Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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Miss Alice Hildreth
South Royalton
Vermont
I didn’t realize that this post card was blotted when I addressed it to you. Please excuse.

The weather is nice and warm now, not too warm but very comfortable and easy in the light pleasant rooms of Cousin Jamie’s.

We went to church again at Ruth Benson’s (a Baptist?) and Mr. and Mrs. Melies went with us! Reeves had the big Sunday papers and magazines to keep him busy. I rested and then wrote to Carol (for the 1st time since here to answer some questions). Then I had a slight headache feeling and didn’t write any more. Wish I had Mrs. Melies is going with her ear (twed) and we shall miss her and her convenience.
Dear folks

Monday I took Jim to the doctor in White River. He has been having a swollen spot on the under side of his tongue. I don't know whether he showed it to you or not but it has been swelling & then receding for quite some time ever since school started. Well Monday it was swollen way up so we went to White River & Dr. Whitney burnt it off with electric needle - Cyst he said. He was a brave boy not a whimper out of him when he pumped 2 needles fully of novocaine into either side of his tongue. He was an awful looking specimen with that tongue hanging out, swollen on the end about twice its size from the novocaine & then bleeding underneath from the incision. I was proud of him though and Dad said it would be sore but he wasn't minded at all. He goes back tomorrow afternoon for a check up.

While we were there I got a nice
Stainless steel step on can to put flour in with queen stampl and also a sturdy metal chain for kitchen with alma (with queen stamps). As we are all set for seating capacity again with this one & the one you brought up. The metal chain is green but I got it just the same. Although it doesn't match anything now sometime it can be painted and it's comfortable too. M'dione bought Barbara a ski suit & Ray's mother had another shot of penicillin.

That night Grand Matt Ray & Stan took our in stove out & brought Mobilos up and it's a handy. You can shut it up tight as can be and it throws off a pile of heat got a wonderful draft too. It's a comfort because it was mighty cold there for a couple of days. Kids were mad cause we didn't get any snow! Nice & warm now though.

We have had one heifer calf & one
Bull calf that makes 2+2 since June.

The meter man has come and left his tag on the spot where the meter is to 60 + left a round jug for Bowen as things are unstable motion somewhere.

Nearly suppertime—must stop.

Lots of love

Alice
Oct 30 Thurs

Dear folks,

I hope you had a lovely trip to Rockport and got home before the storm. We had snow, but probably you didn’t Tuesday night. Ray couldn’t get up to the bank the snow was so greasy. His walks are starting early this year. We had our bull butchered. Mom and got it back last night so we’ll have a job wrapping and packing in boxes today.

They’re having a Halloween party for kids tonight and a big dance tomorrow night. Object being to stop trick or treat. “All costume affairs, so I have been busy making an Indian (Bill) a pirate Jim & a ballerina (Judy).”
Jim helped sew on his own patches. Bill and Judy cut the fringes for the Indian. Judy helped do the yards of crepe paper ruffling for the ballerina (pink). Jim is all done. Bill's all done except for a place to hang his tomahawk. But Judy's still has to be sewed to gather up the back.

They have a new correspondent for the paper Marion Button used to be Marion Wood niece to Ruth Wood who used to do your wash, I think. So maybe the subscriptions will pick up now.

Jim bought himself a new hat and gloves and Judy new...
shoes & blouse.

We've got our pullets in and they laid seven eggs yesterday so they'll pick up just as I think. I'm glad they aren't out in the snow. We cut it pretty fine keeping our layers so long but who expected snow in Oct. I don't believe it can last though (I hope not.)

I've got to stop & get to work. Time for the kids to get up & house isn't even straightened up yet. Papers litter the floor while they did some painting & cut out but work last night (and costume litter the l.n. & mud tracked all over but then


when I get it cleaned up I'll think I've accomplished something much more than a common cleaning up!

