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MY DEARS: Joe Wilson left Friday morning at 8:36, and wired us about noon that he arrived in Seattle, Wash., at eight o'clock Saturday morning, but did not say when he would fly out for Fort Richardson. He had loaded long enough and was ready to go back, none of us grieved too much, since seven months will roll off very fast, and August will be here before we know it.

Sorry you all could not see Brown's boys and their wives. They are fine, and both boys seem to have picked fine girls. N. B. had been telling me how he was pleased with them. Jim 5d, and his wife Martha came before Jack and Ruby left, stayed all night, and the next morning, Sunday, Billy and his wife Claire and son Michael came and all ate dinner with us. I had fried chicken, hot biscuits, rice, peas and carrots, fruit salad, and it was easy to do, as both girls helped, and it seemed not to be too much for Eleanor. However, she has not been able to eat up any since they were here. She says that is not it, that it is the phase of this abscess.

She broke out with big water blisters all over her abdomen, and I was afraid every one would make a hole, but Dr. Graves prescribed Aluminum Feps so that would not happen. They have not broken. She has not been eating well, and I broke her out a little pus but not broken through yet. She still dresses her side with my assistance, and does every thing for herself she can, just will not ask me to do one thing for her she can do for herself. However, she is growing weaker by the day, and her skin is getting more and more yellow and deathly looking. Dr. Graves says she just cannot predict, it sometimes takes months. She doesn't see how she is still living. She has not had a normal bowel movement for over a month, relieves herself with smell enema, but so painful at the time she goes to bed and has a cry. I told her today I would have to rent a hospital bed and use a bed pan because she was soon going to be too weak to do it herself, but she says she doesn't have to do it often and she can manage. Her appetite is not good now, but she eats every thing anybody brings her and keeps track of all of it, and insists that I save it for her and not eat any of it, even if fruit cake she shouldn't eat. However, Dr. Graves says not to tell her not to eat anything. He says he will check her into the hospital any time she gets past managing at home, but it is best now for her to be here and she is happier. She was looking at TV when he came, and he said he just wished very body in her terrible condition had as nice a home and as much family attention as she does. He thinks she will lapse into coma and not last three days at the end.

I am telling you all this so that you can be expecting it. I know that we are never ready even though we know it is to come. She has been the best patient I ever saw and has suffered long enough.

She told Dr. Graves her brother Ed said Dr. Little wanted to attach the Colostomy bag and she would not allow it, and now she wishes she had, and Dr. Graves told her she should have allow that, but didn't tell her it was too late as he did me. She gets mixed up. She thinks she lost a twenty dollar bill during Christmas, but I think she only had one twenty, one ten and a five. She told me Ed and Joanna both gave her a twenty and later that she would not take both. So don't send her another twenty anybody, because she doesn't need it now.

Joe, we are looking forward to your visit next week-end, the 14th or 15th, and hope Eleanor is as well then as now.

Love, Virginia.
Dear Folks,

Already the Xmas holidays seem far away and I'm so involved in so many things that there seems no end. The things one wants to do come rushing to mind and demand attention. Each day when I start to work I vow I will do so much of this and that and I end the day wondering how I managed to accomplish so little and thoroughly disgusted for not have done more. The trouble is the days are not long enough.

It was wonderful to see most of the clan during the holidays. All of you have grown up finally, except Jackson, to be fine men and women. Jackson is fine but he just hasn't grown up. It's nice to know the old bean anyway.

We had a good trip home, roads were good, I'm beginning to like long trip with my family, I always have for that matter, because I get to know my daughter and the progress that she has made in growing up. Practically all of the way home she psychoanalysed all of her aunts, uncles, and parents. I was amazed by the logic she used in explaining each character under consideration. What were their outstanding characteristics and what made them that way? She had the answer. This Emily has certainly come a long way in the past few years! Kept me digging to avoid being analysed again. Had a lot of fun with her. I think Jo got equally as much kick out of the conversation.

Jo is in the middle of papers foretelling the end of the school term and she keeps buried in papers for days at a time. The old gal teaches school the hard way, doesn't spare the horses. I keep telling her that if she would spend more time on making and devising tests that will do the thing she wants to find out and yet be quickly graded she could save herself no end of time. But she's a great one for believing that English can be taught only by reading long involved themes. Maybe she is right. Self expression is her teaching goal no doubt, but she works too hard at it.

