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My dears:

I received the Robin last year and am mailing it this year, and have held it only twenty-four hours. Sounds like a riddle but isn't, received it December 31, 1956 and am mailing it January 1, 1957.

The treat of the new year celebration for me was Ed's call, a Conference Hookup with Ed at Mercy Hospital, at Grayling, Joanna at Roscommon, Michigan, Will B in Trenton, Ky., and me in Bowling Green, all on the same line. First time I was ever hooked up like that, but guess it is an old used trick with Ed. I could hear just as plain as if they were all in the same town, Ed's voice coming in clearer than Joanna's and Bill's and Audrey's. The operator called me and said this is Conference Operator, and will you be at your telephone for the next twenty minutes, Michigan calling. I said, "Sure, and reverse the charges."

She informed me she couldn't do that as it was a Hookup with several on the line. Of course I was excited and did all the talking. I believe Bill and Audrey were too surprised to say a word, and time was ticking away. Ed, glad you are out of traction.

Ray was working, closing out the bank books and setting up figures for close of year bank statement. He was vexed that they just lacked 17 thousand dollars marking up a ten million deposit this year or last year.

Joe was doing some courting along with the watch party at his girl's apartment, five or six couples of them. Ruby, I don't need to work this affair up any. It wouldn't surprise me if they get married quietly any time and come in and announce it.

Joe Ray, I looked up that word you used at me to find out if you were calling me ugly names. I don't have to quiz Joe Wilse; as he has always since he was big enough to talk told me about every thought he has especially when we are alone. He and Sam were so different. Sam talked very little, and you couldn't even guess what he was thinking with his poker face, but Joe Wilse told it all, blabbed it while he was thinking it, and still does to me. He doesn't talk so freely to his Dad, often tells me not to tell Dad, he doesn't know how Dad will take it, etc.

Sam was killed seven years ago this Christmas Eve, and it seems like fifty years ago. This season of the year brings it all back to us so that we can never have another Christmas. I did very little Christmas decorating, some bells on the door and Christmas candles. We had a small electric Christmas Tree we have used several years. Ray gave me a brilliant pin as large as a teacup, two pr. hose and a twenty dollar bill. The bill and the hose are always my Christmas gift. Joe Wilse gave me two white fancy slips, and I noticed from the bill I got this morning they are charged to me. Ruby sent me a just-right needle-point, velvet-back pillow for our couch and the material for making its mate. Nothing has ever looked so right on our couch. Don't know why I never thought of it. Thanks, Ruby, I will have the other one finished by the time you come. Why not plan to drive down in June and Sylvia will go home with you when her school is out.

Joanna, Joe says Wilma Elkin's sister, Clovis Elkins, knew you in school. She teaches in Huntington, West Va. Clovis is the oldest and Wilma the youngest of a large family.

Ruby tells us to date our letters when hers is usually the only one not dated, and I notice by the handwriting Jack dated it this time after reading her orders.

Jack, I know what you mean about enjoying Christmas in New York. I used to go the day after Christmas and enjoy it as much as before Christmas. Next year I am going to save up my money and have a trip to New York at Christmas time. Odille's letter sounded like she did not feel equal to a usual New York trip, said she managed to get to Boston and back, and was sorry she didn't feel equal to going to see your new home.

Now, Ruby, you mail me that birthday poem you mentioned right away, and I will mail it all around to catch up with the Robin.

Edward, I have had many occasions to be thankful you married Joanna, but more so than ever during this accident of yours. You sure are lucky to have her now, and when you get home, I want you to think less of yourself and more of her, make her slow down and take more check-ups, and take more precaution for her health.

Jettie, you slow down also. Too much that you get worked up over could go undone, and you are going to need some of that energy when you get as old as I am.

No use to tell Audrey to slow down, but Bill could put his mind more on how far her strength will go, and take a lot off of her I am sure. I know he does do better than he ever has helping out at home, but it might pay him now to go the second mile and think up things he can do to make it easier for her, so she will stay young longer.

Well, boyé not another thing I can think of to bat your ears down about.

So Goodnight. Love, Virginia.
Dear Robin:

Just now thought of it when I started to date this letter; this is our Wedding Anniversary, 36 years ago today, and it has lasted to this day believe it or not.

I got the robin this morning in the morning mail which arrived about 9:00 o'clock, and am writing mine at 2:00 o'clock the same day, and I doubt if any one will top that. Bill is sitting here reading the paper while I write my part of the robin.

Ruby, I am not rushing this writing of my part so much for the prize as for Ed's benefit, as he is staying at home and needs to have something to read. Ed I have not written you enough since you have been at home, or are you going back and forth to the office. I hope you don't try any more wood cutting. There are some things you may never be able to do so well again. I have a stiff nick from the fall I had when I broke both wrists. I can't look back over my left shoulder to this day without a sharp pain in the neck, and I know something is wrong, but the doctor never could find anything.

We all enjoyed the nice long letters Joe and Ed wrote from Michigan, and wish we could have been there to but in our two-cents worth of jawing. It would have been nice if Jettie could have been along. Sounds wonderful going with Sally to camp. and if Sylvia and I come and we are still planning it, we could wait until after the 10th as Ruby suggests. Sylvia's school is out May 24th. I guess we could not meet you at Marias unless Sylvia missed some school, and she will want to be there for commencement. Bill says she is making straight A's, and has been sick with cold some. I thought with that warm, furnace heated house, they would not have so many colds, but could be that children always do. We might make our trip the last week in May, and stay two weeks dividing our time with Joe and Ruby.

It does begin to seem that I need a Pink Dogwood tree on my wall. I saw a wall treatment I liked in the November Better Homes and Gardens of city buildings, and thought of getting it for behind my sofa, and wrote to the magazine to find out where to buy, and they wrote the paper company who sells that type paper, who in turn wrote me quoting prices and that particular panel I wanted was only 135.00, and of course I backed up and tried to forget that idea, but do plan to paper my walls in two rooms this spring, and am studying different patterns. The paper I have had a spotted effect, and I want a softer treatment in both rooms.

Joe is just as happy as happy as if he had good sense. We are pleased with Wilma, but his Aunt Kate and in fact the four aunts make him unhappy telling him he shouldn't marry, and trying to paint a dark struggle to him. They think they are very fortunate to have enough things to set up housekeeping with the exception of kitchen stove, and dining room furniture and rugs, curtains. Joe wants our old dining room table, and two of our dining room chairs and says he will bring them home when we need them. I have finished needle-point for my chairs, and may give them four chairs to match or a rug from Millers to match the two neutral ones I have. I brought a rug home from Miller's for Joe to see if Wilma would like it, and she was delighted with it. She thinks our rugs are beautiful. Lewie's Jr. is giving them a new GE electric range for their kitchen, but they don't know that yet. They think they are going to have to buy a new stove. They have plated silver and don't seem too excited about a sterling pattern, but have decided on the pattern that Eleanor chose I think, wasn't that Louis XIV?

Jack, your house still sounds good, and I can't wait to see it. There is a B.U. Student here who lives near Philadelphia and he will be driving back when school is out in June, the 1st of June, but I can't decide which is the best way. This student drives Miss Nett out to the Nursing home to see Miss Ina Barnett, her sister. Ed, Mrs. J. L. Harman is pitiful, staggering around with Brain Tumor which she doesn't know, but would appreciate a card from you. She was so anxious about you and called me almost daily to ask about you when you were in the hospital. Her trouble will be a long drawn-out invalidism, and Brother Lewis is remarkable, teaching a heavy load every day at 82 and caring for an invalid wife. They have nurses, but he manages the home.

(over)
Joe, I have been counting calories also, and have been eating the thousand
 calorie diet in January issue of Ladies Home Journal. I read someplace yesterday
 that most middle-age people couldn't count Calories and have the figures to prove it.
 However, I have lost six pounds, and my clothes feel better fitting. I had a dinner
 party, had a dozen homemade rolls made over and ate them all in two days, gained back
 two pounds. I am going to begin again in earnest and have my weight just what I want
 it by time for my trip. My blood pressure was up again at Christmas when I was rush­
ing around helping at the Bloodmobile, and the Dr. in charge warned me to reduce and
 controlled my diet if I wanted to avoid a stroke. He sorta scarred me, and I have been
 eating more as I should. I guess I should never eat bread or cheese, or greasy foods.

The day of the parade I was cleaning up for a party and didn't turn the TV on
 in time to see Scott in the parade, but Audrey wrote me that they saw him, and I was
 so vexed that I missed it.

Bill has gone to sleep on the couch when I brought him a cover, and is snoring
 away. He is almost sick with a cold. Ray and I have not yet had a cold this winter,
 but we eat a lot of fruit, or I do, and Ray drinks beer before he goes to bed at
 night, and is in better health than he has ever been I believe. He has settled down
 and is taking it fine about Joe marrying. The night I told him about it he didn't eat
 any supper, and I gave him a lecture about not letting Joe know he wasn't happy over
 it, and the next Sunday he invited them out to dinner and said we had to go
 along with them, and not show any disapproval. Wilma is crazy about Ray, and he
 asks her about her Uncle he roomed with when a boy, and if he is married every time
 he sees her. I wink at her and ask how many times is that he has asked the same
 question. He teases her about being from in the sticks around Richardsville, and
 eating opossum, and I tell her Joe already likes her cooking better than mine from
 the way he eats with her more than at home.

Audrey, next week-end if the weather is good enough I want you and Sylvia
to come and spend the week-end with us. You and I can sleep in Joe's room and he can
 take my bed, and Sylvia on her bed in the hall. Leave Bill there with the boys. You
 need to get away. You stay too close and work too hard I am sure, and we need to
 plan Sylvia's clothes for the trip when school is out. Now, I am going to look for
 you if the weather is at all good.

Joanna, we missed your letter this time, and hope you can put in yours next
time. Ed, how did you ever write this letter with that horse collar on? Did you
stand up and put your paper on the wall? Anyway I was pleased you could write, and
know you will enjoy a visit from Emily. That daughter of yours is one I couldn't
improve on if I tried.

Bill is rousing, and said he would sleep just an hour, and I must get up
magazines and things for him to take home with him.

Love,

Virginia.

P.S. Ruby, I have finished my other needlepoint pillowtop, and had to rip up
yours to see what you filled it with so they would look alike, and went down to
the Salvage place here and found the same kind of foam-rubber filling, and will
have them finished and on the sofa for my Tuesday luncheon meeting.

Joe's wire to Ed on his birthday was cute, but our little brother Joe was
just born cute, and always has been sorta cute.
Dear Folks,

The Robin came limping in late as usual. Each time it fails to turn up in a reasonable time I reason that some joker in the family thinks he is too busy to write in it, but the truth is they forget about the matter. Ruby, I submit that you are attacking the matter on the wrong end. It you fined the offenders for holding the Robin beyond a certain time you would get results. You know there are many people who have been preaching Heaven to sinners without results but along comes a preacher that preaches Hell and Damnations if certain commitments are not made and great hoards line up on the mourner's bench. That tendency may be traced back as far as man's lineage extends or as far as it has been traced. The snake is a symbol of worship in many cultures extending thru the history of man, so is thunder and lightning. All of these stimulate fear not acquiescence. Too, human nature has not changed basically since he became a species. He has always been egocentric, vainly great, stirring his stumps only when motivated by thirst, hunger, fear, or by the hopes of acquiring something that will set him apart from others of his kind. (Your prize is not enough to set him apart.) He is basically cruel to others of his kind except those in his own limited circle whom he admires because they think act or look like he does. In otherword, he is basically intolerant as well as indolent.

When you come to size him up he is nothing to be proud of, especially as he is his own worst enemy. Yet he has slopped along thru the ages, made progress here slipped back there but he has been instrumental in making continuous progress thru the last million years. He has reached the point where he is sitting on the powder keg while playing with fire. You should light a fire cracker under this barrel.

Jo is one of those who profess to be too busy to write so I'll pinch hit for her. She's grading papers against the end of grading period. She grunts at me while mumbling something under her breath about some zombie that should know better than to misspell a common word. She's had so much extra curricular work to do that there is little time to grade papers. She just finished a play which she coached. I saw it. It was a very highly polished play actually on a professional level, but it and other things at school have taken a lot of time.

I had another x-ray today and the results "tickled" my doctor so he said. If it would tickle him, it should more than tickle me, I told him. Won't have to wear the horse collar much longer. Already I sleep without it which is delightful. Still I have no pain, can turn my head, sleep on my side, and I go about the house a little without it. I work full time and have on several occasions worked 14 hours, but that was a long time for my shoulder muscles to get tired holding all the brains and skull. Now, I recall having been called "Cimmillin head" on many instances by the likes of you, but this testimonial ought to refute such references, at least it's circumstantial proof to the contrary.

Believe it or not, I'm going fishing tomorrow with this medico who saved my life. I've never fished since I've been in Mich. and I can tell you the results now. We caught nothing, we only looked down thru a hole in the ice. Ice 18" thick. I'll bet you this was as it turned out.

Love,

P.S. Well, I'll ignore your request for a picture. What do you want with a picture of an old kite? You've got myngoing counsel.

Roscommon, Mich
Feb. 23, 1957
Dear Folks:

I am sending the Robin on the next day, and nobody can blame me for making it late. If our elder brother, Will B., would just send it on the day received for once, we could have some news. His last letter paid off as the Robin is full of pictures. I am enclosing two pretty ones as I had two like these two.

Ed, I hope by now you are out of the Horse Collar, and was glad to hear you have been sleeping without it. I hope you and Joanna plan a trip to Kentucky as soon as school is out. We will be sitting here all alone with our son all married, and a spare bedroom with double beds, and would like some summer company. No chance of Joe and Je tnie after reading their summer schedule, and Ruby says Michigan is her summer trip. That will be a wonderful one in summer. We enjoyed it much in November.

Joe, I admit my infirmity only to my family. When I go out in public I look and act ridiculously youthful, and instead of my friends telling me that what I am wearing is too young for my age, they say I look younger every day, and every time they see. I know what they are thinking, and I get a chuckle out of them. 60 next Aug.????

Our son, Joe, will be a married man next week, Thursday, 15th. They still plan to go to Louisville and be married in the St. Paul Methodist Church by our good friend, Dr. Wm. S. Bolles. Wilma has moved her furniture into the apartment they are going to live in and I have given Joe everything he wanted out our house, and they are all set up without everything they really need. The apartment is around the corner from the B.U. on 12th St. and has a living room, dining nook and kitchen, bedroom and tile bath. The things Joe wanted were our old Drop-Leaf Dining Room table, and Aunt Kate is giving him the chairs from Millers to match; also he asked for the coffee table Ed made me, the platform rocker in blue that was in Eleanor's room, a small drop-leaf table I bought for a bedside table matching his bedroom suit, two all wool rugs in his room, and two small wool rugs in my bedroom, which I sent to Troy Laundry, and they burned them up, and are replacing. Aunt Ruby gave them a beautiful rug to match the two Joe took, and their living room looks just right. Their silver pattern selected under stress from friends is finally settled to be Gorham, Strasbourg pattern of which they have none. They are not sending out announcements neither invitations. They liked Eleanor's pattern, but it is not being produced now, and would have to be special ordered, so they changed.
Audrey, I am glad your operation is over and you are on the road to recovery. Everything comes at once, or as the old saying goes "When it rains, it pours." I hope you will soon be up and about again. I feel more sorry for the children than for you, as a home is in a sad state when the mother is not able to take charge. You are lucky to have your mother, and she certainly has been faithful to come when needed. It is more the emotional upset that children suffer when mother is in bed. I remember how cross and fractious I was before my operation, and how peaceful our home was when I was over it.

