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Dear Folks,

From the North woods comes New Year's Greetings and best wishes for each and every one of you the whole year through. It was good to welcome the Robin upon our arrival back in the woods. I don't know how long it was here, but we are getting it off pronto.

We had a wonderful time in Kentucky. Saw everybody but the Thomases and we didn't have time to see them. I figue that not too much was lost in by-passing them, but I am sure Ele would not go along with me in that statement. I got some needed rest and came back a different guy. Forgot all about this place for a week and did what I wanted to.

We expected bad weather on our return trip as a cold front was moving in over the north, but we found driving conditions very good until we left Kalamazoo where we ran into the frontal area. The fog was terrific, so thick that one could not see the road more than 25 feet ahead in the head lights. The white centerline stripe was the only aid in staying on the road. We were afraid of being rammed from behind and were forced to drive at maximum speed. I had the luggage carrier (One wheel trailer) full of cherry lumber and I didn't want to have to crawl out from under that. The fog lasted only about 30 miles and then we burned the wind on up north until we rounded a bend in the road and saw a deer standing on the opposite side of the road. I didn't slow down as soon as I should have for I banked on his bolting into the woods on his side of the road but I guessed wrong for when we got within 25 feet of the deer he bolted in front of me. I slid my tires into him. Now we have one less deer in the north woods and I am shy one head light and have a crumpled grill and finder. A split second would have allowed the critter to clear the car. I was awfully glad that he didn't come through the windshield and I figured that we were just plain lucky. It will probably cost no more than $50.00 to repair the car. I have seen cars all but demolished by hitting a deer. I put the dead deer on the trailer on top of the lumber and came on in. That happened within 15 miles of home. Thus ended our trip down South.

You should see our sister Ginny! She has lost 15 pounds but looks like she has lost forty pounds. She lost it in the right places. Now she has only a remnant of a double chin and her "German gitter" is gone. She looks better than I have seen her in a long time. We went to B.C. Early one morning and drove out to the tot-shop. Ginny had opened up a few minutes before and was staring in the middle of the floor near the door in somewhat of a daze. We moved up to the curb slowly and watched her some time. She was staring into the street and when it finally dawned on her that we were out front her face took on the expression of a child who had seen Santa claus. R.W. and Joe Wilse seem to be faring well and they both seem very much in groove. Joe Wilse has turned into quite a salesman. His firm recognized his value in a big way Xmas. Gin will tell you about that. I don't think there are any flies on this gent.

Will B. and Audrey didn't seem to feel too chipper. They had both been sick, so has Sylvia. Will B. had a terrible cold and has had it so Audrey said since Thanksgiving. He probably got it from riding around in a Jeep without a heater. Weather has been too cold to bring tobacco in case and he has not stripped his crop yet. Hope he gets it on the market before the price goes down. Sylvia is as cute as a picture. They say they are expecting twins in March.

Miss Jeffries looks better than I have seen her in a long time, since before she was in the hospital. Come spring we plan to bring her up here for visit to the woods, that is if our house is finished by that time. The guy is working on it in sub-zero weather just as if it were good weather. This little place that we are living in is hardly big enough to cuss a cat in, and I will be glad when we can spread out again. We'll have a telephone system in our house so that I can communicate with the school when I am home. I expect to have a wood working shop in the basement. Already have my tools, a nice outfit. I'm taking orders for foot...
stools now. The only sting to the deal is that the owner put needlepoint one the cover. The wood will be of cherry and the design antique. So don't be bashful all who want one speak up and get on the record. The needle point will be about 12"x 16". Once I get into mass production and finish cutting out the stools I will not set up the machinery again to do a job for one or two. If you request walnut I can satisfy that craving. If you want Mahogany, send me the lumber.

Mr. Jackson, I think it would be appropriate for you to give thanks for being tied up with the Rays. Few people are as lucky as you are. There's only One "Rube" and I am the only native of the north woods that you know. That in itself should be considered a privilege. What case have you got to spend your money for if it is not for presents for the Rays? Thanks alot for the shirt. It is just what I need. I got three north woods shirts for Xmas and they all will be put to good usage. We do not wear dressy clothes here and its fun to go around dressed in gala colored clothes which are characteristic of ones own taste and to heck with what the other guy thinks.

Chullus, that was an unkind statement that you made about my B.O. What about your big feet? Do you still have to keep them under water so that you can get to sleep? What do you think about the war situation? I'm for working Russia over now. We should turn Chiang Kai-shek aloof and buy up the warlords so that the communists can be thrown out of Asia. If we don't capitalize on guerilla action in China we are just too stupid, when the air force gets in top stride about a year from now I expect to be back in the fracus. Unless there is a war of the first magnitude, I don't want back, but if there is they will have a hard time keeping me out.

Elle I am sending in this robin a clipping which goes to prove that you let your hair down in weather reporting. This shows what is going on right around you and we got no report of it until we saw the pictures in the paper. I had counted on you to keep me up on the "poop". Maybe you do need a thermometer and a barometer outside your window.

It is just short of 45 minutes until 1951 and I will close to listen to an analysis of 1950, as if I haven't lived it! I'll let Joan close the deal. Lots of love to you all and the best of everything to all of you!

Dear Rays,

I arrived home in the early morning Sat. and I read the Robin before I went to bed. It must have been very interesting to keep me up when I was so tired and sleepy. He had a very enjoyable Christmas and have recuperated from the long trip.

Ed gave me a mignmaster for Xmas, and I gave him a toastmaster. Babe gave Ed and me wool shirts alike. Emily gave me a red apple platter and Ed a wool shirt. I gave Ed house slippers, Jack gave Ed a beautiful green corduroy shirt, which Babe
and I have tried to take away from him. Virginia sent me a beautiful rug pattern, which she drew off and colored, and a pretty scarf. Emily got a very pretty cup and saucer from Scott, and Babe got a much appreciated jewel box from David. A certain party insists on sending gifts to people whose names she doesn't have. We are going to have to take action against such.

We still have a deep snow. Yesterday the girls and I walked to the Training School over the frozen lake. It isn't very cold, and the sun is bright.

Yesterday I broke down and unpacked some of our dishes, a thing I had vowed I wouldn't do. Ed hated the landlord's dishes and kept complaining about them. I had to pack all the dishes that were furnished to make room for ours. The house is coming along, but it will be months before we will be in it.

Virginia, Ed has promised to enlarge the rug frames today.

We are going to take this to Roscommon now, as we will have no mail today. We are going to take it to the proper officials also.

Love to all,

Joanna
Dear Everybody,

The robin made such good time that I hate to hold it up even a
day! Since the time is limited just now I write a short letter.

No one — I speak first for a store because if I stay here another year
I expect to get an apartment — so I'll need something to put in it.
The next time I go out I'll get the needlepoint eaten (I do Joanna's
too if she can find time) I can sew very well now — I can today
first time turn our front door door knob. The fingures get stronger all
the time, Jettie and the chair seat come and I work on it.

I need some "lap" work. I'm just about finished (1/2) the patchwork
bag — also Joanna's (I work on both about the same time.) I have two
1 of these blasted clubs this month so both for programs and entertaining
can't count on doing much when I go to them. I'm secretary of the 9/1120
I expect to get an apartment so I'll need something to put in it. The next time I go out I'll get the needlepoint pattern - I do Joanna's too if she can find time. I can sew very well now. I can (today first time) turn our front door door knob. The fingers get stronger all the time. jutie and the chair seat cover and I work on it. I need some "lap" work. I just about finished (2) the patch work bag. Also Joanna (I work on both about the same time). I have two of these blasted clubs this month so both for programs and entertain. I can't count on doing much when I go to them. I'm secretary of the GMA so can't do much even at those meetings.

I enjoyed the letters very much and got them the day I got back.
from Sioux Falls. I spent three days in Sioux City—just looking around and got new glasses at last. The week with Sue Wood was lots of fun. Jack she had a lovely Christmas tree—I do appreciate your exertions because the box was fine. I'll do some post-office for you sometime. Ruby sent me lots of health food which reminds me to mention a book about diet called "Look Younger, Live Longer"—which is extremely interesting. It was abridged in "American" for July and condensed in "Reader's Digest" sometime around July, August, September. The book itself costs $3.00.

The weather here in Springfield has been and is delightful! That two-inch snow of Dec. 2nd was the only one! We have had no falling weather since September to speak of—just two very small snows. Weather is moving east! Ed & Joann will come home to hole-in too.

Mrs. Harmon is doing very nicely. Her arm is almost normal size.
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Mrs. Harmon is doing very nicely her arm is almost normal size. She gave me the enclosed picture to send to you. We start school the eighth. A very happy year to each and everyone - love, Eleanor.
Jan 11 - 1951

My dear:

The Robin came in yesterday and I am not giving it to U.P. this time for we will never get it off. He is too busy working in his tobacco. He came in before I left for work this morning wanting to talk to Billy. He wanted him to come again before he went overseas leaving Tuesday next week. He didn't even have time to read the Robin worrying about Billy. He sold his shop at Mrs. Lawrence for two hundred and part and should get eight hundred out of his at home.

Eleanor, Sylvia talks about nothing else but going to see Aunt Uni. Ed also went giving the pictures while here, and showed the pictures while here, and asked then mother, There's Aunt Uni, she said then mother, That's Aunt Uni. She can't understand to see Aunt Uni just like she doesn't Aunt Dee. They both say it would not be possible to come to town without coming to see Aunt Dee. She puts up such a howl. Ray says she is the smartest of the three. Last time she was here she asked me what's this pointing to my blouse when I told her blouse she said, Aunt Dee, take off your new blouse and put on your house one so we can play on the daybed. She is getting rough and rowdy, and I can almost wear you out. I don't know how she got it in her head that Aunt Dee was going to send her a dog, but everytime Audrey mentions it
that there was a package at the post office. She pointed from Ruby, she would say it was a dog Aunt Ruby was sending her a dog. Brown had to kill the old hound dog for killing chickens, and she misses him. She called him "Susie." She had a big Christmas with all the toys and dolls she got. She seemed to enjoy Emily at that time she was with her. She never sees any children we all got more for Christmas than me. Should have got wholesale a set of 1847 Rogers silver. She daffodil pattern, and gave Ray Fuller shaving brush, hair brush, and clothes brush, and Joe a bath brush and nail brush. Ray got a nice raise at the bank, and here is Company gave him fifty dollars bonus and a new suit of clothes, and to the billfold from Joe. He got two billfolds billfold from Joe, and said his Daddy could use one of them since he was coming apart. Ray gave me 50.00 in money to pay for my new Walk suit, and Joe gave me a nylon slip with eight inches of nylon net lace on the bottom. far too fancy for my use, and I am enjoying the yellow rose Ruby sent and the stamps.
Jettie, I think you are smart to do your chairs, and
wish I could see them. I know you are all
enjoying the television. It probably is better
there than here, too warm and looks
like rain. Kelly has a set down stairs,
but we never have been down to look at
it. I might be interested if I knew when Scott,
David or Sally were going to appear. Don't
got his sweater you sent, Jettie, if he should
fail to ever write you, and Joe thanks you
for the hill fold, Joe Ray, it is by far the
best one he ever owned.

Ed when he goes to Louisville, I will get
a needle point for my stool; wish I
could have Eleanor or Jettie along to
help me choose a pattern, but since
it will be my first needle point guess
any will do. Ray and I are going up to
the Ice Carnival the 28th and I will
book the spring showing over at the
Try hotel at this. Thank perhaps bought
enough on this high market, lucky
that I bought heavy on the low market
and will not sacrifice this year on
markdowns.

I cannot get much writing done for
watching the building across the street
hardware store they say. Old man Herbert
Campbell died this week across the street
and old man friend was his father. Our
father would be eighty five if he were
living now, but he will never be dead.
I am just getting new.

It seems like things have been rather quiet recently.

I have been trying to stay away from the usual distractions and focus on what really matters.

In my free time, I have been reading some books and exploring new ideas.

I am also trying to spend more time outdoors, enjoying the fresh air and the beauty of nature.

Overall, I feel more balanced and fulfilled.

How about you? Have you been enjoying any new hobbies or activities recently?
Dearest Ray,

Joe has just finished his run in, so with one eye on Fred Waring's T.V. program I'll try to get mine written. I've tried to see this program ever since we got the set, and this is the first time she managed it! We're just finished watching Margaret Truman on The Coast of the Dawn show. She was not bad. I can't help but admire her determination to live her life as she has always wanted to do. She's worked hard and developed a little talent and ability to its limit.

Speaking of ability and talent, Scott & a little girl also 8 years old did a ballet on a local T.V. show called Your Junior Performers recently and won first place - a table radio for each of them. Next in March they'll compete with the winners of Jun., Feb., May, for a T.V. set. Which they've already made a deal with Jack & Nancy Dray to buy for them (Scott & Maria) already have one!

Lanis is taking swimming on Saturday morning. He is good at it & does some! Also, last Saturday & yesterday he went up
and Billy likes her "weather reporter" and
sticks. Thanks ever so much. Out of the name-
drawing mix-up Beall got two gifts - Sydney
sent him a sweater - and Dessa Philbin had
Dennis's name, but he got a gift anyway, so
Eleanor had sent him a dinner-time holding
10 times, which was a fine gift for him.
Thanks Eleanor. Also, thanks to Sylvia
for your gift I treat. My thanks to Joe
Wilson for the nail kit - I've never had
one. But I don't need to tell anyone I want
for my nails shaw t. Ed, Joe's white short
is the prettiest one he has ever had -
the neck a size small but I exchanged it.
Thanks ever so much.

We had a good dinner with Ruby today. Jack
is in Slippery Rock. My kids made a fire out
of me several times. Everything I loved but they
didn't like to eat they say "uh! I like that!!!"
The first thing we knew vacation time
will be with us. So I think our minds should
turn that way & we should be thinking of
the time to set for a visit. This is an
official invitation for a visit together
at our house. I thought Joe was going
to mention it, too - but he was concentrating on being cleaner. We have talked it over & think it would be best & easiest for everyone to come here. So far as weather is concerned, June is better than August for it is so hot by August, but June often is very pleasant. We can sleep everyone & I can get in some one to do the main cleaning & if you desire to budget the groceries as we did last summer, we can do that. Also - we'll be glad to feed you.

Roy & Virginia can have our beds - Ed & Jim the other beds; Brent & Emily - the boy's bed & a glased-in porch off of their bedroom. Their children the bed-room, Ed & Jim. I think the next room - the front porch will hold Jack & Ben, Emily, Sue, Joe & me! There's anything to do & I believe we can have a grand time.

So turn your minds that way I must stop. I wish all of you were here to hear this beautiful spring fare. Bring's Men's Club - "No Man is an Island.

Love to all,

Jettie.
We're at the summit. Just a few more steps to the top! The view is breathtaking. You can see for miles. It's worth the effort.

We took a break for lunch. I had a sandwich and a salad. We're both hungry after the climb.

The weather is perfect. No wind and a bit of sun. It feels good to be outside.

We'll make it to the summit. It's just a little farther. We're almost there.

The view is amazing. We feel on top of the world.

We're tired but happy. It was worth it.

We'll take a moment to enjoy the view before we go down.

The climb was tough, but the view was worth it. We made it.

The summit is ours. We did it! We're on top of the world.
and pretending it was true for the day to start. Rule you
excuse your age on the ground that the rest of us are not
far behind. It's not how far behind but how big behind.
Seems to me some of us have you outclassed in that
department. Maybe Emma or I are going to get down to a
respectable size before long.

I'm a little bit worried about how ole Jackson is
growing. I must concede, though, that that pair
really undertook a really big job of sending packages. I
think I know who you mean is sending presents re.
gardless of drawings. Incidentally, we really messed up the
Christmas drawings this time. I think Jack and Bob took on more
than they should to compensate for the big mix-up, though they
always send to everybody anyway. Jack, sorry there are so many
of us. I can see your point.

Edward, I can't see how a man can take his family on a
cross-country journey and still be "doing what he wants to."
you are built differently from me. I'd rather somebody would
beat me with a baseball bat than to handle my mind for trips.
And as far as you, I hope you're ashamed driving around looking
of your little deer. Sorry about the accident. A few more
like the ones we've had (two within a year) and we'll have to cash
in our chips. I meant nothing personal about my comment
that the bear might smell you. He could really locate you
easily enough nowadays. My other brothers and sisters got
I'm into the vicious habit of bathing every day. I had to live this long to learn that is all foolishness. My athlete's foot is cured up for the first time. The trouble was getting my feet wet all the time. I had to go to Europe where I couldn't bathe every day to learn the truth. The only drawback is that I'm sure the bear could find me - but I don't intend to wander out amongst any such critters.

As for the war prospects, I think we're going to have to fight a war some time soon. This only a question of when. The worst aspect of the whole business is that foreign policy is likely to become a football. All this blather about Acheson is purely partisan politics. The uninhibited press can always work best if it has a whipping boy, and the are making Acheson it.

El, I'm glad your hand is doing so much better. Read that book about looking younger and living longer. I'm still in one of your Omnibooks. What I remember best is yogurt. Rudy had some last night and gave it to me. It isn't bad. I'm dieting - been at it for a week now, trying to get my girth in line. I'm about to starve. I'm writing this in the kitchen, and Scott just came in to cut himself a slice of David's birthday cake right under my nose. I just lost patience and told him to get his cake out of smelling distance from me. I'm as mean as a bear. There ain't much to live for if it ain't vittles. The Syracuse Virginian (Can...
we love our food. And you, Miss Eleanor, ain't lost sleep at the
table. Thanks for the news about Aunt Katie. Give me
an earful word you get. I wish Ed could have got out to see
the Thomases. I'm still sorry I didn't get out to see Uncle Levi
when I was in B.I.G. last time.

Glad you had such a fat Christmas. It would
have been a fat one for us if we could have had the Ed
Page to drift in on us. They was informed on Joe Wilcox
by the draft. Glad to have the report on Jim Ry. He's been
planning on the Masonic Home ever since he was twenty.

Miss Jeffries, I'm amazed that you can read my
script. The last comment out came from Ed, who
boasted about it because he hadn't even seen it before - I'd
always used the typewriter.

I better knock off. Nobody's going to read this until
anyway.

Love to you all

Joe.

Ed & Jolie have been coming over since she read your offer
for her footstool. We want one very much - make it cherry.
She'll make the 12" x 16" needlepoint. She's got six needlepoints
already made for the chairs & in the making - our dining
room chairs.

I meant to mention two a clay gathering here in June or
July. Can you all make it? We can take the whole gang. I
can't make it in August, unless it's early in the month.
Dear Folks:

It's noon; I have just gotten out of bed; I have just read the family letter. Each one is good.

Miss Jeffries: There is no use in your taking pot-shots at me on my martyrdom. You only see these Rays on the run-- you don't have to stay with them day after day, or you would be as Ray-balmy as I am. They are not the "fancy" outfit you think they are. Joe and Jettie yell at each other till you can hear them in here; Ed yammers at Joanna every hour on the hour; Virginia and Ray live in what I would call "an armed camp"; and Eleanor fights with everybody (I've heard her denouncing all within sound of her voice). Brown and Audrey I never see-- but you can judge for yourself.

I've been mad at Ruby for a week. I came in one night--cold, wet, and tired-- after a terrific day-- and she was in the kitchen planning. Not cooking, planning. The kitchen is about the size of a postage stamp and she already has it littered from floor to ceiling with shelves, hanging brackets with shelves, roaster table, plant life (even on the Venetian blinds)-- till I have to creep in on my hand and knees if I want a glass of milk from the refrigerator.

So this night she says: "I want to build a wide shelf clear across this end of the kitchen (covering the radiator so we can't turn it on; jutting out against the stove so we couldn't get the oven open, etc).

So I said in my best laconic manner: "No shelf! This place looks like a flicker's nest now. If you move in another shelf, I move out."

And with that (and this is only a sample of the Ray temper) she yelled: "Well, move!" And banged a skillet into the sink with a clap you could have heard for three blocks.