Joe, you will be interested to know that the oldest member of our tribe have moved all of our birthdays back one year. It all hinges on Will B's birthday. He was born Dec. 8, 1900. He's 54, Bee 52, I'm 50 and you are 46! Do you feel that young? We had a hot argument over this deal while working on the business end of a turkey at Gin's. It amused me no end for they had actually convinced themselves that they were right. They even had me ready to concede for I've traded birthdays with Ele so long that I sometimes have to take off my shoes to count my age, and go around a couple of times and one half. Where's the family Bible? Ha, ha. Just to put the record straight I'm 51 and can account for every one them but the first one. If this subject ever comes up again I think we should refer to our ages as and so young not "old". Beginning now, I'm 51 young. Anyway, I had a whale of a time with all of these old times and the young sprouts, too. Didn't get to see any of the clan long enough. What time I saw Joe Wilse enjoyed it thoroughly so with R.W. and the rest.

Suppose I shouldn't be so hard on Jackson now that I've wrung a concession out of him. He says he will never come to Michigan and not come to see us. Of course, he'd better not for I'll really lower the boom on him. None of you have been to see us but Joe and he has not been here at the most beautiful time. I forgot that Ele was here in the summer, but the prettiest time is in fall and winter. It's really a fairy land in winter. This is vacation land of the midwest. 15,000,000 came here last year. That's a lot of people, you know, but nobody showed up in that figure. Some of you may think it is a long way up here, but I assure you...
it is a pleasant drive, especially if you can bring the kids along. Maybe they can drive. Now won't Scott be sailing high when he gets his driver's license? Em drives all of the time and does a good job at it but we can't keep from being worried when she doesn't get back at the exact time she said she would. Barbara took driver's training but Em couldn't take the course because of conflicts. Joan taught her to drive and I polished her off into a good driver.

Sure, Joe there are 245,000 acres in the forest we live in and Dave can shoot all over it. He'd have lots of fun rambing around thru the woods, I do too. We'd like to have him come summer.

Received a nice letter from Jim Ed, told us a lot of interesting things about himself. Wish we could hear from Billy and the rest of them. Thanks, Chulhus, for excluding their addresses in the Robin. That's one of the things I'll vow to do some day and get it done, write these kids.

It was good to get a sample of Will B's handwriting to compare with some old issues of the Robin. I still recognize it. Had a very nice visit with the "big Brother" at Etown. He was in a swivel to get home and I didn't get to see him nearly enough. Looks better than I've seen him for many years and he was right on the beam. I'm proud of the way he waded into a difficult job after being out of the business so long. That takes nerve and determination. Sorry we couldn't get to see Audrey and the youngsters, but we had to get home when the weather permitted and Joan need to be home a day or two before school started so she could rest up for the grind ahead. I'm glad I got out of school business when I did, but I'm much like the old fire horse when he hears a bell where school is concerned. Work a lot with school teachers, listen to their problems and I find myself still talking the trade. Don't believe there is a better trade or that there is a job that is as undersold as teaching. Didn't get to talk to the main member of the clan, Miss Ruby to find out what her problems were, but she looks so good that she couldn't have many problems. Ginn, too, seems to be taking everything pretty much in stride—she shore did "put on dog" with new furniture and redecorations. Don't know of a prettier house or one finished in better taste. If there were any doubt about the trade, Ruby, you should have observed her house closer. You learned to you your twenty-some-odd short. Ruby, did you notice how RW's Regal posture set the place off? Must have been planned around the "old man."

Couldn't help but be impressed with how cheerful and brave our Ele. was. Don't believe there's another one of us who could have gone thru with what she has and still keep our "chin up". I am thankful that she can be in as pleasant surroundings where she can have the attention she needs. I've written much too much. This makes up for small contributions of the past. Always glad to hear from you all.

Love, L2

Dear Rays,

We enjoyed our visit in B. I. It was great to see everyone.

He had the earliest trip we have ever had at Christmas. I like my lamps, but they are out of order. I found a new one in L. and it wernt on sale, darn it. I love it anyway. I also got a pair of new shoes and a pair of pants for school.
School will be out from next Tuesday, when the new semester begins. I am grading book reports (102 of them) this week-end and making out semester exams. Work in the library is eating up all the money I have spent all of the money.