If there is one thing above all others I could wish for children it would be a happy peaceful home life, with no cross words spoken. What is said before children affects their disposition, and they will give soft answers or harsh ones just as they hear them given at home, and I believe more and more their characters are formed by parents unaware of doing it. You will no doubt be longer getting over the operation you had done than you would have if it had been a complete hysterectomy. I never heard of any doctor or surgeon doing all that repair work, and you may still suffer more and be longer getting strong since you have so much more to heal than if you had had the hysterectomy.

I hope the children are over the measles, and the first warm Sunday we will be over to see you. I want to ask Sylvia if she really wants to go to visit her uncle and aunt with me. I will not think of talking her into it, but if she still says she wants to go, I plan to start sewing some for her, because I know you will not be able. I think from your letter it will be six months before you are feeling normal again.

Ruby, I think now it will be the first week in June before we could come, and we may take an express bus to Washington first and then come from there if that would be just as well. I will write you about our definite plans a little later.

Here comes Joe from lunch, and he is taking me out to Miller's to select two rugs to replace the ones burned up. Mr. Miller has moved out on the bypass, and has two sections to his store out there, a modern furniture store, and the other half antique.

Bye, Byes, and be good

Love

Virginia.
Dear Family,

I'd like to be able to phlegm commas right now, but that's one of the few diseases we were spared the last few months, so I'll just pretend that we got the flu two days instead of a month ago. I'll say, however, that any penalty you choose to exact, would be justified in my estimation. I wouldn't blame you if you never sent it to me again.

We all seem to be well now and I'll soon have my normal strength back. Mama went home last Friday. She was here seven weeks. I don't know what we would have done without her.

Bill is looking around for another job due to the fact that the Trenton School is being consolidated and there will be no high school here next fall. I'll be sorry to have Trenton for a number of reasons. The people are awfully nice here, especially our close neighbors. They were wonderful during all of our sickness.

We're having lovely spring days and the children are thoroughly enjoying them. They had been cooped up all winter and feel like birds out of a cage now.
Bill says he's going to write, but that's what he's been saying for a month, so I doubt if he'll get at it tonight. Anyway, he has good intentions.

I must put the children to bed. It's already past their bed time and they think I've forgotten it. They're having a big time thinking they're putting something over on me.

Sylvia is still looking forward to her trip.

Love -  Audrey
Dear Talk,

The Robin interrupted us at Sonora and it was
good to hear from you even though she was
stale. We knew nothing about Joe Reid until we
got the Robin. More power to them! I thought it was
just coming off in June.

Now the Robin needs an overhaul and I gather
that the "clan mother" has thrown in the sponge.
This indeed is a sad occasion to realize that
she admits defeat and thereby has lost considerable
face. Time was when she ruled the clan with
an iron hand and a sharp tongue. The intervening
gears must have dulled the tongue and softened
the fist. However, there is the other side of the
picture, the old hats forget that she ruled
those dulled their senses and obligations.
are taken lightly where once they were regarded
seriously. We've grown fat and indolent with
the years. There seems to be no solution to
the problem since the whole thing hinges
on interest of those concerned. Interest seems
to be lowest ebb ever. Maybe it is too much
far some of us to meet this simple obligation.
If however, each person receiving the Robin
would have it in plain view until it is
written in. Maybe, just maybe it wouldn't be
It wouldn't be forgotten, if you will agree to be by-passed. The next round if the Robin is not mailed in 3 days after receipt then the thing will get back on the track. I for one would think this is not unreasonable and in case one can't write, is away from home or something then see that it is mailed within the limit. If the limit of time isn't short say 3 days then there is not much incentive to get it off. Most of us can remember a little figure like three days.

We are in Ky. now. It's more beautiful than I thought at this time of year. Spring is a full six weeks ahead of Riggins to the east. There we still have ice in the yard and the ground is still frozen. I can hardly wait until the frost is out of the ground and I can start my garden and flowers. I didn't tell you that I raised a Mossel garden last summer. Potatoes larger than any if you ever saw, one potato weighed 2 1/2 pounds and another one in the same hill topped 2 3/4 pounds. Beans 18" long! Don't believe it? Come and see. I've discovered the principle of growing things in poor soil. Just a few. You should see Pannie. This wonderful. She thinks 'little rose' I ever saw.
Dear Folks,

Bill brought the Robin home from school this afternoon, and we went out yesterday. I'm writing it tonight so I can mail it tomorrow. I promised Ed it wouldn't be long before we'd have a letter from him again. It was nice to see Ed & Joanna & Bobby & the husband & baby. We made a hurried trip to B'ham after school when Ed called & said they were at Virginia's. It was also the first time we, or rather the children & I, had seen Va. & Ray since last fall. Not to meet Wilma, too, who seems very nice.

Sylvia has the three day measles. They have been plying in school for several weeks, but we thought she might escape having them since she had so recently had the red ones. She doesn't feel bad & her temerature is normal. I mean no fever - but she is broken out. I guess the other three will take them, too.

We're having the loveliest weather one can imagine. Our flowers are beautiful - iris in full bloom now. There is a large tree in our back yard in full bloom and the small pink locusts are beginning to bloom. Forsythia & Early Bloomers are all gone, but we had loads of them. And the prettiest violet I ever saw - so many huge dark...
one of the two toned (white & lavender) ones. The first ones must have been planted & they have spread to the neighbors’ yards & even into the orchard. I made a lovely corsage of them to wear to the Dr. Banjuit + also one for Easter.

Ruby, the evening clothes came the day after the Banjuit, but I had borrowed a blue dress from Va. when we went up there to see Ed’s. I wore it. When I wrote you, I sent the letter to the Post Office by a colored girl who had washed for me & she probably didn’t send it straight on. Anyway, it was sweet of you to send something. The gray skirt & the black top (either lace or velvet) would have been fine had it gotten here in time. I’ll return them as soon as I get time to wrap the package. I’m putting in full hours now that I’m back in harness again. I did a big washing & medium sized ironing today.

Sylvia helps quite a bit. She’s beginning to be interested in the cooking. Sunday, she made good gingerbread (I helped only a little). Yesterday, she made Popovers entirely by herself. And tonight she made corn bread. I’ve pleases her when she like the things she makes. She played chimes with a hand in a music recital at school last night, I didn’t get to go, but Bill said it was fine. She’s not a regular band member - just filled in.
Our larder & Glenn keep busy hunting bugs & worms. Their favorite haunt is an old dead tree where they have found dozens of big black bugs under the dead bark. I found Glenn taking a bath one day with a handful of fishing worms. He was going to see them swim while he washed. He gets into more things - today he got his knee caught between hamster posts & Bill had to go and work his leg out while he howled.

Jackie gets a new tooth occasionally - he calls everybody "mama" - neighbor women, Bill & the children. He is a confirmed drinker - carries his bottle whenever he goes - he even sleeps with it in the crook of his arm so he'll have it to pull on when he wakes in the night. If he loses it, he feels around in the bed until he finds it.

It's bedtime & I'm tired. Goodnite all.

Love,
Audrey
Dear Ray,

We have had a swell time with Ruby, Jack, and Jettie. The weather has not been nice, but we have got in a lot of talking while it rained. It was sleeting when Jack got off the plane.

This afternoon we tramped around hunting pine trees to dig up for Ruby and Jettie. We saw nine deer - but none very closely.

Ruby and Jack hiked around with the Biology Club which was at the Training School, but Jettie said she was tired of intellectuals, so she stayed here with me.

Right now there is quite a discussion on the subject of the age at which the greatest achievements of mankind have been accomplished. I think all of us are doing some wishful thinking, as we want to achieve something yet and know we haven't much time. It is my birthday and I haven't much to look backward
to with pride." Ed thinks there is a lot of mileage left in the carriage, he says.

Dear Children —

This is early morning. Settie and I have had breakfast with Joanna and she is now getting her lunch ready for school. Ed and Sack are just getting up. We will leave for Bottle Creek around ten. Where Sack has a fund raising interview.

Being here was a fine end to a three weeks trip. I have been on two Field Trips under Ed's leadership. For these trips I had to borrow clothes from everybody in the North Woods — and Settie too. None of my city things were suitable or warm enough. The excursions were a lot of fun and very informative. I learned the several
Roscommon, Michigan
May 20, 1957

Dear Folks,

I never believed it, but Jackson, Ruby and Gett actually visited us! It just goes to show that it takes a long time to warm up their motors. Seven years they revved their motors for this job. I pointed out to Jack that one had just as well be moving as racing his motor.

We had a wonderful time with them, and their visit seemed much too short. There were lots of things that we would like to have done if we had had a longer time. The country would have been much prettier a couple of weeks later. I wish the rest of the clan could have been here. We talked about a reunion at Williamsburg next summer. Everybody ought to be able to make that. I wouldn't take anything for the movies we made at Warren dunes which was our last reunion. If we don't have a reunion soon, within the next 30 years, somebody will get the idea that he is too old to make it. Of course, it would be purely a matter of thinking for one is as young as arteries.

It seems wonderful that I have seen all of the family within the last few months. Each member is a character in his own right, plays a part of the whole family circle. Too bad we live so far apart. This fact makes the reunion more important. I really don't care where we meet but it is important that we do get together as often as possible. We are disturbed at least I am, about the possibility of the Joe Rays going so far away as the Panhandle. We would never get together with that kind of a situation. I wouldn't get to see the "old goat" nearly as often. I had already written Jackson off and now since he did come to see us I have reentered him in my journal and brought his file up to date. I even recorded several complimentary things to his credit. I have kept this journal so that our grandchildren can see what problems we had to deal with. Of course, they may not give a damn but I do this only for my piece of mind, and too it might offer some researcher some work to do. Let's hope these grandchildren don't light the wrong fuse and loose all this stuff.

The Robin must go whether the mail does or not. So let's get this thing on it way pronto. Gin, no more lame excuses about loosing it under a pile of stuff. I'll cut you out of patrimony without batting an eye. We need more discipline and fewer excuses in this outfit. It's performance that counts. Sorry you and R.W. could not be here. There's no snow now.

We are anxious to know what Will B's are going to do. Please let us hear from you.

The neck is about as good as ever. Work is good for it, and I do not favor it any more than I have to.

Bye,

[Signature]
May 22, 1957.

Dear Ruby, Will Brown, Edward, Joe & Family of each:

The Robin came in this morning's mail, and I am sending it on this afternoon, and plan to make it sweet and short. The first sweetness I will give you is that I love you every one, regardless of your faults.

Our little brother, Joe, really was in rather a flighty mood to write so much dribble, but I want Wilma to read it. It was right clever. Your Scott is a handsome young man, and I am proud of his accomplishments. I will soon see you all and tell you how much and all.

Ruby called this afternoon, and I understood her to say she was at New Castle, on the way home. They all sounded fine, and I know had a nice trip, and seemed to enjoy it as much as we did when we were in Michigan.

I told Ruby our plans now are to leave here May 30th at 2:30 on Pan, change in Cincinnati, leave there about nine or ten, arrive in Washington next morning about 9:00 o'clock. I have an Officer's Training Day, May 28th until noon on Monday, and then after that I will be free to get our things packed and ready to travel. Audrey, I am wondering how to get Sylvia, and when. When are you and Bill leaving for Florida. I have a friend coming to spend Friday and Saturday night with me from Paris, Tenn., Mrs. Harold Cooper. I am having a Tea for her Friday afternoon, about thirty of her friends in, and Saturday morning somebody is having a Brunch, and Saturday night a luncheon. We go to Sunday School because she is a past president of the class I am President of now, and noon we are all invited to a luncheon at Old Fort Restaurant, and after noon dinner she will go to Mrs. Robert Coleman's and spend the night and leave from there. It will be if Bill could bring Sylvia up Saturday afternoon, or Sunday afternoon, and I would have an excuse to get out of the Saturday night luncheon. Audrey, don't buy her any new clothes, just send what she has, and I will get whatever she needs, a pair of knee length shorts, Ivey League and some shirts. It will be cool I am sure while we are gone, and she should have her sweater set, duster, and all her dresses with sleeves. Doubt if it will be warm enough to wear sleeveless things, can't tell. Let her bring her Orchid dress of last year, if still fits, and her Corduroy, Grey, if not too short, pink jumper if still good enough. Just pile everything she has in a box and I will pack in my suitcase. End of the sheet, and Goodnight, Virginia.
Dear Folks:

Ed must have brought the Robin 16 A and again put it away when Ruth cleaned and couldn't find it until last night when I got out a letter folder to work on my Pict Teams reports and there it was. I am just like Grandmother, put thing away so well I can't find them for a month. Searching we surely did enjoy. Ed, Joanna, Bill, Babe, and Pam. She is darling but just didn't want to do any sleeping at Aunt Jenny's. Will Brown and family came up for six o'clock dinner and that made almost a reunion, a house full of my favorite anyway. It was about the largest meal ever served. Ray brought barbecued chickens from town and reheated them in deep well on electric stove, added frozen Lima beans rice and a salad, ice cream and cookies. We called Joe and Wilma and they came up to supper. Swish Ed and Joanna, Babe, Bill could have gone down to see their apartment but I didn't suggest it, because they
would have to leave Brown and Audry and the children. The children were good as gold and sweet as sugar. Could be their Dad and mother had threatened them with sudden death if they didn’t behave. Audry did Sylvia get her Easter package in time for Sunday? I didn’t inscribe it. I just didn’t have any change in my purse and the Post office won’t take checks.

Ruby, Ed also says not the Bus issue may come on Train. Which would be best to come to Philadelphia or Washington. If we could go over to Joe’s while there, maybe Phil. would be best. Sylvia’s school is out the 25th and we plan to start May 27th if you will be back from Michigan by then.

I am writing this on my lap while drying my tears, not enough time to do what I want to do come Spring yardwork and housework. I wish you could see my yard now instead of when you left. I have had a good yard man and he has spaded up flower beds and planted petunias, geraniums and irises, trimmed shrubs and shoed off back porch and got out chairs.
Joe is getting used to keeping house and not so lonesome for his home, as at first. They have gotten some nice gifts, lamps, electric skillet, all but ice tea coaters and salt & pepper holders. Early American glassware and two knives & forks, 6 spoons, cream ladle in strawburiy silver, all the bed things they need: sheets, pillows, bedspreads, etc., electric toaster, electric stove, (Lennie), a complete set dishes, the Margaret Rose in English China, a grey rose and silver banded China, all except cream & sugar and meat dish and serving bowls.

Joe, your children sound like interesting, active young folks, and enjoy their nine for all too soon they will be gone and you and Lennie will be left holding down the old nest, and you will find it is too big.

We have jumped from a cold wet spring into a hot summer spell. I am getting out all my sleeveless dresses and washing and ironing everything. One thing I dislike about summer is washing summer dresses. I have almost finished.
Spring cleaning and am doing it
all myself, except the yard.
I papered my bedroom
with white paper; yellow
roses. I didn't even like the
lilac paper. Now I wish I
had all this done before we had
our company. I wish you
could all stop in and visit me
on our front porch. There
slip covered the Glider cushions
and it looks comfortable,
but I haven't had time to sit
on it. We have heard nothing from
Jim Ray since Ray took him
home before Easter. He
was at Sally's three weeks
and here three weeks. Ray
told me to call Ruby and talk
for 5 minutes about sending Jim
up there to stay three weeks
with her, and she thought it would
be a good joke to make her think
he was coming. He is a pest in a
house, walking the floor whistling
cap or in the house and stepping
outside the few minutes. We
all hope he will give his old place
to Masonic home this fall and go there
for Virginia.
Sunday
June 9, 1957

Dear Folks,

The Robin came while we were in Florida. It was taken to the office, lost in a pile of school mail, and Bill found it only yesterday. I had been wondering who was holding it up, thinking that someone else was nearly as bad as I had been in the past. I’ll get it to the post office first thing in the morning.

