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January 15, 1982

Dear Folks,

With bitterly cold temperatures breaking 20th century records here and elsewhere, we have had a full week's vacation from school. It seems that ^{our} school buses cannot be started if the mercury dips below a certain point. A few days ago the high for the day was one degree Fahrenheit. That may sound fairly mild to winter-hardened Minnesotans and Michiganders — but to Kentuckians it's a kick in the head. We've had a few inches of snow to help muck up things, too.

I can't say I haven't enjoyed the week's rest, even though we've had only 5 days of school since Christmas vacation ended Jan. 4. As long as I have material, patterns and my trusty sewing machine, however, I can endure just about any weather. I do most of my spring sewing in January and February.

Also, of late I have taken up making wooden doll furniture from kits that come pre-cut but unfinished. The final result of several steps of glueing and finishing is quite satisfying. I don't yet have the dollhouse of my "dreams"; but I intend to one day. (I may even let Audrey and Fusine play with it!) Miniatures are big business now, and I can see how people can get really engrossed in the subject.

Barbara, you asked for Jack's address; it's 304 N. University Ave., Carbondale, Ill. 62901.

The next time this bird migrates to Kentucky, I hope it brings real Robins with it — and warmer temps.

Love,
Sylvia (over)

Emily, I like your suggestion to Uncle Joe + Aunt Jettie to share family Christmas memories and traditions. Like you, I love to learn of family goings-on ^{that trip please} before I was old enough to remember.

Aunt Joanna, I was shocked to hear of the demise of Glen of Michigan. Many years ago you or Emily sent Mama and me a big box of wools and other fabrics from there. We made two suits and a winter coat; the looped-cloth coat I still have.

Route 2
Lebanon, Kentucky
March 29, 1982

Dear Folks,

If Spring keeps on trying I think it will eventually get here, but it's been painfully slow this year. Maybe I'm just trying to wish March away because my sinuses are usually in such turmoil this time of year.

Bob just returned from a week's stay in Washington, D.C., furnished by what is called Close-Up Foundation, an organization which arranges to bring ^{selected} high school government students and teachers to the Capitol for a "Close-up" look at government in action.

Participant schools are selected pretty much at random; Bob chaperoned one student on this trip. All expenses were paid and the week was rigidly structured with workshops and tours for the students, but the teachers had a considerable amount of free time in which to explore the city on their own. Though Bob had been to Washington several times before, he had never had the opportunity to observe so much in depth.

He got to see two cases argued before the Supreme Court, a considerable thrill for him. Though he didn't sup with Ronald McDonald and Nancy Nancy, he did see Her Majesty from

a distance and reports that she does ~~not~~
appear quite regal — and is indeed quite attractive.

Barbara, I remove my Robin letters each
time, but I can copy those I have and send
you the bunch if you want. It occurred
to me some years ago that what I wrote
in the Robin could serve as a partial record
of our family doings which we might like
to re-read in years to come; that is why I've
been pulling out my letters.

Love to all,

Sylvia



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

JOSEPH M. RAY
Professor Emeritus
President Emeritus

7-17-82

Barb:

I believe your name is unnecessarily alarmed about the Rubin letter. I wouldn't want to be the one who endorsed any fake letter from any other regular member. I don't know enough. The people who W.B. has over the years inspired on me Ruby, El, El, + Virginia (some), and they're all gone. The ugly stuff from the first dance was reduced to my satisfaction as without function. I have unique information on it.

W.B.'s greatest fault, in my view is his facile assumption that any money anybody in the family had was his if he could bulldoze it out of them + this worked mostly on El + Ruby (especially) who was usually ready to give him money anyway. I doubt if he ever repaid her any money she gave him. He was and is a male chauvinist + could + did try to argue the girls out of money. In the last decade of her life she asked me what to do about his importunings for money. I advised her to lend it out if she was willing to give it to him. She died with a note in her papers owing from W.B. for about \$2000 which he had been reducing with. Louise Richards dedicated its face
(over)

from his share in Ruby's estate. I would guess that was the only
factual note he ever signed with Ruby.

He never beat me out of a nickel. I never loaned him any
I guess over the years I have given him \$500 at various times
and only once did I think he was about to, but he came
out of that smelling like a rose

I'd say send anything you want to to Sylvia. You
couldn't tell her anything bad about him. She writes him
weekly with no hope of response. She loves him. And
the one time I had doubts about whether he was trying
to cheat me, she guessed it right, as it later developed,
& he was without evil intent.