Em is at a ball game. She is a candidate for Winter Sports Queen, who is to be chosen at a big dance tomorrow night. Five girls are competing, and everybody at the dance gets a vote. Em is happy that she is a candidate, but doesn't want to be Queen.

We couldn't have school on Wednesday after the holidays because of ice. Wasn't that a tough break?

Ed has been gallivanting since we returned home - has been here very little.

Love to all,

Joanna.
Dear Ruby and Jack  
Audrey and Will B  
Joanna and Ed

I have really enjoyed your notes and letters. I look forward to receiving them from all of you.

Joe Wilson left on the 10th & called his mother and dad from Seattle. They got a letter from him yesterday saying he got into Anchorage 20 hours after he left here. He was glad to get back.

I am feeling better, though my side is uncomfortable and there is still a lot of drainage.

I am watching the birds and squirrels out the window. Virginia put up a little platform just outside my window on the windowsill and we put bread crumbs on it for the birds. This morning we had some special visitors, several little chickadees — the prettiest little things you ever saw, cleanout with a black beret and a neat black cravat. The squirrels also are interesting because there are so many of them. There is also a white one among them.

We are enjoying Joe’s visit. He must leave on the Pan American this afternoon. He is taking this letter for me, writing it on the new lapboard that Ed made for me. He is going to type it for copies to go to everybody. We have had nice visits last night and today.

New Year’s weekend Jim Ed and his wife Martha and Billy and his wife Clair and son Michael come by and we had a nice visit with them. Jim Ed and Martha spent the night. They went on to Louisville Saturday to see their cousin and Sunday they ate dinner with their Dad and Audrey in their new home. Brown’s and Audrey’s new address is Route 4, Frankfort, Kentucky. Sylvia is having her tonsils and adenoids out today. She was getting quite hard of hearing and the doctor said they should come out at once. Martha, Jim Ed’s wife, told us that Joe Aden is going to kill all the alligators and throw them back in the river and also he is then going to kill all the dinosaurs — he’s much concerned about them as he sees them on the television. He was frowning and serious and in earnest about the proposition. The new house that Audrey and Will B. have moved to is much nicer because it has a bath and bedroom downstairs. It has a big yard of trees and Audrey writes that she knows the children will enjoy playing there in the summer.

Uncle Jim feels better. He has been to the stove several days and he eats better. All the Thomases seem to be well. Aunt Kate seems to be better than usual. Louise comes to see us quite often and always brings us something good to eat. Our neighbors here are always coming in and bringing something. Mrs. Daley, just to the south, hardly misses a day bringing something over. She was given a beautiful begonia for her birthday and she brought it over for me to enjoy. I’ve had it ever since she got it. It sits in the window next to the Daley house, so Mrs. Daley can see it too from her window. Mrs. Katie Harmann brought me a whole dinner yesterday. Her daughter Mary Jayne brought it up for me. We have a battle going on in the yard right now; the squirrels and birds are fighting over an old piece of toast. Each one is trying to outdo the other. I found the $20 bill I thought I had lost. It was in my notebook.

Love, Eleanor
Dear Fathr,

Been waiting for Joan to write in the Robin but she's too busy with term end and won't be able to write it's time. The Robin was very good this time. Seemed like a capsule visit with each of you.

I'm up and about and almost back to normal weight. Yesterday I had what I think is the last x-ray. The doctor said the negatives were beautiful...everything just right. The adoctor said the little tooth-like structure that holds the cap in place is back in place and already has lots of bone structure built around the area. This was the most thing on repair. He remarked that you are sure a healthy son of a gun to have built that much repair. But I'm sure this was not the most dangerous part of the whole deal, the dislocation overall.
was at the time of the accident, once I was in the hospital that was no problem
for traction held the vertebra in place. The tendon was torn loose on the left side
and as a result the two vertebrae are fused.
The only difference from formerly will be
in this respect. The neck will not be quite
as flexible as formerly. I can still turn
my head as far to each side as ever but
my neck movement up & down there will
be less flexibility. Someone of you is sure
to remark that we now have a “stiff neck”
remark that we now have a “stiff neck”
member of the family and I’ll beat you
it. I’ll have to wear the brace only a month
or six weeks more. That’s very good for
open one has to wear a rig like this for
a year or more.

