

Monday, 2/16/87
2:45 P.M.

Dear Shirley--

First to your letter of 1/17. It is nice to know that you do not have to retire at a certain age. Some people are old and not very useful when they are a lot younger than we are--or maybe I should just say some people are useless. Then again, it is good to be able to know when you have had enough and you want more time to do special things and to do away with some of the frustrations. As long as you plan to stay on in Big Rapids couldn't you let the proper people know that you would be willing to do certain things that you are especially good at after you retire? The word 'consultant' is getting a bad name because of abuse, maybe you could 'volunteer' for a fee.

It sounds like you had a good Christmas at Harrys. I took call both days--might at well. Billy was here for three weeks. And as communicative as usual. He will probably be back here for the summer to work at the state hospital. They seem to need him and he needs the money. He sure does not know how to take care of his money.

Eleanor and Pete arrived here Saturday afternoon (the 7th). They had called the evening of the third and said they would be leaving the morning of the 6th so we were a little surprised by their early arrival. On the phone they told us that Jimmy Marshall's wife (can't think of her first name) had died and Pete had to be a pallbearer on Thursday. (They had planned to start that morning.) They then changed their minds and left right after the funeral--hence the early arrival.

We enjoyed having them very much. We took off for the coast on Monday morning. Port Aransas and Aransas Pass--Mustang Island--the Rockport Wild Life Refuge--and Fort Goliad on our way back. We stayed all night in Rockport and went to the Refuge in the A.M. and to Goliad!!! (more important than the Alamo in Texas History) on Tuesday. They seemed to enjoy it and I know I did. It had been fifteen years since Bill and I had been down that way. We coasted on Wednesday, I took Eleanor to see the outside of the old shelter and a tour of the new one--at her request. In the evening they announced that they were leaving the next morning--and they did before we woke up and that was 6:15. They were going to get their breakfast down the road a piece. I hope they did not hit Houston at eight o'clock. That place is murder for traffic any time and at go-to-work-time it must be awful. The weather was beautiful all the time they were here. And I hope it will be when Faye and the boys are here.

We are beginning to plan on their visit. Bill picks up the highchair and car seat tomorrow (their owners are leaving town for a couple weeks). And as I glance around I notice a few things that need 'child proofing'. We have not talked to them for about three or four weeks but will be calling sometime soon. We could not get her seat assignment here but hope she is able to get a bulkhead seat--it is so much easier on kids.

It is nice that Chris has already been accepted by one University even though it might not be the one he wants most. At least, he has a place, but with his grades and talents he did not have to worry very much, did he?

Thought you might enjoy these clippings. Right now I am reading NELSON MANDELA by Mary Benson. I think one of the most stupid things is how the South African Government is wasting all that black talent by harrassing, banning, house-arresting, killing, and imprisoning the people, leaders and non-leaders. I find the fuss about a few hostages in Lebanon and Jews who cannot leave Russia pretty small things to worry about compared to what is happening in S.Africa.

And I am finding it difficult to feel terribly sorry for Americans who stay in Lebanon when they know the risks. If all the Jews that we hear about--thousands--that want to leave Russia could suddenly go to Israel I wonder what Israel would do with them?

Bill just called the airline and was able to get the Moodys seat assignments. He will call her tonight.

Take care and write when you have time.

Love,
Zina

P.S. Forgot to tell you that the Harrys were headed for Mary's, in doubt about Ashley and Thelma, not Bonnie and Bob, and were thinking of going out on the keys to find Bob and June. They had not been very successful getting information as to if and where they were but planned to try Cindy again. I think they hesitate to go Ashley's because they just will fix a big meal, etc. They can change their minds on very short notice and that is a good way to be when on vacation.