. That's Audrey, Trisine, Rob, Beth, Mike, Joely, Alexandria, Sue, Laura, Eric, Jenny, Josh - who else? It would be a great fat bird!

Your letter about Uncle Brown was lovely, Sylvia. He did live a long and full life. It is probably due to eating oatmeal and brown sugar.



Joe and Celeste, your trip to Greece sounds wonderful, even the hike right after hernia surgery. You're right about Kentucky humidity. There is a part of every summer that that heat and humidity travel right up the Mississippi and visit Minnesota. I always remember summer in Kentucky when that happens.

I hope the building project got to a stopping point before your recent storm.

We still have only a dusting of snow. It is incredible, but who's complaining? Last year we had snow from October through March. It never melted. The Lutter/Ray gang has had snow since they mailed the Robin, but before that, as you read, it was like our winter.

Good luck to Beth in her interior decorating. It fits in with Sally & George's business. Good luck also to Scott in being invited to Japan again. Tell us about the terrible storms you have had. Admittedly those of us who live in the sunny South might not find our weather talk terribly interesting.

Best wishes to all of <sup>you</sup> who you for a healthy and happy 1987. Love, Em  
P.S. Bill has to pass this time.

Dear Robin,

January 1987

The Christensens are snug at home. So far it really doesn't seem like winter here. We don't have any snow here. It has been an unnatural winter. I like not having to wear boots everywhere. Some days have been in the 40's.

Ralph enjoyed his hunting trip out west. They left Montana on the day the big blizzards struck. They had several days of dangerous driving, but got home safely. Their camp got 3 mule deer for 6 hunters. Ralph did not get anything but his dad got a nice trophy deer. They had an enjoyable time nevertheless.

Abby will be two in March. She is talking now. All of the children at the babysitters teach her the important words. She knows some colors, some numbers, and can spell her name if prompted.

I have enclosed some pictures of Abby. She had her portrait taken at Christmas time but we have not selected "The best one" yet. Hopefully we will enclose some in the next Robin.

Things are running smoothly at the library. The facade of the building is the original Carnegie building of 1906. We have extensive damage to the stone. We have about \$20,000



worth of damage that needs to be repaired. The previous director paid no attention to things like that. He probably would have had less damage if he had. At any rate our budget for 1987 looks like it will be tight!

Pam

Pam asked me to sign her name. She is at home sick, and I am at the library.  
I fell on the way. No injury. J.R.



## **Ludington hunter bags trophy buck**

Ralph Christensen, at right, of 603 Sixth St. bagged this trophy mule deer while hunting near Augusta, Mont., Nov. 4. Christensen and son Ralph E. Christensen, at left, of 709 St. Paul St. were hiking in high country near Scapegoat Mountain on the Continental Divide when the

senior Christensen spotted the big buck. Its nine-point (5 X 4 in Western count) rack had a 23-inch spread between its tines and 26-inch spread at the widest point between antlers. The longest tine was 26 inches long.





# The University of Texas at El Paso

March 10, 1987

JOSEPH M. RAY  
President Emeritus

817 University Avenue  
El Paso, Texas 79902

Barbara Sgitter, 806 Dexter, but here c7/9 Jo

Dear Babs:

Your good letter came a day or two ago, I turned it over for Jettie to read; I fear she will leave it to me to answer, since the Hollingsworth clan is so plentiful that she usually does. I don't remember much of your letter, but one thing is that you may not run for re-election. I hope you don't; school board stuff is always emergency, and plenty of women will run to succeed you, and do it maybe half or two-third as well as you do, so rid yourself of it, and get more of your own stuff done; after the hell raising, you'll have a better time.

Jo may show some some of the cartoons featuring featuring Reagan the Fagin; I sent her 17 pages the first of March and will have another batch the 1st of March.

Firthermore, you've got some two-year-old dandling that I'll bet you're getting behind on.