Grady is coming home this week and
and I’ll be glad to see her. She was here
the last week I was in the hospital.
Hope everybody is half hearted
I will write more time as send the sell
on to Virginia.

Love

[Signature]
Sunday, February 20, 1955

Dear Boys,

Ed is sleeping noisily on the couch, but I think he intends to write his Robin letter when he gets up.

This is the most dreary day we have seen in a long time, and the landscape is as ugly as one could be. It is raining, and what was three feet of soft white snow is now slush. The road is covered with slush mixed with the sand that has been added after each snow. We are a mess! The forecast is that the whole business will be iced over by morning, and I am hoping it will come before school time, if it must be. We have lost only one day because of ice this winter. I have been stuck only twice this year, and both times the snow had melted while I was parked so that I was stuck. We really have had a nice winter, I think. We have had a lot of snow, and the temperature has been quite low several times; but we have had many bright days.

Last week was a dilly for all of us. Ed went to the U.P. for meetings and was there from Monday until Friday. We had car trouble and had to leave the car there. Eun and I were swamped with work, too. I had noon duty, and I was at home only one night all week to do my paper work. I was only Wednesday night. Emily and I went to Mt. Pleasant to hear Eleanor Roosevelt speak. We really enjoyed
her talk and her answers to questions from the audience. We had to leave for Mr. Pleasant just as soon as we got out of school in the afternoon and didn't get home until about 12:45. I drove, but the weather and roads were good. Then Thursday night I was on program at P. T. A., and Friday night I had to sell tickets at the basketball game. In a little town there is no end to the extra duties a teacher gets saddled with. Emily had to go to West Branch (about 25 miles southwest) to write a test for a Y. of M. Regent's Alumni scholarship Friday. All in all, we had quite a week.

I have not seen a thing in the papers about Mrs. Roosevelt's address, but she had a full house anyway. Eight people went from Roscommon, but I talked it up to all of them. All said they felt well repaid for their trouble. Most of the teachers were very critical of Eleanor, however, and seemed to consider it a joke that we would go to hear her speak. I told my boss that her bigness under criticism magnifies the littleness of those who run her down, so I may get fired.

Audrey, we were shocked to hear about Sylvia's illness. I am glad the pajamas reached her. They were in the car when Ed gave Brown the other packages, but he failed to get them. I hope all are well now. Jettie, you might just as well hit Joe smash a finder, then you can sit back and enjoy your ride in the new car.
We haven't heard from Barbara recently, so we are going to call them in a little while. There are two phones at school and one here, so all of us are going to join in. Bill wrote that both hospitals are overflowing with patients in the halls, and that they have been rushed to death.

We hardly ever turn our TV on, as we never seem to have any time. My dad retired after serving nineteen years on the Hardin County School Board, and last week the Board and other friends gave him a dinner and presented him a TV set. He considers it quite a joke as he has always been dead set against TV and wouldn't talk about buying a set. Mother says she won't admit it, but she really enjoyed it. Mother and Aunt Lin do, too. The latter has practically recovered from her stroke.

I would like to come to Washington, Jetty, but not with the seniors. Emily said there were suggestions in class meeting that they invite the but she discouraged it. Ha! Ha! I think I have done my duty in that direction for a few years. They are having a little trouble about chaperones.

Here comes Ed to take me to school for the talk with Babz.

Love to all,

Joanne
Dear Folks,

I've given serious consideration to the matter and I have decided that I wrote too danged much last time. I shall try to limit my comments somewhat.

It was interesting to note that the psychoanalysis referred to in my former letter drew some comment and netted me a severe scolding from the daughter involved. She said, "Of all things! What will they think of Me?" "They took for granted that the analysis was bad." How will I ever straighten this mess up?" I told her she could write her own explanation. She said she would, but she'll have to wait until next time for I'm mailing this deal now. It wasn't a derogatory analysis anyway, I'll straighten that part of it out for her.

Glad Sylvia is on the road to recovery and it was good to hear from the Will B's.

Ginny, I had no reference to age in the comment I made on your house. It was just the R.W. is quite a regal personage in the setting you have maneuvered for him. Seems that the whole danged outfit is age conscious, all is but Jackson who can remember that he was valedictorian of his age and day. It was good to pick up this tidbit! It was a small high school, eh, Jackson? They must have had to scrape the bottom of the barrel, ha, ha.