I said: "You've broken that sink. Now stop that."

She said: "I have not. I'm ashamed--but everybody else gets shelves if they want them. Why can't I have what other women have."

I said: "You have me. That's enough."

At that she laughed. And I have hardly spoken to her for a week.

Now that is a true and accurate sample of life with the Rays. And I know it's repeated a thousand times a year in the households mentioned above. In other words, if they don't get their way right away, they raise mild hell. Do you agree?

Otherwise we have been snowed under with doings. I went to Slippery Rock last weekend for my Dad's 81st birthday. He is well and the family gathering was wonderful-- quiet, intelligent understanding between all of us! When I came back here, I was rushed off to New York to meet with Edward R. Murrow and the CBS vice presidents to plan an hour-long Red Cross broadcast on Feb. 9. He's a top commentator and I was glad of the change from routine potatoes here. Ruby and I went to Constitution Hall on Thursday night of this week (I had begun speaking to her in monosyllables) and saw the kick-off of the USO Campaign show. President and Mrs. Truman, Dean Acheson, Mrs. Barkley, generals, admirals, chief justices, and other well known gov't. officials took part. On Friday night, beat up as we were-- we went over to the Shoreham Hotel for
The Pennsylvania State Dance. Today Joe and Jettie are coming in for a while before they go to some kind of Texas reception—and I'm hoping the yelling doesn't start again.

However, grim as this may sound—we both are well and I wakened up this morning to find Ruby trying out a new hair-do which she had seen at the Shoreham on some girl 18. It's a job that pulls all the hair to the back of the head, where it is fastened by a rubber band—and Ruby was combing and brushing and gawking—and deciding she looked like Psyche. Which, of course, she does—with this blob of hair sticking out in the back like a mule in full gallop.

[Now, Miss Jeffries—what would you do if you wakened up some Sunday morning to that?]""

Ginny: What's all this glamor-puss business about you? So you've lost it all in the right places? Gaylord Houser is speaking here on Jan. 29. I'm trying to get Ruby to go. He wrote that job on "Live Longer, Look Younger".

Eleanor: We have a jug of that powdered brewer's yeast which we will send you. I took it for two days, till my face broke out, and I looked 82 for a week afterwards—if that's any comfort to you.

Ed: That was a graphic story about you and the bounding deer. In Penna. they allow you to keep such "kills" after you have reported and have sent part of meat to some V. A. hosp. Did you get a venison steak?

Joanna: That green shirt—I parted with regretfully. But I did mean it for you and Emily to steal. It must be wonderful however to see you and Ed in those twin-plaid businesses. (The closet R. and I will ever come to that will probably be twin skillets).

It's good to hear Ray got a raise and that Joe Wils is so well regarded. Let us know if his draft status changes suddenly.

We had a nice letter from Audrey after Christmas telling us that they all had been sick but we on the mend again. Hope the tobacco turns out okay.

That's all for me. I'm going to hit the hay again for an hour before Joe and Jettie get here (they phoned that they were bringing Jack and Nancy Gray from Texas along).

Washington is sure full of stir right now—and each day is a continuing rat-race. I hope I can hold up. Have been having a number of job offers—but am going easy till I see what goes. Love and kisses to all of you—

Jack
and so to bed by 2:00 AM. Jack got up around noon has just read the letters and is "putting in" So am I.

Next - I do want a stool - make mine cherry. And I'll make the needle point for yours. Joanna. What color do you want?

And the - I'm all in favor of Washington - ton in Tane for the get-together. Except that I would like to recommend the hotel up here near us for V. and Ray - Eleanor and Miss Jeffries. We can get a suite with living room two bed rooms and bath for twelve dollars a day. They are comfortable and very attractive. You would just have to walk half a block down to our apartment for your food. We would go out to Maryland every day. Think of that. The round trip from Baltimore Green is around thirty-five dollars as of now. We wouldn't expect to go to MD. every simple day because they'd have to come in here some of the time for sight seeing etc. I think you had better come. We don't know - something might happen that we would leave Wash.
I always mark up 1-27-5 story, system, such sheets of temper.

trying to find even fellow's letter next I men.

Dear Children — coach middle trench.

We are the late ones — and sorry.

Of course, I could have sent it in but I do hate not to have a say. Aside from the fact that Jack has been away I've been busy with end-of-the-semester etc. No matter at what level you teach here is always a lot to do. We were both tired Friday so we came home at a little dinner — took a nap. And the Jack said that he thought if we would go over to the Shoreham Hotel to the Penna. Club dance — it would help him — so we did and it did. He worked yesterday and we were invited to dinner last Friday which we didn't return until 11:00 AM.

As we came in the door four policemen were coming out. We discovered that someone had climbed in one of the first floor apartment windows. I don't think the policemen got him. It was exciting —
So smoke these suggestions in your pipes.

I have a vacation of a week at Easter — if Odille and Althea don't come here I'll go to Kentucky. And when I am planning to spend most of my time just sitting and talking.

Miss Jefferson and I will go over the whole tribe — in laws too — catalogue their virtues and shortcomings — for publication of course. And you will find out what a fine girl I've grown into — how mild and mellow in my old age. Not to mention how fat and gray. I also want to see the Bayly's.

Now Eleanor — you and I will have to do some thing about dieting. I sent you some of those things Hausser mentioned in his book. I couldn't bring myself to send you black strap molasses. Yogurt is something very like clabber. It seems to have some culture in it which is youth-ifying. It isn't as rich as cultured butter milk. You can usually buy it at health food stores. I wouldn't be surprised if some of those foreigners have it. Sometimes they call it goat yoart.
Ginny you sort of so stylish I can hardly wait to see how you look and if you still feel well. I feel better when I'm thinner than I am now. Your letters are wonderful, full of telling everything we want to know. You didn't say anything about Aunt Hettie. What was the matter? Is she better? Do keep telling us about Joe W. What does Brown know of Billy's whereabouts? I do hope their tobacco turned out better than you expected.

Tomma and Ed - I'm fascinated with the northland - ice skating - ice fishing - ice what else. I don't know how you take to it so smoothly. You do make it seem interesting as you did Arizona and California. It's good that Babs has a vacation. I'm writing this to Main Thomas about her. He was an awfully nice kid and I've heard he's a nice young man. I'm also glad Emily is having a good time. Both girls are talented that way.

Joe and Settie will be here soon. He is trimming himself down to match Ginny.

Love,

Ruby
Dear Folke

Wednesday Feb 7, '57
Springfield, 3. Dak.

The robin come Monday afternoon but Ed put in his old letter and I thought maybe he would send the new one. I will keep the envelope open until after mail in the morning.

I am terribly rushed just now with all these clubs and such. I finish with the program for AAUW the 21st. Then I may have some time.

The weather has surprised everyone! We had another very small (by Eastern standards) snow and we have had several days 9 below zero but no rain - and we do need rain!
I'll take a back seat and let the rest of you take weather.

It does sound dreadful coming from the East - We expect it here.

Dr. Kessettu says the arm won't be normal for about a year but it is usable now and the cold snap set it off on some aching and small swelling but it still improves by the day. The doctor said for me to use it as much as possible and I still work on the little ball dottie sent me.

I'm looking forward to the health box Ruby and Jack are sending - I certainly will feel healthy if I don't turn
weigh almost as much as last summer and all this sitting with the arm doesn’t help matters much. (Sylvia couldn’t help seeing me in the pictures because I more than likely was the biggest thing around, Virginia well has to plan to meet me in Louisville some July — she is a darling child and I would like to see her grow up.

Little, my contract is for 10½ months so that puts me into July. I have to stay for the first summer term. All the planning sounds interesting though...
Dr. Pittman came by for one nig and I said that I planned to go to Georgia sometime during the summer – The N. & A. four to Europe sounds interesting and not so expensive – I just finished, one bag and I'm not at all satisfied with it I worked on it between times and had written the Maryland children that I had something for them and wanted to get the package off that they would get it by Saturday (when they would be home) but I find that the P.O. will not take it because of the strike. Everything is all ready wrapped when I can send them on. Love to all —

Supper time, I stayed in the library for some of the speech students to work up.
Sunday night Feb. 18, 1931

My dear:

I got the Robin the first of the week, and Brown came in the day it arrived and promised he would bring it back the next day and take it home. Friday night he came in and left Audrey and Sylvia while he went to Louisville on business. We enjoyed them both. Sylvia slept with me, and we managed fine. She woke up at 6:30 A.M. and demanded milk. I got up and ate breakfast with Ray and me. We had both forgotten how much children chatter. She never did stop for breath: "Aunt Kin" is that orange juice. Put some at my place. I want everything "Way" dark. "Way" funny, you funny too. Sylvia funny little old kid too, and then she would just laugh at what she was saying, and just keep on saying: Aunt Kin. "Way" won't let me in the bathroom with him. Why can't I go in there? Then in the bedroom looking out the window: "Aunt Kin," There's a woman down there walking in the street, walking fast, where she going "Aunt Kin," where is school, etc. etc.

Brown went to Louisville to see about selling some kind of aluminum wear, and I told him he would have to buy his case and spend so much on gas he wouldn't make anything, but I didn't change his mind about trying. We really need to make some regular money. His tobacco didn't make half what he hoped for, and I figured he spent all his cash mailing out bids every, as he said he mailed out three thousand dollars worth.

He still thinks he can sell the farm for a profit, or sell all but forty-three acres for what he paid and build a new house on the backlot. The weather has been so...
bad nobody could look at it.

Audrey is planning to go home to her mother to have her baby as the doctor there is so much cheaper, and her mother can take care of Sylvia. Our doctors here charge a hundred dollars, plus hospital charges. She hasn't bought anything new, only has the blanket the miss Jeffries gave her, and what I have given her, a few quilted baby dresses, kimonos and two dozen diapers. However, she thinks with what she has left over she will have enough, two doctors have told her April 1st, but I think it will be sooner and a boy. She has just lived in the swind dresses Ruby and I gave her.

No need in my writing a long description of the weather we have been having, just look up some of Eleanor's old letters on South Dakota snow and you will see it has been the same for Kentucky for more than two weeks. However, the weather now. Didn't open up the shop until snow those one bound day and was closed all day two days ever Renny dad Woolworth closed two days.

Ruby, I didn't know Aunt Nellie had been sick. Heard during the deep snow she and Lucille walked out to the road and bought a ride to the store.

Ed, I really believe we would freeze in such weather if it lasted long enough. Mr. Chambers had the hall furnace cleaned, and let it run night and day at $10 a day and we are warm at home. I think the store never did warm up enough, wore a skirt and a wool dress and a coat all day.

Joe is still quiet as I don't know nothing up to this day about when he will be called.
Feb. 19, 1957

The bad part about our snow was the ice underneath. While the ice was covered with snow, the going was better than when it began to melt. I had one hard fall crossing Mr. Hawkins walk, and thought I was lucky because that on my thigh, but I have been sore ever since ad my arm muscles are still sore which is partly the cause of this poor script. I am going out to Dr. Faxon this morning ad have my spine gone over. I may have had vertebra slipped, the two that control the right arm ad right leg.

Ray has a new suit ad new overcoat given him by his sister Katie, ad still no teeth, gets insulted when you mention another try.

You should see our Joe, six feet, two ad weighs 190 pounds, spends every dime he makes on clothes and is a good looker, but worries me staying out late every night and spending all he makes. 150 a month on having a good time at Bob's Saddle Club, most lodge or some night club. I guess I should be thankful he does not get drunk, never drinks but one or two beers, or so his chums tell me, ad then takes all the drunk home after the party. We could nag him about it, but don't because we know by June he will be in the service and he always talks about enjoying himself while he is in the Pink. Sam's death seems to have impressed on him the forcefully uncertainty of life. He is doing a good job in the clothing store, ad Mr. Moore says he is grooming him for manager when he retires.

Did Stull you about our new furniture. I ordered it in the summer, a new sofa, Chippendale style, done in Chinese red. The poster bed done over to full size ad new mattress ad springs ad a new walnut
chest for our bed room for which I want a shaving mirror on a single drawer in Walnut. You know what I mean a mirror over a small drawer to sit on top of his chest. It is too high to hang a mirror over it. Could you make one and charge me what it would be worth?

The 31st January was our thirteenth wedding anniversary and how to sick with the intestinal infection and the chloroform had made me so weak I forgot it until flowers arrived and then the furniture I planned to arrive that day. Ray still says he has been married all his life, but Jack told you some of my headaches. Jack, to show you the boys are not the only ones who are hard to live with. You know that little about Thor and me and sometimes I think we are a little guilty.

A lot of people are dying, maybe because we are getting older and know more. Dr. Blackman and Earl Morris to be married tomorrow. And Dee Cook has pneumonia and they thought were dying last night, both Robert and Arthur are here. Bailey you find me a needle point for my stool to do in black and I will start it and if not finished when you and Eleanor come home you can take over.

Yes, Eleanor, I have promised Sylvia we will come toLouisville to meet you. She wants to talk about nothing else. Tell me again about going on the train to meet Aunt "Un".
Dear Folks:

Here I am at the office in my comfortable chair and my high desk, and I feel like a king, having chosen to write this long letter rather than to use a typewriter. I hope you can read it; I don't remember when I chose to write by hand rather than to use a typewriter when a typewriter was available. There are 7 empty typewriter desks and still I subject you to my handwriting. I have some 3 inch blocks under my desk so it is higher and I can write at it and work on it without slumping over. The standard desk height is a bit too low and my back gets tired working at it. This is wonderful.

Jettie was still asleep when the kids and I left the house. We dressed, ate breakfast, got out without waking her. Last Sunday we tried the same thing, but she woke before we could get out of the house, so we took her with us. First we went out to Beltsville where the Agricultural Experiment Station is to show her how the kids can drive the car. Sally can steer the car sitting in my lap, with a little help. David can sit in my lap or steer or feed the gas or work the brakes with no help from me, and David can drive entirely.
stretch of road at Beltsville, where there is no traffic on Sunday morning. Then we went to the Zoo in Washington. Then we ate hamburgers at a Little Tavern. Then we went to see Joe and Ruby to leave their family that Ruby had washed at our house while Jettie was giving her a Toni Permanent the Saturday before, then on home because the kids were tickling and Joe was yelling and it was time to break up a car full of gapping. That was last Sunday morning. This morning we got out of the house, brought Pat and Princess 1 and brought them up here. Pat is the mom dog. Princess, the surviving puppy, is now over six weeks old and is as cute as a bug. The kids and the dogs are running up and down the halls of the building, barking and playing little and nobody else at all. Least of all J. P., who is at home lying on the big bed in bed. David just brought in Princess. She had too much exercise and is ready to sit and rest awhile. David went back out and left her at home. She's complaining in these new surroundings. This is all new territory to her. Things going about as usual here. Working hard, as usual. Jettie manages to keep busy. She's recently washed all the curtains and has
started putting the fire on me to wash the windows. She started to push the wall in the stairwell. It's the stairs where you fall and twisted your arm. El, the new price is pretty loud, El, and I think it will scare people a little bit. So they will move over closer to the banister now to get closer. Hold on, and fewer will fall hereafter.

I haven't heard anything from the kids in some time. I'd better go and see what's going on. I knew what they were doing. The University drama group put on "The Old Mill" in the auditorium of this building and Scott went to see it twice, once with some kids and last night with his mother. He has David set down there running through the reprise of the opera in whatever I was and asking how it went. It must be awful interesting stuff because they haven't got come back to get the lists on me for nickels to work the candy and coke machines in the basement. Ordinarily that operation comes first, but I guess they figured there's plenty of time and they don't have any. Sally just came in with three bunches of paper flowers. I told her she'd have to take them back. She got a pair of cowboy boots for her birthday and she strides and clumps like a grownup on these hard floors. Hate to think you folks can't come in the
Maybe I'll write later.

summer. I can see your point, Graham, about Ray wanting something else this summer. I do think, though, that we oughtn't to go someplace just because we haven't been there. Rather should go where we can all agree on. We've all been to B. F. before, but we might agree on it as a place for the clan to gather. I'd like again to go to Michigan, since none of us have been to Roscommon. But I fear we couldn't all agree on it. Since Ray and Emma apparently can't come anyway, why don't El and the Roscommon folks join us really common folks here? We've got plenty of room in our house. Don't let Rubie talk about hotel rooms and $2 a day or what not throws you. We've got a big roof, can sleep 3 more on beds and 15 more if the kids take pallets and army cots. And why not where and it isn't in summer? We can swim at Greenbelt or at Glen Echo, where the big amusement park is or 40 miles away in Chesapeake Bay. We can lie on our "kettles" or "coffs." If you want to see sights, you can see them. How many have been to Frederick or Williamsburg? How many have been down the Skyline Drive in the Blue Ridge Mountains? Virginia on the Trail of the Lonesome Pine. I see the Trail of the Lonesome Pine? Let's gather in College Park. Love
March 9, 1951

Dear Folks:

And particularly Miss Jeffries-- some of you had better get up here because this whole thing's breaking up. The final blow has been struck, the final ignominy has been suffered.

It happened last Saturday night. Dumpling Blossom, as I now call her, had gone to bed early while I struggled over a short piece I was sending to Reader's Digest. About 12:30, I too went to bed, keeping very quiet so as not to waken Dumpling Blossom. I turned on the radio real low--to music-- and was just by way of going to sleep-- when I heard DB stirring.

"I think I'll get up and get a glass of pineapple juice," she said, sleepily.

Thinking to help her in her half-awake state, I said: "Be sure to shake the can".

AND-- with that-- I got a kick on the nearest thigh muscle that made me yell with surprise and sit up suddenly, as if the atom bomb had been dropped.

She had leaned over and come down on me with her bare heel, from the edge of her bed, saying at the same time:"I'm tired of you telling me everything to do. I shook pineapple cans before you were born." And, with that, she stalked out of the room and into the kitchen-- while I rubbed the swelling lump on my leg.

In the morning, she said gaily:"What are you limping for?" I said: "You kicked me; it's black and blue."

Said she:"If you say another word, I'll kick you again."

And that's how it is now.

Are any of you going to come up here? 

Jack
March 10, 1951

Dear Children:

I wish you would send me these things. If we could make pictures, take pictures of the pictures you have done, it would make the pictures even more special for me. I am getting a book to buy a bathroom set. I just want to say that if we could have a bathroom set, I would be very happy. The pictures you have done are wonderful. I am still working on the pictures, and I want to send them in the next letter. I hope you will send them. I will come to Washington on Sunday. We can show you more.

With love,
[Signature]
learned to operate a projector. Send the anytime you can spare them. I won't keep the long. And what do you mean not writing? We can't throw the robin over to Joe and Sad. Now you get in there and pitch Dahling.

I've been home two days with the same another cold. I keep pushing myself around and getting out too soon—forgetting that I'm not twenty. I really am alright now. The reason I got out too early the last time was because I had planned a Valentine program with my third grade and I keep thinking you can't let the down. They are cute and I do enjoy them. I never taught such small children before. The program was good but I was tired after two performances.

We have—that is the Public Schools—a ten-day vacation at Easter time—in two weeks. That will be welcome even though it stretches out the term until the last of June.

Spring is beginning—syringia is showing yellow here and there and willows are greening up. Today is cold and sunny. Warmer weather tomorrow.

Tonight we are going out to Settie's and Joe's to play the Game, which as you know is intellecual charades. They are very good. I've been trying to think of books to act out. Ones that will be too hard for them to act out. Wish you all could be here. Love, Ricky
Dear Folks,

I have no weather to report as things are pretty mild here, too hot for comfort in fact. Things are pretty much in the groove here.

