

SANTA BARBARA, CALIF
AUG 30, 1953.

DEAR SCOTTIE:

YOUR NOTE OF 26th RECEIVED TELLING ME OF THE DEATH OF MOTHER BASSETT JUST A WEEK AGO TODAY.

I KNOW HER PASSING HAS MADE YOU SAD, AS YOU WERE SO FOND OF YOUR FRIEND AIMA. I AM SO GLAD THAT I WAS ABLE TO HAVE THE VISIT WITH HER, AND SHE KNEW HER TIME WAS SHORT, WHEN SHE TOLD ME THAT WE WOULD NOT SEE ONE ANOTHER AGAIN.

I HAD HOPES THAT SHE MIGHT LIVE LONGER, BUT I GUESS THAT THE MALIGNANCY HAD PROGRESSED TOO FAR BEYOND ANY HOPES OF HER RECOVERY.

I FEEL THAT THE BOYS MUST FEEL HER PASSING VERY KEENLY, ESPECIALLY ROY, WHO SPENT SO MUCH MORE TIME AT HOME WITH HIS MOTHER.

WELL, I BELIEVE THAT THE BOYS WERE GOOD TO HER, AND THEY HAVE NO REMORSE.

I SENT A FRUIT CAKE TO ROY AND MOTHER BASSETT SOON AFTER MY RETURN, THINKING THAT ROY WOULD ENJOY THIS WITH A CUP OF COFFEE IN THE AFTERNOONS. I HAVE HAD NO WORD FROM EITHER HE OR EMERSON. I SENT EMER A CARD FOR HIS BIRTHDAY, WHICH WAS JULY 4th.

I WROTE PETE NEUMANN ASKING HER TO CALL EMER AND INQUIRE ABOUT HIS MOTHER, BUT SHE COULD NEVER GET AN ANSWER AT HIS APT. THIS WAS ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO, OR MAYBE THREE WEEKS AGO. EMER PERHAPS WAS OVER HOME AT THAT TIME.

I IMAGINE THAT AT THE LAST SHE WAS PRETTY WELL UNDER NARCOTICS MOST OF THE TIME.

WELL, YOU HAVE HAD YOUR WERRIES TOO, SCOTTY, WITH TOM HAVING AN OPERATION, AND IN THE HOSPITAL AT TACOMA.

I WONDER IF HE IS HOME BY NOW. I TRUST THAT HE WILL BE FEELING MUCH BETTER THAN WHEN I SAW YOU FOLKS, AND THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO GROW STRONGER, AND MAKE A GOOD RECOVERY.

SHALL SEND YOU AND TOM A LITTLE SOMETHING GOOD TO EAT SOON. SORRY THAT I DID NOT KNOW THAT TOM WAS IN THE HOSPITAL SOONER, OR I WOULD HAVE REMEMBERED HIM WHILE THERE.

SO MANY TIMES YOU CAME INTO MY MIND, AND I KEPT THINKING EACH DAY I WOULD WRITE. EACH DAY WAS TAKEN WITH GARDEN, WEEDING, MOWING GRASS, AND WATERING SO THAT MORE WEEDS COULD GROW.

I HAVE BEEN BUSY EVER SINCE RETURNING HOME. HAVE NOT ~~TIME~~ FOR MISCHIEF THESE DAYS, THAT'S FOR SURE.

THE GARDENER WHOM I HAD WHEN WE LEFT FOR SEATTLE, JUST DID NOT TAKE CARE OF THE YARD WHILE I WAS GONE, SO I HAD DOUBLE WORK TO DO. IF HAD NOT BEEN FOR A GOOD NEIGHBOR WE WOULD NOT OF HAD MUCH LEFT. SHE WATERED DURING THE HOT WEATHER. I FIRED THE ~~WOUNG~~ LAZY BONES THE DAY AFTER RETURNING HOME. NOW HAVE A GARDENER WHO MAKES UP FOR ALL THE PAST POOR ONES.

HAVE HAD TO TAKE ~~OUT~~ THE LAWN AND PUT IN ICE PLANT FOR GROUND COVERING. THE LAWN WAS INFESTED WITH WHITE MOTH EGGS, WHICH HATCHED WORMS, WHICH IN TURN ATE THE ROOTS OF THE GRASS TURNING THE GRASS VERY BROWN. TO HAVE TO KEEP DOCTORING THE GRASS WAS JUST TOO MUCH TROUBLE FOR ME TO LOOK AHEAD TO FOR THE YEAR OR SO THAT THE GRASS ROOTS WERE GROWING STRONG, SO I JUST

HAD A MAN COME WITH HIS ROTILLER AND HE HAD THE LAWN ALL PLOWED UP IN TWO HOURS TIME. FROM NOW ON I SUPPOSE THAT THERE WILL BE GRASS GROWING UP AMONG THE ICE PLANTS, WHICH WILL BE SOME CHORE TO WEED OUT, UNTIL THE ICE PLANTS TAKE OVER. THE ICE PLANT HAS MANY COLORED LITTLE BLOSSOMS, AND LOOK VERY PRETTY AND COLORFUL ON THE GROUND. BEATS MOWING THE LAWN AND TRIMMING SAME, EVERY WEEK. YOU KNOW DON'T YOU?