Joe, glad you read the age record to the clan. You had considerable courage to put the two old bats straight. I was as unpopular as an old maid at a wedding when I tried it.

Love,
Wednesday
August 17, 1955,

My dears:

Just a note to tell you Eleanor just alive. There was a change in the night, shorter breathing, and she complained feeling numb all over. However, with shots every four hours around the clock, she may live like this three or four days. We may call you before you get this.

We have not been able to get a nurse, and Ruby and I are taking shifts during the night. Aunt Hettie and Louise keep watch during the afternoon and we take rests. Mrs. Daly next door also stands in anytime we want her.

We are doing fine, or I am. Ruby was pretty well shot this morning, jumpy, but she took the twelve until hours, and was just sleepy. Just up from a short sleep, and feels better.

Just be ready for any time now.

Love,

Virginia.
Dear Brothers & Sister Ruby:

It does seem much longer than a week ago today we had our sister, Eleanor’s funeral and you were all here. My friends have kept me busy all week, calling and taking me to fair, and other places, also the family on both sides have been here. Thanks to Ruby, Eleanor’s things are pretty well disposed of, and next week I plan to make changes in Joe’s room, and get it ready for him. I think now I will get two single beds, or twin beds I saw at Pushino, and make a complete change. If Ruby had not unpacked all those things, I would never have gotten it done.

I have paid the funeral expenses with the balance in the bank of Eleanor’s money, her balance $371.59, after all expenses paid, and the funeral was $895.00, and I paid cash the balance of $23.51. I must say again she managed her money well to have enough to take care of her hospital and doctor and medicine, nurses, and still almost enough left to pay her funeral expenses. It would have been more than enough if she herself had selected the burial. She would have selected a much more inexpensive burial, but there was such a little difference in the cheaper ones than in the expensive as we chose. Of course we paid about two hundred more at Bradley’s and Gerards, but it was so smoothly handled, and I am not sorry we had it there.

We have not been out of town yet, but I plan to go to Berea, Monday, tomorrow to see Wilderness Road, with Helen Gwinn, and the next weekend, we plan to go to Mammoth Cave or to see Brown, if they don’t come here.

We drove out to Aunt Hettie’s this morning to get my quilt, and the prize I didn’t know I got. I got $5.00, and just as we got home without breakfast dishes washed, Billy, Jim Ed wives and babies drove up. They both have sweet children. We enjoyed them, and had choice sands and melon feast, funny eating, but they seemed to enjoy it. I had one chicken breast end livers to fry for our dinner, not enough.

I will write you next week when we get back, Tuesday evening.

Love,
Dear Ed & Joanna:

Ray says send this on now before Christmas, and this may be all you will get from me. I must be getting old for I just don't want to select that first Christmas present for a single person. I've never felt such a dread of Christmas gifts. I have already had Christmas a new stove and a G.E. space saver, and should be thinking nice gifts for both Ed and Joe, but my mind is blank.

We drove up to see Brown's family Sunday, the first time we have been up there, and we found them living better than they ever have, better house and better in every way. Audrey is in bad shape, bad looking leg.

Tell Pats we are looking forward a visit from her and Bill when they come this way.

We just heard that Sam Boyd was killed. Sorry, such a tragedy. Mrs. Goodrum called and said she saw it in the paper, but I could never could find it myself. I wondered if any of you would come.

Love Virginia
Dear Ruby, Edward, and Joseph:

I am enclosing your share of Eleanor's Social Security. It would have pleased her to know that her money lasted to the end and some left over for the five of us. This was a long time coming. It was the 17th of Sept. when it was OK'd at this office and sent to St. Louis for approval, and the check came to me from there. Brown and family were here yesterday. He attended a Supt. schools meeting, and Audrey was shopping for the children. I had not given them any clothes for over a year, and as she said they were all badly in need. She spent the whole check I gave Brown for S.S., and then I had to help on Sylvia a coat. She bought wisely, but just did not have enough to go around for three growing children. The baby wears, size 5, Joe Aiden, size 5, and Sylvia 6X coat. If any of you have friends with discards this size in good clothes, send them to her. She will appreciate them. I think she has always managed well, and sets a good table, feeds the children well as anybody I ever knew as well as she has had to do with. She has bought nothing for the new-baby expected in January. I wish we could all sorta shower her for these layette items, anything that would be useful. She has never been one to fancy up her babies, but they have always had the essentials, and I have helped her too much perhaps. They have always been so needy, and she so brave and doing on so little uncomplainingly. She needs no clothes herself, and Bill can go all winter on his she says. She made herself two good-looking skirt and jumper top style dresses. She is almost past going, wearing a rubber stocking, and taking her feet off the floor every two hours, really needs help until the event is over, but says they can't afford it, and pay on their debts as they have been doing. The children were a hand-full, and this morning I was almost past getting up. The baby is so happy and smart as a tack. I told him to take the little red stool back to the bathroom, and it just up and heaved it there like any six year old, came back smiling for a big Thank You! He sat in the car, and waved and smiled at us at the Tot Shop, and never cries unless the older ones abuse him, and not then every time. They are three of the sweetest children I ever saw, but I always think the last ones the sweetest, or they are sweeter when little I guess.