The only thing that has happened to me since last I wrote happened last week- I went on a trip to the Upper Peninsula and to Wisconsin. Another guy in the conservation department and I went to the Porcupine mountains in the U.P, camped four days and had a swell time whether you are interested or not I'll tell you what happened. We took our food and gear, 125 pounds to my part which was most of the weight and packed into one of the wildest places left in Michigan. There was about five feet of snow pack in this rugged country which made snow shoes necessary. We stumbled over some very rough and big hills called mountains for about 45 miles. Going up was not so bad, but coming down hill was bad. There was a layer of sleet under four inches of loose snow and going down hill the snow shoes acted as skis and we would fall all over the place and scoop out a swath of snow for fifty feet or so. Once one falls with snow shoes on it's a problem to get back on them. Can't take them off and get on them again for one would be in snow wait deep. The best way was to roll over on the back, get the snow shoes straightened out then carefully rise to a standing position with a heavy pack on its no easy thing. I have a movie of the whole procedure if any one is interested. One day we walked nine miles on snow shoes over this country and neither of us had to be rocked to sleep. I took my beagle hound, "Bing," along and when he got out of the snow shoe tracks he would sink in up to his back. He gave us no trouble on the night after the nine mile hike.

We hiked back to one of the cabins in the interior and planned to travel light by taking only cans (3) of soup. If that had been all of the food we ate, I doubt if we would have gotten back. Fortunately for us we found in the cabin some left over meal and plenty of lard. I stirred us some scalded mush and fried it brown and crisp which we ate with great appetite. The Michigander with me turned up his nose when I told him that I was going to cook the stuff. He'd never heard of it before. I told him that that was the trouble with Michiganders, they didn't know about fried mush. I placed a couple on his plate and he said that would more than do him. As it turned out he ate seven pones and I ate six. The fried mush got us back across the mountain. I even had energy enough left to cook T-bone steaks for supper. We both ate like horses and came out of the place feeling chipper.

When we left to Porcupines, we went to Wisconsin for a meeting of conservationists where I contracted a job for our friend Chullus. We were planning a meeting in Lake Itasca, Minn., in Sept. We want Jetty and Joe to meet us there or come by here, preferably, and go there with us. After the meeting we, Joan, Patterson and his wife and I plan to pack into the Quetico National Wilderness to see the grizzly bear and the moose. This is a large wilderness area on the northern part of Minn. and it extends for miles into Canada. It is one of the three wildest places in all N.A. I promised Joe that he would lose at least eight pound of blubber in that trek. That would be an opportunity of a life time, and the cost of the deal to the Joe Rays would be practically nothing, that is, if he decides to take part on the program. This I know, when one comes back from a trip like that one feels like a new person. As it is now I'm all bone and muscle. "Muscle Ray," they call me.

Would invite Jackson and Ruby to come too, but I'm sure they would "poo" out on me before we even got started. I'd have to sled Jackson out on a tobaggan or something. He apparently bruises easily and heals slowly. Poor guy, what's he got to live for? If I were he, I'm sure I would give myself up.

Enjoyed everybody's letters in the Robin. Must mail this thing. Joe will write later and mail it to Ele.

Love,

Some of this sounds like the "fart smell of the objects."
March 19, 1951
Springfield, S. Dak.

Dear Folks:

Saturday morning we woke up to an 18 inch snow. That's some snow and it is blowing a lot today. The roads are blocked west of here and we failed to get mail one time. This is the very first snow we have had. If the wind didn't blow, we would still not have too bad weather.

It's good to know that there is still spirit in the ole gal \textit{mm}. She has a birthday before very long. The kicking stunt should be put on the stage (of course, someone else would have to stand in for Jack some of the time). I tried to jump a snow drift and \&\&\&\& strained my back and have been going around half bent over. Yesterdady the pain was pretty bad but to day I get about better. Some of our snow drifts are ten feet wide. My Waterloo was higher than it was wide and I went into it before I knew what was happening. All Ed's cavorting in the snow makes me ti\&xed to hear about. I know such acting is fun but it is not for me. Ed should remember that it was just such climbing that put him in the hospital several years ago.

Washington still sounds interesting for summer and maybe I can get there sometime during vacation. I see you all anyway and it wouldn't matter so much if I'm not there at the same time as everybody else. Mamoth Cave sounds good too. There are nice cabins there and it is a pretty place.

Before all this rumpus came up about the shelves, I ordered some collapsible ones for Ruby's birthday. I'll send them on anyway and maybe save the skillets.

Miss Jeffries, when you were having that blizzard, we had lovely spring (slightly chilly) weather. \textit{WE REALLY HAVEN'T HAD A BAD WINTER AT ALL (EVEN FOR THE EAST)}.

Beth says the daffodils are blooming in Kentucky. That sounds too good to be true. We have no hint of green yet. \textit{BUT WE HAVE HAD AN OPEN WINTER}.

I've finished all my clubbing (except going every other Monday night and every third Wednesday night) all entertaining and programs are over. Thank s be.
I'm rather anxious to get out for a short time at least.

Aunt Hettie is much better. She must have had one of her spells.

Aunt Maggie Scott in Florida, died not long ago. She was 87. She must have been the last of her generation.

Love,
Eleanor

Jettie and Joanna have broken a mighty good record by not writing this time.
Bowling Green, Kentucky.
March 27, 1951.

My dears:

The Robin came on Saturday afternoon before Easter Sunday, and I had worked so hard and was so tired I forgot to take it home Saturday night. However Easter Sunday morning we got up and went to church, I feeling terribly self-conscious about wearing the orcid Joe ordered for me. He does it every Easter, even when I ask him not to. His Aunt Kate and all the aunts tell him it is so foolish to pay $4.00 for an orcid for his mother, and that probably accounts for his stubbornness in ordering one, as if to assert his age. He feels he must do something he is told not to. He kept a disreputable old, blue and yellow A model ford parked in front of the Chamber's house for over a year, but recently traded it for a 1947 Plymouth, which looks much better, and is a better investment, since we can all ride in it.

First, I know you want to know about Brown and Audrey, and I know nothing to tell at this writing. Two doctors told her it would be April 7th, but Brown went Saturday, thinking it might be two weeks early, and this is Tuesday, and we have not heard from him yet. He said he would be back Sunday night because he had to start early Monday working on his plant bed, but we haven't seen him yet. I know if he did come back he would have supper Monday night, as he never misses supper with us every day Audrey is away. It does seem that more things hinder him doing his farm work than help him getting it done. Audrey wanted to go home to have the baby because it would be cheaper, and he has already spent enough going back and forth to pay her way at the hospital here. If we hear anything before this Robin flies on its way, we will add to what we know.

Eleanor, I wish you could have my doctor. He is fine, but has gone to take up work in an osteopathic clinic. I had a hard fall during the slick time here, and was in such misery until Dr. Faxon put bone back in place with one leather strap and snarling and twisting of the neck. I have had him three times, when I pulled my arm out of socket, when I fell and twisted my ankle ligaments. I saw in the paper where Aunt Maggie Scott died, but have not written to Ruth yet, and must do it.

We have two bedrooms all fixed up and nobody to use them except Brown up to date. I had the oyster bed done over, and have it in the front bedroom that used to be used by Joe, and in the hall bedroom I have the low modern suit with new mattress, so you see we have two spare bedrooms and could put up four extra people besides Ruby on the day bed. She is the only one who likes to sleep on the daybed. Everybody is invited to come now that Easter is over and I will have time to live and see something of you. We are looking forward to Ruby sometime after the first of May, and I may go back with her and on to New York for early fall buying.

Jack, I think she really kicked you because you did not offer to go get the pineapple juice for her. She probably is coming into her dotage, and wants to be pampered and petted. If Ray ever kicks me it will be because I tell him to do something he has already started to do. He says he never starts to put a window down or pick up something that I don't see him start to do it, and then tell him to "Close the window, darling, or Pick that up, please. If looks would kill I would already be dead. Your Dampit blossom shook no pea-nut cans before you were born either, because the juice didn't come in cans that far back.

Our brother Ed sounds like he is just flirting with death. Now Ed if you don't want to live any longer, be sure you make a good job of it, and just don't cripple yourself up to get about in a wheel chair for the balance of your days. Now, you let Joe alone and leave him out of such dare-devil stunts because you should know his back could not take such treatment as you gave yours. And, Joe, don't you go anywhere with Ed that Jattie cannot go with you, for she probably knows your physical limit, and Ed don't or wouldn't admit any until you were still as death at the bottom of Pocumtia mountain, or some grisly bear knocked you both down while you are looking the other way admiring the wilderness. Or Joanna has good judgment, and it might be safe if you took her along also, and leave the children at home to send out a rescue party if you don't show up for ten days after expected. I must stop and do some work.

Love,
Virginia.
Dear Childern—

The robin came on my birthday—a most pleasant birthday present. Thank you all. We do miss you Joanna and Settie when you didn’t put in. I hope your duties will permit it next time. Having a birthday where neighbors are near is really strenuous—and not just for birthdays. It was nice to have. Sadly in cute letter.

When someone isn’t sick or needing something done for them—they are dropping in to see you or having a party. Yesterday afternoon was the time I had set for this letter—intermissions—and then the 'Militany Ball' last night—which is the biggest thing Vineland has socially. Jack the women are actually ugly. I’m amazed at the kind of dancing they do—an old white, haired women and big fat dolls. The officers are popping the buttons on their uniforms. Still they steam through a jitterbug as soon as the orchestra played anything but a slow waltz. We got home
early but I was too tired to write—not jitterbugging. So I'm writing this before Jack is up and expect to mail it on the way to church. Hope I can find enough warm clothes to wear.

I've made myself a blue-dark suit which looks pretty good to me. I think it is good enough to wear to Barbara's graduation— if I can get there. When is it? I'm trying to get Ray and Van to go too. Maybe Dick would rather have us some other time? Say when.

Wasn't that something about Louise Thomas Richards? Right there in Elberta Beach by Bowling Green. It was in the paper that there is a two hundred dollar reward which will be hard to collect since she didn't remember how she looked. I suppose you all know a purse snatcher stuck her on the head about seven in the evening. She yelled so loudly that he didn't get her purse but she had to go to the hospital for some stitches. She was on 11th St. about two blocks from town.

We are hoping she will drive the Harmon car up here sometime in May to bring E's things or some of them. When she gets our apartment, I hope she gets one because I'm sort of itching to help her fix it.

love to all of you
Punky
Chillum:

I'm much disappointed that the Robin comes with no news of Andrej's baby. I hope everything is OK and that some news will come soon.

I read the Robin last night at eleven o'clock and am just now getting around to writing. I have been working hard all day and got home to find Jettie out at some kind of meeting, the kids asleep, and when I turn on the tv I find the prize fights on, so I'm sitting here trying to watch the fights and write this letter. It's nearly eleven o'clock, time for Jettie Pearl to come in from her meanderings.

I've had a most constructive day today that I think I'll tell you about some day even if you don't want to hear it. All I do nowadays is work, so it's all I can talk about. Stanley Drayke, my assistant, came over this morning and we drove over to the Pentagon to talk to a Major from Peffernell Air Force Base in Newfounland about establishing 5 centers up there. It's a most interesting proposition. There are 5 air bases up there, and if we can do it, we can send five teachers who will teach one eight-week term at each center. We are planning to try it out for one term this summer to see how many students we will get. If the students turn out in large enough numbers, then the thing will work. We will decide tomorrow morning whether Drayke and I will fly back tomorrow night to Newfounland, if indeed they can rig it up that fast. I don't believe they can get Drayke back in time because he would have to get some shots, military pass, and a request from Newfounland asking for him to come or me to come. They be too late for either, just
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and a military pass, and a request from Newfoundland asking for 
him to come or me to come. May be too late for either just 
come. Incidentally, I've got a deal next Thursday and 
Friday to fly with an Air Force Colonel to fly down to 
Montgomery, Alabama, to help him work out some 
problems with the University of Alabama. I'll get a chance 

(End)
to visit old friends and to get in a good session with the colonel, who's an important guy for my business. I can't make the trip of course, if I go to Newfoundland, I'll go to Newfoundland late if I don't go now. The Ala trip is a one-time deal.

At noon Dr. W. and I went over to Balch's Air Force Base, just on the Maryland shore opposite the Pentagon. The boys there have been thinking up a storm of problems for me. We kicked it around through lunch from one to five fifteen. We were all so pooped that we were talking in circles for the time we got. I got home about six, all set for an evening at home, and then it dawned on me that the girl who does my dictation had to do something else all day today since I haven't dictated any for three days. So I went to the office at 7 and didn't get home until 10:30. I got a lot of work done and am all set for the day tomorrow.

Lottie just came in, the dishes are done, and when I went upstairs to fill my cup I woke up the boy who was sleeping in our beds. I took them to the attic. David never can wake up enough to walk without wanting to fight about it, so he rides to the attic on Daddy's back while Scott trudge along behind grumbling, "All right, all right. I'm coming, I'm perfectly capable of taking care of myself, no, Daddy, no, I don't want to go to the bathroom all right. If I have to get up in the middle of the night I'll just have to get up." Hatchel Sally, dead to the world. Since 8 p.m. Scott snoozes a lot in the back room, I'm too hot.
At noon Dougher and I went over to Bolling Air Force Base, just on the Maryland shore opposite the Pentagon. The boys over there have been kicking up a storm of problems for us. We kicked it around through lunch from one to five fifteen. We were all so fouged that we were talking in circles by the time we quit. I got home about six, all set for an evening at home, and then it dawned on me that the girl who does my dictation had to do something else all day today, since I haven't dictated any for three days. So I went to the office at seven and didn't get home until 10:30. I got a lot of work done and am all set for the day tomorrow.

Jennie just came in, the fight is over, and when I went upstairs to fill my gap I woke up the boys who were sleeping in our beds and took them to the attic. David never can wake up enough to walk without wanting to fight about it, so he rides to the attic on Daddy's back while Scotly trudges along behind grumbling, "All right, all right I'm coming, I'm perfectly capable of taking care of myself, no, Daddy, no, I don't want to go to the bathroom, all right if I have to get up in the middle of the night I'll just have to get up." Hatchel Sally dead to the world since 8 p.m. Scotly spaded up a plot in the back yard for a garden this afternoon. I think he's going to do a good job of it if he didn't plant his seeds too deep or rows to close together. He's a big boy - he 12 the 16th of this month. Scotly is worse spoiled, but sweet to daddy's girl. David and I read his books while I shave each morning.
We've had trouble with the upstairs bathroom leak coming through in the dining room. They've torn up the tile and fixed the pipe, so new repairs are under way. The commode can't be reset until the tile is replaced. Big hole in the dining room ceiling.

Ed. I love you old boy, but don't give me money for liquor. I think about the wine and sales for days on end. I'm not lazy, but I have a considered opinion that exercise of all kinds is highly overrated. I agree with the guy who said if you ever heard of dropping dead on a tennis court you would know that it was just walking across it in search of a scotch and soda. If you ever caught me in the Minnesota, Wis. or Mich. woods, it would be because I was looking for a soft bed to read a whodunnit on.

I still think you folks ought to come here for a spell this summer. Looks like only Ed is coming.

I'm going to make some sort of junket this summer to the middle west to see how things are done in my line in Ohio, Mich., Wis., Minn. Can't do it in Sept., when Ed is trying to rig up a speech for me. It was a nice brother's gesture for him to recommend me as a speaker, but from what he tells me he's overlooked both my abilities and my information. I'll try not to disgrace him if the deal goes through.

I'm tired of this old chant about somebody getting dropped on his head when he was a baby. Doubtless we were all dropped, one time or another, if fate's behavior is guide. As far as Ed's being dropped there is a world of things that could have happened to bring him to his present sad state. It's a very simple matter to fix a little screw to come loose somewhere. We don't use it very often, but the thing is there.
days on end. I'm not lazy, but it's my considered opinion that exercise of all kinds is highly overrated. I agree with the guy who said if you ever heard his dropping dead on a tennis court you would know that he was just walking across it in search of a Scotch and soda. If you ever caught me in the Minnesota, Wise or Michigan woods it would be because I was looking for a soft bed to read a whodunit on.

I still think you folks ought to come here for a spell this summer. Looks like only El is coming.

I'm going to make some sort of junket this summer to the middle west to see how things are done in my line in Ohio, Mich, Wise, and Minnesota. Can't do it in Sept., when El is trying to rig up a speech for me. It was a nice brotherly gesture for him to recommend me as a speaker, but from what he tells me he's oversold both my abilities and my information. I'll try not to disgrace him if the deal goes through.

I'm tired of this old chestnut about somebody getting dropped on his head when he was a baby. Doubtless we were all dropped, one time or another, if late behavior is a guide. As for El's being dropped there are worldly things could have happened to bring him to his present sad state. It's a very simple matter for a wee little screw to come loose somewhere. We don't we just let it go of saying there was a screw loose somewhere. As for this dropping business I with my own ears heard Miss Dres say that Mama dropped little Ruf. So if anybody was dropped it was the lavender -
haired heart herself, and she's been tickin' tickin' ever since. Could have been the fall led her to kick you Jack. On the other hand your behind would be hard to miss if she kicked anywhere within a half acre she'd be bound to hit it (look who's talking).

If we missed your letter this time. I find that Jette has so many chores that she never gets to the Robin until after 5. I have, and then if I get in a sweat to send it on to Helen & Jack then she fresco'd it up. She wants I think, so that she can read my letter & not repeat its content.

El, Jette had a bridge party not long ago & invited a raft of ladies & the first comer, Mrs. Genewa, the wife of the head of our history department slipped or fell down our stairs and broke her arm, just as you did. She's about 60. We're gonna install a pulley and bucket seat for your old ladies to go up and down on. Seriously, those steps must be some sort of trap.

We're so dangred gone what with heavy state income tax. I'm up with holding deduction on the federal tax that we can't even buy a bunch of rubber treads for the steps. We haven't got Christmas bills paid yet.

I gotta go to bed. Mr. make another trip to Europe with the President & the University late this month. Details aren't settled yet. I won't go unless the President goes.

Like I said, I'm asleep and tired.

Love to all,
you yest. On the other hand your kids I would be hard to miss & if she kicked anywhere within half a mile she'd be bound to hit it (look who's talking).

Jo, we missed your letter this time. I find that Jette has so many chores that she never gets to the Reno until after I have, and then if I get in a sweat to send it on to Robe or Jack then she just sets it up. She waits, I think, so that she can read my letter & not repeat its content.

El, Jette had a bridge party not long ago & invited a raft of ladies & the first comer, Mrs. Lench, the wife of the head of our history department stepped full down our stair and broke her arm, just as you did. She's about 60. We're gonna install a pulley and bucket seat for you old ladies to go up and down on. Seriously, these steps must be some sort of trap.

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I gotta go to bed. May make another trip to Europe with the President & the Unitenant late this month. Details aren't settled yet. I won't go unless the President goes.

Like I said, I'm sleepy and tired.

Love to all.

Jette sold the puppy for $75 - enough to go for the mother dog's & pay the vet fee, but not enough to feed the dog, warmint & pay her drug & vet bills.
April 6, 1957.

Dear Edeke,

Joe is taking a nap. I've tried to get to this all day. Maybe I'll make it now. If Ruby & Jack are home Joe & I will take the Rhiin in to them when he wakes up. He came in so tired he could hardly wait to eat supper before he hit the bed. There's a dance at the University tonight to which we had planned to go but we are both so tired we've decided we can't make it.

I'll get my weather report over early today. It has been a perfect spring day. The town is yellow & pink with daffodils, forsythia & azaleas. The lilacs are well-budded. Everything is so much prettier this spring than last because the late frost last spring ruined the forsythia & azaleas.

My sewing machine stays open all the time these days. I've done a good deal of sewing & have lots more to go yet.

CC, I took in the State E.U. convention as a delegate this year. It was held in St. Silene Springs. I'd like to go to the National meeting, too, it's in Atlantic City, and thought I'd try to make it, but am about to decide. I can't Joe told you about the second arm broken on your potato! I believe that
I [illegible] named [illegible] home Joe & I will take the Resin in to them when he wakes up. He came in so tired he could hardly wait to eat supper before he hit the bed. There's a chance at the University tonight to which we had planned to go but we are both so tired we've decided we can't make it.