Ed, I really don’t think I can be blamed for its delay this time since I didn’t even know it was in Trenton.

Leaving Mama in charge of the boys, we made a hurried trip south—left here on Saturday morning and got back Thursday morning before breakfast. We drove all night both going and coming. It was cooler and we could make good time at night. We took turns driving. We and Ed went to Jacksonville. My uncle lives there. Bill looked into the job school situation. He is quite sure he can get a job there, but
we have almost decided that the is not for us. It was 98° all the time we were there (day time, that is) and we were used to such cool, rainy weather here that we almost died. Rent, etc., is higher here, of course, and would probably be more than the salary increase he would get. There's nothing like going on a vacation to make one appreciate home. We did enjoy it, though it was a business and not a pure pleasure trip. We also visited a girl friend of mine, whom I had not seen in over ten years. She is a librarian in a Boys' school. Both she and my uncle, who teaches Spanish in the City School System, were able to help us make contacts there. We have not entirely ruled out the possibility of going to the, but at the present we are not too enthusiastic about it.

I know Sylvia is having a wonderful trip. She said Sally showed her such a grand time in Washington, but, of course, couldn't I tell all she saw and did in her letter. I'm sure it has made a great impression on her and on she'll never forget. I'm grateful she had the opportunity to go and want to thank everybody who has made her trip possible and so pleasant.
Joe Adrian & Glenn went to Bible School last week. I feel I had practically no family at all.

Jackie is cutting his teeth--four at a time + is a little cross. Joe Adrian has lost two of his teeth--he pulled them himself. He was too scared to let his Daddy do it. He'll start into school this fall.

Mr. said Ray is taking his vacation. I'm writing him today to come down here. I hope he comes.

I made a picnic lunch for Bill + the two boys + they have gone fishing. It is beginning to look like rain. They may be driven home soon.

Bill's job is over here the last of this month. He has some lines out + we hope to know something soon. Will let you know then.

Love to all.

I have just written a letter to Sylvia and Vera. I was going to mail it to Ruby's when I realized she'd probably be gone from there before it got there.
I'll send it to Geo's as I understand they are coming back by there.
Saturday morning.
June 15, 1957.

Dearest Rays:

I hardly know where to begin this letter. There are so many things to say and a short time to do it in. But I'll start with an apology to Ed and Joanna. Please forgive me for not writing you about what a grand time I had with you and how much I appreciate all the nice things you did to show us such a good time. I keep thinking every day since I've been home that the Robin would come and I'd write you in it, for that is the purpose of this here Bird...to save writing individual letters. I got home three weeks ago last night and I don't believe I've ever seen three weeks pass quicker with more happening in them. But my vacation was just wonderful and I don't think I could make it through the next three months if I had not had that rest and change!!

We had a good visit with Emily and were very impressed with Ann Arbor and her set-up. We all agreed she is about the choice of the second generation. I just hope we do as well on our three. You really shouldn't set such high standards.

I have not read Joe's Robin but I'm sure he had told you about the change we are making. I guess it is things like this that make for a busy and exciting life!!!! I really have had about enough of such excitement and hope we won't have many more moves. Although it is a good way to keep the attic cleaned out. And ours is really going to get cleaned out this time. I plan to have a rummage sale and get rid of everything that I've not used within the past two or three years.

I plan to go on to the Girl Scout camp as planned. Sally and I leave a week from yesterday. With the weather we've had the past three days, I'm looking forward to the mountains. We'll get back here Aug. 18th. I hope the house will be sold by then, if not I'll try to sell it, pack and leave by the first of the last week in Aug., so as to get to Maorilla before Labor Day week-end.

It was good to see and visit with Virginia and Sylvia. We put them on the train last night. It was nice of Va. to bring Sylvia, for she really enjoyed it and seemed to adore her Aunt Va. She and Sally played their heads off the week-end she was here. Sally has always wanted a younger sister so much.

Ed, I agree we should have a reunion...but Williamsburg is out now. How about the mountains in Colorado? We had a wonderful two weeks once at Nederland, about 18 miles straight up the mountains from Boulder. If we can manage it, we'd like to get a summerplace around there, if not we can rent some cabins, so all of you plan on that next summer.

I'd better check on the household. Ruby and Jack are bathing and dressing. They are starting back to Langhorne today. We're loading them down with all their property we've had for years. My camp is about an hour and a half drive from there, so I'm planning for them to be up some while we are there.

Thanks again Ed and Joanna for all your kindesses.

Love, Jettie
Dear Rays:

Blood may be thicker than water-- but the Ray blood isn't my blood and I'll take a little water right now. I've had the Rays. The trip to Michigan was a delight. I enjoyed every minute of it, even on the field trips with Ed flapping his jaw about a lot of dead Indians which my Pappy told me was the only kind of good Indian. Ed and Joanna are certainly the landed gentry of the crowd and for their information all those cold-blooded trees we brought home are growing but good in this 96-degree heat. One note: Ed still drives a car like a high school sophomore with his first one-- whoosh-h-h and away we go! It's his neck and he should know it. Emily and Kay were a pleasure and we hope to see more of both of them soon.

Ginny and Sylvia were here nearly two weeks. Hardly an accomplishing wheel turned here the whole time. They got up in the a.m., drank their coffee (Sylvia chocolate milk) and then planned the day-- got dressed up and went at it. The whole Ray and Scott clan from the time of William the Conqueror was discussed and re-discussed -- and they never seemed to tire of it. Our trip to Atlantic City was fun particularly since Sylvia had never seen the ocean. I got a few snaps of her first toe in salt water which she'll remember for a long time.

Joe and Jettie loaded us down with gear, since they're moving. We brought home a whole set of tools from saws to sledge hammers; shutters, quilts and chest, four quilts, plants, fertilizer and numerous and sundry jugs and crockery. The car looked like a moving van and we traveled 5 hours in 96 heat for Saturday was an all time reacord here. But once home, we turned on the air conditioner-- and life seemed good again. Now-- come see us, Ed and Joanna-- and you'll complete the family list-- at least someone from each family. I can stand it but it has been tough. Regards

June 16--Sunday--'57
Dear Children

Jack has written such a good letter there's hardly anything for me to tell.

We have had a wonderful May and June—have seen all but Brown's family, but for Sylvia that is. She is a sweet one and made ideal company with her Aunt Ginny. We had a wonderful time—most of it just talk. Jack just loves to get with my family. He seems to think you are all so clever and good looking. And we do always have something to say and usually say it. Anyway I am glad to rub elbows with some good thick blood kin now and then. We are looking forward to a visit from Ed and Suzanne and Emily. It was a delight to see that one and Kay.

The cloud in the sky is that Joe is moving his family away. But I am ashamed to whisper when they all do seem so eager to go. I have confidence in Joe's ability to do what he can and wants to do. I've been awfully anxious about those long airplane trips and yet I wonder if tomorrows are an improvement with only a bark wire fence between them and the north pole.

I'm beginning to push for a reunion but that's way next year before we are too old to want to go. Ginny and I planned it for Mexico but I guess we would settle for Colo. Love, Ruby
Dear folks,

The Robin did finally come in a couple of weeks late. We're going to have to figure up some sort of spring cultivation yet that will make the Robin bite well if he finds the Robin's home. It looks like Audrey has the solution. Don't address it to them. We are anxious to hear about the re-arrangement of both with the Jacks.

I don't suppose you'll be in "armadillo" heat by the time you are interrupted.

The Robin: sorry to see you go so far from home base. But I doubt if you stay there long. Anyway, we are already thinking of visiting you. Don't envy you the job of moving, do you?

I'm working on the ranch today and must get my ranch field in motion to get anything done today. Wish you were all here. I could find plenty of work for all of you. We finally got the joint cleaned up if I keep at it, but it's hard to see how so much junk could accumulate in 33 years.

Love,

[Signature]
Jettie Beep,

This a royal somewhat older model than I am used to and I may have trouble with it, but it's a good machine.

I arrived yesterday in a blast of heat. I will try to enclose a clipping from the Amarillo Newspaper of yesterday. It really wasn't bad, for some reason. It was hot but I never did break out in a sweat and get my clothes wet the way we do in Maryland. I was indisposed when we landed because the air was rough and I was seriously considering shooting my cookies, but didn't. The plane was met by A. M. Meyers, the retiring president, McCuan, who headed the committee that picked me out, Mr. Stephens, the head of the evening school, and Mr. Balderston, the Registrar. The Balderstons are really nice. They have given me their front bedroom, and after my apologies for inconveniencing them they took me back and showed me that they had plenty of room without the room I am using. They have four children, ranging from 5 to 8, all of them adopted from someplace away from Amarille about 6 or eight months ago. Oldest is a girl, then a boy and girl and the small one a boy. They are nice kids.

Had dinner last night with the Balderstons and the Meyers. Mrs. Meyers says she remembers me from staying in the Condon's house in Canyon; she was best friends with Mrs. Sheffy, but she can't remember you without seeing you. I think I remember the looks of both of them, but I recall nothing in particular. They will be gone by the time you get here, back to Indianapolis where they are building a house.

Went over yesterday afternoon to see Dean Davis. He has a nice home and his wife is nice. Fred Balderston and I talked shop with the Dean for an hour or more. The dean has just had a gall bladder operation and has another week of rest at home. Today I am having dinner with Mrs. Mary Virginia Williams and her husband. She is secretary to the Dean and me. She called here at Balderstons yesterday and invited me. Also told me about a house that I might buy without the realtor's fee. We will talk more about it at dinner today. The college has provided me with an automobile that belongs to the vocational school, just recently acquired, for my use during the week of my stay here.

I've looked at no houses at all, but I have had an idea. What would you say to Scott's coming down with me in Shorty on the 29th of July, helping me pick out a house, and then flying back to Washington? He could get to Washington tourist for around $70. Someone has mentioned that Dr. Clawson is going to be away in August and is going to offer me his house. Scott could then stay there with me. Just a thought. I have already had to explain five times why Scott is going to Texas rather than Amarille College.

Enough for now. I will write you daily. There is a meeting of the Board of Trustees tomorrow night — Monday. I'll have to get hopping if I am to get ready to talk about the blinking budget with them.

Love,

Joe.
AC President Arrives Here

Dr. Joseph M. Ray, the newly-appointed president of Amarillo College, arrived in Amarillo yesterday, and will assume his duties at the school Monday morning.
Dr. Ray served as chief of all education services for the U.S. Air Force, and has achieved acclaim as an educator and an administrator in the education field.
He is a native of Bowling Green, Ky., and holds a B.A. degree in government and economics, an M.A. degree in government and history and Ph.D. degree in government and history, all from the University of Texas.
Dr. and Mrs. Ray have three children, Scott Joseph, 16; David Peter, 15, and Sarah Jane, 11.
Dr. A. M. Meyer, outgoing president, plans to return to his home in Indianapolis, Ind. He has served as AC president for 10 years.

DIES AFTER ATTACK

Heat Is
Close to
Record

Temperatures soared to a stifling 106 degrees Saturday afternoon.
Chillun:

I guess you all have heard by now of our decision to move to Amarillo. They offered me the job and I upped and took it. We won't get rich, but at least I will be out of this Air Force ratrace. Miss Jettie hates to leave our beautiful house, as I do, especially after we had it for only one year, but that's the way the cookie crumbles.

We are so full of the business involved in breaking away from here that I am confident that I will not be able to write much of a letter. Ruby, Virginia, Jack and Sylvia are due in from Langhorne this afternoon, but I thought I would write my Robin letter and get it ready to go and then we can hand it to them to take back to Langhorne with them tomorrow. Had a good visit with ole Ginna, and I think Sylvia enjoyed her visit of two days with us. Virginia is going right on back tonight and Jack and Ruby are going to spend the night with us.

Our biggest problem is that Jettie is committed to serve as dietitian at the Girl Scout camp where Sally goes in the summer, and is not going to be back in University Park until about the 17th or 18th of August. I am going down to Amarillo on the first of July for a week, staying over the Fourth of July and then go back for good on the first of August. Jettie will then come down around the first of September with the children and moving our stuff. The College is putting me on the payroll for the month of July to help toward our moving expenses. The College does not have a house for me, so I will have to find something before they come.

Kids are all doing fine. Scott is graduating from high school next Monday night. He has already finished his exams and I presume finished in good style. I think he is going to get a scholarship with the University of Texas Band, although this is not certain yet.

David has got biology trouble in school, girl trouble in his social life, and pigeon trouble in connection with the move to Amarillo. He wants to move his pigeons, and the trick is to get them there. The thought that other pigeons can be got there is not at all attractive to him. I think he will make the move all right. I had thought that the move would precipitate real girl trouble, but it develops that, in view of the move anyhow, he has decided that they might as well go ahead and break up and be done with it. My guess is that he will change girls once or twice again before September.

Sally ordered me when I went down to Amarillo to get the job. She had asked if we were going and I explained that it depended on whether they liked me and I liked them, and she told me very firmly, "Daddy, you make them like you." She is atwitter about the change, but she hasn't realized the work and the sadness of leaving friends. I think the adventure of going will serve to outweigh most of the disadvantages, however.

I am going to work here the last day on 26 July and then drive the ancient Plymouth to Texas. We now have got it in good shape and I think it will make the trip all right.

We have already sold the old house on Rhode Island Avenue, and probably will have to sell this one, too. Big doings all around.

Virginia, you keep up with old W. B. and make sure he doesn't lose the Robin during the unsettled times this summer. Maybe send it to Audrey and he won't take it off and lose it the way he does all his other mail. Guess we might as well be on the tail end of the Robin, coming to me at Amarillo College, Amarillo, Texas, from W. B. It might be better for me to send it to Ed and let him send it on to Ruby, and save some time in the mail. You're right, Ed, this will be quite a distance we will be apart.

Love to all.
Dear Folks:

It's very rare when I take my pen in hand while I'm doing tonight because it's warm in my small room with the typewriter.

We drove out to see Jeannie and Sally on Saturday --110 miles from here in the Bronx -- a beautiful spot. Both look fine. They fed us well. Took us to see "Boulder Field" which could put Ed into a frenzy. (About 10 acres of all sizes of glacial boulders going down to an unknown depth -- no grass, no vegetation -- just boulders. Very interesting.) J. and S. will probably spend this next week out with us. My sister, Arline and her Pittsburgh room-mate will also be here.

It was good to hear Danny and Sylvia -- were tickled to see Sylvia stick her foot in the Atlantic Ocean. I took a picture of the historic event. Thanks for the Boston candy, Danny.

Nice to know Brown has landed at West Point and that "Hust" Joe seems most happy with and that "Hust" Joe seems most happy with and that "Hust" Joe seems most happy with and that "Hust" Joe seems most happy with and that "Hust" Joe seems most happy with and that "Hust" Joe seems most happy with and that "Hust" Joe seems most happy with and that "Hust" Joe seems most happy with

Enjoyed our trip to Florida -- every minute of it. That's the life -- and all the trees we brought it. That's the life -- and all the trees we brought it. That's the life -- and all the trees we brought it. That's the life -- and all the trees we brought it. That's the life -- and all the trees we brought it. That's the life -- and all the trees we brought it. That's the life -- and all the trees we brought it. That's the life -- and all the trees we brought it. That's the life -- and all the trees we brought it.