There's a whole lot of other news that I have forgot from your letter as well as elsewhere that I have forgotten for good. I read it but I can't recall; maybe Jettie will answer it. Love,

Joe



# The University of Texas at El Paso

March 10, 1987

817 University Avenue  
El Paso, Texas 79902

Joanna Mason Ray,  
310 N. Harrison,  
Ludington, Mich 49431

JOSEPH M. RAY  
President Emeritus

Dear Jo:

Your letter from Louisville was postmarked "Louisville" Feb. 17, and yesterday or the day before I got a letter from Bill's Barbie Doll, newsy and bubbling, and among other things said they were driving over to Battle Creek or some such to meet your plane the next day from several weeks in Kentucky. I dutifully turned over Bab's letter to Jettie to read, and she may be holding it to respond. Howsomever, the Hollingsworth breed is so plentiful that excels letters from Rays and leaves them to me, and she's playing bridge today and tomorrow, and here I am answering yours, so I'll throw in a note to Barb after your letter, even though I don't have Barbara's letter at hand.

I hear regularly from Sylvia and Joe's far gone pregnant wife, telling me what I know about the balmy Kentucky climate. My recollections of Kentucky have led me to conclude that going up is the best way for Kentucky to go. Friends of Louella's have a way of dying off, and her furniture will be good for your newly married granddaughters. Our dining chairs are made of Ed Ray cherry, and are still beautiful.

I well remember Roy Owsley, a schoolboy friend of Ed Ray. I ran across him professionally in political science; my last contact was once he was Acting Governor and appointment the first time as Kentucky Colonel. They forgot me and I was once more appointed, and since then I have been easily forgotten.

Love and affection to my peripatetic only sister-in-law.

I send you one or two gobs of cartoons dealing primarily with Reagan the Fagin.

A handwritten signature, likely of Joseph M. Ray, in dark ink.



511 Park Drive  
Lebanon, Ky. 40033  
March 16, 1987

Dear Folks,

Along with just about every other Robin Contributor we've had practically no winter this year in Ky. I'm not complaining. Things opened up so early that we got to plant some garden Mar. 7. Doing that is a risk, of course, but if conditions are right we could have good eats home-grown sometime next month.

This school year is zooming by too fast for me — partly, I think, because I have devoted much of my time at school since December initiating a computer circulation system in our school library. It was a drastic move from checking out materials using a conventional date + stamp pad — to using a barcode scanner to check out everything by computer (rather like jumping from the horse + buggy to the space shuttle). It's been an intriguing challenge, though a great deal of work. And the work will continue for months to come, as every book + periodical in the library is to be barcoded in order to have the program fully efficient. The new system is already paying off, though, <sup>through</sup> its accuracy. And the students love to see their names pop onto the computer screen whenever they check out anything.

Rob is a licensed driver as of last month, + Bob + I feel as if we've gotten a new lease on life. No longer do we have to plan our lives around such extracurricular activities as band practice and basketball practice. So far Rob has proved to be a responsible + careful new driver.

Enjoyed the pictures of the wedding, especially the lakeside photo of Laura + her brand new husband. I could almost feel the pleasant breeze.

Bob is off to Washington, D.C., next week on his annual one-week trip with students in his global issues class. The program is funded by the Closeup Foundation (which seeks to provide a "close up" view of governmental workings to high school seniors). Seminars are conducted for the students all week long, and enjoyable outings to the theatre and ethnic restaurants are also scheduled.

I am disappointed that Mario Cuomo will not be part of the next presidential campaign. I had been looking forward to his spicing up the news for the next couple of years. He's such a riveting speaker he could read the phone book + make people pay attention. Now we're doomed to listen to the mediocre, the drab, + the boring. No hum.

Love,  
Sylvia



4/4/87

Dear Folks,

This is the last time until October that I will write my Robin letter when my back yard is full of snow. We got one of our biggest snows of the winter this week, but it is melting fast under bright sunshine. Temperatures much above normal are forecast for next week. My crocuses were in full bloom and are now barely visible. Kentucky had much more snow - and as low temperatures - as we had. Many power outages resulted, and the snow was still coming down in Eastern Ky. Today.