I've got my weather report over early—today has been a perfect spring day. The town is yellow & pink with daffodils, forsythia & Japanese! The lilacs is well-budded & everything is so much prettier this spring than last because the late frost last spring ruined the forsythia & japonica.

My sewing machine stays open all the time these days. I've done a good deal of sewing a have lots to make to go yet.

Elva took in the State C.C.C. Convention as a delegate this year. It was held in Silvex Sping. Elva would like to go to the National meeting, too, it's in Atlantic City, and thought she'd try to make it, but am about to decide. Joe told you about the second arm broken on car accident. I believe that must be a record! We're going to have a railing put in the wall as soon as we can get to it. Elva thought you were awfully brave & took your fall suit.
I hope you can get up some time during the summer. Can't you get Roy to come? I wish you would go to N.J. while you were there. My back is bothering me, and I don't feel very well. Sally is the best ride.

The children have a new craze—hankie back riding! They are such good riders. Sally is the best ride.
staying until every baby came so we could see everyone as she'd not been with this group for some time. He wouldn't let me take her anywhere. About 1 1/2 hours after her fall a young man in her husband's department who lives near then came by for her. She went to her home, went to see a neighbor, Mr. --- he sent her to the hospital for X-rays. The X-rays showed multiple fractures so they set it and she went on home. I've never seen anyone slow down less for an injury - she just hasn't hit it stop her from doing anything!

Ed, you didn't say about how your house is progressing. That's another reason grandma should write for I know she'd tell us about it. We haven't had the time to get over that way in the fall to see if we could use their cabin for a week or two. They usually don't go until about July. Ed, maybe you could meet us there and come home with us.

I stick wish we could have a get together here. I don't see how we can go anywhere. He
April 11, 1951

Dear Folks:

This is the day of the big news announcement, "MacArthur is Fired"-- and it's all you hear on the streets, busses, and streetcar lines. Personally I think it's a good thing. Ridgway is a good man and so is Van Fleet. And MacArthur had become such a legend (through his own public relations department) that he thought he was smarter than the government and the United Nations combined. He has done many fine things; achieved wonders here and there BUT he needed his sails trimmed now, I think. I'm tired hearing that he is the only one who understands the oriental mind because he keeps himself insulated from it most of the time. In other words he's in the Orient but certainly his way of life is not of it. So much for my thinking.

Besides I feel sorry it happened to him, because in many ways he is a very great man.

Ruby is well; Joe is well and thin, still; Jettie looks verra fine and the kids are all healthy. I'm older and tireder and I can't snowshoe nine miles with a pack on my back. We have a guy in our office, Tom Stowe aged 48, who is also always trying to prove he's 18. He balances glasses of water on his head at parties and then touches his nose to the floor. And everybody yawns, "So what?"

So what, Ed? You know darned well you could hardly make it swimming over the dune with the rest of us each day (we had all been in/twice before you made it)-- so why don't you relax and act your age. I know it's hard to give up but if you're Tarzan(180,922),(520,940)(579,922),(919,940)(127,922),(460,940)(476,922),(814,940) I'd hate to see Foxy Grandpa.

El: I'm glad you got a snow at last for it has been a tough writing winter on you. Ginny and Ray: We're about ready for another trip to Chicago-- or somewhere. Are you? Brown and Audrey: Nice to have a new Joe although the old one isn't so bad. Or is he? Miss Jeffries: I sometimes think you're the only one who has any sense and you're not a Ray. Love
I want to thank you all for my very

pay no attention to. No help. No - I believe in the C.W. which he called
to thin the whole world will blow us so that those in
realize no that they almost completely. It was
The idea. I read Emma and David Evans a
and condoned and so study that. He has been promised
of N.A. All dismiss all accuse. He has been promised
We almost forget about it today when the news

lost from cold winter.

set the year was extraordinary. It is such a-
first year they have done out and so saved.
really read the lights but it is Hazel. This was the
 ignorance falls. Realize the hesitations of a full
their play 
the way they
blessings - remaining mean and myth. At night
we spent most of last week and seeing the change.
Flowering shrubs and the trees are yellow-cream.
it is very lively. There are so many kinds of

Dear Children -
In the waltz, spinning out.
Children playing lite and free.
Angel-like, the pointers.
Sunshine on their faces.

Spring's commencings.
Spring's commencings.
Spring's commencings.
Spring's commencings.
Spring's commencings.

This is very busy season. Reports, other.
Reports and more reports.

My health, that must keep beingerty on, something we're struggling to adjust this balance.

Somehow the problem, I get off that reminder.
My head and adjust my science sheets.

able to roll down a snowy hill. 

ED - you don't really thin. Take care. I would.

Hemt, and let's.

vance ad urge. He wasn't the kind of his.

summer this summer. We also like this.

I'll plan my hero to have a� break.

If glad to be here, giant schedule and as wanted.
We've also heard of the new look by. It so.

get it.
Dear Jacks,

We are glad to hear that the will Be's arrival was just what was ordered. It's good to know both Andrey and the baby are doing well.

From the comment in the Robin I gather that most of you are barely able to mumble. I had no idea you are aging so fast that talking about getting out in wild places tires you out! Truly, you are on a low limb. That is, all but Cole, and this fair lady tries to take to air to clear a 10 ft. snow drift and lands in the middle of it. That amounts to a five foot jump. My estimate of the matter is that this is an over statement. Since the center gravity of this lady is very low, I'm unable to figure and how she got it off the ground to clear five feet. She couldn't have possibly accomplished this feat wearing the famous "striped pants" for she would have been wearing "split" pants. Yet she is the gal that tells me to take it easy that I am getting old! I have always said that one is no older than one feels, and I certainly don't feel like washing -
my chips for some time to come.

Getty, if you rent a cabin anywhere in Michigan, especially Traverse City, I will never speak to you again. Some June we should be in our home house and it will be available for any member of the Ray clan. We will have plenty of room, and this is a swell place to be in June. So just write your friend that you have closed another deal. We would be glad to have "Who dunit" too whenever he can make it by the North woods. If he could take a few days with me, I would work off some bummer for him. But he would rather read who dunits and eat cream puffs in bed. Such a guy as he turned out to be!

Missah Geeksrom and "Silver Queen" we expect you too to be here P.T.A. and all of the rest for that matter. When is the reunion and where will it be held?

It will be in K. in August and I can come any time that it is soaked up, and I will go anywhere. Let's hold one in Glacier National Park some time.

that would be one to climax all reunions and it would be an education to all concerned.

I must close and get to my snuggling.

Love

Old Faith and Vinegar
Dear Boys,

I wish pretending that spring has come. We got a big snow yesterday and it is as cold as Christmas today! I did have lots of crocus blooms in the yard, but I'm afraid I don't now. The natives say that we have nine months of winter and three months of poor shedding here. I am beginning to believe it.

Bald was home for spring vacation last week. Suzanne Butler came up to spend the week with Emily, also. We had lots of wise-cracks and giggling. Emily says if Bugie would move up here, she, Emily, would have no reason at all for wanting to live in Milan. Emily is pretty well sold on this place now. She was crowned queen of the pop carnival held last Saturday night. The school students chose two contestants by a process...
of elimination, and then everybody who bought a ticket to the carnival got a vote.

I didn't get a letter in last time since I got in quite a predicament the week before Easter. I had to finish Barbara's Easter suit, make a coat over for Emily, and make a choir robe in one week. On top of that, I was urged to substitute at school, but, for once, I was able to get out the word, "No." Too! I had two night meetings that week and one afternoon meeting.

My class ends with a final exam next Monday, and I will be glad to have the extra time. I have some projects to wind up before then.

Our house is ready for the plaster. The floors, which are laid in small squares, are yet to be done, and, of course, the paint inside and out. It seems like a long time yet. The house is a big mess for $17,000 but will be well worth the rent we will pay. The plans are about as bad as could be drawn by anybody.

Jettie, if we are in our house by then
which I hope is a sure thing, why should you tear off up to Traverse City (76 miles from here) to a cottage for a week? Unless you think you couldn't take us that long, or just like that neck of the woods better! We will count on your coming in June. Let us know when. We will be very happy to have all who didn't get too much of Michigan last summer come to see us this summer. I can't give any first-hand information about the size of the mosquitoes, but I have seen the screens that are to be over our windows, and they are first class. Really, if it gets warm enough, it will be a wonderful place to swim. Ruby and Jack, you won't have to climb any mountains if you come—nor any dunes! There is sand. And it is a pretty place. Eleanor, let us know when you are coming.

Ed is very mad because I love to all.

[Signature: Joanna]
4-23-51.

Dearest Eleanor,

Excuse this terrible paper. But I can't seem to keep stationary! I knew I don't write that many letters! I don't know where it goes!

We were glad to have your note the other day. Did you get the cheese needle point red right. I'm afraid I didn't say how near to mark it at the edge - anyway it needs to go as far as possible. I took it but Allen (a neighbor) has worked 3 for me - also Mrs. Ledbetter has finished one so that makes 5 finished with the one I had already done. I'm over half thru with another one. So you see I'm making good headway. Also - I'm in no hurry at all. If they are all ready to be put in by this time next year, I'll be satisfied. I want to get slip covers made for the seats before I put them on. So the chairs are getting hard use now with the T.V. in the dining room. Thanks ever so much for doing one, but don't rush on it or burden yourself about hurrying.

Our spring is beautiful. I believe the cherry blossoms were about the prettiest they've been since we've been here.
We are glad to have your note this morning. Glad you got the cheese and needle point all right. I'm afraid I didn't say how far to work it to the edge—anyway, I need to go as far as possible to work it. But Allen (a neighbor) has worked 3 for me—the Miss Reel Better has finished one so that make 5 finished with the one I had already done. I'm over half done with another one. So you see I'm making good headway. Also, I'm in no hurry at all. If they are all ready to be put in by this time next year, I'll be satisfied. I want to get slip-covers made for the seats before I put them away. So the chairs are getting hard use now with the TV in the dining room. Thanks ever so much for doing one, but don't rush on it or bully yourself about hurrying.

Our spring is beautiful. I believe the cherry blossoms were all the prettiest they've been since we've been here.

Joe & I went by to see Ruby yesterday & went out to see Jack & Nancy. Jack went to see Mr. Rose doing a speech. Joe & Nancy has bought furniture - Modern-
but very nice & pretty - if you like modern!

Our P.D.A. has a circus (3 rings) here on the school grounds to raise money for the P.D.A. Jack & Nelly are coming out to go with us tonight. Healt & Eleanor weakened & went to the afternoon performance, so on their own money.

Guess you know about the new baby by now. We hope to be able to send him a check for 10. on the 1st. I hope he's as good looking a boy as Sylvia is pretty.

We're counting on a visit from you this summer. Any time suits us, we are not planning anything. We may go to Michigan if the trip over this way on business. But we'd be back by the time you'd be ready to come. By this time we could bring you back if you'd meet us there. We can work out any details nearer the time. Remember - you are not sign a new contract! Leave us back over this way!

How is Mrs. Nerman getting along?
And how are you? Take care of yourself - don't work too hard.

Love from all,

Debbie

I know I never thank you for all of the things you send. I don't do it because...
money for the F.S.C. girls & Henry are coming out to go with us tonight. Scott & Leonard weakened & went to the afternoon performance, too, on their own money.

Guess you know about the new baby by now. We hope to be able to send him in a check for $10. on the 1st. I hope he's as good looking a boy as Sylvia is pretty!

We're counting on a visit from you this summer. Any time suits us, we are not planning anything. We may go to Michigan if we go on that way on business but we'd be back by the time you'd be ready to come. If it's later we could bring you back if you'd meet us there. We can work out any details nearer the time. Remember you are not sign a new contract! Come on back once this way!

How is Mrs. Herman getting along?

And how are you? Take care of yourself & don't work too hard.

Love from all,

Jettie.

I knew I never thank you for all of the things you send. If I don't it's because I can't keep up with you! The place mats came & we like them. Thanks.
Dear Folks,

It is funny, queer, comical and unreasonable but really I’ve not had a pain between robins — I had forgotten all about the back strain — and here comes a cold — the first in several years on the day I got the letters! The robin came about a week ago — an awfully long time for it to stay here! — Monday I was coming down with flu or cold but thought I could beat it down. It won’t do — I was in bed Tuesday and Wednesday. As you know, it is very seldom I go to bed but I just couldn’t manage it. Dr. Keasler gave me penicillin (my first experience) and I came right out of bed. I’m still weak but get around.

That is why the robin stayed here so long!
The MacArthur episode made a big stir in this state! I never thought that the President had yanked the glorious sun from the heaven! Man, Woman, a child smoldered for several days! In fact some of my best friends would hardly speak to me for a day or two. You are either pro or con in this kind of country. The big cries all the time are 'get the boys out of Korea and lower taxes.' They don't seem to realize that if MacArthur's plane were followed we would put more and more boys in battle and taxes would have to go higher and higher. They think the Chinese nationalist would end the war immediately. They forget that Chiang and his army were driven out of China almost a year ago, and that they 120,000 would now have to be equipped for war by us. There hasn't been a meal since the fatal day that the sacred name of MacArthur hasn't been mentioned. I'll be glad when the 'hurrays' are over and the General settles down to the
& 200. The job with Remington Rand. They must mean to get out of paying income tax on that much. I was really ashamed of the "Mrs." that she was from the South that is because every picture I saw of her she had a big mouth wide open! The son seemed embarrassed at his mother's mouth — by pictures, I mean (You see we have very poor television as yet. There is only one set in town and they can't see anything two-thirds of the time.)

Spring has really come! The lions are almost out and there is a strong wind. However, we have a late spring.

Lottie & Joe, I hope the woman's broken arm healed as readily as mine did. You had better get a railing! I'll Scott and David that I would like to help them with the gardening and I know Sally has a row or two too.

The baby boy sounds in fine shape. I hope he is red-headed. It's too bad that my name isn't Josephine or something like that. You'd guess we just won't have an Eleanor Ray in the next generation.
The summer plans are vague. I would like to take one of the N.E.A. Tours to Europe. They are not too expensive and seem very good. I had thought of going to Georgia and may still do just that. I will try to see everybody sometime during the two months.

I'm planning to get a car next year. There is no garage so don't want a brand new one. This is no place to live without a car. I can't get anywhere without depending on friends.

Mrs. Harmon is improving right along and does just about anything she wants to.

Love to all –

Eleonore

Forgive the lateness but I don't indulge in a cold very often – just about once in seven years.
My dear:

The Robin came in while I was home sick in bed, and have lost count of how long it has been here, but Brown brought it back from the country the day before yesterday. We took it out there Sunday, and doubt if they wrote a line in it, but just had to keep it long enough to read all of it.

We go out every Sunday, I to see who the baby looks like, and Ray to see the chickens, and how fast they are growing. He said he never saw twenty-five hundred chickens grow faster, and can't wait until we have finished Sunday morning breakfast to start talking about going out.

The baby looks just like Audrey's father, and must be a duplicate of her family because I can see none of the Ray side in him. He is growing like a weed, and Audrey has been lucky to have enough milk to feed him so far. She has supplemented some with goat milk. We took candy out for Sylvia, and she had to have milk twice while eating it. She likes it more than cow milk. It has no taste, and I don't like it. Ray has never tasted it so far as I know.

Brown is growing these chickens for Field's Packing Company, and they are financing them. He keeps saying if they are ready for the market now. he could make a thousand dollars, but Ray figured it down to a fine point, and said he could not make seven hundred dollars, and that would be paying nothing on the three 59.00 brooders, not to mention the rubber hose he bought to run water into the barn. He wants to run the electricity to the barn, and no doubt will do it before he gets any profit on this batch. The interest on his farm notes comes due in June, and it would be grand if he could make enough to meet those obligations with his chicken money. Farmers are tearing the hair around here about the long, wet, cold spring, and practically nobody have tobacco plants big enough yet to set out, and they think now it will be middle of June before tobacco crops get started.

I have not seen Miss Jeffreid since I got sick, just have not had the energy to go over there, and the stairs are too much for her. However, she has called every night to see how I felt. I am feeling almost natural this week, but still sort of lazy.

As to vacation, there will be none for me. I must go into the hospital for a small repair job either the 21st or the 28th of May. I will have to be in the hospital 10 days, and off my feet for a month or so. It will cost so much there will not be any money left for anything else. I will have to spend the whole month of June recuperating, and the whole month of July on a big summer sale, and if the sale goes well, may well cut since standing on my feet has caused my trouble. The Government tax on a small business like this now is increased to over fifty a month, and Ray says we never do clear enough to take out more than a hundred, and the way I buy that is usually cut back in stock.

Ruby, I wish you would come on home as soon as your school is out, and we could go around some while I am getting on my feet again driving Joe's car. It is a pretty good car he and Ray both say. Ray plans to take his vacation the first two weeks in July, and wish you could stay about two or three weeks. If Eleanor could also be here, we could all take a few trips. Ray wants to go to New Orleans, and if you and Ray could both drive, we could make a cheaper trip, and Eleanor could hitch in her car. Ray could stay his vacation up to the last week in June and first week in July, and you could be here for his vacation. We should go some place where we could wear our new bathing suits. I got the invoice on them today, and should be here soon. Do you want Acorn or Caribbean Rose. They are both the same size.

What I would like to do would be for you and Eleanor go with us to Hollywood Florida, not to stay long, but just for the trip. Ray would not consider the driving because of his bad eye, but both of you could share it with him, and we could pick tourist camps on the way, and make it not too expensive.

Joe is training three nights a week now, and may be in service by August, but for sure knows nothing.

3d, I guess Michigan will have to wait for another year, and if you are there, and we have all of our organs in working order, we might come up come a real hot summer.

Joanna, I know you are going to enjoy a nice new house even if you do feel certain things should be changed. In the meantime, we have two sparebed rooms with new mattresses on the oods if you or any of the family should decide to come to see us.

I guess there is no use in urging Joe to come as he sounds far too important and busy to bother with any of his folks.

Tuesday, May 9, 1951.
May 22, 1951

Boys and Girls:

Ruby said to me: "Our families are really country jakes. You and I have outgrown them since we came to the city. I don't think I could stand another summer listening to that Va., that El, that Ed. And I know you must feel the same way about those hayfoots back in Slippery Rock. Let's go to Paris this year."

I said: "I don't think you ought to talk like that. Your family are really very nice folks. I never liked any of them but they are nice-- and I don't suppose they seem countrified to a lot of people."

"Pooh, pooh," she said, "You've worked too long for the Red Cross. They're ham and eggs to me, every last one of them. On to Paris!"

So I went down to the bank and they said they'd give us the money. I went on to the travel agency and they said they could probably get us on the Ile deFrance on July 18, leaving New York and arriving in Plymouth, England on July 24 from which point we'd entrain for London arriving there the same night-- at the Cumberland Hotel on one corner of Hyde Park. After 8 to 10 days in England, we'd take the boat train to Dover, across the Channel to Calais and on the Grand Parade. Nine hours, fare £12, from London.

And about 8 days there and in environs-- Versailles, Fontainbleau, the Chateau country, etc.-- and up to Rouen (there they burned poor Jeanne d'Arc) by Aug. 13-- and sailing next day, Aug. 14 home on the Liberte. Ruby is practicing up on her French. She can now say: "Put the crayon of my grandmother on the table."

She should get along all right, don't you think? Love

Jack
Dear Children –

We've got it in our minds to go to England this summer: before somebody goes on another blasting spree and sinks the island. And another reason is that if we don't go now we won't ever because of the awkwardness of aWheelchairs. And there is still another reason—that we might die without debts. Last and least important is that we want to have a trip—and this is the least for the money. Eleanor—Why don't you take the N.E.A. tour and meet us there? That is if we go. I still think it may turn out like Mexico. A tour would be better but we think we can't keep up with one and then we will be gone only a month.

I'm fixing to make up a fancy will. What does anybody want—or rather what of our stuff would you be willing to accept? Who wants half the house in Slippery Rock or these crooked dishes or broken furniture?