And, if you want to know how the children are growing -- they're growing in "these tropics." End of page.

End of me -- for now.

Jack
Wed.

Dear Children -

This bird is going on mighty few cylinders this time but those are cute ones. It was awfully good to have you in Joanna - again. That Pamela is a personality - age one year almost. I'm enclosing a letter which tells of her antics. We did want to hear about your father - Joanna. Also when are you coming this way? I have your welded glasses that Emily knitted. Hope she is having a good summer. AND WHAT ABOUT EDDIE BO?! Why that May 20th letter all over again? It was a good one but not that good. This robin needs him.

Have you heard that Brown and Audrey are moving to West Paint? All I know is what V. says on her letter. I did know that he was applying for the H.S. principal ship and found the H.S. was merging etc., so was going for principal of elementary which he apparently got. Remember Joe - when we used to think that was the West Paint the germs came from? At that time I didn't know about New York City or state. Louisville was the grandat
city in the U.S. Texas was very far away and still is. But here you go again. I'm sorry. Maybe you can get there before Barb and Bill leave Oklahoma. I'm glad to hear we are all interested in the reunion out that-a-way next year.

Joe will tell you more about it. I've seen some pictures of houses they are considering and they show more trees than I expected. I hope you will put some of those newspaper clippings in. Jack and I flapped our wings and crawled when we read them. We've also learned that it gets cool at night out there and is 4000 feet above sea level. Tonight - in Bucks Co. - we do not need a blanket.

As you see only put in a note. I'm putting in a card from her. You can see she is done there on that lake being a Big Methodist and loving it. Odille spends most of the summer there too. It must be a wonderful place. Ed didn't you and Joanna used to like the Smokies pretty well? Now you will have to set your sights on the Rockies.

Maybe we had better cut Brown out until he gets settled best he lose this bird under a carpet or behind a picture frame. Love, Ruby
P.S.

Sue - I hope Settie can get in this time. We do miss her.

R.

Don't any of you confuse the Elizabeth Thomas Sasnum mentioned with our Beth. That Elizabeth Thomas married that Preston Perkins. I don't know why. Remember Va - when we had him on the program for Epworth League? He came about an hour before time to say he couldn't speak. Because was coming a man or had a cold. He took a shine to you but you couldn't do anything but giggle - teenagely about that. Their son went Ann Arbor. Didn't he? R.
Chillen:

14 July 57

Just a note.

Jellie and I having a surprise visit with Jack and Paul.

Fall here & doing fine.

I leave for Texas on

27 July & Jellie comes late in August.

No time for more

Now I'll give you a full story.

New address:

Dr. Joseph H. Ray, President
Amarillo College
Amarillo, Texas
July 16, 1957

Folks,

They had them sleeping all over the house -- my
clos -- then Joe, Jettee, and
tally -- but all good. Joe
and Jettee rushed -- shoo, her git in the Primus, be
finishing up at dentagy,
and teaching two night classes
each week.

Planning to hold necareage
sale in West. This week end;
also advertising house for sale,
which both will stay home
and show. Ruby will go down
or to help Joe most.
Will certainly miss them in
these part.

Jack
Monday July 15, 1957 6:30 AM.

Dear Children——

This is the second letter from me in this 'go-round.' It will be too bad if this robin turns into letters from Ricky to Rocky. So! Ed. Don't fail us this time.

Sue and Settie were here yesterday and Sat. They met here as a kind of central point to discuss a plan before they move. Sue will leave in two weeks and Settie about three weeks later. I am planning to go to Washington to see him off. Hope I can help a little. Sally is going with me as a vacation from Camp.
They have decided to wait until Settie gets to Amarillo to buy the house which I think is an excellent plan. She will know more about the kind of house she likes and can live in. I don't trust her any more than I do myself. She'll choose one that has to be decorated from the foundation to the chimney top. Another thing that make it a good plan is than the new Prexy will have enough to do with the new job. I sure am glad that college is in such good hands.
Sawna and Ed and Emily
- You are getting ready to have a visit from Pamela!
Of course Barbara and Bill will be along sort of as in-charge-of-baggage. We
do wish you could come to see us! So far it has not been so very fully hot.

I hear faint noises upstairs so guess my family is rising.
Sue's sister Louise and her roommate are going home this morning. They too enjoyed
Joe's and Settie's visit - what visit we got between house picture etc.

I am up this early to bake a cake-mix - for the hospital auxiliary's sandwich shop.

Love, Ruby
Dear Robin:

It has been so long since I have written anything in the Robin, will have to start way back with my visit to Ruby’s and Joe’s, but just remembered they know what I good time Sylvia and I had, because I have written both of them several times since, and Joanna and Em were here last week and I told them all the news with both families.

My trip up east will be something to ever remember. I doubt if I could say what I enjoyed most. At Joe’s I believe seeing them and visiting the New York Ave. Church with Jettie will stay with me longer, and the trip Ruby and I took following Geo. Washington and Cornwallis all up and down the Delaware to show Sylvia Geo. Washington’s crossing, etc. would be only second to our trip to Atlantic City. When I get rich I would like to stay a month at Atlantic City and sit up on those top deck chairs and gaze out at the ocean, and get good and brown.

The last of June I went to the Lincoln Leadership School at Frankfort, Kentucky State College, Frankfort. Joe and Ruby were non-plussed about that school, and I knew it was a colored school, but didn’t tell them or Ray and Joe until I got back because they would all hit the ceiling. It was quite an experience. We roomed in the new edition of the colored dormitory, and I was quite comfortable with my roommate being Mrs. Chester Deacon, wife of the minister who worked so hard against my brother Will Brown in Burksville. We became good friends, and she cried when we left and said she was not certain she could have treated me so well if the situation had been reversed. At Frankfort I made my way working in the bookroom, and my trip didn’t cost me anything. I was elected to represent the Bowling Green District and go as a Team with a colored woman of my own choosing in Bowling Green Colored Church, Taylor’s chapel. I chose Ora Porter, a leader in her church and the nurse who nursed Eleanor while she was here. We took study courses just like school, attended four classes a day, our subjects Japan, “Christ, the Church and Race”, the book of Mark, Disciples to Such A Lord, and we were to come back home and try to work out better relations between the races. I invited Ora to our church to talk about her experiences and she talked too much about how she had been treated as a colored woman, and one Mississippi gal, Callie Holland, Hoot Holland’s spoiled Darling, walked out and resigned her office. She resigns every year anyway, and nobody took much notice. As a whole I would say she was very well accepted, and everybody came around to shake hands with her.

They Ora asked me to bring two other women and come down to her church during her Woman’s work conference, and talk on Christian Social Relations in our Meth. Woman’s organization. I chose Louise Lashlee (Puckett) for devotional, Mrs. Flannigan Sec’y of that line in State St., Mrs. C. M. Stephenson at Kerr Memorial, and Louise drove us down to Taylor’s Chapel in her new car, and they were all dressed up but me, (which was a mistake) We were scared stiff when we drove up and saw all those colored Bishops, but we bravely went in and told our little speeches, and every Bishop had to get up and compliment what we said and our earnestness. They are still talking about what a good program we put on.

I asked Broadway to invite Ora there for their next meeting, which they did, and she brought two other members of her church and they seemed to enjoy the meeting. Ora did better, and at my suggestion stayed off her own prejudices, and stuck to the school, and she made an excellent report, and then I reported on Lake Junaluska. I do believe Ora made a more scholarly speech than I did. However, everybody knows my style to be informal, and it turned out to be a good program.

Next Monday night we are to go to Kerr Memorial Church and report on the same schools, and hope we will be as well received there.

Lake Junaluska was the same kind of Mission School. I studied Japan there and attended a workshop on Treasure work, as I am Dist. Treasure, and went for Miss Lennie Brit who is Conference Treasure of Louisville Conference. I really enjoyed the Lincoln Leadership school more and was more comfortable.

At Lake Junaluska to save money for the Conference eight of us stayed in a basement apartment which smelled of the upstairs garbage, and was damp and cold, and we took turns cooking breakfast and lunch, and had our evening meals at Lambuth Hall. We had two cars, and eight of the finest women in the Louisville Conference, and we didn’t miss a thing. Two classes in the morning, workshops in afternoon, and platform hour at night. I made the pledge of seventy thousand dollars for Louisville Conference. In our Jurisdiction there are 16 conferences, all paying yearly more than we do. Virginia Con-
ference pledged 220,000.00, the largest pledge of the sixteen, all sixteen conferences including Alabama, Florida, Holston, Kentucky, Louisville, Memphis, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Alabama, North Georgia, North Mississippi, South Carolina, South Georgia Tennessee, Virginia and Western North Carolina, pledged for next year 1,914,850.00, and will certainly overpay and make it two million dollars. There are 105 conferences for your information, and they all pay over ten million dollars yearly, and claim over two million members. You see, Miss Ruby, what you belong to is a mighty big wheel, the hub of which is the small society like yours there at Landhorn. At this Southeastern Jurisdiction Meeting at Lake Junaluska I met all the Division Women and took classes under Mrs. Brooks, Past Division President. I went by car in one day and came back by car also in one day. The trip was not at all bad, and I enjoyed every minute of the School of Missions, and the Lake. The large pavilion on edge of lake is now glassed in, wonderful view of lake, seats 5 th.

The 11th of August I go down to Owensboro, and teach the local officers or the District Officers what I learned at Lake Junaluska. Ray has stopped complaining about my going and says just don't talk about, but just up and go.

Inbetween times I have done a bit of gadding about with Ray to Scottsville to Sunday dinner, and one weekend at the Cave, and went to a big banquet that the Citizens Bank had and invited all the different bank officials, here and adjoining towns. I bought a Alice blue feather hat to wear, and will loan it to anybody who needs a blue feather hat, as I may never wear it again. Tonight we are going to Beech Bend on the annual picnic of American National Bank. Saturday morning: The picnic was a bore as usual, but we appeared.

I enjoyed Joanna and Emilie more than ever before I believe. I think every time any of you come I enjoy you more than last time, however. I guess I am more relaxed and in better physical condition than for many years. Joanna called and had hardly hung up the phone when Audrey came by and left all the children but Joe Aiden, and we enjoyed them together. The baby, Jackie, is not as cute as he was when a baby nor as pretty. He is not as happy a child as the others were at that age. He may be cross because he has been cutting teeth. I think we may have imposed on Emilie leaving the children with her while Joanna and I went shopping, but she didn't complain. That night we had Joe and Wilma for supper and Audrey came back from West Point in time for supper. I got two barbecued chickens, steamed them in my deep-well, added rice, butterbeans, corn, and it was the very easiest dinner I ever fixed, as vegetables were already cooked. Ruby, did I write you Joanna gave Joe and Wilma a tray on wheels, and they are crazy about it. They were up here for supper Wednesday night and said they hadn't set the dining room table since they have had it, just roll it in by TV and eat every meal.

Will Brown settled for the West Point job as it paid so much more than the Taylorsville. They have a two hundred dollar apartment house to subrent, and Audrey said they could make their rent free by subrenting, but I would now count on keeping it rented with that family of four of the noisiest children I ever saw. Audrey is not going to be very happy there, just like living in a city, and she will miss the nice home they had in Trenton, and the wonderful neighbors. I haven't seen their apartment house, but can imagine it looks like any Army barracks, and they are just a block from the river which would keep me on edge if one of the boys were missing a minute at the time. Working and slaving for those four children has made her into a chronic complainer. I guess I was a pretty good one to complain when I worked for two, but have forgotten most of the bad part. Sylvia looked much thinner than when she got back from vacation. Lugging that heavy baby around would get anybody down, and you know how Bill thinks girls are only to wait on the boys, and run and fetch. I know Sylvia wanted to come Monday when Brown came to exchange their electric stove for a gas one. I hated to see Audrey give up the electric stove as she loved it more than anything she has ever had. I am going to have Sylvia and Joe Aiden down for a week before their school starts. Their mother can get a rest and they can also, especially Sylvia can get a rest from that forty pound baby.

Now that I have gotten to the end of the second page, I apologize for this long, rambling letter, and wouldn't blame a one of you for not reading any of it.

See any one of you the next time you come to see me, and with loads of love and all good wishes for your well-being and happiness,

Affectionately,

Virginia
BOWLING GREEN
MAN NEW HEAD
OF TEXAS COLLEGE

Bowling Green, Ky., Aug. -- Dr. Joseph M. Ray, a native of Bowling Green, Ky., has been elected president of Amarillo College at Amarillo, Texas, assuming his new duties on Aug. 1.

Dr. Ray is the brother of Mrs. Ray W. Harmon, 1253 Park St., Bowling Green and spent his early life here. He attended Bowling Green public schools and was graduated cum laude from Louisville Male high school. He then returned to Bowling Green to take business administration courses at Bowling Green Business University.

At the University of Texas, he earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees and was named to Phi Beta Kappa there.

For a number of years he was head of the political science department of the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, and later headed the same department at the University of Maryland. Prior to his election to the presidency at Amarillo, he had been serving as civilian head of the Education and Information Division of the U.S. Air Forces at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Ray is married to the former Jettie Hollingsworth of Hillsboro, Texas. They have three teen-age children, Scott, David, and Sally Ray.
B. G. Native Heads College In Texas

A Bowling Green native has been named president of Amarillo College, Amarillo, Tex.

Dr. Joseph M. Ray, brother of Mrs. Ray Harman, 1253 Park St., will assume his new duties Thursday.

The educator is former head of the College of Special and Continuation Studies at the University of Maryland.

Ray came to the University of Maryland in 1946 as professor and head of the Department of Government and Politics.

While at the university, he was director of the Bureau of Public Administration and executive secretary of the Maryland Municipal League.

Ray published a series of articles on local government in Maryland while at the university.

Ray also served recently as chief of the education and libraries branch of the Air Force.

The new college head is a graduate of Bowling Green Business University and holds a doctor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

Ray is married to the former Jettie Hollingsworth of Austin, Tex. She also holds a doctor's degree from the University of Texas.

The couple have three children: Scott, 18, David, 16, and Sally, 13.
Dear Robin,

I'm afraid I still won't have time to write a decent Robin letter because it will be two or three days before I could do the job justice and I want to get this off today so that I will be sure to get it on to Jethie at her camp before she leaves. Nothing here is really pressing except that I must get on top of the job here as soon as I can and this calls for a lot of scrambling. Also, living alone, I have lots of chores to do for myself that my faithful cook-washerwoman-errand runner has always done for me here before. This means I'm an old married man living away from his folks is not what it's cracked up to be. I'll sure hogged when they are here—no that I'll have more time than now, but the living will be more complete and satisfying.

I like the job fine and I'm confident I can do it, but it takes a lot of doing. Amarillo is a wonderful city. It throws you at first, after years of living in a big eastern metropolis, but once you catch on you find it's wonderful. It is completely self-contained, of course, with as
other city anything like its size closer than 150 miles or so. It has about 120,000 people. It's supposed to be dry, but it has rained every day but two during the week I have been here. I got caught out and got drenched twice. Nobody around here has an umbrella, but after the drenching I've decided to let them learn what one looks like.

I'm making a speech at the Lion's Club tomorrow. We'll see how that one goes. I'll give you a report on it and others later.

That B.J. newspaper write-up was quite the stuff, Emma.

Love to all,

Joe
Thursday Aug. 8, 57

Dear Ruby,

I was pleasantly surprised with a visit from the bird yesterday.
Now, I'm getting it off with little delay as it won't be late because of me.

We've visited with Ruby & Jack several times; the two months we've been up at camp. They drive over here to see us, too. We are only about a hour here - nearly all housekeeping for the house.

