

Fayetteville, NC

19 June 1994

Hi,

I hear from almost everyone in the family that this has not been one of your best winters. In fact your last letter didn't sound like you were enjoying those cold miserable Michigan winters where you fall down on the ice and bruise the hell out of yourself. You are getting too old for that stuff. You'll just have to spend most of your winters further south. There is us, your son, Tag and Rose And Nina and Bill. For just a little bit of gas money you could parley your visits into a whole winter.

It hasn't been the greatest winter for us either, what with June's shingles. She still hasn't gotten completely over them, still has pain ~~in~~ in her back and breast. But she can stand it now, at least. Otherwise we both seem to be OK, except for colds that we both have right now.

And now you are going to hear of our travels, whether you want to or not.

We left here on May 17th headed for Davenport, Ia. for a reunion of the members of the 376th Parachute FA BN, the one I was assigned when I returned to active duty in 1946. Where we met the Huttons and the Andrews, and your first visit to Fort Bragg. Four couples of us traveled from here, in separate cars. We had a good time, June did a lot of gambling on the riverboats (nickel slots) but didn't lose the farm. On Sunday, the 22nd, we all headed for Branson, Mo., with three couples staying overnight at the Polzoes B & B. What a host that Nancy is, in spite of the fact that we told her not to, she prepared an evening meal. A picnic type served on the deck. Margaret was there to help her with the effort. In the morning she served a breakfast fit for old folks and diabetics. Mary came by for breakfast, she is on her good behavior, at least for the time being, and all three have lost weight. They all impressed the Huttons and the Andrews, and us too, for that matter. But we got a call from Nancy the other day and she said Mary's good behavior did not last long. Will send some pictures when I get the film finished. About Christmas, more than likely. Some day we would like to spend a little more time at that place. It is such a peaceful setting. And Nancy is sure a cool host, doesn't stress you out at all.

On Monday we all left for Branson where we saw 11 shows in 5 days. And we are not even country music fans. But we are already planning to go back and see some of the shows we missed. All the shows included country music, usually some big band stuff, some gospel and almost all ended with a patriotic theme. They all had plenty of good humor, our throats ached from laughing and our hands were sore from clapping. And at no time was there ever an off-color

joke or remark of any kind. The whole place makes you feel so good that even folks from New York get friendly and polite. Traffic on the two lane road thru town moves at about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile an hour, but folks let you into the bumper to bumper traffic just as soon as they realize you want in. The friendly, good feeling is very catching. We recommend Branson to everyone. In fact I think towns like Branson are the thing of the future. As some of the stars said, they are at home with their families for a change and we do the traveling. Some of their families get real involved, Shoji's 13 year old daughter was on stage quite a bit and one of the Osmond brother's 8 sons did a couple of numbers.

We felt that Shoji Tabuchi and Roy Clark were about the best. Will send a picture of Shoji, Bob Hutton and I, standing by the pool table in his elegant men's room. June says the lady's room was also elegant, with an orchid at each lavatory and a young lady to spray you with perfume, and not the cheap stuff. We never realized what a musician Roy Clark is. On a twelve string guitar he is a concert orchestra all by himself. And you should hear him on the Spanish guitar, plus banjo and violin. Andy Williams was great as was the Osmond brothers, Mel Tillis and Yakov Smirnoff and all the rest. Everyone should go, you just feel so good for having been there.

And then we came home for four days to do laundry and then up to our time-share in Boone with the Huttons and Andrews. The weather was lousy the whole week but with that crowd we still had a good time. I got a hum-dinger of a cold which I gave to June so she spent the first four days at home in bed. However she has been up most of the time since. Both of us are having a bad time shaking this thing. Do you suppose it is because we are old?

Nancy says that she and Margaret are going to Michigan for the 4th of July. She says Mary isn't talking to them because she wasn't invited, but they don't care because Mary's been bad. Says she has been writing to Elva, who plans to be in South Haven then too. We sure are glad to see her sort of getting back into the family circle. Would sort of like to be up there myself, but I doubt if we can afford it. I'll have to check with the family treasurer.



PS: P.A.Clark had to go into the hospital at the last minute so did not make the reunion. But he must be OK now, he and his wife and the Huttons are going to the mountains of NC this week.