Since how I'm not in a very good humor for writing. Maybe because I've spent the
last two days on a hot cement playground trying to get thirty-eight-year-olds ready for a May Day programme. They are very smart children so are very clever at resisting learning. They are pampered and want a drink or to sit down and watch each other and to swing anything but dance 'Bow, Bow, Belinda'. Tomorrow will be the day and they will define for the first time since we started work on it.

Roy called me last night to say that Ginny was getting a long all right. He was worried because her blood pressure was low but the doctor had told him that he expected it. We remember that Jack's mother was that way when she broke her arm. Before the operation her pressure was very high after ward it was low for several months.

I just talked to Selkie. She has not heard from Joe. She probably won't since she is expecting him home Saturday.

Jack wants me to stop now and practice my French:

Prenez vous le crayon de la grand-mère sur la table. Is that right, Miss Seffries?
I can't imagine what Jim going to need to say about my grandmother's crayon- but that is in the lesson.
Dear Ted,

Don't have time to write more than a note. Have to go to Drummond tomorrow and the next day get and we are on our way to the wildest place in the U.P. which is the same general area that I bear hunted in last year. If we do not get back, we get it up by a bear or something. I need a rest from the grizzly jack squat hobo for the main part of it is that the summer expect to camp out, sleep on the ground, doing to do some photographic work and commune with nature. (use 10 m this time) Expect to study ecology in region unspoiled by men.

Sincerely,

Ed.
Dear Folks,

The Robin is not what she used to be this time. It left me feeling blue; everybody is either sick or is going away off. What if Stalin decides on a lightning move about the time all of the Rays and MacDonalds get to Europe? I think you would be safer in Michigan! This is sour grapes, and I would go in a minute and dare Stalin to start anything if I had half a chance.

We just went over to see what had been done on the house today. Practically nothing! We are getting anxious, as the rent on the cottage goes up to $50 per week July 1. Ed decided tonight that it is very doubtful that we can move by then.
We will give up the cottage then, anyway, as
we aren't rich - just almost.

Ed is going to try to get me set up
by the Sears this week. I think I will
sleep in the station wagon.

Emily gets out of school next week,
and Babs will come home June 13.

Else-er, I enjoyed the book. I lent
it to a friend to read, and another wants
it. Then shall I return it? I am
reading The Doctor Wears Three Faces!

We have to leave for Lansing at
6 A.M., and Ed says we must retire.

Love to all,

Joanna
New Address 1253 Park St.
After July 1st.

My Dear:

The Polio came while I was in the hospital and I did not know it was here until Sat., when all the mail was sent up here. It's a month Monday since my operation and I have not been out to the roof yet. Dr. Graves wants me to wait until next Monday to go back. I can't stand on my feet long yet without giving out. He said he did more repair work than he thought would be necessary. My bladder had dropped down through collapsed wall and had to be put in a cradle and then wall repaired. He said he never had used as many staples on any ankle before and would have asked more but I stood all I could blood pressure jumping from 225 down to 50 and anything below one hundred was too dangerous. When he stopped operating, he said deformed him because it was too long before they could feel any pulse. I was surprised when he told me I almost died, but told me if I had it would have been his fault if he left it my own fault. I was so tired when I went to the hospital Sunday night I could barely fall into bed. Worked hard all day Sunday at shop and leaving apt. sick and from such a silly thing to do. I thought it would be a very simple operation a few stitches without incision.

I have had plenty of time to plan the decoration of the house across the street and bought re-stuff while I was in hospital. I wish all our girls were to help me plan colors. After much study I think room I want blue walls and dark blue ceiling, living room. My
cherry furniture and Chinese Red Couch will
get in that color and white woodwork.
That dark brick fireplace my look huge,
painted white, but looks awful as it is.
The kitchen will be green and yellow
to suit Roy's color taste. There is nothing but
our old fashioned sink in the kitchen, and Katie
Wilson has offered us her sink and cabinets
which are too low for them and would be
just right for me, but am afraid we can't
fit in our space. Would like to remodel
the closed in back porch like the balcony
pictured in June Better Homes & Gardens, Page 152-3,
and glass in back wall of breakfast nook and
back hall, but doubt if Roy will ever consent
to spending that much. Thanks Jette for Better Homes

The books we bought from are moving today
so we will have longer to paint and repair.
Clean up may be moved by the time you
get here. We expect to get possession July 1st and
hated for you to arrive while we were in
a stir moving.

When we get moved, we are going to enjoy
company like we did at our 13th St home.
We will have one spare bed and the
Day bed and can put four or more cot
on the back porch, about the size of the
Washington close in porch Joe and Ruby lived
in first.

Our dry spell no rain here for 40 days
seems to be broken. We have had three good
rains and rained slowly nearly all night.
Should have been enough for Brown to get his
tobacco. Help is on ground planted yet and I'm worried
his first flock of chickens should sell this week.
They were here for supper Monday night to bring
Sylvia to us, broken out with "emphysema" like
Joe Lavoie once had. Good news, signing of July 6th. Love
Virginia
Dear Folks:

Here we are over our heads in summer school because we have the largest enrollment for some time. This last week has been "hectic" because I have only one of the old student-workers back. We are planning a new library building (with another department) and that looks good. That is the only reason I signed the contract this year. We are so crowded that it reminds me of Georgia the first years.

We are having so much rain that the crops are going to be very late (if ever). Nebraska has had cloudbursts, tornadoes, washouts, and very heavy rain during the last few days.

We just have rain, rain, rain! I am sorry I sold that raincoat back to Virginia.

I have asked Viola Perry of Georgia to go on the North-Western tour with me and it seems now that we will go about July 28th. I've begun taking iron so that I can hold up during such a time. The tour starts at Chicago and lasts 23 days. There is a boat trip too. I wish I had a movie camera but maybe I'll just enjoy the trip. I will miss seeing all of you but we did have spice time last year and can look forward to next year. All the visits were very interesting though. I've go to get in some more traveling before I settle down for every summer. I don't know why I've always wanted to go to Lake Louise. This tour takes it in.

"THE GENERAL'S" name is hardly ever mentioned around here any more. His wings were clipped somewhat when some reported he owned about a third of the Philippines and the penny-pinchers are disgusted at the amount of hard cash used up in making these investigations. Everybody (almost) still loves him but he's definitely not the tin angel he was. At first, most people around here thought President Truman would be impeached and then MacArthur would be made president next fall. Now there are at least three good reasons they don't want this hero to even run. One is that it would be too hard on him.

One of best articles about the affair I've read was in the New Republic for about two weeks ago. Someone took our copy so the date is not forthcoming.

The Paris and London trip sounds fine and I do hope Doby and Jack get off. I hope Joe has come back home and that he had a profitable trip. Jettie, don't take things Virginia says to heart. She knows that Joe is really a family man. The robin would have died long ago if it hadn't been for him and Ed. I do wish the brothers wouldn't get 'round so fast though. Raye are just not made for pressures. Most of them like to work but it's the rushing that tells...
I finish here about July 4th. and I guess I'll head for B.G. I do want to see the new boy and the chickens. I wish Virginia and Sylvia could meet me in Chicago.

It is good that Virginia is getting fixed up and she will feel a lot better, I'm sure.

Sally is now a real school girl. She has finished a year in school and I'm sure she will go on to the second grade (if they have grades in College Park).

I hope the bears in the Upper Pen. of Michigan were not hungry. The wouldn't get much meat if they ate either Ed. or Joanna but just think what a feast they would have if I ventured near! They could eat on me for a week and then go back into hibernation. Really I haven't quite as fat as I was last summer but I'm no match stem. The cold left me a little weak for some time but I feel fine now and my hair curls with all this dampness.

There is no apartment in sight and I've almost decided not to get a car because this weather is too hard on a car outside of a garage. There are still too many married students with children who have to live for me to look forward to an apartment.

Now if everybody does as I should, I will get the robin once more. It came to Springfield yesterday afternoon and I'm getting it off today.

Love to all and happy Christmas,

Eleanor

As to the will—that is hard to decide. Ruby, why don't you just will your things as you want to. I have some mighty nice linen I want somebody (everybody) to use when I kick the bucket. In fact I want everything used and enjoyed when I don't need them any more.

I'll see Min Jeffries, the Harmones, and the other Rays in about a month.

That city guy better watch out or he'll get stuck in Paree—

I had a clipping about Mrs. T.C. Chesser's death but can't find it.
Sunday 6-24-1861

Dear Pops,

At last I have stamps so will get this off to you. Virginia brought me robins down several days ago but owing to the scarcity of things I have not written yet in a timely way so supply will be able to get letters up in time.

Tell the letters from Aunt this time. Do not let various things keep us from writing for things really don't mean as much to us as we mean to each other.
I don't feel that I know much about you all (Jack, I mean you all). Every one seems to be uncertain about what and when and where. Why not calm down a bit and write?

Jettie, you did your part beautifully last time. You always do, but all by yourself this time. I hope you are well and that a successful trip. It is that today: seal bussines.

Ann yates and her two youngest I mean youngest two will hear this afternoon. They are cute and lively and everybody seems to still hate the lift.

Virginia seems to be closing very well, not too well at times but I fear she does too much. I am glad when they get moved.

Jack, I've been informed about Ruby, is she a little ticked? Blossom has a round and now 'hating up' about country folk. Hope she French is coming along. The trip to Europe sounds fine, go ahead.

Ruby, dear, I understand how one feels after getting to twelve Bow Bows etc.

Now, if there is anything about what I am writing — tell it to French. From the cross road people, I've learned to understand. That's all I know.
Ed and Jo Burns, I hope you will get the company and move home and get down in those digging places to work longer.
We are papering tomorrow. It has been imminent for three months and now it is. I leave now, the 7th, and I will be all fixed up when you get here. 
Please, you'd best go along to start of help John and Ruby to start there from the ground down, don't you think? Let's see you before many weeks.

To everyone in you.

N. Jefferson.
Dear Robins,

Joe and I are beginning to feel quite free these days. The past few months we've been leaving the children without a baby sitter so it is easier to just pick-up and go when and where we want to most anytime. Tonight after supper we decided we'd come up to Joe's office and let him dictate some letters and both of us write our Robin letter. We did see to it that the kids scrubbed themselves and got into their pajamas before we left. Scott and Sally watching T.V. and David in bed listening to the radio.

The Robin came yesterday. Somewhat late but we were glad to have it. Ed and Joanna, I'd waited for it before writing you, but gave up and went on and wrote you, then when I came home from mailing your letters, the Robin was in the mailbox. Ed, your trip sounds good and I'm glad you are taking it. I believe the time will work out all right, too. We had hoped you'd be here about the time the tour starts, but if it winds up in Chicago, you could meet us in Michigan about the third week in August and drive back with the children and me. Ruby and Jack will be back by then wherever they go so you can see them.

Ed and Joanna, time along will tell what our plans will be. Joe isn't sure he'll go to California and he won't know until sometime in July or maybe even August. He may go to a Deans' meeting in July and wants to get that trip approved before springing another cross-country one. I hope the house is coming along and things are to your liking. Guess Joanna is sewing up a storm. I know your things are going to look so pretty in it.

Jack was in N.Y. the past week-end for the Red Cross convention. Ruby came out and spent the week-end with us. We spent Sunday at the beach and I'm afraid she got too much sun. She left Tuesday to join Jack and come back today. I'll call in a little while to see if they are home. I've tried to get them to go on to Europe, but I'm afraid they are going to back-out of going. We have neighbors who left with their two boys (8 and 12) this morning to get the boat for Europe tomorrow for a 6 weeks tour. My feet are itching off to go and don't be surprised to hear I'm on my way. All I need is half a chance!

Virginia, we are awfully glad the past month is behind you. I hope you are feeling fine. I believe you will be. I can't understand all I hear about your condition because the way I had it figured you didn't have much left to "tack-up". I'm glad the bladder trouble was corrected. It is a wonder you have not had more serious trouble with it. Congratulate Ray for buying the house. It sounds interesting and I know you'll enjoy fixing it up. I think "Better Homes" is the best home-making magazine on the market and hope you get lots of good from it. Hope all has gone well with the shop while you've been out.

We had a nice week-end at Ocean City, Md, recently. Joe had a conference there so the children and I went with him. It is a resort town on the ocean side of Maryland and we fell in love with it. We had nice double rooms with connecting bath in one of the best hotels right on the boardwalk.

Thursday night, June 28, 1951
The children are glad to be out of school and are enjoying the irregular hours. We have a good recreation program going on at the school building which they are attending and like very much. But the hours are not so long or the rules so strict as school, so they like it. Scott passed to the 7th grade and will go to Jr. high next year...it doesn't seem possible, but he is getting to be such a big boy...nearly as tall as I am. David passed to the 5th and has the same growing trouble...Sally passed to the second; will go into Brownies in the fall;...is starting piano lessons next Friday. I guess she is changing more and faster than the boys for she is leaving all "little girl" looks behind and getting big in many ways. She reads right well, but she nor David read as well or much as Scott does.

Miss Jeffries, I have the same trouble as you do with stamps. I can't seem to keep them on hand. It seems I buy them every other day, but when I'm ready for one the box is empty. Joe thinks I'm foolish to make such a point of getting a letter mailed, but after I finally get one written, I can't wait to get it into the mail box. The next time I buy myself a supply, I'll drop some in the mail to you. Hope you are feeling fine and that the hot weather isn't bothering you. We've had a very cool June, but I dread July and August.

I must stop for this is much too much from me. I doubt if anyone is with me, anyway. El, keep us posted on your trip. The children have a card collection so would love cards whenever you can send them. Maybe we'll see some of you before fall...I hope so. But I hope the summer is good to all.

Love,

Jettie
Chillun:

Jettie wrote her Robin letter while I was dictating some letters in my little dictating machine, and now she has got to wait around while I write my Robin letter. We left the kids at home, and we should hurry back pretty soon.

I thought the last Robin was all right. I was not so depressed as you were, Jo, because all the far travelers are back at home, especially me, and I hope for good, and I don't think that the MacDonalds are going to Europe. They make an awful lot of noise for the amount of travel they do, except to Slippery Rock. Every once in a while they do go through with their plans, however, and you never can tell. You will recall that sometime ago they were all set up for India or Pakistan, and now they are still with us here. I don't give a durn if they are ashamed of us country hicks, although it is apparently only Ruby who is ashamed of us, and not Jack.

Ginna, I am much intrigued by the information that I was born with a veil and will go far. I have already gone a lot farther than I care to go in a geographical way. I would much prefer to stay at home and have the world, or at least that part of it which has some reason to do so, come to me. It's a shame that some of you folks who really want this business of travel can't do it.

On my first trip to Europe, all I did was work. This time, however, we really saw the sights, and I must confess that I enjoyed it. It was still stuff that I would not have spent the time doing if I had my choice, but I had no choice, since the President was along and it was official business to take him to see all he wanted to see.

We landed at Orly Field in Paris on Sunday night and stayed at the Hotel Crillon right across the street from the American Embassy. I am changing to the red ribbon because the ribbon on this typewriter appears to be worn out on the black. The color of the ribbon has no relation to the experiences on the trip. We saw most of the sights at Paris -- Longchamps, the race track, the Siegelse Tower, Notre Dame, the Louvre, and the bookstores along the Seine. We stayed at the VIP hotel, the Schloss, in Heidelberg. Went to Berlin and saw the sights. Landed at Templehof, the airfield where the Lift planes landed. The city, especially the downtown part, is still badly torn up. We got a bus ride over into the Russian zone. Saw some Russian soldiers. They don't patrol the iron curtain. Rather, they sit back and wait for someone to wander in and then put the squeeze on him. Then we flew to Tulln Air Base in Austria and motored into Vienna. Saw some of the sights there. It is depressed like Berlin, although business seems pretty good in both places.

Then we flew over the Austrian Alps to Udine Air Base and motored into Trieste. We had lunch with General Sebree, who is the commanding general of our forces at Trieste. His headquarters are in Miramar Castle, which belonged to Carlotta and Maximillian before they sailed to Mexico. I have now seen both of Maximillian's castles, the one in Mexico and that at Trieste. The castle at Trieste is beautiful. We saw the wharf where they sailed. On the way back to Udine we went a little out of the way by car and saw an old Roman fortification built by Julius Caesar, with an old Roman aqueduct still standing. Then we got in the plane (which was assigned to us for the trip) and headed for Rome. On the way the pilot told us all to sit on the left side of the plane, and he circled around Venice, so that we could see it. We were only about 2,000 feet up, and could get a wonderful view. I had always thought it was a seashore carved up with streets for canals. It is rather a group of islands, with no one of them more than a few blocks wide and with nowhere a very long walk to water.

We landed in Rome on Sunday night, spent Sunday touring Rome. Saw the Appian Way, with the graves of people who died along the way apparently buried where they fell. Before we got back into the city we saw the catacombs underneath the city. Excavations are made from St. Peter's and St. Paul's Cathedral. They say there are nine hundred miles of the passages. We walked for over a half hour and were sixty or seventy feet under the ground. Saw the Coliseum, which is now, of course, a complete
say it used to be covered with marble, but that
later builders gradually hauled away the marble for
new constructions. Saw the Circus Maximus, but it
is now little more than banks of earth where the old
stands for the chariot race tracks were set. Saw a
batch of churches. Most amazing thing about Rome
is the taxi drivers. They drive up and down those
crooked streets like demons. I was scared at first
until I learned how good they are. I think they are
the best drivers I ever saw. I am sure that the
Romans never have to shave because the taxis keep
them well shaved. They drive so scientifically
that when you get the hang of it you see that there
is really no danger at all. They know how to miss
a pedestrian or a cart by inches without really
bumping them. We stayed at the Grand Hotel.
Spencer Tracy, Orson Welles, and Ann Blythe were
there, apparently making a movie. We saw the latter
too. Incidentally, the Italian driver of the
American Embassy station wagon which toured us
around the city didn't know anything at all about
the old stuff. His only contribution during the
whole day was to point out a modern church which
he said was theplace where Tyrone Power got
married.

On Monday morning we had an audience with
the Pope. We thought it was a private audience,
but found about another one hundred people there.
He blessed me, and I feel just as holy as all
get out. I'll have you folks treat me a bit more
gently hereafter than you have in the past. They
took our picture, and I have a picture to show
that I was at least within a few feet of him.
I never saw such trappings of royalty as he lives
in. We spent most of the morning touring the
Vatican museum. It is really the most amazing
collection of art in the world. We saw the Sistine
Chapel where Michaelangelo painted the ceiling
and other artists finished it up. I have seen the
Notre Dame in Paris and Westminster Abbey in London,
and other churches elsewhere, but nothing can com-
pare with the Vatican and with St. Peter's, which
is a part of Vatican city.

We left Rome in early afternoon. Flew out
over the mouth of the Tiber (both the Seine and
the Tiber will compare favorably with Drake's Creek, and Barren River has got it all
over them. Over Sardinia and Corsica to the
mouth of the Rhone, and up the Rhone Valley. We
were all set to see Mt. Blanc in the Alps, but we
ran into a squall, and all vision was blotted
out, just before we got even (about 10 miles
away) with the big one. Did see all the Alps,
though. Then we skirted Paris, about 6,000 feet
up (didn't see any naked women as we did on the
first trip), across the Channel and landed in
Merry Olde England. Everybody was worn out with
night seeing, by that time, so England was all
work. Spent the night in London, then out to
Ruislip where one of the air bases is,
then to Bovingdon to another field, flew
to Burtonwood, which is our field near
Manchester, and then flew that night to
Germany. Hung around Heidelberg, Wiesbaden,
and Frankfurt for several days, and then
drove down the Rhine from Mainz to Bonn,
which is the area in which most of the
Rhein castles are. It is really a beauti-
ful drive. We held a commencement at the
University of Bonn to bestow honorary de-
grees on John J. McCloy, Chancellor Konrad
Adenauer, President Theodor Heuss, and
the presidents of the universities of
Bonn and Berlin. Rode back up to Rhein-
Main in McCloy's private train during
the night and caught the plane for home.