This experience at camp has been wonderful & the cool days & nights are worth the work. I do miss my men folks but they have done a good
five & I think it to
be our own
& late of camp, so she
took about a ten day
vacation. I took her
home & she went
down with Ruby to
see you off. Then she &
Scott drove back to
Ruby's & spent for a week
they had a wonderful
time.

Ruby & quick, I've meant
to get more than a card
off to you before now
to thank you for all
you did for them.
I will yet, but in the
mean time, here is another
thank you! I hope but
has written you, he
now desired has written
Dear [Name],

How are you? I heard you had a marked improvement this summer at the beach! You are a lucky person.

Me and Sally left here a week from last, Aug. 17. We'll be home on Dec. 25th from Phony's where we'll spend Sat. night. I hate to think of it being over just yet. But Jack has promised Phony they will come to see us next summer.

I hope plans for a Colorado reunion do materialize. Love, [Name]
had a wonderful vacation near Boulder in 1959. It is beautiful and in the mountains. I'd like to stay in a cabin if you can come.

I must get my shower and ready to get back to the kitchen. There's always some big doings going on here. Tonight we have 25 kids from mostly our 13-16 year old girls - turning sugar and dancing tonight. Sally is in the swing. She is excited!! Love to all.

Jettie
Dear Folks:

While Ruby is downstairs boiling some plum jelly, I'll write my "section" and she can do hers in the morning. Last week was a big week for us—7 sets of company including two "go's" of Rays and one "go" of MacDonalds. The others were freinds.

The first "go" of Rays were Ed, Joanna and Emily—all looking good, never missing a meal, and happy to have a good roof over their heads. We had fun. They're all getting prettier for some reason, even pore ole pappy seems friskier.

Jettie, Sally and their camp director arrived Saturday, all tired from camp closing so we bedded down early. In the morning the farewells were long with the tearful "I won't see you for a long time" theme. I took part but could see the cash flying out the window the first/Ruby "can't go on" until she sees how they're doing in Amarillo.

Ginny, you are sure becoming the prominent club woman. Never heard such a recital of doings. Wish Ruby would take up such activities instead of trailing after me all the time. She's always afraid I'll get to some place more interesting and that she'll miss it. She has a new stunt now of making jellies and jams—and then sarting them around to the neighbors until we're only one glass away from the store-bought variety. And they all think the cellar is loaded and she's a thrifty, hard-working housewife. She has me beat on public relations.

We're going to Philly tomorrow. I hawve a trip in to a Foundation and we'll stay for dinner and see a movie—which we haven't done for weeks. Generally all goes well—a 10 minute rain today—first in a long time. But mostly we're burned brown. Take it easy—
Dear Children -

I am in no position to call any one's pot black. This was received August 12th and I held for Ed and Joanna who had called to say they would be here the next day which they were. For two days they were here - happy ones for us. The first day was spent antiquing with Ed declaiming we were wasting our time and money. It so happened that he was the money waster - the time we enjoyed. The antique jaunt did have a slight historical flavor. That night Jack cooked steaks in the yard so fun was had by all. The second day was given over to private or
personal projects. Emily took their car to visit her friends in Vineland and there abouts. Ed and Sack went in our car to Vineyard for Indian relics and Training School news. I didn’t need to go to Vineland because I was there last year. So! Joanna and I went to R.J. We shopped Fifth Ave. from 34th St. to 48th and bought something on the first and last corners. We did not get home until eleven P.M. We played for got to write the robin. I am sending on to them.

They will probably have much news because Joanna just wrote on a card that they are expecting Barbara and Bill. And then again they may not write. Because they do need time to get
acquainted with Pamela. We think Tahanna did not recognize one of her pictures Barbary had sent us. She doesn't have the excuse Brigham Young had either. I wish they could bring her here.

It is like Jack said I do hate to see the Rays go to Texas. We have enjoyed seeing the more this summer than usual because of the camp. Sally and Scott were here for a week. One year has made Sally quite a lady. She took part in whatever there was to do here and had some social naps. Scott scraped the paint off the upstairs windows and washed them. It was a big favor and he did a good job. I remember Joe Wilson's doing the same thing when he was visiting us in Wash.
In both cases it took considerable urging. Those windows looked better—and so did there. We've enjoyed seeing Settie so often—and the food she has brought. She has been tired but by and large looks good. She will doubtless be in Texas when this gets around. See—we have missed you already.

I'm most awfully proud to be your sister because I admire the work you are doing. You and Westby have done right well with 

call for Methodism. Keep it going but don't drop Ray and Joe entirely. They need you too. Yours was a good letter.

I have loved this beautiful RAY Summer. Parts of members of all families were here. Sylvia was sweet—we were glad to have her represent Brown's family.

Love, Ruby
Tuesday morning.

Dear Robins;

Jack has just left for work and threatened Ruby and me if we did not get our letters written and the Robin in themail this morning. So Ruby is finishing hers, she had started it before I got up, and here I am on mine and we'll get the 'le bird off without more delay.

The letters are good, aren't they Virginia, but yours is the best, guess it is because you could tell us more about the grandson, Samuel Ray Harmon. Will you call him, Sam? I know he is a grandbaby! Sam and Joe Wilson were such handsome babies and little boys, I can imagine he will be too, although I don't think he can look any better. Keep us posted, now about him for we are all interested is what he does. I know Wilma and Joe Wilson are enjoying him, no mention, you and Ray.

We are having a wonderful time. If I had the rest of my family here I wouldn't ask for more. Sally and I enjoyed camp very much and I am still glad we came, but of course, I didn't enjoy it as much as she did, nor as much as I did last year. But it is such a beautiful spot, I could enjoy being there just for the scenery, and the cool weather. We came down to Ruby's and Jack's last Saturday afternoon. By bedtime we had done four washers of clothes and dried them. I got them all ironed last night and hope to pack the footlockers and freight them home today. Also, Sally's suitcase full of her and mine clothes that we won't need on the trip home, so we can cut down the luggage. She and I will live out of one suitcase from here out. One of Sally's friends in College Park is driving home with us and flying back Labor Day weekend. So with David we will be four, which is a good travelling number, but I still want to get all the luggage in the car trunk so we won't be a bit crowded in the car.

Ed, your letters have been wonderful. I know it has been a most interesting experience. I hope I can get a globe map and read all of them again someday so I can find the places you were and get a better idea of just where you went. The experience in the boat with the ice was a little too close, though, and we are all glad you are safely home.

Ruby, Sally and I covered Bucks County yesterday. We even got Sally so interested in antique shops we couldn't get her out of one and she wanted to stop at all we saw! How's that, Virginia, for starting her out right? We did have fun. Went to a glass factory, the Stangl place, where I bought some of the Fruit pattern. The factory has been shut down for two weeks for vacation and there was very little out, but the expect to have more out by Thursday, as the factory re-opened Monday, so I'm going to run back over before I leave Thursday. I got 8 plates, 8 cups, sugar bowl, Ruby gave me a cream pitcher last year, a tea pot and I'm buying a covered casserole from Ruby that is too big for them. Now if I can get the 8 saucers, I'm off to a good start.

We, R., S., and I are going to N. Y. tomorrow morning on the early
train. They have a special on Wednesday mornings, round-trip for $2.75. We'll go early and come back late and take in all we can. I was able to get one matinee ticket for "My Fair Lady" when we were there in June. So I'll go to that while Ruby and Sally do something else. Then we will all go to Radio City Music Hall after dinner. Mildred Scott Meyers is meeting us for lunch.

Ruby and I went to the suit and coat outlet store Sunday. I got a beige cashmere coat and a white wool spring coat. Also a blue leather jacket for Sally, which is under wraps, for it is to be part of her Christmas!

So you see, what a time we are having. It is my last fling! We go down to College Park Thursday to get David and Elizabeth ready to leave Sunday for Amarillo. I know David will have no clean clothes, so will have to get enough cleaned up for the trip home. Elizabeth's mother is in Korea, so I'll help her get herself ready and packed.

I'm sure no one is with me this far so I'll stop. We are delightfully cool here, so I feel very energetic this morning.

Love and best wishes to everyone,
Chillun:

I'm too lazy and too much of a family man nowadays to write to Robin at home, as I'm going to try to write my Robin letter here in the office. I have been rushing around for the past couple of days, but right now people are leaving me alone, and it's nice to be left alone. For you, Miss Lily: I took a 15-minute nap at noon today.

I don't go with the old business of losing the Robin or forgetting where it is and writing to it for two weeks and all such sleepy behavior. I got it yesterday and we're getting it out today.

 Glad Ed. & Jo have their chillun and grandchildren, but wish we could have visited them on they way before they left these parts. I telephoned Bob at Lawrence from Oklahoma City, but had to rush on here when I was on the way. And now they're gone.

 Sally & David are in the right schools for our new house. We've bought a house at 3229 Travis Street in Amarillo and expect to get possession a week from Friday. I hope the furniture is on the way today. It is small, but it is adequate and we have plans for making it larger. We got it well within our means and will have funds to make the changes when the other house sells. Scott has decided to attend Amarillo College at least for this year.

I am enclosing a clipping from the Amarillo paper about Dr. Gordon Wilson's commencement speech at Canyon. President of West Texas State College.
to James P. Cornette, who used to be at Western. He remembers some of you. Dr. Wilson said he had taught 5 or 7 you (Emma apparently in Sunday school as a child at Broadway Methodist). I had a good visit with him at the banquet at Canyon (11 miles from here) before the commencement. He knows Ed best and to hunt relics with him (as who hasn't?) for some strange reason thinks Ed is all right.

Jo, Mrs. Dwight had her 10 year old boy phone me one time they came up to see me. I understood why she had the child on phone, because she can hardly talk. She's smart enough, but it would be a real chore talking with her. The local and service department says his vocal cords were damaged by chlorine gas or something of the sort in high school. She knows you well.

Ginna, I've misplaced the clipping from the Courier Journal telling about my coming back. It arrived after I mailed the letter to Jettie at Camp Highbone and now I can't find it. I thought I looked awfully pretty in the 10 year old picture. Dr. Wilson talked the first running such as young looking picture. I told him I had nothing to do with it. If and when I find it I will send it for a later Robbin.

The Dr. Shoffy mentioned in the Clipping is the department head under whom I taught at Canyon for a summer term back in 1937. Jettie, the children and I went down to Canyon and spent their first
right here. Since then we have rented rooms. The widowed lady with whom we're now living has gone to Fort Worth for a week and we have the whole house. She will be back this weekend, and we'll have to forage again. We're having to grab things as they fall, but the kids are taking it fine and they like Amarillo. Scott has taken up thick as thieves with the dean's daughter, David is out prowling the town 'til bedtime where as he did in Maryland, and Sally is giggling and squealing with 8th grade fits, so for all I can see they haven't needed major adjustments and are doing fine.

Emma, your old letter was in this time so this didn't get back to you. It's now laid on right it seems to me.

Rudy to Ed
Ed to Joe
Joe to Va
Va to Rudy

It's up to you, Emma, to get WB back in if he gets back. You would send to him or to Rudy.

I'll have to knock off to do some work. Love Je

After supper

Dear folks,

Joe has told about all there is to tell about us, but I'll add my two cents worth so we can get this bird on its wings. It was good to see
The "Old Bird" came in yesterday. We made us feel like we were stuck in the family circle — or something! Our trip down was as expected — long & hot! But we made good time and I've had a week to rest — so now it doesn't seem too bad.

Our nights here are wonderfully cool & the days are not too bad — if you can stay in air. Almost every house has an air-conditioner or some type.

I eagerly carry you to see Ed. Janet & Emily in Md. Wish you all could have seen the flowers — it is such a beautiful place in Virginia. We missed your letter this time. Be sure & get in the next one.

Sand's & Sally's schools started yesterday. The move was an improvement in each one — especially Sally. I've never seen a nicer or better equipped Gr. High. They both seem very happy. We down to business. There seems to be a better attitude toward schools here big children & adults. Then in Mr. Tao, had it is so far. From Gary &

Rick — we do miss you some thing awful. Try not to think of the many miles between...
Dear Vic & Roy,

Things have about gotten back to normal after our move, school starting, etc. Bill seems to like his job & I believe it'll be much easier on him without the high school. I know you read about the fight to keep the Jr. High School. Capt. Martin was, of course. For once, Bill wasn't the name made in this controversy. It was the school board here & the town council behind it.

West Point is not a friendly, nice little place like Trenton & I miss my lovely neighbors here. I have had several letters from Mrs. Bell & another neighbor. This place is full of transient soldiers & families who don't care to make friends with southerners. But since I don't enter into many social activities, it doesn't bother me. We have a fairly nice place to live - a lot of room, also fine big yard for the children.
Sylvia & Joe Adam like school, but Joe is tired of coloring, like the first grade always do, & says he wants to get down to work - learning to read & write. Did you know, Pa, that he came to spend a few days with you about a month ago & you were gone - so Bill put him on the bus & sent him back home while he went on to Murray to a mayor's meeting? He felt real big riding the bus alone.

This must be a more healthful place than Fenton - all the children look so much better than they did there. I believe the muddy water there was what caused so much sickness there. Jackie is outgrowing everybody - just wish you could see him - he's a shooting star.

Bill is taking Sylvia & Joe to the fair this afternoon. They're looking forward to it. I thought maybe you all might come up to the fair & come to see us. Do wish you...
would come. We have plenty of bedroom.
You live right on the corner of Elm + Fifth Street — would it be hard to find at all.
Tell Joe Wilson & Wilson to come see us. It's not such a long way off — just a nice drive.

I'm going to paint a room today — had better get at it.

All send love,

Audrey
Dear children;

How are you fixed?

YOU are JUST ABOUT TO HAVE COMPANY.

We have given up the idea of going to Europe because it will be too cold when we can get started the last of NOV. Oct. The dedication of the new center is set for Oct 12. So we think now we will leave here around the 18th; go to SR for a little business and then to Fla. From there to New Orleans to visit the Grahams for a few days and then on to Amarilla for a few days. From there to S. R. where we will pick the car and come home. From S. R. we will take the trip by train and plane and really rest. Or try to.

Of course we have missed your being in Washington. Last week we went to New York. Mildred and Charles took us to see 80 Days Around the World, which we enjoyed. We went there for dinner -barbecued chicken which I do not like. That is chicken at its worst which I can say much for chicken any. It was good to see my only kinfolks in the east -and them well.

Yesterday we drove over to see Wilda and Joe who moved to Westchester a week ago. They have a nice house but were a little discouraged and homesick. You probably know how it is.

A letter from Va. saying they were all well had not seen any of the Browns since they moved -Uncle Jim was in the clinic for a checkup. Where is the letter? I'm writing to Ed and Va. today.

Love, may see you come the first of Nov. In time to celebrate your joint birthdays. The typewriter is easier on the arthritis.

Love again,
Monday, Sept. 16, 1957.

My deare:

I am determined to write just one page before the mail is picked up, and get this off. If you could see my house, every one of you would say, clean up, and write that letter later. I have done very little housekeeping all summer, and it has been so hot and dry until now, no ambition to clean house. My curtains are dirty, venitian blinds dusty, and I have not had Ruth this summer at all.

Joe, I am glad you are settled and all so well satisfied with the place and schools. Dr. Gordon Wilson called me about speaking at Canyon, and about seeing you and talking with you, and he told me how pleased your faculty was with getting you out there, and how well thought of you were by the retiring President. Glad you have bought a house, and hope you are all settled by now. I am sending you my copy of the clipping as I have two. Camilla Gerard made this one up for me, and I would rather you have it, so am enclosing it. That was the only good picture I had of you, and I didn't think it made you look too young. I could have been Dr. Sheffy Gordon mentioned who thought so well of you.