Oh I forgot to tell you. We had a rousing good anthem Sunday time up to scratch etc. 6 or 7 men I forgot which + 6 women + 6 5 in church. Mr. White extremely pleased.

Lots of love

Alice

List of choir

Nordie Eaton soprano
Ruth Canehill soprano
Gloria Brodie
Ann Eaton clarinet with alto
Polly Ellis ml
Del Wood
Cliff Eaton tenor

Walt Carpenter
Austing Wood
George Alimacan
Dear Folks,

The great day has arrived. Yesterday Bowen man came and worked all day setting up the dryer and putting in the wiring. In fact he came before I got the kids made. We just finished cleaning and mopping till 12, and lift kids till last because whoever sees them anyway, and then he had to go all over looking for where the wires came in so I punished I'd made them first! Well, when he left last night everything was ready for the power Co. to hitch up and call them and asked them to come. They said they couldn't until Mon. Of course I was disappointed but I didn't kick any. Then this morning he was back again and Bowen had called them and they'd be here this morning. He had to wait about an hour for them but they did come and it was all going quarter to 12. I'm dying to use it but can't yet, perhaps in the morning.

The kids had a Halloween party...
last night had a wonderful time Jean brought Carl down + David stayed down after school + he + Carl went with the kids + Jean + I had a nice visit.

Ray had a heck of a swell when he went up to get it in + he + Quincy + Jack + Fat went up last night to get her if possible. He'd driven her into the barn + hitched her yesterday morning but didn't dare try to load her alone. Well it took 4 of them + then they had a time. She kicked Ray right out over the high sideboards of the big truck. He's got a broken shin muscle on shoulder + various places on legs + thighs where she landed but he dodged most of them I guess. Anyway she's home + I seem tame but Ray walks pretty carefully around her. Your letter came this noon telling of C. Helen. What a shame. I'm so sorry.

Get to stop lots of love Alice
Dear folks,

I could sit here and rave all night about how much I like the dryer. I washed Monday and Tuesday and had a big washing because I've been saving it and I did half the ironing in the time it generally takes to hang the clothes but I put the washing machine away did the dishes & milk pails I started ironing. It took nearly all day to finish drying all the clothes but they were dried & put away and then I did a small wash. Wed and the ironing was all done - everything else was dry & put away by noon. Miracle. Then to-day I
cleaned up the sweaters and things that have been piling up mostly hand wash that I didn't dry put in the dryer but Ray's sweat shirts I put in and they come out all lint free and tumbled + sweet smelling no wrinkles at all. All the lint flows out the trap. I guess I do like the new model. I have lots of fun emptying the lint trap & seeing how much I've collected & its so easy to get at. I do it after every load even if there is only a few whisks. Whereas if I had to clean way over back I might not do it so often.

We sure had excitement here Monday night. We had
Raymond C. Ballou,
South Royalton, Vt.

a small fire in the chicken pen. The chicken pen has an extension cord for a light. A trouble cord really with a cage over it hitches up with rubber but I guess the rubber broke and let the light drop into the shavings. That night Marion and Gerald came down and we all wanted to see how the wild heifer was coming so we went up with Ray to do chores. R + I + Marion + Gerald leaving J + I + Bill + Marilyn + Bobby here. And I must say that I'm downright proud of the way your grandchildren handled themselves in an
emergency. They were playing in the kitchen when they smelled smoke and went out to investigate. No sign outdoors or in woods but finally outdoors Jim saw some smoke coming out of the upstairs chicken pen so he went carefully to investigate. Saw the shavings on fire around the light and chickens huddling and nervous from smoke. He & Marilyn & Bill lugged water up and put out the fire. Kept the chickens quiet while Judy telephoned for help. She called Ray. Mother & we had just come in to leave the milk & when I heard her say "fire in the chicken pen"
Raymond C. Ballou,
South Royalton, Vt.