Love

Uncle Joe

I'm returning the check.

304 N. University Ave.

Carbondale, Illinois 62901

May 1, 1982

SV 3-8 82

Dear Uncle Joe and Aunt Jettie,

Well, I've finally found some time this weekend to get a letter off to you all. I have been pretty busy lately (and will be until May 25th) trying to meet a deadline for the report I'm writing. I'm ending up spending some of my own time on the paper after work.

Dr. and Mrs. Morton took me out to a very nice secluded restaurant in a state park Wednesday. Had a good time. We get together about once every two or three weeks.

I was sad to hear about Roy Thomas. I visited him and his wife a couple of times with Aunt Ruby and Aunt Ginny in the early 70's and once, I think, while ~~at~~ at Western. I liked him alot.

I guess you're right about another Ray reunion. It would probably be especially difficult to carry one through during the present economic conditions. Then, too, Dad would be somewhat of a problem. I love Dad very much, but I do recognize he can be very hard to deal with.

I've had two good letters from Barbara and need to write her back. It seems as though Uncle Ed didn't do much organized archaeology -- most of his work was done independently as a hobby. However, his main line of work was also right down my alley -- wildlife ecology. He received degrees in biology and education from Western and worked on his Ph.D. in wildlife management.

5-1-82

I've often thought about changing directions and getting a degree in Natural History (and probably will eventually). I guess nature study is actually my first love. Ever since I was in the 7th grade, I've been fascinated with the subject. In fact, one of the aspects that drew me into archaeology, was the desire to learn more about the seemingly symbiotic relationship most American Indians had with nature. My dream has always been to get an archaeologist position in a national or state park so that I could pursue both interests at the same time. I missed a lot by not knowing Uncle Ed real well and only wish I could have tapped some of his knowledge.

Love,

*I suggested that Jack write Joanna + Jack
Barb about Ed's professionalism
no Ray reunion without Ruby to push it.*

[I suggested that Jack write Joanna + Barb
about Ed's professionalism. No Ray reunion
without Ruby to push it.]

Route 2
Lebanon, Ky.
May 4, 1982

Dear Barbara,

How kind of you to send me copies of the ancient Robin letters. I read them with delight and would dearly love to have more. You're right about their being like peanuts. I felt the same way last fall when I read Uncle Joe's unedited memoirs (he likes to call the papers his "recollections.") As you may know, he sent this 10"-thick stack of papers to Jack, I think because he feels Jack may some day organize and edit them. When I saw how much there was to plow through, I figured it would take me 3 months to make it to the end. But after the first few pages, I realized I was hopelessly addicted and had to have frequent fixes till I reached the end some 3 weeks later.

Glenn presently has the original of which he is making 2 or 3 copies. When we see him in June for his master's graduation, I will try to get a copy to send you. I'm sure you will enjoy the "recollections" as much as I did & will probably want to share them around.

If you have a chance to pluck out a few more vintage Robin letters for me, I would be much pleased to have copies — especially ^{those} of my parents.

We all know Dad has always been a confirmed R.L.W. Mama, she will admit herself, is an honorary R.L.W.; she despises having to sit down and write, though she is very good at it. The few letters I've seen Dad write, too, are quite interesting - if you can wade through all ~~this~~ editorializing.

Somehow you have gotten Bob's parents' address in your address book. Your letter came to their house, & as they were in Florida this past week, I didn't get hold of it till yesterday. Our correct address, as you can see is, Route 2, but we will be moving ^{mid} in June or July. We've lived where we are now for 11 years, & I shudder to think of all the accumulated junk I'll have to sift through before our move. We've been in need of more room for some time now & the place we've bought in Lebanon is almost made-to-order for us - with a huge backyard & room for as large a garden as I could ever want.

Back to the Robin, I always pull my own letters each time around, ~~and~~ I have several year's worth of them. I figured they would be a rather interesting record of family doings in years to come. Would you want copies?