Crossing over the Atlantic we stopped
at Newfoundland, the Azores, and on to
Paris. On the way back we came by way of
Iceland, Newfoundland, and Westover Field,
in Massachusetts. All we saw at Newfound-
land, Iceland, and the Azores were the
airports, since we had only an hour or
two at each place.

Enough of this. Jettie just asked me
if I am about done. I am sure that
none of you wanted to read this much of
this stuff. I'll have to quit. Love to
you all. I will give you some of our news
later. I am sure, though, that Jettie
given it to you. We're too poor to
make any trips this summer. I don't quite
see how it happens, but we live like church
mice and still never have any money.

Love to all,

Love to all,
Dear Folks:

I have just read Joe's letter-- and his trip to Europe will make ours look "little"-- if we go. And I want it to be understood that we ARE going if we can get on a ship. It seems everybody-- but everybody-- is traveling this summer-- and we didn't start trying to get reservations till May-- and many had had theirs in from December and January. Our only chance is a cancellation.

You see the Festival of Britain is on; and the 2000th Birthday of Paris. Both big doings-- so this is the BIG year-- and poor little us didn't get wise to that angle till maybe too late. However, we're still hoping and so is our travel agency.

Joe's "veil" and Ginny's "cradle" are certainly fancy trappings. No MacDonal d, I ever knew, had such appurtenances. And I, too, hope no big bear gets "Tarzan" Ray on the U.P. -- which I judge means Upper Peninsula (although it might mean Under the Paunch).

Ruby will tell you in her letter about our plans for getting to S.R. (me) where we have some house repairing afoot and (her) to Bowling Green to sit " in the blue living room with the dark blue ceiling and eat breakfast in the green kitchen with the yellow ceiling". Gum--those Harmens have color!

Miss Jeffries: Your stamp plight is ours, too. I have only one stamp on Sunday and will have to chase to the drug store to get this off tonight. Else: I never know either what I like about Banff and Lake Louise, except it has looked fancy for years in all the magazine ads-- I begrudge you that excursion.

We're going out to Joe's and Jettie's now-- with Jack and Nancy Gray. I want to see Joe's picture with the Pope-- he really has one or so Ruby says. Love to all of you--beers, cradles, veils, et al.

Jack
Envy.

Well, I'm miserable.

I was a brat, handsy at this old house down
with all the people and was dropped on my head with
a great heap - false teeth - am getting all out of shape
and I can't be allowed on anyone - and I have
bled on you on such a page and my hand. I put
it as a very green if you - on a candle for my
brother in this which wears on the
who got it started that I'm reckless of any
to come. I'll not wait until the least of England
are going to be in by before that I can probably
around the least of England. If the Eds and the
want to take a little thing - probably because
that to Europe is etc. - usually once. We
- does that - we see at talk it off - or
- was going to be short about because I
thought writing a letter at 10 AM and it happened that

I don't know what to do.

Dear Children,

1-2-51
Dear Raye,

Ed and I have been married 22 years today! The girls and I were at Virginia and Raye's Monday night, and Ray was sure that we had left Ed. We have temporarily. The cottage was rented before our upstairs was ready, so we came to Kentucky July 1. We don't know when the house will be finished, but Ed wrote that the work is progressing more steadily. Ed is coming for a few days' visit when we can return with him.

Ed sent me the Robin, but I can't find any letter that he contributed. It must have arrived there at a busy time. He is having one group after another now with one arriving the day the other leaves. We have been running around
so much since we have been in Kentucky that we are worn out. The day that we were at Virginia's we also went to Pine brooke to see all of the Estares. I had never met Margaret's and Eleanor's husbande - nor had I seen Eleanor's four boys. Yesterday we went to Louisville to see our old domiciles and the school, church, swimming pool, library, confectionery, etc. that the girls frequented in their younger days. Tomorrow we are going to Owensboro to see my Aunt Lu and to see where Baba was born and spent her first three years. The have been to Lincoln Farm and have made many short trips. Emily says that she doesn't mind the days we go places but she surely does object to the ones in between because we have to work so hard to get ready to go again.
Virginia looks rested, but she still hasn't any strength. She and Ray are busy with redecorations. I know their house will be attractive. She didn't get to see Joe or Eleanor. Auntie looks better than she has for a long time. She has pretty new paper all over her apartment.

I think now that we may get to see all of the Rays this summer. I hope that Ruby and Jack will be in B. G. when Ed comes, and Eleanor is almost sure to be. She are expecting the Joes in Michigan.

Joe, I think you will enjoy that trip more as the years go by. Your account of it was interesting. I am anxious to hear more.

Jettie, how do you live with such an holy one? I am sorry Ruby and Jack have to give up their...
trip, but there will be other sum-
mers.

Love to all,

Joanna
July 15, 1957

Dear Folks,

I have three crows in my hair! They are no good except to plague anyone who tries to cut or comb it. I always thought a vail meant that the person could predict the future—Maybe we should dress Joe up and coin money. I've had a good visit in Bowling Green. Virginia looks better than for a long time as if she will behave. She will...
regain her strength. Joe is fine and as fine as always. Ray is working hard at getting the house in apple-pie order. It is going to be an A 1 house. I'll leave Virginia to tell about that enough.

I just missed Joanna and the girls. Ray and Virginia took me to Browns that day. I will see them later. I hope, and Ed too.

Miss Jeffreys is very thin but looks better than for a long time. Her apartment looks all fixed up.

The Ray family here seems to be getting along fine. Joe Aden is a darling and has a smile for
everybody. He is a big and healthy specimen. Sylvia's nose is just a little out of joint, but she is really proud of the baby. She really was old enough to spend the night in town. She never shed a tear but late Sunday afternoon she said, 'Forby, forby, I wish I had my mornin' here. I wish I had my mornin' here.' She has gotten a little tired but she enjoyed Sunday School. She is a sweet little girl. — The chickens are doing fine and there are so many. She never seen so many at one time. Audrey is
Coming up a storm and the new paper and paint help the house wall end. They have a good garden.

The North-Western tour fell through too. I should have gone on since Viola couldn't go at the last minute, but I did hate to go by myself. It was over lots of mountains too - I am going some where next summer when the college barn trip is over. I hated their trip after nine years but I'm on my way. Everything will be so changed.

I got to Atlanta last night and will go on to Demorest to see a South Dakota friend and come back here Tuesday night, and on to States bare Wednesday. I'll be there one week and will be
back in Bowling Green by the time Ruby and Jack return.

I'm doing so much traveling that I can't see the Washington and College Park jaunt. I do hope I see the Joes sometime though.

This trip sounded wonderful and I know Jitter is anxious to go along soon. I know they are all having a struggle to line with Joe's holiness. How long does such bleeding last? Since we have no Catholic in the family I hope to ask some of my Catholic friends. I would be nice for
Hello to you all and a happy summer.

Jodie to know. The children are growing up so fast! They will be grown before we know it. Think about Scott in junior high.

I'll have to go out to get breakfast first and then line up the demo trip.

Love to you all and a happy summer —
July 18, 1951

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF JACK M. MACDONALD (or McDonald), which supersedes all other wills made prior to this date, July 18, 1951.

1. I name as my executor, my wife, Mrs. Ruby Ray MacDonald. And, in case of her demise simultaneously with me, my sister, Miss Louise McDonald, of Slippery Rock, Penna.

2. My assets, as closely as I can estimate them are:
   a. $5,000 life insurance (safety deposit box 1918 in First National Bank, Grove City, Pa. Key in top left drawer my desk) with double indemnity——— $10,000.00
   b. Accident insurance with Red Cross——— 5,000.00
   c. Retirement fund in Red Cross——— 1,000.00
   d. House at 347 New Castle St., Slippery Rock, Pa. Value about $12,000.00 half interest (owned jointly with wife)——— 6,000.00
   e. Cash in Washington Loan and Trust Co., in Slippery Rock bank, in due wages, about 500.00
   f. Clothing and personal possessions, about 100.00
   Total 22,600.00

3. Liabilities, half of $600.00 note at Wash. Loan and Trust Co. Total Assets 22,300.00

4. I hereby designate my heirs and assigns as:
   a. My wife, Mrs. Ruby Ray MacDonald, to receive my insurance as now designated to her plus any other I designate to her at the airport on July 19 here or on July 29 in Bermuda, about——— $15,000.00
   Also my Red Cross retirement——— 1,000.00
   b. If my wife does not wish to sell her share of the house at 347 New Castle St., Slippery Rock, Pa. it is my desire that she from the insurance money after all my debts are paid distribute to:
      W.H. McDonald, father
      Mrs. C.O. Snyder, New Castle, Pa. sister
      Mrs. C.F. Martin, Pittsburgh, Pa. sister
      Miss Louise McDonald, sister
      Percy L. McDonald, brother
      Total 1,000.00
   c. Personal effects (not furniture which is my wife’s) to be sold or given away at discretion of wife and applied to estate

5. In case my wife does not survive me and my sister Louise is executor, I would disburse about $18,000.00 ($12,000.00 assigned from my wife’s estate in her will, since she will receive major part of my insurance accruing to her estate, plus $6,000.00 which is my share of joint-owned house) to:
   W.H. McDonald as above
   Mrs. C.O. Snyder, as above
   Mrs. C.F. Martin, as above
   Miss Louise McDonald, as above
   Percy L. McDonald, as above
   Total 22,000.00

Witnesees:

Signed this 19th day of July, 1951

Jack M. MacDonald
LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF RUBY RAY MACDONALD (or MacDonald), which supersedes all other wills made prior to this date, July 16, 1951

1. I name as my executor my husband, Jack M. MacDonald (or MacDonald) or, in case of his demise simultaneously with me, my brother, Dr. Joseph M. Ray of College Park, Md.

2. My assets, as closely as I can estimate them, are:
   a. Insurance $1,000 policy with $300 loan, in safety deposit box 1918, Ist National Bank, Grove City, Pa. $500.00
   b. House furniture in Washington including dishes, silver, clothing, books, ornaments, pictures as well as some stored on 3rd floor of house in Slippery Rock, 347 New Castle St. 1,000.00
   c. Half-share of house at 347 New Castle St., Slippery Rock, Pa. value $12,000.00 6,000.00
   d. Promissory note from my brother, W. M. Ray (my has relinquished his interest in this note and you will not find it listed among his assets) 1,500.00
   e. Teacher retirement, Washington, D.C. school, about 600.00

3. Liabilities, half of $600.00 note at Washington Loan and Trust Co. Washington, D.C. 300.00

   Total Assets $8,800.00

4. I hereby designate my heirs and assign to:
   After my debts and funeral expenses are paid; after my cherry dining table in Washington and my iron-stone dishes in Slippery Rock are given to my brother, Edw. M. Ray, the residue of my estate shall be divided equally between my 3 brothers and 2 sisters: Mrs. Ray W. Harman and Will B. Ray of Bowling Green, Ky. Miss Eleanor Ray of Springfield, S. D. Edward M. Ray of Roeclair, Mich. Dr. Joseph M. Ray of College Park, Md.
   a. It is my wish that my family, through my executor, have a chance to bid on the furniture and personal belongings and that the remainder if they so wish be sold at private or public sale or disposed of in any way the heirs desire.

5. In case my husband does not survive me and my brother, Dr. J. M. Ray is executor, I direct him to turn over to my husband’s estate for use as designated in his (my husband’s) will $12,000.00 of the insurance which my husband has left to me, the remaining part of his estate or about $4,000 (the part directed to me), to be added to the above and divided equally among my heirs--a total of $8,900.00 plus $4,000.00 (J. M. M. ‘s insurance) $12,900.00

Signed this 19th day of July, 1951

Witnesses:

[Signature]

[Signature]

See foreword or provide concerning time of execution of this will.
The text on the page is not legible.
Dear Range,

After keeping the Robin over a week, we've decided to send it on. And we've picked one of our latest nights to write it. Virginia, I'm having your trouble of sticking to the paper. I've been in shorts, shirt with the shirt tail out & bare foot all day! I believe I'd done if I had to dress! But we have not had many days like this. I guess we can't complain.

Eleanor, the cards have been appreciated & enjoyed. I hope you enjoyed your trip in Georgia! Guess you are back in S. J. now or
will be soon. Sorry we are going to miss you. Only will have to tell us about everybody. It looks like our vacation will be spent in College Park for leave, from Newfoundland tomorrow & may be there 10 long. If so he'll get back about in time to leave for a meeting in California. He has been on the go so much this year that no place is no vacation. I hope he'll take off some time between the Newfoundland & California Trips & part stay home and lazy. That will sure have made rest than anything else he can do.
With August already in
view, I have to start thinking
about planning toward fall & school
closing, etc. Also - I have
some painting & papering to
do while I'm in N. & Calif.
The owner is having some
rooms painted on the outside.
Sidewalk around the front
door coat is one & it looks very
nice. They next week the
living, bedroom, & study
to be painted & papered. The
walls a soft green with
round strip. The same; the
stairs a scenic print called
"Old Boston", Virginia, I think.
The dark walls with white
wood work are beautiful, and the 6 hands I have to work wood work after I'll take a color right now. Scott & I are going to be the two bath rooms & Sally's room. Then the house will be in a pretty good condition. Emma, I wish you & the girls had come by car for a visit before they be on the way home. As I explained, this year's vacation is to be what you want - and that is loafing around home! Maybe you all can get over this way before long.

I hope the rest of you are not as hot as I am. & that the next Robin & I write will be before the big pumpkin.
Chillun,

Here I am sitting in our bedroom listening to the ballgame over the radio and swearing like a horse. We've had some relief from the heat in the last three days, but today was a scorcher.

We have had the Robin for several days, thinking that Rub and Jack might be back from Bermuda, and that there was no need for us to get it to them anyway until they got back. Now we're about convinced that they aren't going to come back to Washington any time, but will go to Florida. It's too late to chart where they are going to be, so we decided to send the Robin on to El and leave them out this time. And, Ed, since our last communication from El was from Georgia, I think you ought to send the Robin to Virginia or there maybe El or Rub can both pick it up there.

I'm all in addition, I just got back from two conventions in Oregon and now I must leave tomorrow afternoon for Newfeland. After that, I'll be at home for awhile, I hope. I don't know when I'll get a vacation, but I will try some time in August or early September. I'd like to get to Michigan or Kentucky, but as usual, we simply don't have the money.

I made a speech at the Washington Country Club today at noon and ran into a nest of Kentuckians. The program chairman was Dudley Smith from Campbell College, a fellow named Keene from Bowling Green, whose father lives across the street from J&J and another from Lebanon and still another from Paducah.
that Jack and Jack might be back from Bermuda, and
that there was no need for us to get it to them anymore
until they got back. Now we are about convinced that
they aren't going to come back to Washington, anyway, but
will go to Shippen Bank. In view of the doubt to
about where they are going to be, Jettie and I have
decided to send the Robin on to Ed or leave them out
this time. And, Ed, since our last communication
from Ed was from Georgia, I think you ought to
send the Robin to Virginia so then maybe Ed and Puck
can both pick it up there.

I'm all in a dither. I just got back last
Thursday from a convention in Oregon and now
I must leave tomorrow afternoon for Newfvan. After
that, I'll be at home for awhile, I hope. I
don't know when I'll get a vacation, but I
will try some time in August or early September.
I'd like to get to Michigan or Wyoming but as
usual, we simply don't have the money.

I made a speech at the Washington Clinton Club
today at noon and ran into a raft of Kentuckians. The
program chairman was Dudley Smith from Campbellsville
and a fellow named Keene from Bowling Green whose
father lives across the street from B & B, another
from Lebanon and still another from Paducah.

My speech was about the University of Kentucky's
Southern Program.

The trip to Oregon wasn't much. Up all night two
nights going and coming and we met at Bank.
town in the middle of the Oregon desert. Hot and remote from everywhere, but not under quite so much pressure concerning as at home.

Thanks, etc., for the report on Joe Eden. I know Sylvia is a cute one. Edina, I'm glad you've got your new house going. Wish I could see it. Do you know you and the girls are having a wonderful time getting up and down Kentucky to your heart's content.

Ed, when is the house going to be completed? I know you folks are getting impatient with the whole business.

I hate to leave Jack & Bill out this time, but we don't know for sure where or where they'll be, and furthermore it just proves hard for them to get down to visiting the Robin from Slipher's Rock. Ole Edland, he needs it worse in this any way.

Edina, I'm a bit worried about your working so much in the store at the new home when you're not strong. Take it easy. I'm glad ole Ray is going whole hog on the new house. It's time he cut loose.

Ed: send the Robin to Edina.

Love to you all

To Miss Jefferson. I didn't hate the Catholics when I was a boy, but I couldn't help feeling the long and richer came from hoodwinked gullible folks. As one old sport appreciated it, "I wish I had the Holy Grail and Photograph Vatican at the Vatican."
Eleanor, I found the ring binding I had used with the learning app. Now I see I always did. It was in the drawer of my desk where I put it.

Sept 17, 1951

New Album 1253 Park St.
Ed made me and told me to be yourself. He told the other
Ed a girl had called me. I did not know it. The school was shut
he called me. The school was shut. I did not know it. The school was shut.
I have to agree with me. It was a good idea. I have
to go. No one wants to be as I am. I feel there is
not much energy left. I do not know it. It was a good thing.
with all the culture. I was not myself. I hope I am one of the
students to go.
Dearest Robins,

This typewriter of Jack's (1910 Underwood Upright) is the kind I learned to type on in 1910! It is fun to type on one again.

As Joe told you, we are in having lunch with Ruby. Jack is in Slippery Rock for a few days. He drove up in our car for a few days. Joe has a University car, so we can do without ours without much trouble. Ruby and Jack are in the market for a car. In fact, Jack is seeing about one this week-end there.

We had a wonderful lunch with Ruby. We are invited out as a family for dinner tonight, too, so I'm having a day off from cooking. I put out four washers of washing before we left home and did several other jobs, but it is nice not to have to cook for a day.

We are sad at Ruby's and Jack's moving away, but glad it is no further away. We are looking for ward to seeing N.J. and the coast over that way. We lost Jack and Nancy Gray (our grown married children) this month, too. He is with the F.B.I. and was transferred to Springfield, Ill. But we are gaining some old Texas friends, Jimmy and Virginia Taylor, who used to live next door to us in Texas.

The children are in school. Scottis quite excited about Jr. Hi. Sally is in the 2nd. grade and David in the first. If my hay fever wasn't so bad, I'd be having a wonderful time! As it is, all I can do is blow my nose. I'm weeks behind on my sewing, although I did get two dresses cut out for Sally last week, and one for myself.

Eleaner, we are sorry we didn't have a visit from you. Can't you take the train to Chicago and fly from C. to here for Christmas? We are going to count on Jack's and Ruby's coming down for C. with us, too.

The Ed Rays' house sounds grand and I know they are glad to be more settled. I imagine the painting and floor finishing that you did is much better done than they would have been had the professionals done them. Professionals did our living, dining rooms, stairs and upstairs hall, but the baths, bedrooms, closets and hall I did are much better. I know Virginia's and Rays house is pretty and nice. Ruby has told us lots about it. I'm so glad for all of you.

Wish Joe Wilson could get up to see us while he is in Ga. Better still Ray and Virginia should come up and have Christmas here with us and have him come with them. How about it? That could be a good 'rup' gathering.

Miss Jeffries, it is good to have such wonderful reports on you. They all say you've turned the calendar around, like Jack has done. The reports about your apartment sound like you have things about right, too. So I guess we are all set for a long cold winter. The sooner we have frost the better I'll like it.

Dorothy Ray called Ruby and we and the McDonalds took her and her boy friend out for dinner one night while they were here. She is
an awfully cute and attractive girl. And her boy friend made a good impression on all of us. Had we known they were coming we could have done more for them. I'd rather have had them to dinner at our house.