This morning I was downtown and noticed three familiar figures across the street. Pam, Ralph, and Abby were on their way to see me. Ralph took my car home, and Pam and Abby walked with me to the bank and then home. Abby enjoyed the pictures in the Robin while Pam read the letters. I will take my contributions and the Robin to Barbara and Bill tonight.

Barbara is having all of the family except Laura for dinner tonight to initiate the new table she and Bill bought from L'ville last weekend. A friend who lived in the apt. bldg. where Louella lives had the table and chairs (all of which are exactly like Jettie's, I think). After she died, they were for sale, and I recommended them to Barbara. Now Barbara has more tables and chairs than anybody needs.

The chairs have beautiful needlepoint in perfect condition.

Joe, your contribution was extra good. The miss Jettie's letters, which were always newsy and kept us informed about her activities, as well as those of the kids and grandkids. The picture looks great!

Joe, Bill Owsley, Roy's younger brother, was Ed's friend at Western when both were getting mastus. There were six in the family and none left.

Sylvia, electronic library systems were just coming into use when I was working. It scared me even to think about learning to change and to use the equipment.

Sylvia, we were considering a trip to Lebanon one Sat. while I was in Ky, but my brother-in-law had to be rushed to the hospital Fri. night. We had heard in L'ville of the good Evan Piccone outlet in Lebanon. I was planning to ask you to join us for lunch (would have called before we started).

Dorothy, isn't it too bad that new purchases almost always make something look shabby? I'm sure you will enjoy the new furniture.

Scott, I hope you have nice weather in El Paso and that spring has arrived in Geneseo when you return.

I missed Celeste's letter this time around. I hope she can contribute next time.

Joe, the cartoons were special the last shipment. I hope none of you miss church tomorrow because of failure to run your clocks ahead! Love, Joanna



**William F. Sutter, M.D.**

220 SOUTH JAMES STREET  
LUDINGTON, MICHIGAN 49431

April 29, 1987

Dear Robiners

Letter writing time tonight. First the Robin and then to My Brother. Time goes so fast and there is always so much to do. Time this bird flies away from the shores of Lake Michigan.

Guess the biggest news has to do with Laura. She has completed the work and will get her Masters degree the last weekend in May. I think now it can be told that she is due to have a little Munch in October. It was agreed before the wedding that any offspring would be Munchkins. They were up for Easter.

Making plans for the summer. Have a Sutter Family Reunion the first week end in August. Crossed out some time before that and thought ~~My~~ *Myke* We could get an invitation to the Minneapolis area for a couple of days before that.

Enjoyed Your memories of the wedding that took place way back in 1954. We still have the picture of You and the cake knife. Some years ago the kids would ask who I was in the wedding pictures. That is kind of a blow to a fellows pride. Oh well I'll hit the 60 mark this year. So far its been a wonderful life, and the thing that pleases me the most is the great kids that their Mother raised. Also very pleased with the mates that three of them have picked out.

Have carried on long enough here and will wish all of you the best of health and every thing else worth having.

Love

*Bill S.*

May 8, 1987

Dear Robin,

I thoroughly enjoyed the Robin this time but have kept it too long waiting to get some of the younger crowd to write.

Our weather has been wonderful, also. I don't remember as warm and pretty a spring as we have had. Usually spring is two weeks long around here. There has been a lot of flu and colds around, however.

I went for a physical a few weeks ago, and it must have inspired Bill because he just finished a series of test this



morning. He actually has had a thorough check up and been pronounced pretty healthy. It's the first time he's ever been to a doctor except when he's had the eye problems.

I am busy running for the school board. Mother says she won't vote for me because she thinks I spend too much time at it. Our new superintendent wants the board that picked him to stay while he gets his feet on the ground. Things seem to be working out all right, although there are tax reform bills in the state legislature that could really cause us problems if they pass.

Sylvia, Bill had Mary-Kate's book on his tape machine so I heard some of it. He had a very different slant on Mavis Runt. In fact the whole book sounded fascinating and I may try to get it from the library.