WAS QUITE SURPRISED TO RECEIVE A TELEPHONE CALL FROM LEONARD SEPPALA ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO. HE AND VIETOR JOHNSON AND VICTOR'S WIFE STOPPED OVER IN SANTA BARBARA, ONE NIGHT ON THEIR WAY NORTH, AFTER HAVING ATTENDED THE ALASKA CONVENTION AT LONGBEACH.

LU WELCH WAS HAVING DINNER WITH ME THE NIGHT HE CALLED. ELSIE AYER HAD GONE TO LOS ANGELES THAT DAY FOR A RIDE WITH A FRIEND. LU AND I DROVE DOWN TO THE HOTEL AND PICKED UP THE JOHNSONS AND SEPPALA AT NINE P.M. I DROVE THEM FIRST UP TO CROWIEYS, AS SEPPALA WANTED TO SEE DAN. WE THEN WENT TO LU'S, AND LATER ON TO OUR HOUSE. I TOOK THEM BACK TO THE HOTEL AT ONE A.M. WE HAD A VERY NICE VISIT. THEY ALL LOOK FINE. SEPPALA HOLDS HIS AGE VERY WELL AT SEVENTY SIX.

OLLIE WRITES THAT SOCIAL LIFE IN NOME HAS BEEN VERY GAY THIS SUMMER. MANY PARTIES, AND MANY VISITORS. J.C. BROWNS NEPHEW AND WIFE AND ANOTHER COUPLE WERE IN NOME FOR ALMOST A WEEK, SO OLLIE HAD VISITORS TOO.

HE HAS BEEN DOING A LOT OF FISHING TO-GETHER WITH GRANT.

WE WILL SOON KNOW ABOUT THE SALE OF THE POWER PLANT AT NOME. IF THE ENGINEERS GIVE A GOOD REPORT, AN ELECTION WILL BE CALLED, AND THE PEOPLE WILL VOTE FOR THE BOND ISSUE. THE ENGINEERS WERE THERE FOR A WEEK OR MORE, AND OLLIE HAD A CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANT THERE GOING THRU OUR BOOKS FOR A WEEK. HE HAS BEEN VERY BUSY ALL SUMMER. I HOPE AND PRAY THAT THE PEOPLE OF NOME WILL VOTE TO

TAKE OVER THE PLANT. THEY ARE FOOLISH IF THEY DON'T, BECAUSE THEY WILL NEVER HAVE SUCH A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY.

I MAY GO NORTH IF THE DEAL GOES THRU, BUT AS YET DO NOT KNOW. THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS IN THE HOUSE THERE THAT I WANT HERE, AND 'TIS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR OLLIE TO KNOW JUST WHAT I WANT. I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER EVERYTHING MYSELF.

I AM TRYING TO GET EVERYTHING HERE IN GOOD SHAPE, SO THAT I CAN LEAVE WHEN THE TIME COMES.

WELL, NEXT SUNDAY, I WILL BE FIFTY EIGHT YEARS YOUNG.

THE JOE SULLIVANS WHO LIVE AT BEVERLY HILLS IN LOS ANGELES WANT ME TO COME OVER THERE ON SATURDAY, WHICH I MAY DO.

I WAS OVER IN LOS ANGELES LAST THURSDAY AND FRIDAY ON BUSINESS. ONE TAKES THEIR LIFE IN THEIR HANDS WHEN THEY DRIVE IN THAT CITY THESE DAYS.

THE HOUR IS WAY PAST MIDNITE, AND I WANT TO WRITE A FEW LINES TO THE BASSETT BOYS BEFORE I HIT THE HAY. I WILL FIND MYSELF GOING TO BED WHEN IT IS TIME TO BE GETTING UP. I KEEP TERRIBLE HOURS WHEN I AM HERE BY MYSELF. NEVER GET THE URGE TO WORK UNTIL AFTER DARK.

MY LOVE TO YOU AND TO TOM, AND TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF SCOTTIE.

ALWAYS,

Edith