Brown is going an outstanding job of settling the troubled school at Burksville. I have heard through, Margaret Gaines, and another Burksville women in Methodist shurc there that he is doing a wonderful job, works a lot at night, has a school cafeteria on his shoulders, the money intake and paying for food bought, takes up a lot of his time, and then teaches two classes. He said he offered every teacher on the faculty the management of cafeteria instead of teaching two classes and none of them wanted it.

Joe, I thought of your birthday, and did plan to call you last night, but was too tired to talk after Brown and family left about seven o'clock. Hope you had a happy birthday without my greetings.

Ruby when the check for Brown comes I shall be glad to pay as far as it goes, but he wants to pay off first a note for $150.00 on which his Supt. has his name, and as it may mean his job, if it is all right with you I shall pay that one first, and then apply the rest on notes here in American Nat'tl bank.

I was wondering how the last sneak storm affected you. Our paper says many N.J. roads washed out.

We are enjoying Joe Wilson. It takes youth to bring activity in the home. He went to Paintsville and Lexington with his Aunt Kate and was gone two weeks. We have not had a trip yet. Ray says I don't need a trip, just need to sleep late and rest at home. I have been sleeping until after eight o'clock, and feel fine, but then I have felt fine all the time, even when I was working long hours with Eleanor. It seems like a year since those days already, and only two months.

Joe and I have been enjoying Aunt Eleanor's books, and have completed some of the volumes. Joe has spent about $25.00 on books and says that is all for now. We put all the Horse Books and Mother Goose in the bottom of Corner Cubbard. Come to see us one and all, and me I know nothing about the family letter, just not here. Ray's vacation not until the 1st of November.

Love, Virginia.
DIVISION OF ELEANOR RAY INSURANCE
RECEIVED OCTOBER 6, 1955 BY RUBY RAY MAC DONALD

Total Amount $1769.00 Each Share $354.00

I have decided to divide this insurance check because there is
a hold-up on the Diversified Services check—total to be
approximately $500. They wrote that they needed "consent of
the Inheritance Tax Department of the State of Kentucky". I wrote
that Eleanor died without estate and will; that had her family
and particularly Mrs. Ray W. Harmon presented a bill for their
contributions during her long illness that this small investment
too would have been wiped out. I asked the company to check if
such tax could be taken when this sum was not a residue after debts
were paid but an account which she didn't want to pay—hoping
some time to repay, our agent here believes these extra details
may have some bearing on the tax. Here are the check I'm sending
out today:

To Mrs. Ray W. Harmon (1) $354.00
To Will B. Ray (2) $354.00
(Check to Virginia to apply on Brown's
note at bank and other urgent account)
To Will B. Ray (3) 100.00
(This check from Ruby's share to also
apply on Brown's note. Check to Virginia)
To Edward M. Ray (4) 354.00
To Joseph M. Ray (5) 354.00
To Ruby Ray MacDonald $354.00 (6)
minus 100.00 to Brown's note 253.00

I think we all realize too and it should be said here that
this division could not have taken place without the endless
hours of care, generosity and complete care of their home provided
during the past year by Virginia and Ray. Otherwise debts would
have absorbed this and much more too.

October 16, 1955

Dear Ed and Joanna—

After we heard yesterday that the other check
would be held up we decided to go ahead with the divi-
sion of the insurance now. So here is your share.
I am amazed that she did so well with her affairs.
All bills have been paid and a grave marker
has been put up. As Jack said above there is an
other five hundred - approximately - to be divided.

