

Fayetteville, NC
5 Dec., 1987

Hi

I recall very clearly writing you this spring, I recall, in fact, that it was about the time I figured you may be preparing for any summer activities that may have been planned of the school. And I haven't had any letters from you in return. I am in the habit of receiving letters by return mail from thankful people that I have condensed to write to. In fact I rarely bother to write a second letter to one who does not acknowledge my letters immediately. But since there is a very remote chance that the mule died on it's way to deliver the mail to Farris, I shall break the rules this one time and write again.

June and I went out to Calif. for five weeks this summer for an extended visit with all of our kinder and their kinder. We discovered that five weeks is too long, too long for living in other foks homes. Hopefully the next time we go out we can go by vehicle pulling a travel trailer with our own bed, bathroom and privacy. However, we did enjoy the trip and the kids and the whole bit, even if it did drag a bit in spots. And even if I did break a rib on the second day chasing a five year old granddaughter.

We stayed at Kathy's for the first couple of weeks. She is close to Rob and had the most room and the most quiet, too much quiet at times. But we did have a good visit with her and Rob and the kids. Gosh how they mature when your not around to watch them. Kathy was having some problems with her employment, the corp. she worked for had been bought out by another and she was afraid her job was going to be eliminated, so she was job hunting a little. She wasn't too worried apparently buy-outs of Chip companies is a common thing out there. She has since gone to work for another outfit and I don't believe she knows ~~whether~~ ^{whether} her old job was scrubbed or not. She seems to be doing fine, she seems happy and all of that. Her son is in his second year at Dartmouth. He was working in construction for his uncle Rob while we were out there.

Rob is apparantly doing real well for his second year as a building contractor. He was very busy and was frequently going off to make a bid on some new job. He claims that hestill doesn't know enough about bidding on a job to make any money at it, but he seemed to be doing OK. He has told us on the phone since our return that things are quiet now and that he is barely able to keep his crews busy but that he has bid on some big jobs that he hopes to get after the first of the year. The stock market crash should be a help to him. He does modifactions and additions

0174 to private homes and out there where the million dollar homes are bought capital gains, folks won't have the money to buy new ones so, in theory at least, he should get all the work he can handle. He bought the house across the street from his for \$120,000 so he can bulldoze it down and build a new one to sell. I guess lots in that area can be worth \$120,000. At any rate, he and Connie seem to be doing just great. Connie works for the company and has been so busy that she has had to give up sewing classes that she has conducted for years. She keeps the books and helps with the estimates. I noticed she works as a gofer too. The kids have grown like crazy, they both have the Cawvet heighth. Megan is in Jr High and tells us she is coming back here to go to college. Peter has outgrown all the uncoordination that I thought he had inherited from his grandfather, and is quite the young athlete. His only goal in life right now is to play baseball for Standford Univ.

Then we went to Maureen's, she ~~and~~ and Clark have moved out to the San Joaquin Valley to the town of Modesto, where they could afford to buy a home. Clark still works as an air traffic controller and is working at the tower at the Palo Alto airfield. He has a two hour drive each way to and from work. Hopefully, he'll be able to transfer to the Modesto tower in about nine months. They live in a nice neighborhood and the kids, Jimmy, Amy and Jenny have a safe, clean place to play and grow in with some fine playmates. Maureen has taken a job in the Sheriff's office, and if she follows her past habits, she'll probably take over as sheriff in a couple years. Her neighbor takes care of the kids, along with her own four or five when Reen or Clark are not around to. Which isn't all that often. We were there for Amy's first day of school, kindergarten. We felt that it would be hard on Jenny with all of the kids going to school and leaving her with none to play with. It didn't bother her a bit, thought we might need some professional help for Amy and Maureen, but Jenny took it all in stride.

Last week we went up to Maine for Thanksgiving. We stopped by Dartmouth and picked up Mike for the Holidays. We didn't see much of him after we got to Sharon's, he and Nate slept all day and partyed all night. Seems to me I can recall another kid who used to do that sort of thing at about that age back in South Haven in the late thirties. Sharon has been teaching two kindergarten classes, one of twenty in the morning in one school and another the same size in another school in the afternoon. She had finally convinced the school board that it couldn't be done and they were supposed to have hired another teacher the first of the month. George has established himself as a true artisan when it comes to stone work. He is in big demand for fireplaces etc. But George wants to get out of the business before he gets too old, he is already having trouble with his back. He has built two houses, the second one has not sold yet.

But, it will, and when it does he has already purchased a piece of land on which to build his next one. If things go OK he would like to just stay in the building business, he gets other people to do the hard work that way. I think he'll make it OK.

Nahtan is a Senior at a private school, they had to send him to one, the destitute area they live in can't afford good schools. He was applying for entrance to Hampshire College, where he may have a very good chance of going to school. He wants to keep on with his music and at the same time continue his writing. It has been his writing that has gotten him into the school he's in and that is giving him his best chance at Hampshire. He has placed in the top three in a couple of State essay contests.

Jessica is a good student and very conscientious about doing her homework, but it is all just so she can get going on something far more active. She is a cheerleader and is the smallest kid on the basketball team. And the only one to score in a game they had the night we arrived, it was a high scoring game, her free throw was the only score her team made. She is without a doubt the most energetic bundle of energy I have ever seen. She skies, dances and rollerskates and probably many other things that I don't know of. Thank God she does ^{NOT} live with me all the time, I'm too old for it.

We are both OK. Cindy is back living with us for a while. The little farm she bought this last spring didn't work out. June is still not leveled off with her diabetes, the doctor made some major changes yesterday as they keep trying to get her adjusted right. We'll probably take off for Florida and the Keys about the middle of January. But that, of course depends on how June is doing. But we probably will.

GOT CARRIED AWAY, I'VE NEVER WRITTEN THREE PAGES TO ANYONE, I'LL TRY TO DO BETTER IN THE FUTURE, KEEP IT TO JUST ONE OR TWO.

*Love
Bob & June*