We got our basement drainage system fixed and it was so easy that I am really mad that we didn't do it years ago. They used rods to break up the concrete instead of an air hammer and it made very little mess. There were gigantic tree roots in the tiles and they were almost blocked in places. We haven't had any torrential rains since it was fixed but so far so good.



I hope to get my copies set up down there now and get some copies made for you, Sylvia.

Abby is talking more all of the time and is more fun every day. I had her for the whole day last week and we really had a good time.

We are going to Joliet for Laura's graduation May 23<sup>rd</sup>. She was very happy to have passed her <sup>comprehensive</sup> exams. The course of study had been changed but the exams were left the same to give past students time to take them. There were many questions on things that Laura's class hadn't covered. Her ~~her~~ internship is finished also and the counseling center where she was doing it has

offered her a full time job. I think she might work there some but she really feels obligated to the county jail program since they created a job for her and have big plans for the future.

I must go mail this before the week-end holds it up someone.

Love,  
Betty

P.S. Everyone mentioned Alastair's letter but it wasn't in the envelope.

P.S. Yes, Dorothy the picture of Lucre and Bob was taken at Lake Michigan where she spent 8 yrs. life guarding and worked at the concession stands before that.

B.

Dear Robins,

This is the 17th of May, the celebration of Norwegian independence and Minnesota is having a BIG weekend because it is also the "fish opener," or the first day of the season. Emily has recently been on jury duty and felt so belittled when the judge announced that he could not hear the case on Friday because he had to go fishing. I guess that there are "allowable" excuses in every region and culture. Yuppies can leave parties early to call their stockbrokers. School teachers can do the same with the excuse that they have to correct papers. In Minnesota it's fish. Or at least the lake.

Emily and I, and to some extent the children, have been working on the back yard all spring and it is just about finished. We put up another privacy fence and tore out the trash growth and replanted with "nice" stuff. Soon, we may attack the front porch and make that livable as well. Then we can sell the place.

I took on a new job in January as director of a new program at Hamline University (St. Paul, MN), called The Center for Refugee Ethnography. Essentially, I design and coordinate courses for American school teachers which address the various languages and cultures of refugees - mainly Southeast Asia. I also teach a couple of courses in sociolinguistics and folklore. It is comfortable, being located in a small but good liberal arts college with a growing graduate division which is where my program is located.

Jennifer leaves for Denmark (a years stay) in July and I guess we are all sort of adjusting to the idea psychologically, each day taking leave of her just a little, letting go and standing back as she goes forth on her own, even in small endeavors. And when she returns, she will be quite a different person and I for one am preparing myself to meet that "new daughter" and friend. I hope I can understand her as she speaks English with a Danish accent.

Unearthing the materials for the Southeast Asian courses is quite a challenge. I meet lots of people, of course. Cambodians, Laotians, Hmong, etc. I am devouring books (what little there is that's good) on the various countries, their history and culture. I guess it's like selling plumbing fixtures and trying to keep up with all the new equipment.

Hope that you are all well. Enjoyed the photos of Sylvia's kids, and others of Joe Ray, David and his family. I join Sylvia in longing for eloquence in the presidential campaign. I wonder how GH might have turned out.

Bill Moore





511 Park Drive  
Lebanon, Ky. 40033  
June 24, 1987

Dear Folks,

We're ankle-deep into summer, and I'm enjoying every minute of it. First Audrey & Lucine went to 4-H camp for a week; this week Rob is at basketball camp at Transylvania College near Lexington. Love those camps! (And the children do, too, fortunately.)

Six-week old Adin Zachary Ray is our new addition. So far he's shown no tendency toward letter writing, but if he takes after his mother, Celeste, we'll have a faithful and fascinating correspondent in a few years. However, if he takes after Joe, don't hold your breath. In truth, of course, Joe can and occasionally does - write a wonderful letter. It's just that he so seldom takes a mind to.

Young Adin is named for his father, ~~paternal~~ great-grandfather & great-<sup>great</sup>-grandfather! (Mama's father's name was Adin Benedict.) I've always liked the distinctive spelling of an unusual name.

I'd like to hear more about Jennifer's year in Denmark. Is it an exchange student program?