I haven't told you about this but I got the idea not to pay Brown his share but to pay his bills with it. Since the insurance is made out to me, I can do it legally. Joe said that Eleanor had said that she hoped she would have enough to pay his bills. There is not that much. I asked him to send me an account of his debts. He did - more than a thousand - not counting what he owes any of us. So Joe and I worked it out between us - I will send her the money and the bills. Blue will pay them or as far as their money holds out.

There is a four hundred dollar note at the American Nat. Bank which she will pay first. Then as you see I sent an extra hundred. Which extra hundred cause ed a mighty surpise by Joe, Jack, and Ray. This really is the last money I'm going to give him. I think Joe will put in a hundred if he can and Joe is going to send a hundred. Now if you will send it to Joe, not
to Brown. I wrote Brown what we were planning but he has not answered. I guess his misplaced pride is hurt. Any way that's how it is.

Now how are you folks? Has Robs gone to Ky yet. How does Emily like Ann Anderson? Also Alice?

Jack is so busy with his M.M.C.A. drive that I hardLy see him. He did take time to write this letter. I'm also very busy being the principal of a little school that I hardly know myself. Don't work too hard.

Love. Jack & Ruby
Dear Gin,

Recently I received a check from Ruby and one from you which surprised me somewhat for I thought we had all agreed that this money was to go to you in minor payments for what you had done for Joe. I told you then and I am telling you now that I deserve none of this and I will not cash the checks regardless of how often you send them back. I am sending the checks endorsed to you and you can do what you want to with them. Judging from the tone of your letter they will probably end up paying Bill it's debt except all right with me if that is what Bill wanted. I will not send the amount to him or owe anything to do with it further. I am not interested in what he owes nor how much. Anyone who had half a brain wouldn't do the things he did done and be inflicted no sympathy. He has always managed his sisters into meeting his obligations with the sob story of how hard up he is. It is evident that neither he nor his sisters will ever learn. He keeps on having kids with no thought of who will take care of them. He's now damned near 67 years old and by the time his youngest will be ready for college he'll be 78. What can be done for the kids at that age? He'll probably do as he has done before let someone else assume the responsibility of educating them as he shifted the responsibility to Martha. She did a wonderful job with this total responsibility yet the rest of us with the exception of one could do nothing better than concern her, we even had the nerve to call on the kids who were struggling on their own to help him out financially or scrounge the money Bill spent on her treatment claiming that there was nothing wrong with her. She might better have cable her money she was wasting on him, with no more malice exhibited by this brother of mine you and Ruby rush to pay off his debts. Do you think that paying off his debts will make it any better? Do you think that by wiping the slate clean it will not get clouded again. The plain fact is that he doesn't know the meaning of responsibility. If he has not learned it in 50 years you can be assured that he never will. You are actually wasting your time courting someone who is a failure and turns ideas having nothing whatsoever to do with the fact that you have always done. To never having been out of debt and I'm confident never will be.

You say think that this is the dark side of the situation and it is, but there is no bright side. It just doesn't stack up in reason that there will be any change until he marries himself makes the change.

Love,

Oct. 24, 1953

Hope
Dear Ed —

here is the letter you sent. It was fun to talk to all of you. I know Va. and her family did enjoy being there.

We are coming as soon as we can pull ourselves loose from moving and a new job. It will be spring at least before we can consider it.

This new position is not far from here but better located — in Pennsylvania. Jack and I are going over Saturday morning to look into a place to live etc. We will let you know as things develop. I am going to teach until Christmas — since we want home to be there until Jan. 1st. It grieves me to give up my cute little school.

We are sorry we are going to miss Babs and Bill. Did you say — Saamma—that they were going to San Antonio Tex. or San Diego Ca! ? I've been so addled lately that I hardly know who I am. Seldom get things straight.

Have you seen Dr. Crabbs new book "Peace at Bowling Green"? If you haven't I'd love to send you one. Tell me right away so I can get you a first edition.