I've written much too much... So I'm stopping. Joe has had a nap. The children have been to the park twice and Scott is pacing the floor to play records, as soon as I'm through here.

Best wishes for a good winter to all of you.

Asever,

[Signature]
Chillun:

The Robin has been at our house for several days, and, I am sad to relate, I did not get a chance to read it until we brought it in to Ruby's this morning for passing on to her and Jack. Jack has gone to Slippery Rock for a visit before the two of them move to New Jersey on the new job, and Ruby asked the five of us to come in and have lunch with her. We had a wonderful lunch and I ate too much and am a bit too groggy to do anything but just a duty note.

We hate to think of Ruby and Jack moving away, but they will not be too very far. We can get together every once in a while. Jack is a bit sad at leaving Red Cross, but I know that the challenge of his new job will perk him up soon after he takes over on it.

Ruby has been sorting out all the kodak and other pictures she has, and Jettie and I have been looking through them. It is really a pleasure to go back over old family pictures. I made a little haul from the operation, too, since there were some duplicates that Ruby said we could have for our picture books, and then she gave us some others, too.

The kids have been out playing around the apartment house, but they are back in the apartment now, and the walls are bulging with the uproar. I may not be able to write more. Jettie says that she can write before we leave, but she may not. Ed, don't be surprised if you don't get this Robin until some time in November, since Jack and Ruby may very well not find time to send it on before they move around the first of October.

Glad you all are in the new house, Jo. Our house is all fixed up, now, and I think Jettie is a bit happier in it. It has been painted around the front, and new paper and paint all over the downstairs except for the kitchen. Jettie and I painted it about two years ago. Jettie hung the paper in the bedroom that is Sally's room and in the downstairs bath room. They both are better jobs than the one done by the professionals downstairs. Even when the living room paper was hung, they had to paint over it, because the paste was smeared and showed. Now it is really lovely. We hope some of you can come to see us before it gets to be old stuff.

Miss Jeffries, it will just be like water on a duck's back for you to talk politics, anyway, because it will be that old Republican stuff that only Jack will agree with. Why don't you and Jack put all your talk of politics in the Robin in a sealed envelope, with an occasional note by Will Brown, who is a Republican at heart and just pretends to be a Democrat, and then none of us democrats will be called on to participate. Ginny, from all I hear you are just complaining about not making money on the shop in the same way that a football coach complains about how sorry his team is going to be and then goes out and beats every other team. Keep plugging -- you'll do all right. Is my understanding correct that Joe W. is to be in training for a whole year? I'm not quite sure of just how Ray got his foot hung trying to raise the window. Did he hang outside the window by his foot? Ed, you must have had quite a tour this summer.

I'm going back to Europe on or about October 3. Ought to be there for the month of October. May miss the next Robin. Love to all. Joe
Washington, D.C.
Saturday
Sept. 22, 1951

Dear Folks:

We're into our last week in Washington and we hate to leave here-- but such is the fate of those who have to work to eat. Personally I'm looking forward to the job and I think we'll like Vineland although you never know till you get there-- and get started on the job.

We're going through a terrific round of being entertained here-- luncheons, cocktail parties, dinners-- rather constantly until we leave. But we're holding up due to the fact that we can sleep in the mornings. Ruby taught the first 8 days of school-- was out Wednesday.

I came back from Slippery Rock on Wednesday night after getting the house up there "ready for winter". Have rented our 3rd floor again to a faculty gal with a big boxer dog and a Buick convertible. Our house looks good inside and out-- and Pep and all are well.

Don't need to talk to you-all about houses-- with Ginny and Ray in a new one, Ed and Joanna moved into another; Joe and Jettie having done a complete redecorating job-- and Miss Jeffries with new lamp shades. Ruby told me all-- but all-- about everything that went on in B.G. She and Ginny and Ele must have had a time. Brown and Audrey seem to have the prize youngsters, according to Ruby who talked endlessly about Sylvia and Joe Aden.

I bought us a new car when I was in Slippery Rock--a grey-green Buick 4-door "Super" with a dark green top. Got a good buy and also beat the 5½% price rise by a week. My brother Pete will drive it down early next week because it hadn't come from the factory yet, when I left.

Our moving shouldn't be too hard. The movers here will come and pack everything-- furniture, dishes, books, clothes-- and all. They have everything to do it with and insure the stuff-- so we're glad to let 'em take over. And we won't be fagged from it all. Am attaching new addresses for all of you-- to keep around. Love and kisses

Jack
Sunday Morning

Dear Children -

This is short from me. I'll write all of you from Vineland. Joe and family were in here last Sunday - and wrote their part of the robin there. I could take it all back to them and write recipe of their, but will finish it off before Joe comes for us. This will be our last Sunday out there or in Washington - if things go as planned. I'm glad I finally got through teaching.

Friday we 'went-to-town' - bought me two hats and a pair of shoes. From now on I have my clothes. Me with no income except what I can find in Jack's pockets before he wakes up in the morning.

Begin making your plans to come to New Jersey next summer.

Da, you didn't say when Joe W. was going to camp. When?           love Ruby
September 30, 1951

Dear Rays,

The Robin was a welcome bird after so long an absence. It was really good to hear from everybody again.

Ruby and Jack, please enlighten the Michigan relatives about the new job. Everybody else seems to know the particulars, but we are in the dark. We are anxious to hear about the town and your living quarters too. The Buick surely sounds ritzy.

Virginia, your house must be just about the way you want it. I know it is attractive, and I am anxious to see it.

Jettie, I bet you could make a pot of money at wall papering there in Washington. Ed and I are thinking of going into the business. The contractor said our job on the upstairs room here is the best papering he ever saw.
I know you are glad to have the whole house redecorated.

We are getting settled gradually. Ed is now absorbed in getting the recreation room fixed up, and since he has very little time for the house, lots of things have to wait. No thought was given to curtain rods by the architect, and now we find that 3 1/2" screws would be necessary for the brackets. Also, no rods are made for use with our kind of Venetian blinds. Ed will have to make brackets that will be screwed to the ends of the blinds before we can get curtains up.

I had a party Friday night with no curtains up, and we have had company overnight guests - a good part of the time for a month. Of course, the Venetian blinds help.

We like the house better all of the time. It is very comfortable and convenient, although the rooms are too small. The furnace is wonderful - automatic oil - and we have two bath rooms. The low rent - $26 per month - is the best part.
Ed and I had an enjoyable trip to Lake Itasca, which is 750 miles from here. We went with a couple from Lansing in their car. The Mississippi River at its headwaters is about the size of Sandy Creek in a dry year, Auntie. Ed stepped across it on rocks, and the woman with us waded it. The park is beautiful, but the prettiest spot we saw was Lake of the Clouds in the Porcupine Mts. in Upper Michigan. We returned via the iron country - Hibbing and Duluth - and saw the world's largest iron mine and many smaller ones. The country was a great surprise to me, as I couldn't see that the iron miners have done any less damage to the looks of their country than the coal miners have done with their strip mining.

Babe is back at Jordan Hall in Ann Arbor - feeling very small after Saturday's game, I suppose.

Has the Ann Arbor murder been given emphasis in your papers? I taught one of the
murders in Milan. He was my greatest problem. Do you (Ruby, Jack, and Eleanor) remember the girl who took Barbara riding with the Pollocks? Her father sold her to the murderers and is really in a hot spot. She ran the tavern in sight of our house. His license was revoked and he is to be prosecuted. All Milan rose up to demand it.

Is this the end?
Dear Folks,

The robins did take much too long to get around this time. I do like to get the letters early in the month at least so let's take Ed's advice and send them on with a short letter when we haven't time to write much. Of course, long letters are always best. We are all busy and sometimes things get stacked up.

We've been in school for six weeks (almost) and there've been very few breathing spells. We run around like headless chickens. Our homecoming (founder's day) comes off this weekend. After that we expect to rest on the ears a little. In a small school everybody has to do so much more to make a thing go off smoothly.

In 12th president of the Monday Club (a women's club) and that has been a headache. The year's program is coming on pretty well right now. Our theme is "This Our World."

Had to leave here for Coronation practice.
Had a letter from Ruby. They are in New York but may not be completely settled. The summer was very satisfactory. The trip to George was more enjoyable than I expected because I saw so many friends and was dined and wined every day. Several of them asked about Ruby and Jack.

Maybe I'll have more time next month and can tell about the children.

This is rather a bad place to get out of for Christmas so maybe I'd better stay put.

Love to all.

Eloise

The living setups seem very good. I'm getting rather tired of one room.
to have water hauled from town. They have
more than enough chickens in the three barns,
and as long as they have good luck making
a small profit, but for my part I think Amos
would prefer a salaried job with not
so much risk and hard labor.

Jim, Ed, and Bill come in often and see
Joel and tell him their troubles. They say
Brown is a regular slave driver, and they
are beginning to see the Navy or Army
would be much easier.

The baby, Joe, is now so cute and
growing too fast, such a fat healthy big
toddler. Cyril has left his new shawl back.

Joe Nelson will not enter school until
the first of the year. There. The National
Guards are so uncertain, they may be disbanded
now we hear or drafted. Joe hopes now he
will not have to leave until after Christmas
since it is now working on commission at home
and will make more at Christmas time than
any other season. We like our house more all the time,
both porches painted now and as soon as
the iron railing is put up. Want to get
a good picture for a Christmas card. Ed
wish you were here to take it for us.

Just really hot here today, so I just took off
and went downtown to be out in the smoke and air.

Of course bought myself a new hat and purple coat
to wear with my new black suit. So I am
ready if any of you come and want me to dress
Friday and the two after.

If have been this long writing the Robin was lost
in Joe's car pockets. I wish you could find the missing
new car drawings. I am doing an illustration using
the pencil drawings that you so

Am about Thanksgiving. For Christmas the latest "Elmwood" where
you doing a needlepoint for the footstool? Ed is making several
for us who did offer to do mine? if the material is not the
whole clan Virginia.
May 31 - Tuesday

My dear:

I have a typewriter out here and when I go home today I'll have a chance to read it all, and I was very much in it. I thought it was a pretty good story, and enjoyed it. We drove out to Brown's farm and he actually brought it this morning. There was so much said to him. I thought he should read it, and he wanted us to read it.

Andrea's mother moved here from Tennessee and rented the farm house joining Brown's, and went to board Jennie Ed and her, and was going to board Jennie Ed and her friend Bill. Somebody who wanted to go to Western there that could get O.T.C. and be exempt from the draft. They are following Brown's suggestion and raising chickens in the Barn. Where they are doing next farm with Mrs. Benedict. However she has been back since moving and Andrea has been feeding the whole crowd. If she can only cook enough for those growing boys. Andrea's mother has been in good health, so that she does not have money enough to pay in advance and as it just does not have the money to finance them, does not have the money to finance them, does not have the money to finance them.

I find Ed and Bill have it. They are going about going to Nashville every weekend. Of course think with a little money at the bank. As many Nashville trips are not necessary Brown that succeeded in making it twice as hard, making a living. Finally when we went out there and they were living so hard, were managing, not doing anything.

The work as hard as Sunday as Monday. They were cleaning out the livestock.
Dear Folks,

The next time some of you folks make
make an important step like Jackson did,
please consult me first. Here is the idea
it was running this outfit and ride fast the
ground out from under me. What gives
Jackson? What kind of training school
are you running. Now some you get that
far along on the deal and let no one in
the north woods know it. I have a good
ration to cut you off from Patrony
and something.

Seems that the Pole is on its last leg,
what's wrong with you squirrels? If you
don't do better this time all be forced to
crack the whip! The thing won't hold up if
somebody fails to write. If you haven't time
to write, mail the Pole in any way.

I have late to do and little time to do it
in do can't write much. It was good to
hear from all of you. Will write more next
time.

Love

Ed
Oct. 21, 1951.

Dear Robin,

In Simon Edward M. Ray. The Robin is staying here a day or two over the allowance, but Ruby & Jack are due to come today, so we figured it might as well be here as on the mail & delay their receiving it. I noticed you didn't date your letter! For the record, we received it the 24th and will pass it on the 29th at 30th.

We are all fine. Joe returned a week ago yesterday from a 5 weeks trip to Europe. He'll report on it, I guess. I'm always so relieved when he gets home. I'll never like his flying so much.

It looks like everybody is off for a good winter.
family is about me to its
neutral. Sally is taking piano
lessons and is crazy about it. I
just hope it lasts!

Joe goes to a meeting in
Chattanooga next weekend.
We'll drive down & I considered
going with him and go on down
to Tuscaloosa for a couple of
days. I know a lady who will
come in and stay with the
children. But I'd love so little
time in Tuscaloosa, I've
short decided not to go, unless,
I'd just stay in Chattanooga
& sleep (which sounds like fun).

Joe has a meeting in Austin in
April - so I'm definitely going
with him & get this lady in
the neighborhood to stay with
the children & make a real
vacation for both of us.

Priscilla Elizabeth & Alex Durre
I am due in town Wednesday. I'm planning to take the children in some place along the route from the airport to see them.

We've been trying to get to Vineland every week-end for the past month, but haven't been able to do it. If nothing happens, we're going this coming week-end. Matt has a paper route, so he's going to find some one to deliver for him one Sunday morning.

I drove to Hagerstown Saturday to an A.A. H.W. Work shop. A few Saturdays ago I went to Baltimore for a case at which a friend we knew in Juncaloca was the speaker. He is Ann Parrish,
who is now president of
Bryant. He had her
picture in Newsweek re-
cently along with the other
women's college presidents.

Miss Jeffries, I apologize to
you for the cartoon about
Bryant which I sent enclos-
ing. But it strikes me as being funny.
I really hope she isn't nominated
and is elected for—we need
a change and she is a real reformer.
We've had no winter so far.
But the report is freezing tonight.

Eleanor and Joanne, I saw both
of your letters, which I'll answer
some day! I'm sending Bobo a
birthday card & bottle of perfume
that you bought from President
Henry.

I must stop & get to my Monday
naming chores! Love & all, Gertie
Chillun:

I'm afraid that this letter won't be much, since I won't have much time to write, and since I do not have the Robin here to remind me of all the things I might say in this letter.

I have been quite busy since my return from overseas, and we have had the Robin for several days. We have been holding it, however, since we knew that Ruby and Jack would be down this week and we could hand the Robin to them. They are here now, and Jack has gone back to New York, or rather he has gone to New York. Jettie, Ruby, and the kids are out on a tear this afternoon, going over to the national airport to see Princess Elizabeth and her Duke come in. Must be big stuff, from the way they were atwitter when they left here a little while ago.

The trip to Europe was about the same as the first trip last year. It was all work and very little play. I had with me the director of extension of Louisiana State University, and most of my time went to squiring him around and making sure that he got a thorough introduction to our program there. His university has a similar program in the Caribbean area, with centers at Panama and Guantanamo Bay. We now have thirty-three full-time teachers in the European Program, about 125 part-time teachers, enrolling about 5,000 students this fall at 60 different centers. Our center farthest west is at Burtonwood, England, and our center farthest south and east is at Asmara, in Eritrea, on the Red Sea. Most of our centers are in the American Zone of Germany. I am working up a booklet on the overseas programs, both in Europe and Newfoundland, and I will send each of you one when it comes out, if ever. Why I'm on this business I don't know. Too full of it, I guess.

I am at the office, and the girls have all gone home. I have another one coming in at 5:30, and she works for three and a half hours. I don't work with her very much, but I must wait to see her tonight. I am back briefly in the work of the Maryland Municipal League, and she works with it.

Jettie is going home with Ruby in their new Buick for two or three days. The kids and I are going to drive up to New Jersey either on Saturday or Sunday to get her. They haven't left yet, but will do so tomorrow morning. Jettie is going to have to deposit our monthly pay check before she goes, or she will run out of dough. El, I heard over the car radio this morning that you have a big snow there. Folks, you might as well back your ears for another winter of Dakota weather in the Robin. Sorry I can't think of nothin' to say, but I can't remember the myriad of things I was going to write about in the Robin. Maybe I can splice this letter out with them tonight. I have to get it in so that Rube and Jettie can take it to New Jersey. You all realize we are staking out a new state in New Jersey. One of these days we will have squatted in all forty-eight.

Love to you all.
"A Sensational Announcement, Folks! — "
Dear Folks:

We could all get the Robin around fast if none of us did any more about it than that silly Ed. All he ever says is: "Hurry up. Mail it on if you can't write. I don't have time to write. More next time. Love—Ed". Personally I'm thinking of having his message mimeographed and just letting Joanna stick it in. It's that kind of non-family, non-information, non-nothing that does make me lose my hair.

And, Eleanor—you get back to your weather reports. I enjoyed those. They always made me feel warmer. This "This Our World" stuff makes my headache.

Miss Jeffries: I like Truman; Ruby likes Truman. He makes mistakes but I like him. However, the country needs a change from a long Dem session. BUT I can't see Taft—the oldtime isolationist. He's smart but he lacks many other things which are just as important.

Ginny and Ray: I certainly would like to see that house. Of course, the whole outfit is saying privately you're living beyond your means—that you spend most of your time shopping for new hats and blouses; and iron railings for your front porch. But Ruby says "We'll still keep them—up here at Vineland—after they run through it all".

Jettie and Joe and the kids and Jimmy Taylor, their Texas friend, were here for the week end. Jettie came early with Ruby—and all the two of them did was to lie flat—and wash their hair—and go into town in the Budck—and contemplate how lucky they were to get Joe and me. I never saw two lazier women. Ruby isn't earning a penny—a fact which makes my Scotch blood curdle—and she has gone strictly cultural. Tonight she's out to an art class—27 women who do all kinds of painting—for two hours on Monday nights. R. is doing textile painting and finished off a luncheon set for Jettie's birthday—and tonight is starting on bathroom curtains. She has painted all my shorts—and I expect to see a cat-tail motif running up the side of my good blue suit any day now.

The job here? (This for the Michigan squad). I was selected from about 30 applicants as the Director of Public Relations for The Training School at Vineland. The job paid a full third more in cash than I was getting at ARC and gave complete maintenance to Ruby and me—apartment, all utilities, all food, garage, and laundry. That meant that the cash—if I had married right—would have been mostly free—and could be saved. For, you see, we have few bills. The food is excellent—we order—it's brought to our door—wonderful steaks, shrimp, leg of lamb—fresh veggies grown right here on the 1550 acres—even flowers each week from the greenhouse.

It's a school for the mentally retarded—with big clinic and research lab—he psychology, etc. The folks here are like most university faculties—5 Ph.D's right in our little block here. We live in a nice modern apt. with basement heating; the town is about 22,000—with two movies, wide streets, and 30-foot sidewalks, and trees. Well laid out. So growing. I like it; like my work so far. Think Ruby can't get quite used to not working every day—but her life is filling up. We both miss Washington but we can always go back there—and I'm trying to harvest a nest egg. All the big Atlantic beaches are close—45 minutes to A. City; less to Ocean City. A good-sized lake and state park within 8 minutes drive. Whoa would YOU have done? Luv and kisses

Jack
Dear Children,

So far as I can remember this is the first time I've sat down in the middle of Monday afternoon - sound in both mind and body - to write the robin. Of course I know there is going to be many a question and perhaps a few comments about the sounds of said mind, let me suggest that the 'Pep' not call the kettle black. Also let me remind you that there are degrees of soundness. What I'm telling you is that I'm glad I'm not teaching school. I'm not bored or tired. It's a wonderful feeling. I don't quite deserve it.

I know what it is to wish hard that the robin would come fast. We have been a little homesick even with the new car and with two trips to Washington and one to Skipenny Rock. We miss all our friends in Washington.