I am not sending this Robin to Brown and family. I have not seen them since they moved to West Point. They spent the night here on their way up, and they were worn out, and got up the next morning and left without breakfast. I did want Sylvia and Joe Aiden to spend a week with me before school started, but never did get to go for them. We wanted to go to the Louisville fair, but Joe has had no time off because of Ennis Miller taking his vacation and getting married to Virginia Stamps who worked at Durbins. He just came back this week end, and will give Joe time enough off to go to the Nashville fair. There were such crowds at Louisville they said you couldn't get around.

We were down to dinner with Joe and Wilma last night, and she had a real good meal. We try to eat together two or three times a week, and Joe comes up home to lunch three or four days in each week, or when I am home. I spent the summer going to Mission Schools, and result of opportunity responsibility, so I am teaching the course Christ, The Church and Race in five different churches, all Fridays and Thursdays in September, all Monday and Tuesday mornings in October at Broadway, State St. Auburn and Franklin, and another Methodist Kerr of West Side, dates not set-up yet.

Ray is just fine, and I believe we are all enjoying life more than ever in this short span. We are having a wet and Dry election here tomorrow, and Wilma and I voting dry, our men say they are wet, but doubt if they vote that way. Love, Virginia.
Sept. 22, 1957

Dear boys of sunshine:

Ruby has taken to the typewriter and I'm back to the pen. Besides it's Sunday night and I'm watching TV out of the corner of my eye.

The next three weeks are rough for me -- with this Dedication, a special Fund raising push, etc. But after that we're going to take out for a vacation -- I haven't had me in 2 years (except 2-3 days) -- we're heading South --Miami, Cuba, Nassau, New Orleans -- and I want to take Ruby to Las Vegas, if she'll go.

We had thought of Europe but everybody says "rest and relax" at end of Nov. and first of Dec. so we'll hold on that till later.

Love and sick to all of you.

[Signature]
Dear Children;

This is Sunday afternoon, just before Ed Sullivan, which we never watch Steve Allen. The day has been as hot and muggy as I have ever lived through. This morning I put on my stockings and corsets and we got on the train and went to Bala-Cynwyd to have a Sunday dinner, which was good and her house beautiful—but me in them corsets and sox—I’m going to wear them all summer next year. The dinner was with Mrs Hiers who is one of Jack’s assistants. Jack was on his good behavior too—not a cuss word. I kept wishing he would say, “Hot as hell” or something appropriate. Any way we lived and it is cooler right now.

Before we left Va gave us a grand surprise by calling us to ask us to come to Ky. for our vacation since we are not going—as you all know—to Europe. We would love to right now. Jack can not hold his head up—except for professional reasons. Now we think we will go to Fla. to a hotel or Mildred’s house—up for a week and then decide if we can afford to do what we want to. I am homesick for Ky.

Your letters were all so good this time. Joanna, you do a wonderful job. Keep it up. ED. Yours was a little skimpy? We do like YOUR letters—-you know. Tell Soapy Isure am going to vote for him. We should have a Democratic president this time—if Fausus and his kind don’t split up the party.

We are the Texas Boys are settling in so well. It just could be that we would stop by there on our way to Las Vegas. If that turns out to what we want to do after the rest.

I wish I could fill a page with as much news we do. Your letters are good. Ginny and I do admire and brag about what you are doing. I have to work so hard on how to type that I can’t get my mind on what to say. I’ll one of Audrey’s letters to Va in. They seem to be doing all right too. It will be good to have them in again.
My own Dears:

Our big Bud, Will Brown Ray(Little Man) came by yesterday on his way home from Frankfort, and ordered me to write the Robin I have been holding so long, so I take it he will get it off right away to show me up for keeping it so long.

There really is not much in the old Robin to answer, so we will have to start all over again, with what has happened.

Ed, Ray wanted to send Joanna a wire Sunday, but our Western Union closed when he had it in his head to wire Joanna, just "How does it feel to be married to a Grandpa? I have a little gift wrapped up, but never have mailed it yet. I think Pamela is a pretty name, and I know being the first one she is going to rule the roost. Was the date of her birth Sunday 16th or Monday 17th? Ed, your trips sound wonderful, but how did the Thesis go, or did you not work on it?

Bill, I wish I had the birthdate of all your grand-children. You and Audrey put your heads together and put in the Robin all your grandchildren by name and date of birth. I know Billy has a new baby boy, and Vivian has another boy, but I don't know their names or birthday date. Is this right for your present family??

Sylvia - July 6th, Date 1948
Joe Aiden ?
Glen - October 18, 1956
Jackie ?

I believe I know all of Joe's Children, Scott - April 16, 1939
David - Jan. 21, 1941
Sally - Feb. 22, 1944. Any correction??

One of us has a birthday this month, our little brother, Joe, October 14th, I believe. Then two in December Edward 2nd and Bill 8th, and Joe and Jettie married December 26, 1953, twenty-three years in December. How old does that make you feel Jettie? One Birthday in March, sister Ruby, and mine in August. This year I made a cleaning. Joe suggested that I exchange my cheap watch for a good one, and I took him at his word and got a good watch, a Bolova Dolly Madison, and Ray gave me hose, also Ruby. Thanke Ruby!! I like better than any seamless I ever had as they are large enough so the heel part does not slip down under foot. I got a lot of birthday cards.

What have you gals bought new to wear this winter. I have a new red, Cashmere long coat I did a lot of showing around to decide on. Ray thought I should get a black as I look better in black he thinks, and Joe liked this red one, and everybody else who saw it on me. Joanna if I get tired of the red, I will exchange with you for one season, as I did have a hard time deciding between a grey like yours and this red. We want to hear what you and Ed accomplished this summer, and it should be a good report as we have heard nothing from either of you, except this letter of Ed on his trips.

Ray is not taking his vacation until November, but says he does not want a long trip, as he has to go back to work worn out, and takes him a week to get rested after a vacation. I don't have the slightest idea where he will want to go, down to see Brown and Audrey and children one Sunday maybe, and he may go out and visit Boadley a day or two. We hear that Boadley may marry again, not a young girl, short and stocky, works in Norman's. I saw Christine at the Hurt funeral this week, and she looked stylish. Boadley gave her a thousand dollars settlement, and she didn't ask anything but her freedom. Aunt Kate & family all well and working hard, trying to live in town and run back and forth to farm to keep Jeff straight. Uncle Jim better about town of ten, Lucille working hard at home and school. Their servant house burned and they only had five hundred insurance. That hurt.

End of the Page, Bye Bye.

Virginia.

P.S. Joe Wills still with Gerard-Bradley, and says he is going to take the balance of his GI in this business in two years when apprentice ends. He likes it and is good in it.
I've wheeled the typewriter into the living room because Miss Jettie is
all piled up asleep in our bedroom and is feeling a bit droopy — I think with the
flu. She's drooped around all day, only got up to fix supper. David is doing his
lessons, and Sally is in here watching the TV with me. I'm like you, Jack; I can't watch TV and do much
in the way of writing a letter; so, don't you all expect too much. David had the flu when
I left for Washington last week, but he was up and hearty when I got back; nobody else has
been affected as yet. In Washington I telephoned Jack and Ruby; looks like they may come
to see us. I won't believe it until I see them, but hope they will come.

Amarillo is really a wonderful place. Jettie has the house looking wonderful. She's
pouring out the dough to get this and that, buying tables, lamps, etc., and getting the old
stuff re-done. Amarillo is a wonderful city. It has about 125,000 population. It is the
Queen city of the Panhandle, or the Golden Spread, as the folks here are prouder of calling
it. We are about 3,600 feet above sea-level, on the staked plains, the Llano Estacado as
the early Spaniards called it. We are not far from the Palo Duro Canyon, which is just a
big hole or valley eroded in the Plains. Also here is the helium plant, which is the place
where the U. S. government's monopoly of helium production is headed up. The stuff is made
by a process of extraction from natural gas. I flew to Washington last week with the boss
man of the operation; he was headed for a Washington crabake in the Bureau of Mines in the
Department of Interior, in which his service is located. There is no oil right near Amarillo
but much in Sorger, Pampa, and other neighborhood cities, and Amarillo is the center of the
whole area. We are about 250 miles from Oklahoma City, the same distance from Albuquerque,
New Mexico, and about 300 miles from Colorado Springs, Colorado; 400 miles from Dallas and
550 from Austin. Lubbock is about 125 miles south of here, but it is not the city that
Amarillo is. Sixty years ago there was no city here at all. In 1950 the city had about
80,000 people, and now, by all estimates it is somewhere between 120,000 and 130,000. It's
on the up and up. A school bond issue has never been defeated here. In addition to oil,
the economy is supported by cattle and agriculture. Most farming is irrigated from wells,
where nearly all of our water comes from. Plans are under way to dam the Canadian River
to conserve flood waters about 60 miles from here; when this is done we won't ever need
water. The rains this year have the whole area greener and prettier than it ever was. We
are on the Great Plains, and as someone has said, there is nothing between us and the North
Pole but some barbed-wire fences; so it gets real cold here, but they tell me that it is not
really cold for very long. In the spring there are dust storms sometimes, but not so
bad nowadays, the tell us.
Scott has a job at the Disabled Veterans Second Hand store, where he works from 5:00 until 8:00 six days a week. He likes his job. Sally rides horseback about twice a week; she has had some baby-sitting dates and is rolling in money. David is still prowling the streets here as he did in Maryland and tells us that there is a lot of juvenile delinquency here; trust him to find it. He hasn't a job, but is living on the big money he made last summer. He'll bolt loose and make some money next thing you know.

I like my job immensely. It's wonderful to be somebody instead of just a cog in a machine. I don't think there will be any kind of conflict that could arise here that would run me out. I can do whatever it takes to get along.

Ginna, I am enclosing the clipping from the Courier-Journal that you sent me for inclusion in the Robin in August; it was lost last time the Robin was here, but I have now found it and am sending it along. Dr. Wilson twitted me with the young picture in the paper. I told him it was one you had from several years ago. It's at least 10 years old, because I have worn horn-rim glasses since 1947, and these were rimless.

We'd like you to get the Robin off on time, but don't start any fancy new wrinkles in keeping it at the office and beat me out of a chance to write. So far as I know, there aren't any mountain lions near here, but you can get into the Rockies in 300 miles to the west in New Mexico and Colorado. Got a feeling the big game is pretty well hunted over, however. I will check further and report later. I'll knock off, and maybe Jettie can add a note.

Love to all

Joe

Wed. Am M.
Dear Robins;

Joe got ahead of me last night with his Robin letter, but I'm feeling better this morning and will get mine written. I still feel like a nickel with a hole in it...I don't know what ails me, I've felt rotten since Sunday, but no fever...a tightness in my chest and kinda achey...also, my hay fever is half active. My shots have done some good but not as much as last fall. It may be the pollen is much worse here because of the wind. Anyway, enough about myself.

It was good to hear from everyone. Before this bird gets around again, we hope to have had a visit from Ruby and Jack. We're anxious to show off our house, town and college. Oh, you came down for the hunting. I know there must be lots around in N. M. and Colo. Can't you make it while Ruby and Jack are here?

We're counting on Joanna and Em going to summer school in Boulder next summer so they can get down to see us. We'll rent cabins at Netherlands, about 18 miles from Boulder, for a family get-together if you—all will come. It is an ideal vacation spot and whether we have a family reunion or not, I'm hoping we can vacation there.

We missed Audrey in the Robin, but was glad to hear from them through Virginia. I know how busy she has been. We look like we are resettled, but we are far from it as there are many more boxes to unpack and closets and drawers to organize and straighten.

Virginia, it looks like you won't have any trouble keeping busy this winter! You are certainly the right person for the job. I must stop. Everyone keep on the ball and get this old bird on the way in a hurry. Joe said to be sure in Pa. Love to all, little Joe...
Dear Family:

I have held the Robin several days because of the rambling of our sister, Ruby, and her distinguished husband, Jack. I just didn't know where to mail it. I thought of sending it to our eldest brother, W. B. Ray at West Point, Kentucky, but not having heard from them since the last letter included, decided not to risk it.

Joe, I am so glad that you and your family like Amarillo, and I would like to see your new home. I know it must be nice for Jettie is so capable of making it just right. Thank you for sending me the school paper and the picture of the family. Mr. J. L. Harman borrowed the paper to use some of it in the Business University Exponent, and brag a bit on you as a graduate of that school, and I took the picture all around to show to your Aunt Kate and Uncle Jim and Aunt Hettie. They were all amazed at your family being so grown up. You account of Amarillo would do credit to any Encyclopedia, and in fact is much better than what I read about Amarillo in our Compton's when first I knew you were going there. However, ours was written before 1950. While Ruby and Jack are there plan a summer reunion, and let's all try to make it. Brown and family could make it to Mammoth Cave, if we could all rent a cabin there and have it there. Go into it thoroughly and make a definite decision.

It really does me good for old Ed to have to make such confessions as losing the Robin, because he is always so bossy about anybody else doing such a thing, and can use more words than anybody I know about it. You and Ray talk and think just alike about feeding starving people while you are both well fed and comfortable.

Joanna you must be in your church what we call Missionary Education Chairman, and if you need any material on our next study, "Christ, the Church and Race," I shall be glad to send you mine. I have taught this course in seven different churches in the Bowling Green District, and every society has either had a luncheon, a tea, or given me gifts of new material for the course. Broadway Society gave me a leather brief case with my name in gold, Auburn half a dozen pairs of silk hose, Franklin, Harold Penn Warren's book on Segregation, Franklin ON Being a Negro in America, and then I have all the texts and supplementary material suggested. I don't know how much will be left when I get through passing it around. I have refused to teach it another time, but have been to Glasgow and Morgantown to give them a Kick-Off meeting on the Study.

Mrs. J. L. Harman died last week and was buried, funeral at the home, and I thought Mr. J. L. Harman and his son, Lewie, Jr., acted as shabby as any two could have acted. They were determined to have it in the home, and they both were contrary with everybody who wanted to help them, refused to have a thing moved, even the row of pictures on the desk, and were so contrary with the seating, would not allow a chair to be placed until the preacher was in place waiting, had people standing all over the place, and began placing chairs at funeral time. Lewie, Jr. would not let the Funeral Director, Camilla Gerard have one thing to do with seating the family. We all took seats out in the living room until the Kimberlain relatives out of town could be seated, and just before the funeral, Mr. J. L. came out and seated himself, Lewie on his left and the paid, big, fat negro nurse on his right, leaving five seats with not a blood-kin knowing whether to take them or not. Ray and I were seated on the back row in the living room, and finally when Camilla saw everybody going to take the empty seats asked Josie and Katie to take them as they were on the front row and we would have to move chairs to get to them. That left three empty chairs on the front row in front of casket and not all the family chairs in the back taken. Joe and I were so embarrassed about the whole thing, we wished we had never come. I was ashamed of the Matthews taking over at the door, he had on a red-brown suit, and she had a drink and talked crazy, and their big fat daughter, Nancy, weighed over two hundred and had on a dirty light blue dress, no hose and dirt shoes, an nylon and leather. Mr. J. L. is going to stay in his home, and Lewie, Jr. in his and planning to make an apartment on the second floor. I shall not spend any time consoling either of them for they were neither one grieved, more relieved. She had been dead in a manner for three months, a brain tumor which had no doubt paralyzed her nerves and turned into a malignancy, they would neither one admit. However, I think it would be in order for any of you to write Mr. J. L. Harman a letter of condolence, and not let this affect you one way or another. Here comes Joe for lunch.

