

Sunday, March 29, 1987
high noon, 37

Dear Shirley--

--and after days in the upper seventies I am sure that my tomato plants are insulted with the temperature. Last night we had .6 of an inch of rain but it also hailed. I have not checked to see if the blossoms were knocked off.

Thanks for the birthday card, it sounded just like you and, of course, Elva enjoyed the kittens, too.

First to your letter. I get some of the ups and downs of college life from my friends, most of whom are either directly or indirectly connected with the university. Right now we are very involved in another city council election. I shall be terribly disappointed if the ones we are working for are defeated but I think the Republic will stand no matter who is elected.

We have not heard from Faye except for her call that they had arrived home--and had the long delay in Chicago. From the weather report we got it must have been primarily for weather conditions. Although Elva had an extra hour tacked on her two hour lay over in Chicago.

We were glad to hear that Sheila got a job but you did not say what she is doing.

We enjoyed the visit although one could not say it was restful. The boys are so active, sharp, and interested in everything. Bill felt that the house space and big yard was a little overwhelming to them after being so confined all winter.

It sounds like you had a good break, too. Just being free to do your own thing without any interruptions or schedules must have been real satisfying. And all those jobs you got done a big relief from 'I ought to' thoughts.

The Harrys had a short but busy stay. I hope they enjoyed the trip to the coast and one of Texas' historical sites. They seem to have done quite a lot of fast traveling. When they left here they were not sure they would see Ashley and Thelma and wondering if the trip out to see Bob and June was worth the long drive. Also they had not been able to reach any of Bob's family for exact information.

We have had some real nice weather since Elva got here except for the past twelve hours and it is supposed to be pretty cool this week. We have not done a lot of flower touring. One trip to see flowers and go to a fabric shop that she wanted to see again this year. She has already made one dress and nearly finished the second one. You can see she has had a whirlwind social life here. She did go to Sunday school and church today. And we are going to a study group on Central America at six tonight. Peggy, Bill's nun sister, was in San Antonio for a meeting this past week and was free on Sunday so we went down there and showed her the sites--the Alamo, the Spanish governors home, La Vallita, and then had lunch in the tower. This week we will make a couple trips to see other flower areas. Also I am going to teach an exercise class to a group of 'Senior Citizens' and Elva is going to demonstrate them as I explain. It will have to be done through an interpreter so it will be fun. I taught this group three or four years ago and they did not want the classes to end--then it was some exercises and first aid, etc. This time I got an exercise outline from the local nursing home.

I am glad Faye will have that three day weekend. And I am also glad that Michael is going to spend time at the school. Maybe he can learn some more parenting skills.

I know, or at least hope, that I would do things differently if I had a chance to do it over again.

Yes, I read Margaret Gruman's book about her mother. I thought it was very good.

I have not read much lately--a book by a Palestinian who has lived in this country for many years. It is tied to photographs throughout the book that were taken by a Swiss. It gave me some new thoughts. The other book was THE CASTRATED WOMAN by Naomi Miller Stokes. (What your doctor don't tell you about hysterectomy.) It is excellent and well written. It is her own experience plus a seven year study of other women, etc. I intend to get a paperback copy for Faye if I can find it. I want her to have it for herself and to offer it's findings to any other women she knows who might be contemplating the surgery. It sure condemns ignorant and insensitive doctors. She interviewed over 500 patients, doctors, and psychiatrists and it took her seven years to write it. Her husband helped her with some of the research.

No, my husband did not take me to a 'good and expensive' dinner on my birthday. He did say 'Happy Birthday' when I got up.

You must be watching the TV evangelist thing and wondering what the scandals will do to it--if anything. I do not pretend to have any constructive ideas about any of it except that I could not support 'Christian' or anyone else who begged for money for the reasons they give and then accept the life styles those people have.

Time to get a little lunch and then go to our last political strategy meeting.

P.S. by me (Elva) I wore down a pair of knee length long johns which I just got out of the suitcase and put on. The church didn't seem to be heated this morning and I got very cold and am very slow warming up my legs altho the house is warm.

I doubt that I shall get to Elder Hostel this year altho I wanted to go before you retired. Lois and I want to get the genealogy book ready for the publishers in May and I am not sure how much time it will take. The Andersons have talked about wanting to take me to Door Peninsula for a long time to take the nature walk there that they think is very special, and they are now talking about this June. 1987 so far has been a very busy year for an old lady. I have to rest up betimes.

Pete and Eleanore had to get home because Eleanore had a very busy Calendar for the month of March.

With love, E.

Elva

Monday

lite freeze last nite

wase freeze expected tonite --

It may get rid of the army worms in the trees
but ————— pour tomatoes with pails, & boxes, etc over them.