I will send you ^{all} the pictures you asked for as soon as I can get them together. These are the

511 Park Drive
Lebanon, Ky. 40033
June 23, 1982

Dear Folks,

The Robin arrived on the eve of our move to a new house, so I've, of course, had to wait to write till I could manage to organize my frazzled brain. This is the second night we've spent here and it already seems like home. We moved from just outside the city limits into town, a place with more room and a canopy of trees. The house was built in 1949 + thus is a year younger than I am, so I take offense when anyone calls it an "old" house.

The children are enjoying visiting the nearby city park, + I am looking forward to having a sizeable garden next year, now that we have the room. Also, praise be, I have a sewing room to myself.

We'd be tickled to see anyone who ventures to this neck of the woods. And we'll certainly expect you, Scott, before you leave Bardstown.

As I've had both eyelids propped ^{up} with toothpicks to write this, I must now end, with love to you all —

Sylvia

County Digs Out From Another of Its 'Weekenders'

By TODD REED
Asst. Managing Editor

It's Monday, and Mason County is digging out from under a winter storm. So what else would we expect?

The scenario was the same—high winds, plenty of snow to blow around and make traveling impossible, cancellations piling up as fast as the snow, a state of emergency declared for the third weekend in a row, schools closed today.

BUT THIS TIME throw in at least one more chilling factor—a widespread power outage which left hundreds of rural Mason County residents and many Oceana and Manistee County residents without power for up to two hours Sunday night.

Fortunately for football fans huddled in front of their television sets, they at least got to watch Super Bowl XVI before a major transmission line carrying electricity from a generating plant in Hershey to West Michigan Electric customers in Mason County snapped.

Whether the weather caused the power line to break northeast of Scottville, still had not been determined today. But the weather certainly slowed down efforts to restore power. Normally repair crews could reroute power by simply driving quickly to the scene and throwing some bypass switches. Driving to the scene was out of the question so the West Michigan Electric repairmen took to snowmobiles to get the job done, Line Superintendent Byron Bayle said.

A STATE OF EMERGENCY was declared for Mason County at 2:55 p.m. Saturday when zero visibility forced all county snowplow equipment off the roads, most of which were becoming heavily drifted. States of emergency were also declared in Oceana, Manistee and Lake counties, where conditions mirrored those in Mason County.

A three-car pile-up blamed on the zero visibility driving conditions closed US-31 north of Fountain Road at 1 p.m. Saturday. The state of emergency declaration which followed ordered all county roads closed to all but emergen-

cy travel until the emergency was lifted at 5:15 p.m. Sunday. Many motorists ignored the driving ban Sunday however.

An ambulance, sheriff's department four-wheel drive and a road commission plow teamed up to get to a rural Custer residence in the storm Saturday night to rush an expectant mother to the hospital. It turned out to be a false alarm. The still expectant mother was later released from the hospital.

An emergency shelter was set up at Optimist Hall in Scottville for stranded travelers. However, the shelter, arranged by the Red Cross, did not have to be activated.

MANY COUNTY ROADS, particularly in townships along the lakeshore, remained closed today. By Wednesday, the road commission hopes to have all county roads open, provided the weather remains favorable.

Winds which were gusting to over 50 miles per hour died down considerably Sunday, allowing both city and county road crews to get back on the streets and roads.

All city streets and most alleys were open today but DPW Director Jerry Clark said his crews could spend the next three weeks just trying to catch up with pushing back snow on corners and intersections and removing snow downtown and in other critical areas.

All highways in Mason County had been opened at least two lanes wide by this morning along with some trunklines and a few local roads.

In Oceana County, Lester Kolk, Oceana County Road Commission superintendent, reported this morning that the US-31 expressway and Oceana Drive have been opened for travel. But many primary and secondary roads remained closed. The state of emergency was lifted in Oceana County at 7 a.m. today. All schools were closed.

THE STORM LEFT behind another eight inches of snow, bringing the total accumulation for Mason County this winter to 133 inches.

That 133 inches puts Mason County within 15 inches of surpassing the worst snowfall winter in recent years, 1978-79, when 147 inches of snow was recorded for the entire winter.

This is where Susie's fiancé lives & when she plans to live eventually

Country Road

is a road. At least somewhere under all that snow there lies Anderson Road in Victory Township. The picture was typical of the situation over the weekend on north-south roads in much of Victory Township and other lakeshore area townships.

It illustrates why a state of emergency was declared in Mason and surrounding counties. In the background is one of the many area farms snowed in by this latest storm.

Daily News/TODD REED