Love, Virginia.
Ruby: Valley Puckett Hannstein is writing to Marla and I just talked to her. She said the end was near and she just talked to her. Now she said she had just talked to her. She said she didn't want to come through Amarillo when told you were on your way there. Someone who has a pass went out to bring Valley home for a visit. Valley looks wretched. Her hair is all wrinkled. She is a hundred years old. She said Ray's dean was just fine. Two daughters 9 and 10 only 14 months difference in their ages. They live at South Gate, Calif only on suburb of Los Angeles.

Mary was here in the summer and visited her aunt, Mrs. Angel who then left near door to us, but has sold and moved. Mrs. Herrold lives there now. The manager all those nurses homes here.

I should mail by air mail.

Marie and Julian were here last week during Miss Netts funeral, and I did not see them. The treat came up with the reason they were here and Mrs. Hulman claimed she had cared for their father all through his last days and was never paid anything, and she was allowed $2,500.00 by the Court, all neighbors out there testified for her that he moved to her house and boarded there until he died. Marie called and said they were not too much upset about it, just one.

She didn't say anything about the weather they still want to sell the farm will not bring what it would have, going down renting out the land. Too floor to make crops on. It looked much better in grass. All my pages.
Dear Folks:

Well, we're back after one of the best vacations we've ever had. 4 days in Washington, seeing friends and taking flu shots (we were each sick for 18 hours); 3 days in Atlanta, visiting Odille Ousley and seeing the sights there (and eating fancy meals); 6 days at Miami Beach with a cruise to Fort Lauderdale, the Venice of Florida.

It's really cheap and good at Mimi--we had a beautiful hotel with swimming pool and ocean front for $42 per person for the whole six days--and that included meals and lots of free entertainment. Don't know how they do it for the meals for top class--steak, lobster, prime ribs, etc. We also visited the other big ones for lunch or for a drink--the Fontainbleau, the Americana, Eden Roc, etc.

Then on to Havana for a night and day. Here things were expensive but we were there only a short time. Dropped $15 at the Casino but enjoyed it.

New Orleans was the fanciest city we have ever been in. I'd like to go back for a longer vacation. Seems to me it has everything--beauty, many parks, Old Man River, Lake Pontchartrain, the French Quarter, Canal Street, Tulane University--and the most beautiful eating places I've ever seen (outdoor lighted patios with palms, plantains, and other strange plantings). We stayed with friends there who knew the city from one end to the other.

Of course, our most fun was at Amarillo and Joe and Jettie have it made. Their house is a beauty, on a corner, and fixed just right. They had friends in both nights we were there--and Joe took me to two luncheons and Jettie did the same with Ruby. We hated to leave but we had to get on to S.R. and winterize our house there which we did, in two days. All good there. Entire trip by air.
Nov. 12, 1957

Dear Children -

This robin has been flapping about with no where to go for a long time. We caught us at Amarillo. By the time we got it to Ed he may be in Ky. We brought the robin by hand from the far west.

I wish you could have been there in Amarillo with us. We thought we would like the place, but it is better than we were told it was. Its people - of course - are its main asset but they are not all. It is a beautiful town with more beautiful homes close together than I have ever seen. They are new clean and well cared for even the smaller horses are neat and pretty. According to the report fifty six of the we some I couldn't tell. I really like Amarillo and wish it was in Bucks Co. or Kentucky - or that we were near. One reason that I know the people have good sense is that they all - or the ones we met - have appreciated Joe and his family. Really Amarillo is lucky to have them - and they all 'fit in' like they have always been there.

We've been working on a plan to the reunion there next summer or in Col. as they have said. Joe has said they will furnish the place if we can get there. Let's do best it around. Can we do it? We would love to have Brown ad family or at least some of the. Susan and Emily may go to summer school out there and Ed can come. Ed, are you going to
Rose, 

well we are or so I'll call it. We are pleased.

I must stay here. I am, so the dollars that we are as

I don't feel much. The dollars, that we are as

I like to miss them in Arizona, and now here

I can't get some palm trees, back but we still partly

write the trees are stripped here, but we are still partly

and get some palm trees, and it seems like some part

write the flowers are stripped here, and now there

and get some palm trees, and it seems like some part

write the flowers are stripped here, and now there
Dear Raye,

The Robin arrived yesterday, and since Ed is hunting in the U.P. and won't be home for a week and wouldn't write his letter for another week if he followed his usual pattern, I am sending it on. Maybe it will make another round before Christmas.

We have had one real snowstorm, but for a week now it has been rainy and gloomy, and the snow has gone. It will suit me fine if we don't get another soon. We did have a beautiful fall.

Ed planted 7000 more trees just before the rain and snow started, and the weather has been perfect for them.

Last week-end we went to Ann Arbor to see Emily. It was Father's Week-end, and I was on my own except for the Michigan - Iowa game. We
stayed with a friend who is a landscape architect and has the cutest house in the most unusual setting we have ever seen. She had Sunday dinner with other friends, and all in all, a very enjoyable week-end.

I just called Emily, and she was badly scared. She had been hearing about the numerous hunters who have been shot or have died of heart attacks. She had weathered a week of tests and was pleased with the results. She had seen Mrs. Roosevelt and Carl Sandburg, too, and was getting ready to go to a square dance.

Fink and his roommate at Rutgers are coming for the Thanksgiving holiday. They are having Thanksgiving dinner in Detroit at the home of the girl the roommate is coming to see, and then the four of them are coming here for two or three days.

Barbara, Bill, and Pam are fine. They plan to start in this direction after New Year's.
is welcoming chairman for the medical wives' group, and since there is a constant flow of doctors and their families, she is busy. She said she spent only one day at home one week.

Our Japanese study is over, Virginia, or will be Tuesday night when we wind it up with a dinner for the entire church at which we will serve Japanese food and will give a program on what we have learned. I was ready to draw a breath of relief when I got saddled with the sponsorship of the Pilgrim Fellowship - the youth group. Now I will have to go to the church every other Sunday evening for that. I have to give a talk at P.T.A. Thursday night, and very soon now I am going to have to think up something to say! This is more a let-up in this rat race.

Ed is upset over Russia's strength and he blames Ike for our seeming weakness. Recently he said "I'm sure made a mistake when we voted for that knucklehead." I re-
minded him that a lot of us felt that way the day they did it. I really feel that we never were in greater danger, but she still plays his golf.

Ruby, Linda and Rod were at home in October—at the time of the trial of those accused of Uncle Sam's murder. I have not learned how the trial went, but it seemed sure that the accused were the right ones. They offered to plead guilty in exchange for life imprisonment.

Lenella wrote that Linda seems extremely happy and was very stylish mink stole and all.

Did all of you receive announcements of the birth of the newest Ray? John Keith Ray, son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Ray.

Jettie, you probably worked away all of your pep on the house. I bet it's pretty and wish I could see it and you all. I hope you are well now. We dismissed school for three days on account of flu. I felt punk but don't think I was sick enough for flu. Ed and I both had annoying colds. Em was in Walth Service a few days. Love! Joanna
Chillun:

Here I am with the typewriter sitting in the living room with the typewriter and listening to the TV, and trying again to do two things at once. I figure I'm schizophrenic anyway, so it won't do any more harm than to make this letter scatterbrained as usual.

Jettie and I went to the football game this afternoon — the game between Palo Duro High and Amarillo High, the two Amarillo high schools. People really take kid football seriously here. Amarillo High is rated first in the state; they won 32 to 0 today and go to Fort Worth (400 miles away) next Friday night to play off the bi-district for the State Championship; the finals are played on Christmas Day. After the game today they had the city-wide play-off for the elementary school championship in football. These tots are mostly sixth-graders; and all elementary schools have teams with suits and all, and these two had won over all other Amarillo elementary schools. Two members of our Board of Trustees had little boys on one of the teams; they were old-time players on the U of Oklahoma team and were the official coaches of the team. While we were there one of the kids made a long run for a touchdown.

We had a six-inch snow Thursday, the 19th of November. Everybody said it was much earlier than usual, but anyhow there it was. I thought it was warm enough for it to melt soon, but it froze that night and it is mostly still with us here on Saturday night.

Jettie and David are having a craze of jigsaw puzzles — I help some. They got a new one last night, and the three of us worked it before going to bed. Jettie gave out about ten o'clock, I before that, but David stayed up until after one o'clock finishing it up. Sally is still horse crazy, and I'm about to break down. We haven't got enough money to do it, but the Fates are conspiring.

We thought we'd freeze at the football game this afternoon, but we bundled up (I have some long underwear to go to football games) and didn't get cold at all until the little kid game, when the sun was down.

Ginna, thanks for the processed clippings with that youthful picture. Or I suspect I should thank Joe, because his firm did the job.

Scott is at work tonight. He has been off for three nights this week because he had a leading part on the first college play. I thought he was really good, but not better than some of the others. He works from 5 to 8 p.m. He ought to be home soon.

It was a real joy to have Jack and Ruby with us. It never entered my head that any body would ever come to see us way out here on the Caprock, and here they were just a couple of months after we got here. Their visit was too short, but we were delighted to see them, even if it had been for one afternoon. Hope they enjoyed it as much as they say they did. And we would really like to have all of you come out to these parts for a reunion. We saw a road sign this afternoon that said Denver is 1137 miles. We could go to Colorado, if that's what you want, and the promise is good about providing quarters for it. I'm sorta my own boss, now, and I could get off for such a gathering almost any time. Our kids are setting too big to pin down, but if they are out and around some where, they just won't be at the reunion.

Jettie was talking about going back to Penna this summer, but I'm trying to talk her out of it. Makes it too hard on me to do everything and hold a job, too. Maybe if you all start making some real noise like you are coming, I can keep her at home.

Well, I've got a photostat machine just down the hall in the Registrar's office, and I'm going to get the letters photostated that you missed and send them to you. Did I tell you that Jettie gave me a Pendleton jacket for my birthday and then I gave her one to match it for her birthday. I think we're real cozy, all matched up.

Yes, Jo, we got an announcement from Jim Ed and Martha. Martha reminds me that I owe Bro. Ed $5 on a little bet we made once; I'll owe it to you all my life, good-buddy, before I beat you out of it. Anybody who has news of the six of those kids, put it in the Robin. Where are they all? Somebody said that Alice had left Petoskey, Mich. Jim Ed is in Knox ville, I presume in the University of Tenn.

We're leaving next Weds. afternoon to spend Thanksgiving with Jettie's brothers and their families in Fort Worth and Dallas while I attend the Texas State Teachers Assoc Convention.

Maybe Miss Jettie will add something. I hope so.

Love, J
Dear Robins;

Joe wrote his letter last night and says it goes in the mail tomorrow, so I must get
my say in before I go to bed. Besides church today, I've finished a jumper for Sally
and a house coat for myself. So I'm kinda tired, but don't want to get left out
this go round.

First, Ruby and Jack, I'm sorry I haven't written before now. I did get the package
off with your watch and watch. Hope you have received it, if not let me know. I had
it insured for $20. Hope that is enough to cover it, if you haven't got it. I doubt
if it would and I know you prize the watch, so I hope you don't have to collect on
the insurance. We surely enjoyed your visit. It is hard to realize you were ever
here. I hope next time you can stay longer. Everyone you met was so impressed with
you and ask about you when we see them. In case you should want to drop a note to
Urma Skinner and the Mrs. Scott who took us to lunch here are their addresses:

Mrs. Robert Skinner
3004 Lipscomb

Mrs. W. M. Scott
2607 Parker

Thanks, Jack, for the pictures. Joe wants to put one of the house in the Robin.

We have had really winter. About three or four inches of snow this past week. Of
course, to the Michangers this doesn't sound like much. It was a beautiful snow,
though. And I do enjoy seeing it. It was so cold this day, I was awfully glad I
didn't have to get out.

With Thanksgiving on us, it makes me realize Christmas will soon be here. We may
go down to Houston to see my brother down there the week between Christmas and New
Years. I'm really excited about the trip to Ft. Worth and Dallas for Thanksgiving. I
haven't seen my brothers there for over five years. Several new great nieces and
nephews I haven't seen.

I'm looking forward to Neiman Marcus and the Dallas stores. Things are so high
here I've put off as much shopping as I could until I could get there, so I plan
to shop-like mad. Scott has a tux on his Christmas list. David needs a top coat.
Our Christmas lists are usually things we need or would have to buy anyway.

Scott bought a tape-recorder this past week with her earnings. He is having lots
of fun recording radio and T.V. programs. He gets some of our conversation, which
is quite amusing.

I'd better get to bed. Tomorrow starts a busy week.

Love,

Jettie
Dear Robin:

I will have to admit the Robin arrived Friday last week, but I could not find a time to write my part until now, or could not make myself attach it. I am sending it on to our brother, Will Brown, as he threatened to start a Robin of his own if we left him out. I am mailing this tonight, and he should get it by the 6th. I intend to send Ruby a card so she will know where the Robin is.

I worked at the Broadway Shop Friday and Saturday, but only because the girl who works for Miss Morris had a funeral in the family. Miss Morris bought the Broadway Tot Shop from Mrs. Flasher, and has had a spinal injury in a car wreck and just can't stand on her feet to run her shop. I am afraid she is going to lose what she had put in it, and she is an old maid with no knowledge of children's clothes.

I have been arranging Joe's room for them to use during Christmas as Willma's sisters are planning to come, and she will give them her bedroom while they are here. I had the poster bed I used in our dining room in the basement, and Joe wanted that one in his room, and I moved one single bed out in the hall, a day-bed in the living room, and got my sink-up lamp fixed over my desk like Ruby's. Joanna, I got another lamp like the one you got, and a shade that matches it grand, and it makes a beautiful light. I got burner and chimney to hang shade on. If you have never found a shade for yours, she had one more like this one, and you can see it when you come.

I do hope to see you during Christmas, and plenty of beds if you can spend the night.

Joanna, your letter was interesting and neway. I was glad to hear that Linda and Rod are happy. I think Ed is right blaming Ike for our slow-down in missiles, etc., and Nixon hindered the work of all Scientists investigating them, and Ike is a sick man, and should resign or get out, but the party members keep pushing him back in the ring for more fight which he is not physically able to do.

Jettie, I would like to see your house, but that is too far off for us to try for I am afraid. I am glad all of you are happy there; It sounds just right for you. The pictures are good of all, and everybody looks happy.

Ruby, accounts of your vacation, and the cards I got sounds like just the right kind of vacation, and I know you enjoyed every minute of it. I don't know
about a reunion in Colo. Where in Colo, and does Joe know how much it would cost him to put up this Ray Olan for a week even. I suppose we could come, but it would be easier to fly, and I know how Ray is not going to buy a new car. He thinks he has just broken this one in, and it really has no miles on it. I am afraid my men just have no car pride. Joe thinks his little yellow Plymouth is just good enough.

I am enclosing a letter from Jim Ed's Martha, which will give you the news with them. Joe, Billy is at Fort Worth, Texas, with the Convair. You should look him up when there. Billy and Clair also have two fine boys. Alice was to come to Peabody on a scholarship working on her PhD, but I have never heard if she is there. I believe Bill told me Mary has a boy, I don’t even know her married name. Martha married a salesman by the name of Chelf. We saw them once when they were passing through down at the College St. Market for just a few minutes before the baby was born. I asked them to come to see me some time for a stop-over, but they haven’t.

