

Thursday 3/16/88

Dear Shirley--

Thank you for the birthday call--even if I got it all second-hand.

Faye called last night and told us they were not coming in May and I certainly understand all the reasons she listed--and perhaps some that she did not mention. She is really happy about Sheila getting a job. I hope she keeps it--it can't help but be the best thing for all of them. I know Faye has more or less given up on her ever really becoming a self-reliant person but maybe if she is away from home it will give Tari more of an incentive to be responsible for herself. I know Faye worries about her and she has enough on her mind with her family and her job. I am not terribly disappointed that they are not coming. It would be hot, for them, by then and I would rather see them take a shorter trip if they do decide on some type of a vacation. Most of all it is very doubtful that those boys are ready for a three day trip in that car--or any car.

We got the reunion letter yesterday--sounds interesting but we have not talked about whether we will attend. We have not done much planning on our Michigan trip this year, too early for that I guess.

We are looking forward to Elva's arrival on Wednesday. I am glad she has seen the wildflowers in some of their best years because the lack of rain is reaching the serious stage here. Right then it started to rain and I heard thunder I hope it lasts a little while. We have had some serious grass fires in west Texas--thousands of acres, pasture land has been declared a disaster area.

I thought the enclosed article would amuse you. Eleanor sent the one you gave her from Royoko. He is in our Austin paper lately and I do like him. The book lists are from my friend who is a child development professional. I thought I would get them from her now and you can use them when and if you decide to do something in that area.

I had a nice letter and card from Bob. He says they did not go anywhere this winter because of June's diabetes but it seems to be getting under control. I wonder if her drinking is one of the problems.

Bill's sister, Mitzi, had a mild heart attack and was in the hospital for about five days. But she sounded like herself when we talked to her on Saturday. They told her and the family when she first went in that if she needed any kind of surgery they would not be able to do it because she is so obese. Bob said that Janis and Nancy were planning to visit them but Janis' boss's husband got sick and she could not go. Must be Eleanor Tomaa's husband. Maybe they will set up another trip. It would be good for Janis to get away, I'm sure.

Just re-read your letter of Jan. 7 and now I will throw it away. I just finished reading DEADLY DECEITS by Ralph McGeehee, who spent 25 years in the CIA. For years he was a loyal, trusting, believing anti-communist fighter then in the latter years he began to really see many of the awful things that were going on in the countries we tried to control and in the bureaucracy itself. We have sure messed up a lot of countries and ruined a lot of lives with our meddling and lying, etc.

We heard about him on Bill Moyer's program about a governemtn within a government. I think it is a book well worth reading and now we are at it again in Honduras where the CIA has been active for years---as in other Central American countries.

We voted for Dukakis--how about you. Jackson says all the things I want to hear but I want him to get some elected official experience before he goes for the top job. Saturday we are both delegates to the county convention where delegates to the state convention will be chosen. I do not want to go to the state meeting--or the nati nal one. But I have also been appointed to the resolutions committee and that will be a new experience. I am involved in a city council campaign but that seems to be a yearly experience for me.

Eleanore says Laura has a good three days a week sitter and she is lucky. So many mothers, more than fathers for sure, have such a big problem inthat area. I guess I was real lucky I was able to stay home with our kids while they were little. I do think now that it would have been better for everyone concerned if I had gone to work after they both got in school.

Did you read the article about the new Seretary of Labor in MS last month? She sounds great but time will tell. This administration has done so much damage that I don't think the best of people can do much to repair it but maybe she can do a little.

Time to take a shower, do a few chores, and go to my tutoring class. One of my students is terribly worried about family and friends still in Terhran.

Time to go--

Love,
Rina