Last Monday Jack and I drove to Washington so he could attend a homecoming for a retiring Red Cross official - Dr. M.J. Virtue - who was here.
I also love music. I read the New York Times to stay with it. I used to do crossword puzzles. I also like to read and to listen to music. I go to New York every Wednesday. I saw a show yesterday and today. I am happy to know that they are missing him in Iowa. He had a wonderful time. I heard from them. I also made some friends. He responded positively. He had a wonderful time.
and I got a birthday dinner for Joe and Settie His Oct. 14 - while he was in Europe - and Settie's is Nov. 11. They left about four o'clock and I felt a little lonesome for a while. Settie brought her dog Pat along. We became so attached to her that we think we are going to take her when she raises the family. They suspect her to have in Dec. They think the puppies will arrive Dec. 2nd - Ed! Ed!

I was about to forget to tell you that while we were in Washington - I saw Princess Elizabeth. Settie took the children and me to the airport to see them come in. We happened to get a very good place to stand - where we could see and hear well. In fact she passed with in ten feet of us. Incidentally it was the closest I've ever been to Truman. He is like all notables I suppose - much more personable face to face than from the front page of a newspaper. The Princess of course was what all the papers have been saying about her - lovely, charming - and so on. Margaret Truman is a princess too. We were not as near her as we were to Truman and Elizabeth. The latter two reviewed the troops in front of us. The picture
of Sully will show what I mean. Being away from Washington—We will miss a lot of things, like that that are not important but very interesting.

Don't think we are unhappy here. This is a much better place for both of us. It needs doing as well as the Red Cross did—and there is teaching if I want to do it. Our apartment is better—our food is better—our health is better.

Da...you will be interested in what one of the children in Carol's Cottage said to me. Pearl Buck's daughter Carol lives there. Pearl Buck—Mrs. Walsh—gave the cottage and often comes to see her daughter, age thirty— an emican. She child said, "We like you. You look like Carol Buck's mother." Da had already told me I did. So far as I've able to see the books of Pearl Buck are all that's wrong with her.

I've a lot to tell—by Jack. He is the one who is director of publicity.

Love—Please hurry the Helen fast.

Ruby
Dear Rays,

The Robin has been here an age. Ed was in the Upper Peninsula looking for a bear for ten days, and I kept it so that he could write. Since he returned we have been busy with the holiday doings and the extras that accumulated while he was away. Also he has had to take care of the meat he brought back. When he failed to find a bear, he settled for an eight-point buck, and we are going to have to eat venison whether we like it or not. We had steaks Sunday, and all but me thought they were delicious.

It was -8° here at 7:00 this morning. At 6:30 Ed got a call from the cooks who were stranded in town because their cars wouldn't start. Ed had to rush in to get them, and I am afraid breakfast was a little late. There is a light snow now. We had a ten-inch snow the first of November, but we have seen the ground off and on since then.
Barbara came home for Thanksgiving and returned Sunday. She got a ride to Midland, which is about halfway, and I met her there. She liked school better this year.

Jack and Ruby, your setup seems all right. Of course, your board bill isn't a very big item if you're still on the diets you were on the summer you were in Milan. Did you tell them you are light eaters before they hired you? Maybe you could sneak a little food out to send to your hungry relations! He will trade anybody anything for anything whatever.

This place has been on a boom for the last two weeks, but hunting season will end in another week, and most of the business places will close for the winter. The woods are full of hunters and I hardly dare step outside the house for fear of stopping a bullet. The roads are like city streets, and the stores are crowded with hunters—all dressed in red, of course. Nearly every car one meets has at least one buck on it. I have seen three bears.

Jettie, I can just see you casting your vote for Taft! If Harrison is more...
nated, I may vote for him, because I think he believes in the same things I believe in, but I have to live in fear of Taft! Auntie, I do like good, consistent Republicans. Am I insulting? I am a Democrat.

Jettie and Ruby, I am going to write both of you about the blanket. It is safe and good as new and will be returned to the rightful owner.

We are staying in Michigan for Christmas, since it seems sensible for people in the stone belt to stay close to home. Snow is coming up for a few days, I think.

Love to all.

Joanna

The trip to the wilderness area where I hunted last year was delightful. Night of new stuffed in the same cabin and we had lots of fun. My hunting buddy and I got a deer each the first half of the day and we hunted like mad for 5 days to get the other guy's deer, but we couldn't do the job. Deer got us.
after the first day. Wolves had been chased and the deer were as jumpy as a prostitute in church. The last two days we hunted wolves; trailed them over hills & into swamp. They proved us foolish, 6 miles they took us one day and never a sight of them. We ran the pack into one of our trappers and he got a long shot but missed. We plan to go back in February and hunt wolves only. We will fly from land on a small lake near the cabin and hunt the wolves on snow shoes. There should be about 5. I know there were. In a deep soft snow one might even run a wolf down by wearing snow shoes. There were no bear in circulation, & sure they had gone in hibernation before we got there. I'm going to peninsula Point in northern Tupper next June on a bear hunt. A friend there invited me up and we will hope to fly in to the place. He says he never finds 10-12 bears a week hunting there. Bear came out of hibernation and gathered in great numbers in a choice feeding place. That's where we will hunt. I'm taking orders for bear rugs now.

we wish you all the very best in these holidays and wish we could see you, but as for days we expect to sit tight. Why not come to see us? We have lots of room and would be tickled to death to have you. You came to Chicago any way. Best way to come in to love Traverse City. I'll meet you there.

Ed
December 2, 1957

Dear Family,

It is not very often I get to write in the robin on our birthday! Hope Ed has had a nice day. We two are getting along - 29 and 31. I really don't feel my age - I wonder if Ed does. Getting older has never bothered me anyway because there are compensations for aging. I found this in a magazine today and it is timely for Ed and me but it is late for all of us -

"If I could be 35 again, here are some of the things I would do:"

Make better use of my time
Have more handicrafts
Look for the brighter side
Keep my creative hobbies
Mix with younger people
Make more friends
Get to know my neighbors
Seek recreation close at hand
Plan a retirement project"

Now I don't want to be 35 again but these statements are something to think
About, it's about time to say 'Happy Birthday to Will B. too.' Ruby and Jack were in College Park and they called me last night. It was good to hear the four voices. I just had to talk from upstairs because she had the flu. I really was a lovely birthday present to talk to them. I had a birthday cake at dinner and a lovely card from the girls in the kitchen. There was a nice long visit with some dear friends this afternoon.

The robin nests its long in Michigan this time but I do believe this is the first offense. A friend gave me a four-point antler and I planned to send it to Ed but after he got two eight-point ones, I gave it to a man here. I'm sure Ed wouldn't want to come down to 20 small a horn. The hunting does sound interesting if Ed is not doing too much. We have a faculty member from the U.P. and he thinks there's nothing like it. We just started the three-day deer
season yesterday and the butcher had 15 deer to dress last night. That's pretty good for so small a town. They say all the licences were sold — (two 35-dollar-out-of-state ones). I don't know how today produced. Johanna, you may keep the deer meat because I don't like it much. We had wild duck for dinner today and it was good. As you know, bear meat is worse than deer though — I really don't know how wolf will taste. You better keep some venison (I finally looked it up) to serve every other time. Your weather sounds interesting. Jack, I think I have been forced to take a back seat on weather reports. The East has run up a tree. We have had two little snows and very little cold weather. Today was a lovely day. I went out with a silk scarf and jacket and was very comfortable. Some people predict a hard winter and when the trees begin to burst I let you know. Really, the South Dakota weather has skipped the country!
It's good to hear the Vineland folks are settled and happy. That does sound like an interesting place. Do they need any more workers?

Jettie, I too am always glad when Joe gets back from overseas. Everytime a plane is lost in mid-Pacific, I think back to see if Joe is away. Thanks for the cake, Joe, because I'm sure I'll enjoy it. I've so much "stuff" now that I hate to think of moving - I'm looking forward to having Sally play - come summer. I know the boys are growing up.

When we talk about nice places to live, we mustn't overlook how Audrey's and Will Bis house has been improved. It is very attractive and much more livable than it was. The children were darling in the summer and they still are, of course. I don't believe this was told in the report. Sylvia fell out of bed one night and woke the whole family up. When she looked out the window at the rising sun, she said, "Look the sun is drying up." I wish we could remember all the cute sayings of them all.
Swish Audrey would forgive once in a while
Joe and Joe must be trying to walk by the
that he is about nine months. He is a
darling, too.

Miss Jeffreys, I'm glad you are "settled for the
winter" but I hope you won't have one
like last year! Do keep well and happy.
I've planned to write you often but the
has been a very "full fall." Every week,
I think things will let up the next
but they never do.

Ray, Virginia, and Joe W. couldn't help
enjoy the house because it is just
right. Have some bird seed (food for wild
birds) that I'll send to Ray after Christmas.
Ed should make him a feeding station
for the back porch.

Joanna, I have a six-year-old house-
coat (navy - all wool) that I'll send you for
a rug (after Christmas) if this is almost
finished. The chair seat (about three inches
more) but everything has picked up so that
I'll send it after Christmas. I've made some
scrapbooks for the boys too.

I just seem to rush around all the
time!
During Thanksgiving holidays, I went to Sioux City and saw "The Blue Veil" which was a very good picture. The Legion held a Womanless wedding which was a scream. I've just finished reading a book about earthquakes. Did you know that there are over a million earthquakes each year? I read every minute I get but I've gotten behind this fall - being president of Monday Club and Sert.-treasurer of AEA which takes a lot of time.

I'm looking for green and yellow velvets. If anybody sees any old dresses in rummage sales or such get them for me if they don't cost too much. Any color will be used but I need green and yellow most.

Before the robin get around again, Christmas will have come and gone but let's keep it moving. Happy Christmas to you all.

Lots done from the

Ex Weather reporter

Ed enclosed four blank sheets of paper in the robin and I've used three of them. Thanks Ed.

Guess I'd better stay put this Christmas. I should very much like to see you all.
My Dear:
The Robin was here yesterday when I came home, but Abner House came home with us and my time was used up cooking corn bread, cherry pie and what ever I thought he would like to eat. I knew he hates eating out and had spent thirteen months in Arabia, and I knew just what he would want to eat. green peas, toasted green salad, corn bread and baked apples, Cherry pie with ice cream. He said it was the best meal he had ever had, the first home cooked one. He has aged ten years, almost white-haired and a little bitter, since he had already served four years.

Joe, he said for me to explain to you why he did not see you. He rode seven hours on an unheated plane and with paper-thin clothing and almost froze, was sick with a cold and rode in bed a day or two before he came on here. He read that part of your letter about your work and the article. He thought you did not look natural. You do look far too thin. Your Creed is supposed to carry a little weight if you stay well. I get tired and feel weak if I lose weight. However, now I am not taking high blood pressure medicine now as it is almost normal, but to feel tired too much of the time. I guess it takes a long time to get over the operation and the shop takes too much out of me. But it as Aunt Allie used to say "I am the bull by the tail and can't turn loose!" We are selling twice
merchandise, but too much & it is at the end of the season when we have to just
swap dollars.

Now Jack don't worry too much about us living beyond our means. We work
too hard and want nothing but food
and sleep when the day is over. We had nothing to do like you and Ruby and
a new car within 45 minutes of A city
there could be some danger, and you
could depend on it. We would think first
of Jack and Ruby, both big hearted,
and stand right by your top door step
when we have rest through it all.
The truth is all we have about is invested
in the horse and the shop. We paid that
note we made when we gave Ruby her
part back.

Ed, Ray and Abner both thought you
were making up some account of bears
and wolves. Ray told Abner you
were good at making them up and
Abner nodded his head, serious like
and believed every word Ray said. So
sorry the Ed Ray will not be here
Christmas. Think now, I'll leave
not finish before New Years eve
will have to be in New York that night
but can't seem to plan it any other way.

Eleanor should you could be in New
York with us. I hope Ruby can come
while I am there. I have a hotel reservation
and we could take you in our room.
Your hotel would cost you nothing, just
food and shows. Wish I could afford
to pay all expenses, but the trip will
be expensive. On the way back I
would like to see Joe and family. Have never been to College Park.

Joe has to go to Fort Benning the last of January if he keeps his talk. I
think he doesn't want to lose his rating. He wants Master Sergeant and
will get a promotion if he takes the
required schooling.

He is doing fine at the Warren's Men's
store, and Mr. Moore is training him
to run the store when he retires
which will not be many summers.
Joe has been given a commission
on sales and is making twice as
much. He has traded his car for
a new Plymouth.

I only thought you could be two people
take wings and fly down here until
after Christmas. I have my back to the
well, fighting trade with the help of two
ladies: Mrs. Haithcock and Louise Oliver, neither one
able to give full time. Though
I thought he so well fitted with two young
women for Christmas, Virginia Wardly
and Earnestine Bailey, and worked hard with
them teaching them the stock and last
week Virginia had to have an operation,
and Earnestine moved away. They were
both good. That leaves me with
no morning help and no help on
Mondays. I have done all right up
to now! The Day of the big Santa Parade
all three of us worked and almost faded
out! Everybody went crazy during before
and after the Parade. We planned it close
but customers wouldn't get out. No room down
town so they took in stores out our way
and we did not see the Parade, the last two
here they said a cost five thousand dollars to bring Jim by air.

The papers said never in the city history have there been so many
people in town.

I hope they brought by him in—I never did hear. They didn't come by the shop.
Brown is well about his chickens. He lost so many during the cold snap I

doubt if he sees the profit side. You
gain't been feeling sorry for him. He

was worked so hard, staying up all night trying to save them. I tel
said she could lose his shirt and he

no doubt will.

Rudy, Eleanor, and I begged him not
to let Jim Ed and his friends tie up
with chickens, but he would, and now
both boys are drafted and have to
leave before their chickens are ready
to sell and they are not on the profit
side either, too many have died.

Billy was here on furlough, looked
fine, but unhappy. Very much in love
and his girl who lives with her
Grandmother. Can't decide to marry
against her wishes. The Grandmother

plays she means she cannot
come back there to live. He took Dorothy
car up here. He says Vivian is quite happy
marry in love and Dorothy leaves too
in January. Alice still with the hospital.
His mother has an ardent Bean
and said he was going to bring her up to see
Jim Ed's chickens. She still thinks he

will make something no doubt. Don't

if anybody read this far.

Love,
Virginia.
I think Jack and Ruby are going through what they might have expected. Wherever they go, they develop warm and devoted friends. They left a big batch of them here, and they haven't yet built up their usual quota in Vineland. They will.

Vineland is wonderful.

It looks to me like a place to do some real living.

Chillum:

It makes me a little sad when I date this letter to remember that it is Sam's birthday. I know it will always be a sad day for Ray and Ginna.

I have been as busy as a three-legged dog with fleas, jumping around and squirming like the bad girl in church that Ed's letter refers to. The Robin was here for two full days before I got around to reading it. It is a good one, although the kids were fighting so noisily over the newly repaired television that I couldn't keep my mind on it so well. Finally, I decided to come up to the office to sign some letters, and all the kids wanted to come along, including two kids visiting in the house, one of David's friends and one of Sally's. They are running up and down in the building, taking it apart at the seams. I earnestly hope that no one else in the building is working this afternoon.

Miss Jeffries, I guess you have not seen Sally. I think she was in Dowling Green twice, but once you were all stretched out in the hospital and the other time were away. I will enclose some pictures of her and David which were taken at school. The trouble with the pictures is that there is no real way for us to tell from the pictures how old the kids are. Scott is now in junior high school, and those pictures, taken I gather by the same itinerant photographer, have not yet come through. Scott is a big boy now, handling his own money and doing about all he can to handle his paper route. We have a deal whereby David and I help him on Sunday morning. We had a big snow on Friday afternoon that almost paralyzed the whole neighborhood, but it was not too bad the following morning for the car to get out on the paper route. It was as cold as blue blazes this morning, and the Sunday papers are always too big, but we made it by a little after eight.

Jettie has been flat of her back three times lately, twice for nearly a week each time with what we took to be the flu, and then last night with an upset stomach. I thought we were in for it again, since the old man catches it coming and going when mama is laid up, but she is up and around today, going just about as strong as usual.

Ginna, tell Charles Abner House (I get letters from Charles not Abner) that it is all right. I know how he feels on this rough trip across the Atlantic. I had such a one last time. I didn't catch a cold, and the plane was warm, but I really was pestered out when I got back. I did not expect him to come by unless I could help him. Tell Joe to hang onto that serum and whatever it takes. He would make an excellent officer if he could ever get into OSS. From everybody I can talk to, the log of the dogface soldier is pretty rough. El, I'm glad the weather is more civilized there now. I imagine that the rough weather has just about hit there by now. Ed, shall we start calling you Deerslayer or just Wolfie? Ray, Ed ordinarily tells an awfully good story and dresses it up a bit, but he rarely manufactures one out of whole cloth. El, I thought of you and Ed on December 2 and ole W. B. on December 8, but as usual did nothing about it. Ginna, don't worry about my weight. I diet to keep my waist line down; if my belly doesn't get too big, my back never bothers me, and sometimes it does when I let my paunch go.

Love, Joe.

Rube, I was a little sad yesterday, driving in on Columbia Road and coming to the corner of California and realizing that my turning days on that corner are over.
Dear Folks: Ruby's last words to me this morning were: "Don't forget to write the Robin tonight-- and put me in. Tell them everything we've been doing". Which has been plenty.

Anyway, I just talked to Ruby and Ginny two minutes ago in New York. They said they had had dinner with Wilda Brubaker and her husband; had been up to Radio City to see the big 80-foot tree-- and were then propped in their beds at the Gramercy Park Hotel, looking at television. Those girls.

And tomorrow, after shopping, they plan to make it to a play and dinner again with Wilda, etc. But, I guess, they both deserve a respite for Ruby has been working hard here and I know Virginia has, too.

For some reason, which I can't quite dissect, the Robin was better this time than it has been for a long time. Everybody "let out" more. Miss Jeffries' letter was practically a classic of good sense and complete awareness of the current scene-- which I find somewhat lacking in the rest of you. Old Ed-- chasing bears and wolves all over Michigan and wanting to go to Gaspe to chase more. However, I'm not against the idea-- and somehow would like to chase a few with him. However, I think his prowess-- if that's what it is-- isn't as fabulous as he makes it out. I can remember how he hated to climb the dunes in Michigan to go swimming when the rest of us were "able" to make it once or twice a day. Don't know where we'd put a bear rug-- but guess we could manage. Would like to see Joanna, Babs, and Emily-- and we never have seen the movies of our camp life in Michigan. (I still wonder how I looked in the mornings after that mosquito-ridden trip to the Chic Sale).

Ele: We too have one of the fancy clocks Joe brought from Germany. I have had a big time regulating it-- and now have it almost perfect-- so that it gains only about 5 minutes in four days. I'm afraid to turn the little wheel much more for fear I can't do better than that. By the way, your letter was very good, too. You're right-- we have the weather this year-- and Ruby and I are going to Penna. by train for all reports are bad for driving. The ice has come and it's apparently staying on. Here in Vineland, it's fairly clear because we're so near to the Ocean.

Ruby got me a small FM radio for Christmas; I got her a silver coffee pot to match the sugar and creamer she had. Also a tray to put under the whole batch. She had a few of the neighbors in the other night just to show them off.

This institution life keeps us both humping. It's a 24-hour a day proposition. There's so much to do and never enough people to do it. However we beat away at it-- and do some good. I'm getting a lot of publicity all around and it is showing results. But there are times when you wish you could get away from it all-- if only for a few hours. Atlantic City is our nearest place to go and of course it's 35 miles-- and mainly for summer, although the hotels stay open for conventions all year. Vineland itself-- a thriving town-- doesn't have a good restaurant-- mostly diners and hamburger joints-- and the two movies are always jammed. We have good folks on the grounds here-- in the staff-- but shop-talk and press of work get to be the main conversation pieces. BUT we have been here only three months and naturally miss the stir and beauty of Washington-- and our friends there. We MAY come to like this better, but the change is certainly a decided one-- and neither of us is sure yet whether we want to spend the rest of our supposed "career" here. Time will tell-- and after the first year we'll be able to see the picture more clearly. Happy New Year to you all. My own family letter which I'm enclosing will tell more.