

Tuesday, July 14, 1987
9:10 p.m.

Dear Shirley--

I am curious about your trip to Kentucky. Faye said it was church related but I do not think she knew much about it. You can tell us all about it when we get up that-a-way.

At this point in time (how do you like that?) we plan to leave August 14 via Bloomington, Illinois and will spend Saturday night there with Florence and Peggy. We have not told them we are coming so are not real sure about that yet. They may not be there. We usually spend a couple hours at Florence's home (Peggy drives over from Peoria) then we go out to eat at our favorite Italian restaurant where Peggy's habit gets us seated quickly. Then we talk a while longer and Peggy heads back to Peoria and soon we go to our motel on the edge of town so we can get an early start for Michigan Sunday a.m.

This year I have accepted an invitation to speak to Elva's Fellowship group on September 9th so we will be staying that long, at least. But will probably head for home very soon after that--depending on Bill's choice of travel days.

With your school not starting until after Labor Day I hope we can make a couple trips to B.R. but will play that entirely by ear. I do hate not seeing Faye and the boys more often--I am sure I will never get to know Michael. For a while I fantasized about spending our summers in your area but I have given up on that.

It sounds like you have had a good summer even though you don't like the hall you are in. I envy those people who take courses like that. How many new thoughts and ideas they must take home with them. We have friends here that subscribe to a catalog telling of the courses, etc. Frankly, I am afraid to look at it for fear I will turn permanently green with envy. Did Elva tell you about the one meeting we got to on Central America? I wish we could have made all four of them--even if the professor leading it did give us a copy of one of Reagan's speeches to read.

We have been watching the Iran-Contra hearings with great interest. It is nice to have the remote control so I can shut off such people as Hyde and some others. I do not want the president impeached but I do hope it shows some of his fans what an arrogant ass he is as well as how stupid and lazy.

Everyone seems to have had a good time at the 50th anniversary party. Faye really enjoyed it. I am glad she likes to be with the family. That is why we moved up there for those seven years--to let our kids know they had an extended family that liked each other and enjoyed each other--and could be supportive in time of need.

We called Elva a couple days before her birthday to inquire about her bottom and she told us about Ashley's re-current bladder problems but she did not mention the laser treatment. She has not mentioned him since--a short note from Ft. Wayne about me doing that program. Maybe she had not heard or did not think of it at the moment of writing. If he can't read it will be hard on him but at least he has the money etc., and with Thelma's help, can get all kinds of good tapes. I remember Eleanore used to use Pete's mother's records for the blind to listen to while she did housework.

I am so glad you went to Columbia for Chris' graduation. He sounds like a kid with his feet well planted in late teenage reality and with good self esteem.

Bill and I spent a little time on USC campus and I thought it was real 'solid' looking. Somehow that seems to be the right word, as well as attractive. I am glad he is going to live on campus--I believe in some dorm life experience for kids--providing they do not lose their values. I am sure Chris has a pretty good set of those.

I have been reading some real interesting books this spring and will give you the titles and so forth this summer. Somehow I have trouble finding any fiction that appeals to me. Maybe it is because I do not look hard enough in the right places. Today I asked the local library to get Senator Inouye's book for me to read again. I read it many years ago and thought it excellent then--the title of that is JOURNEY TO WASHINGTON. I wonder if I will enjoy it as much this time.

Like you, I am awfully glad Janis is back to work. I think it is the healthiest thing she can do for herself. She will miss Jane when she moves to Grand Rapids but I can't help thinking it will be good for Jane--and possibly for Christy, too. I can't say I am sorry to miss the wedding the first (?) of August but I do look forward to meeting the groom and I hope Jane will have a much better marriage this time. She has had a lot of time to think about it and what she wants to do. In the 'work' I am involved in so women seem to make the same mistake over and over in successive marriages, mostly it seems because they do not think much of themselves or their abilities. Jane should not have that problem. Even though she has so little schooling and training she does know she can make it on her own.

Billy comes home most weekends, he did have call one weekend and probably will have it again before we leave. He will be going back to Santa Fe the last week of August. One thing nice about the shortage of national board certified psychiatrists, which he is, is that he can get a job easily with the state. He is now registered in California, too. So he can now practice in four states--sometimes I wonder if he will be an old man before he really decides what he wants to do. But knowing him I do know he may know exactly what he wants or have no idea but either way he will tell us about it when he gets ready and not before.

Time to watch the late news and then Ted Koppel on NIGHTLINE.

See you before too long.

Love,
Nina