She's not a Garrison Keillor groupie, is she?  
Will Jennifer be able to come home at all during  
this coming year? It's bound to be a marvelous  
experience but hard on family left behind.

Pam, if you're interested, the name of  
our computer circulation program at school is  
Circulation Plus from Follett. It's a barcode  
scanner operation, comes with a <sup>highly</sup> readable manual  
& a toll-free number for expert phone assistance.  
Within 2 months my high school library assistants  
had typed in data for 6,000 books. All checking  
out and overdue notices are now streamlined into a  
far more efficient & accurate system than we could  
ever have had with our former, not-quite-so-upscale  
method: the familiar data & index card system.

Enough library talk.

Aunt Joanna (& anyone else), whenever  
you are in Ky. again you must get to Lebanon.  
Sorry to hear of your brother-in-law's heart attack  
when you were visiting in Louisville this spring.  
You said you'd hoped to visit our Evan-Picone outlet.  
It's almost too good to be true - bolt after bolt  
of largely natural fiber fabric, all at \$2 a yard.  
Needless to say, a confirmed fabric-aholic like me  
has to restrain herself when such an adventure is  
a mere mile from her house. The fabric, however,  
is only a sideline; the store sells primarily Evan-Picone  
clothing, & sometimes considerable bargains can be had there, too.  
Love,  
Sylvia



817 University Avenue  
El Paso, Texas 79902

# *The University of Texas at El Paso*

July 10, 1987

JOSEPH M. RAY  
*President Emeritus*

Dear Wilhelm Frederick:

Many, many thank for the Capoten & Moduretic. Your note about 25 mg fits me like a glove; I take two Capoten eachh day. One of these prices itself at 35¢ and the other at 32¢. There'sno lost motion on the Capoten.

Nor on the Moduretic.

Santa Claus is taking an order fora Christmas fruit cake, and two little Chicas in Ciudad Juarez have scads of little pill bottles to play with.

Love to all your kin & loved ones. I'm home along, with Jettie gone to Austin to a Committee meeting, and on t Salado to foregather with Hookers, Calverts and Skeltons friends from lo20's High School at the State Home (Ofphans'). They all consider me a traitor, but I haven't left El Paso in years and years. I'm due to tur'n eighty in October.

Many thanks again

*Joe* Joe





817 University Avenue  
El Paso, Texas 79902

20 COPIES  
The University of Texas at El Paso

August 2, 1987

JOSEPH M. RAY  
President Emeritus

To the recipients of the monthly FAGIN TRANSLATION: The Green Ripper, an John Macdonald calls him, the Grim Reaper has done the Translation in. I've have had another stroke, after nine years since the first one. Can't walk any more, & confined to a wheel chair, and extremely reluctant to do anything except to sit before the TV in my rocking chair reading dimly remembered who-dunnits; my left forefinger has lost recollection of its expertise, so this is much struckover and and halting. I've about decided to leave off cleriheys and limit the number of cartoons; but as I have been ~~spending~~ spending too much (\$46.60) for July. <sup>NOT COUNTING POSTAGE</sup> \*\*\* I strayed away from my brand new wheel chair (I've treated myself to a good one) and fell backwards in my room yesterday, got a splendidous left buttock and (black & purple) and bounced my noggin twice off the hardwood. Biggest problem is to locate places where I can pull myself up with rightleg and right hand strength. Jettie is awfully good to and for me. She threatened me last night with dire consequences, "Joe, you're paralyzed, and don't you leave this wheel chair ever again." I think she's right. But that leaves me as a grievously handicapped correspondent. I Owe one or <sup>more</sup> letters to Emily, Sylvia, Celeste <sup>her</sup> (who has kept me fully informed on three-month-old Adin Zachary Ray, bless/heart), Ward Morton, & Missourian Jack Hewson Ray, & maybe others. I'll get around to answering, God willing. \*\*\* It's been a fewafding journey thus far; Minuscule impact on the translation of Reagan the Fagin, now well and permanently under way. JOE RAY.

Joe