Love

Ruby
Oct. 28, 1935

Dear [Name],

Recently I received a check from Ruby and one from you which surprised me somewhat for I thought we had all agreed that this money was to go to you in minor payments for what you had done for Ele. I told you then and I am telling you now that I deserve none of this and I will not cash the checks regardless of how often you send them back. I am sending the checks endorsed to you and you can do what you want to with them. Judging from the tone of your letter they will probably only pay off all his debts which is all right with me if that is what Ele wanted. I will not send the amount to him or have anything to do with it further. I am not interested in what he owes nor how much. Anyone who had half a brain wouldn’t do the things he has done and he doesn’t merit my sympathy. He has always maneuvered his sisters into meeting his obligations with the sob story of how hard up he is. It is evident that neither he nor his sisters will ever learn. He keeps on having kids with no thought of who will take care of them. He’s now damned near 50 years old and by the time his youngest will be ready for college he’ll be 70. What can he do for the kids at that age? He’ll probably do as he has done before let someone else assume the responsibility of educating them as he shifted the responsibility to Martha. She did a wonderful job with this total responsibility yet the rest of us with the exception of me could do nothing better than condemn her. Why even had the nerve to call on the kids who were struggling on their own to help him out financially or begrudge the money Ele spent on her treatment claiming that there was nothing wrong with her. She might better give the money she was wasting to him. With no more manhood exhibited by this brother of mine you and Ruby rush to pay off his debts. Do you think that paying off his debts will make it any better? Do you think that by wiping the slate clean it will never cloud again. The plain fact is that he doesn’t know the meaning of responsibility. If he has not learned it in 50 years you can be assured that he never will. You are actually wasting your time worrying about him. The trouble is he has no idea how to do anything right, but whenever he gets out of the bill-paying situation he makes more damned fool things he has always done, so never has been out of debt and I’m confident never will be.

You may think that this is the dark side of the situation and it is, but there is no bright side. It just doesn’t stack up in reason that there will be any change until nature itself makes the change.

Love,
Dear Ed and Joe:

Ruby sent me two checks made out in my name to apply on Will B.'s debts, as that was the way our sister Eleanor wanted it. She had heard Ray tell me that I would have to pay the $385.00 American National Bank note, as Brown would never get enough ahead to even make a payment. He had paid $15.00, however. With this money I paid $300.00 on the note and sent $150.00 to the Cumberland Bank for a note his Superintendent is on, moving money, by cashier check so as not to be on my bank account and be included in our income tax report.

Ruby wrote that you each were going to send $100.00 on Brown's debts, but I am not suggesting it as I am not giving him any myself. The twin beds and mattress I bought for Joe's room to take the place of the one Eleanor died on cost more than this check, and I put mine on that, as Ray was funny about putting Joe on that same bed.

If you or Ed want to send a check on the mentioned debts, I would rather you make your check out for some of the below mentioned ones and send direct to them, or maybe better to me and I will send receipt on to Brown but make check to debtors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refg. service &amp; Supply co., stove bal.</td>
<td>41.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American National Bank, balance on note</td>
<td>85.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Pugh, for delivery of Glenn Ray</td>
<td>87.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olay's Furniture Store, bal on Electric sto.</td>
<td>58.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pushin Dept. Store, bal on rug</td>
<td>65.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pushin Dept. Store, bal on Bill's suit</td>
<td>47.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davis Co. by recommendation of Press Self</td>
<td>33.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1253 Park St. Bowling Green, Ky.
March 20, 1955

Dear Folks,

This will come, of course, as a surprise. Anyway, I'm sending two copies of some old daguerrotype of grandfather and grandmother Scott.

Grandfather's picture had become so deteriorated by time that this is the best job the photographer could do. Grandmother is better, but one can see where the original is beginning to fade around the edges. I'm glad that I've had copies made.

There is another one I'm going to have copied soon. This is a picture of grandmother, Casey Callie, grandmother Scott's mother. Hope it comes out reasonably well. Also I have the dates on this which I'm putting on all the pictures.
the Callie Family Bible which Aunt Kate has.

The dates on the back of these pictures are a bit smeared, but the material seems to be pure. I was afraid pencil would wear off.

How is everything in the "North"? We have been getting more than plenty of rain. Can't get a chance to even thin the plant beds.

Mother and Daddy are well. We had two buyers for the store, but they didn't have the money. So that was that! I saw Eleanor a little while Thursday. She is in some pain, but does apparently well under the circumstances. She is alert and interested in everything.

Hope all of you are well and happy. I thought maybe Barbara and Emily would enjoy these pictures too. Love from

Uncle Jim
Aunt Lettie
Sister