The snow must be piled high around Jack and Ruby. Joe, how about Amarillo? We woke up two mornings to find the ground almost covered, but melted before noon. However, we have had some real cold weather, almost down to 20 above, wind out of the north, and I stayed in until it warmed up, and that was just today.

Jettie & Joe, Uncle Charlie Harman who lives in Texas died last night. You remember Abner his grandson who drove that school bus home and carried your chair, or something about a chair. Uncle Charlie was buried today in Erie, Texas. He was almost ninety, if not over.

Mr. J.L. Harman is staying alone in his big house, and Lewie in his house by the river. He did plan to make an apartment upstairs, but counted the cost, and he and Lewie, Jr. can’t agree how to do it. Lewie wants to spend a lot on iron grill work, and a kitchen over the side entrance.

None of this is worth reading, and I am signing off.

Love Virginia.

P.S. Uncle Jim, Aunt Hettie are not so spray, but still doing about the house under their own steam, and Aunt Katie is getting around slowly, but seems well.
West Point, Ky
12-10-57

Dear Ruby,

So glad to hear from everyone again - it seems everybody thought we had to have a strict address here, but West Point, Ky. is all that's necessary. We have to go to the Post office for our mail.

I've been doing quite a bit of substituting the past two months - 21 days, I believe, in all. I've enjoyed it a lot & the money helps, too.

The nuts came, Ruby, and they are delicious. I've never had all the nuts I wanted to do Christmas baking - now I've plenty. Thanks you & Jack. We also got the package yesterday. Bill put on the overcoat & wore it back to school. The coat is nice for me to wear to school, too.

We have five cases of fish here - all in various stages. Mama & all of the children, Bill & I have been fortunate so far, Jackie
has been sickest of all, but he is better now.
Sylvie & Joe Aiden are still in the bed. Mama &
Dennis are up part of the time.

I'm writing today & I think my clothes
are about ready to hang out, so

Love to all.

Audrey

P.S. Enjoys the picture so much.
Dec. 14, 1957

I am very glad I have lost some weight, not enough yet.

Dear Children,

It was good to get the robin again. In spite of the fact that I was held it a few days, it will get back to Roscommon in a month from the day it left there.

I was glad to hear from you, Summer, but we do miss 'little Eddard.' It's been a long time & I can't seem to get a word out of him edge-wise or broadside. Don't be surprised if I call you—collect one of these days. I'll be glad when Barbara & Bill move back to Michigan & we were really disappointed that Emily didn't come here for Thanksgiving. Looks like I'll have to go to Rutgers & look up Fink to get word of her. I guess you will go to Kentucky Christmas. We'd love to be there but just can't make it this time.

Our really wonderful vacation is still fresh in our memory & we are very glad we rounded it out with the trip to Amarillo. I hope we didn't have a family there. It would be a place to see. We do miss your not being nearer. However you haven't gained
or lost anything as to weather. So far we have had two heavy snows. One—the first—was ten inches measured with a ruler on our back yard table. All traffic was at a stand still—except foot travel—but then it was awfully cold. Me! I stayed in and caught up with sewing and mending. All social events were postponed until the next week. When he! and Be hold! We had another one almost to match the first but colder.

Yesterday a friend who lives on an icy hill had her bridge party here. It was a library benefit and she had postponed it on account of the last snow. Today was bright and clean—so that people can at least get out to do their shopping. The stores have had a bad time. New York is chaos. I guess that Ike is to blame—and him sick. We are like Mamie—we have done our shopping—as you probably know by now—by ordering off. Or by sending little pick-ups!

I'm glad the Brown's are in again, but sorry they are having such poor health. I do believe you have done better than last year.

I am very thankful that we have been able to see as many of you as we have and as many times as we have. On for the reunion—to the West Until then don't rest!

'Merry Christmas all!'

Love

Ruby
Dear Folks:

Ruby wrote her Robin last night but before I got started on mine, the next door neighbors came in and stayed till midnight. We had all our Christmas cards out-- starting to address them-- but nary a card got underway last night.

And so it goes. I've been on a December fund push which has kept me tied to the mast but it's paying off. Got $20,000 out of a Philadelphia foundation just last Friday; and $16,500 from another just 10 days before. This big lumps count, along with the parents and friends lesser (but good) contributions.

Carpenter coming tomorrow to do over our kitchen; put Ruby a built-in dressing table in the bedroom; and a new bannister down out back stairs (Ed was always afraid he'd topple on them).

We've had two devilish bouts with winter-- 10 inches of snow two weeks ago; then lastweek more snow and zero temperatures. However today is sunny and 48 degrees-- so the snow is moving out. We're in our new Center now and I have really nice offices. Five rooms for me and my stuff on the ground level. The building is fully air conditioned for summer, too.

We're not going to make it to any of the relatives for Christmas-- although we'd like to see you-all and my own family too. But we're still riding on the very fine vacation we had in Oct. and early Nov. It strained our budget but it was worth it. We're against waiting until we can't walk around (which is almost now) or hoarding for a rainy day. Too many people we've known waited too long and never got there. (Wherever "there" is). Anyway, happy Yule to all of you -- we'll be thinking of you.

Jack
Chillun:

The Ole Robin came flapping in here on Christmas Eve, and we're sitting around the house all ready for Santa to come & I've got nothing to do to keep me from writing my Robin letter right now.

Eddard, you got mixed up on the Robin stuff I sent to you last time. I kept Virginia's letter anyway and Jettie's and mine; so I got the assistant registrar to make me photostats of Ruby's and Jack's letters and sent them to you so you wouldn't miss the Robin entirely. I wanted them back so I could keep the copies. You apparently thought it was the whole Robin that I had sent you because you had missed it and you put in a Robin letter. The Robin was long since gone (in the mail in which I sent the stuff to you.) I have the letter you wrote down in my office, and I will send it along with the Robin this time.

Things going along fine here. Packages under the tree enough to keep us until June paying out the bills. Sally still a bit surly because she finds that she is not going to get a horse, but there are a whole lot of little girls and boys who want horses that aren't going to get them this Christmas. I've really done a fancy job of loafing since school was out last Thursday. I have a whole raft of things to do, but I am not getting to them, and don't really much care.

I've been dieting and have taken off 8 or 10 pounds. Down now to 168-170. The doubt about the figure -- ups and downs -- is attributable to the Christmas cheer, fruitcake, etc., that I feller nearly has to eat when he goes calling during the holidays.

All of us disgustingly healthy. David home from school one day recently with a sore throat, but he's all right now and doing fine. All three of the young fry got colds, I think because of the new electric blankets which they had to have because of the cold weather.

Scott and Sally fixed up the Christmas tree and the lights in front of the house. I'll leave for Jettie the chore of describing the house decoration. Whether I can, I'll try, and ask she can set it straight if I get it wrong. There are some fuzzy balls tied in the middle of the front door with lights in them -- placed on a background of green tin foil. Out in the middle of the front yard is a spotlight trained on the door. Under Sally's window and the kitchen window living room between the windows on either side of the door we have some gold stars of many points, and below them in the shrubs are lights which Scott borrowed from the college that throw up a red glow. And regular Christmas tree lights in the shrubs at
corners of the house.

Glad to hear about Billy Ray being in Fort Worth. All five of us were there just a few weeks ago. Spent the night there, but just didn't know he was there. I don't get to Fort Worth very often. Most of my trips downstate drop me at Dallas, and it would take some real doing to get over to Fort Worth. Shame I didn't know it when we were there. The boys and I went to a football game in Fort Worth even after our visit there (and David had his first driving accident: bashed in the front of our car and hurt neither the car in front of him nor anybody in either car).

Jettie's got her a new mink stole that she used her summer earnings to buy. She's really stylish.

Ed, thanks for the slide you sent me of Jettie taken last May when she was there. It's a really good one. I'm having a duplicate slide and a print made before I return it to you.

Glad to hear no street address is needed for West Point, Kentucky. Comes to late for a Christmas card, but you all know you have our best wishes for a good Christmas.

Don't know when I can get to Kentucky. I don't travel as far and wide now as I did with the U. of Md and with the Air Force. Funny thing, though: the meeting of the American Association of Junior Colleges meets in the Pantlind Hotel at Grand Rapids, Michigan on March 5-7, 1958. Looks like I'm gonna be eating some more of your groceries, Little Mardie. You gonna be home. I envy you the good visit with ole W. B. One of these days I'll get to Kentucky, but when I don't see now.

There ain't much to do around here and I could write all day, but like Miss Virginia says, this letter ain't much anyway and I might as well knock it off.

It's mighty comforting to reflect in this Holy Season that my kin are well and happy in the various parts of the country. The best of everything to all of you in the New Year.

Love, Joe
Dear Robin;

The Robin came in on Christmas Eve, so you see what a nice Christmas present we got! Joe wrote his that night and he wanted me to write mine yesterday, Christmas Day, but I never got it done. Then today I had a luncheon to get off, which I have done and now I'll get mine written so we can get it in the mail tonight.

This has been a very full day. I wouldn't have planned the luncheon that I did for today had I realized that it was Home Coming at the College and there was a tea there this afternoon, as well as a basketball game between the Ex-students and College team tonight. So you see I've had a busy day!

This has been another wonderful Christmas for all of us. In spite of not having any family around, we had a good time. An elderly couple from Canyon, a town 15 miles from Amarillo where West Texas State College is, came over for the day. After the excitement of opening packages, it was a very quite day. We all fared awfully well. Scott went half crazy with presents for everyone with his big earnings!

I wanted very much to go down to Austin and Houston the week between Christmas and New Years, but couldn't get anyone to go with me. The kids like to stay home during holidays for they like to sleep late and loaf around with their friends. So that is just what they are doing. I've promised myself a trip to South Texas in April to see the bluebonnets in bloom.

Virginia, Joe forgot to start talking plans for the summer trip to Colorado. We can rent a cabin or cabins for however many or whenever we want it. We have a friend in Boulder that I'll write soon and get information about what is available. We were at Netherland, about 18 miles up in the mountains from Boulder.

Joanna, are you and Emily serious about going to summer school in Boulder? If so, that is what started us talking about meeting in Colorado. Ruby and Jack said they would come. Maybe Brown could drive his brood and Virginia and Ray out, or else Brown and Joe Wilson both drive out. If Ed is back by the last of August it looks like the last week in Aug. or first one in Sept. would be best, for Ed and Joanna would be out of summer school and he could fly down and drive back with them. So everyone let us know what he or she thinks about it. I do know that places have to be reserved early in the year, so we ought to know or have an idea of who would come and when, so we can rent a place.

Ed, your trip sounds quite exciting. Although, I'm not too keen on helicopters. I believe I'd be scared to death in one. But they must mean a lot to anyone out in that area. We'll look forward to seeing your pictures. So you see you'd have to come to Colorado. That could be your première!

Everyone here has been very nice to us during the holidays and it hasn't been too bad. The many many Christmas cards we got from old friends back in Maryland helped a lot, too. When I started writing Christmas notes I got terribly homesick for Maryland friends and good times we had had there, then when the nice notes started coming from everyone there,
I felt lots better. So many of them wrote such nice letters in
their cards. So I guess I'll live through this chance, too.

I must get supper for my brood. Sorry to know Audry and Brown
have been under the weather with theirs. I think it is just the
children's age. It won't be this bad all of the time, Audry.
They finally learn not to get too hot or too cold and get colds.
I know you had an exciting Christmas. Young children just make
Christmas!

Best wishes to everyone for a good year to come in 1958!!

Jettie,
Dear Folks:

The Robin was here Monday while Brown & family and Jim Ed and family/ but I had not had time to look at the mail and it was between the Newsweek and Legion magazine. Wish I had noticed and they could have read it, or Jim Ed could. I am sending on to W. B. Ray, Sr. and hope they will send it on soon.

The Robin was extra good this time, especially Ed's two letters. We had heard the news about the Arctic trip, but the letters were more detailed. We all enjoyed Ed's and Brown's visit before Christmas, and it was such a surprise. I was thinking all the time it was a dog and sled affair, and Ed was foolish trying it, but helicopter is different. We would all enjoy seeing those pictures late August.

We had a very quiet Christmas, with only Wilma and Joe spending a few nights up here while her sisters were visiting them. I did very little decorating, silver and green mesh bells at the door, and Eleanor's small electric Christmas tree and Christmas cards over the top and down sides of Dining Room arch, same treatment over kitchen door and outside door. You could see all three doors from the front and it was colorful. Jim Ed took them down for me Monday night before they left for home.

Jim Edd, Martha, Mark and Keith came by Sunday afternoon from their grandmother's, Mrs. Whitehouse, on their way to see Jim Ed's mother, Mrs. Ralph Chelf, now, 115 W. 17th St. Owensboro and I suggested he call his Daddy and have them come down and go on next day to see his mother, but he decided to call and make arrangements for them to come down Monday and he would get back here Monday night to be with his Dad and family. Bill, Audrey and family arrived around noon, and I put them down to soup, crackers and milk, and we enjoyed a good visit before Jim Ed got back about six o'clock. I didn't do so well making a fancy dinner, just County-smoked sausages baked potatoes, peas, rolls and pear salad, ice cream and cookies. We fed the children first in the kitchen and the balance ate in dining room. Even if the meal wasn't so good we enjoyed sitting around the table.

I have been taking blood pressure medicine, and that day was the day I had the let down, dropped some 40 points, and I didn't care much if school kept or not, and nothing bothered me, the noise of the children did not even disturb me. I wish you all could have seen these little boys rolling and tumbling over each other on the floor. Jackie and Mark were a pretty good match. After Bill and family left, Mark started to cry for them to come back, and said "Who are they mother", and Martha said they were your little uncles. Mark said No, they are not big enough, not as big as Uncle Billy, and he didn't want them for Uncles but big brothers. Mark is cute as he can be, and a handsome child, but the baby is also cute and looks very much like Jackie did when he was a baby.

I got a Christmas card from William B. Ray, Jr., 605 Fairfield Drive, Fort Worth, 14 Texas. They also have two fine boys. They came by to see us just before they went out to Texas. Jim Ed says Billy is not as much pleased with the Fort Worth job as he hoped to be, as he has been more in the Engineering field and he wanted the Nuclear weapons field. Also a Christmas card from Vivian, Mrs. Richard Williams, 525 Chesterfield Ave. Nashville, and one from Dorothy, Mrs. Frank Demiano, Hartdale, N. Y. I have never seen Dorothy since she married. Alice is going to Vanderbilt now living with Vivian, Jim Ed Says. I didn't hear from Mary, Mrs. Colon Carpenter now, living at 252 Harding Road, Nashville, Tenn. I didn't know her address and didn't send her a Christmas card. Billy and Jim Ed have done exceptionally well and I am proud of them, but I give all the credit to their wives and not to their mother. They both sent their mother army pay, and even though she was working and Mary and Alice working she spent every cent of it. I felt sorry for Jim Ed when Mr. Joe told him I had saved for him every cent he had sent home, and Jim Ed said his mother said she had spent plenty on him wearing him, and he thought it was all right if she felt that way. It does look like I am clear off the subject of a family letter.

Our Joe Wils and Wilma are expecting, and they are both pleased as punch, and so am I, but Aunt Kate thinks it is a calamity, but that's always her attitude about anybody having a baby. They are still living in the 12th st. apartment, and have lost interest in looking for a house to buy. Joe has had several offers in smaller towns near here, and is now sure something will turn up when he wants it and until he knows more about what to expect, has stopped talking about buying a house.

I am enclosing a letter from our cousin, Jim Ray, from the Masonic Home out from Louisville. He sounds homesick and wish you would all write to him. Bill says he is going to see him as they are not far from there.

Love, Virginia.