

Saturday, 1/15/94

Dear Shirley--

Elva wrote in her letter a few days ago that she wondered if we had both broken our arms because no one seemed to have heard from us. No, it was not her last letter but one in December--. You know Bill loves to get mail but he rarely writes a letter. I figured out that when she wrote no one had received by Christmas letters. I wrote to everyone but Janis but I do not have her address and she does not write and send it and I forget to get it when I am there. She did write to Elva!! and has called <sup>Elva</sup> a couple times. I wonder if we are all responsible for her selfish ways because she was the youngest?

I decided I better write you and get my collection of clippings and other things mailed and under control. I have a couple that I want to copy Tuesday so I can't mail this today. I know you all read the papers and magazines but we don't all get the same stuff.

Since a fire here in an apartment house that displaced a bunch of people I have been real busy with Red Cross work, and I really appreciated the help of the experts in the Field Office in San Antonio. Then when I got pretty well caught up with that we had a single-family burn-out over on the other side of the county and I have to take care of that. A man being divorced by his wife burned her mobile home with a total loss of everything but the clothes she and the three kids were wearing while they were away from home. And, of course, no insurance.

Also I spent two days last week in Salado at a system library meeting while a committee tried to hammer out how to spend an expected (depending on the legislature) \$850,000 budget in 1996-97 on helping 60 libraries. The libraries vary from Austin to small ones run entirely by volunteers and they had had regional meetings expressing their preferences. I can't say I am looking forward to chairing the system wide meeting on Friday when that budget is presented to the whole group. I hope there will not be an uprising in protest. The Council has to make the final decision no matter how they feel and I am

chair of that and will sign the final draft.

Billy and Marny were here this past weekend. Got here about 11 Friday p.m. and left at 11 Sunday morning. Bill objects to them spending so much money to come for such a short time but I say it is their decision to make.

Oh, we also opened our beautiful new library on January 9th. Stephanie, the librarian, was afraid very few people would show up but over 1300 came. It was fun to watch the little kids with their own really nice section with furniture their size and even their own restroom. You will really miss John but I always hope that new people will build on the good things that the previous staff have done. Of course, it does not always work out that way but one can hope. We had a nice surprise the last few days of December. A local foundation gave the Friends \$25,000 primarily for the Literacy program. In the new library we have a room named the Learning Center and it sure is a good idea for everyone concerned. The foundation was set-up by the family who started the telephone company here. (It has just recently been sold.) The father died a few months ago and his younger son is director of the foundation, apparently. And I found out after our meeting with him and two board members that he is dyslectic. I thought he might be from some of the things he said and I know that the son of one of the board members is. But even better they said to come back next year for more. We want to get them interested in other things in the library. He was real interested in a new computer that will read pages of book aloud to visually impaired people. We are part of a fantastic age even if I only understood the word 'mouse' as I listened to them talk about the use of the money. The Friends did manage to contribute \$75,000 toward the furniture for the new facility. Of course it was not all raised this year for we have been planning for a few years. I was very pleased that the woman architect that designed the building <sup>came</sup> ~~flow~~ down from Dallas with her husband and two children for the opening. And I am so glad that the staff finally has a comfortable place to work.

I can hear the TV where the nuts are playing and watching the play-off football game in Buffalo. I can't even feel sorry for them, some fanatics I understand but not these.



Sunday 1:00 p.m.

We had a call from Pete a little while ago. He says he is going to talk to a travel agent tomorrow. He is apparently tired of the snow. But Eleanore came on and said she is not ready, she would prefer to come later so they would go back to better weather. They had been to church and they went out to breakfast yesterday. Laura refers to 'those crazy old folks that go out to breakfast' with the snow and weather as it is. Rich has been real busy plowing snow. It is nice that they both have those winter jobs.

Then I called Bob, wanted to know how he is doing as well as June. He sounded real up-beat, but he always does. She is some better but may go to have a nerve block for one spot. Cindy dropped in while we were talking. When I had asked earlier how they were doing with Bo's son, John, I think his name is. Bob said he got real angry when they restricted him and said he would rather be in jail than restricted. They got a police officer friend to talk to him about what happened when young men like him went to jail and he has been much better behaved since. A taste of realism can help sometimes.

Eleanore said she is reading Abernathy's THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN and that it is much better than she had anticipated. I hope you will get THE FIFTIES. One should really own it and then read it more slowly and use it as a reference.

Bill just told Bob he has felt better the last two months than he has felt in a long time so I guess that answers that if you are wondering.

I am about to make him a cherry pie, but I shall avoid the living room the rest of the afternoon--football. I could take it a little better if the sound is shut off, I do not need someone to tell me what I just saw or the history of the player, and I have reached the stage that I do not understand grown men abusing each other the way they do.

So--I shall spend the afternoon reading, working on my part in the training of new advocates for the W.C., getting ready for a meeting Friday on libraries, and two on Thursday related to Red Cross.

I hope you are still enjoying your work and that you do move to the other side before long. Somehow I worry about you coming down those stairs at night.

*Review*

*Laura*

*June to stop*