Pen I dropped the phone + we all rushed down but the fire was out when we got here, Ray & Gerald put more water on, made sure everything was okay + aired out the clothespen. But the kids probably saved some really serious damage as it was only a few shavings burned. Ray said all he could think of on that wild ride from Majorie's down was that I'd lose the new dryer that I was so crazy about. Later Judy said that after she talked to me she heard the receiver go bang + then she hung up & looked out the window + we were driving
into the yard. So it was a wild ride. Majorie + Hugh right behind us. So we all had a cup of coffee + celebrated the good fortune + the quick thinking of our offspring, and were very thankful.

No excitement since then. We are painting the inside of the barn - looks lovely!

We were so sorry to hear about Cousin Helen. How brave she was. Didn't give up till the last minute did she? I hope she didn't suffer too much. So sad.

Must go to bed.

All of love,

[Signature]

Sorry your clothes line is still. You should have had my drier. Don't you wish you could afford one!
Dear Folks,

I stepped up on my 2nd letter this week but I had to give Judy a note Tuesday & Monday the milk inspector was here. Yesterday I was too lazy. Judy’s hair done out nice. I really hope it lasts. (Thurs)

Last night we had our choir supper. The SS teachers & the choir. Elizabeth Barnes was there in her wheel chair. Looked good to see her. We had chicken pie, mashed potatoes, squash, cabbage, salad, pickles, cranberry sauce, rolls, cake & coffee. Very delicious but not as many as I had hoped.

Dick Allis is going to direct us. I guess not official yet but I’m sure it will be able. I think it will be very good. He has a hard job ahead of this. Last Sunday we sang without Wanda Eaton & sounded the whole thing very nicely.

Ray is just hunting today but probably won’t go all week.

You can use the sheet music but the books aren’t so much help because of the music. As long as they’re still coming we’ve got to have something for them to sing. Dick doesn’t approve of the choir guides either.

Kiss me up lot of love.

Alvin
Dear folks,

I must hurry because all I've got is about 10 minutes, but thank you for all the lovely things you sent Ray for his birthday. The socks are lovely and so many of them. They sure will be wonderful. The shaving lotion was nice and such a lovely scent.

Ray was so pleased with the letter, leads, the envelope too, and stamped ones at that. Thank you ever so much.

He got a great big
unexpected birthday present that he was very glad to undeck but has kept him mighty busy since. You see (jotted his birthday morning) his brother Len's wife called up and said he please come down right away. Seems Len was close to nervous breakdown and Dr. paroled him to me instead of sending him to hospital. Ray had great influence over him and is keeping him busy and in different environment and he is apparently okay now for which we are very thankful. Ray has to stay with him all the time and they get along fine but Len kept him mighty busy last Friday
Sat. All okay now though. Ten gets up makes coffee for us every morning helps Ray with chores! Very accommodating & handy to have around.

Must stop.

I loved my letter head too. Thanks for all the other things you sent which I haven't mentioned. The nice bag with red lining & shoes & the kids candy & bottle tops.

Love
February 12, 1953

Dear Grandma,

Have you got snow down there we have up here. How is Grandpa and you, Billy and I went Uphorst this morning and I went up twice this afternoon. Tomorrow Jimmy and I are having a Valentine's Party at school. I'm going to take Billy. Mom is going to the basketball game down in Winseon tonight and petty Fuller is taking care of us. Uncle Leonard was sick and Aunt Aline is working and he was so bad off he had to come up here. Nancy his daughter was sick too but she is better and is going to school. Daddy is helping Leonard on his estate chip route. My cousin Wayne is coming home Friday or Saturday. He has been overseas you know. He is in Fort Devens now. Wayne doesn't know whether he is coming home Friday or Saturday because 2,000 others have to get home too. Wayne called two nights from Fort Devens. How is Kate and Jay hope they are fine. I just got done reading Binky Boardman and the missing Heinsohn. It is good. I'm reading the little colony's now. We have 50 customers now counting 3 correspondents. I'm surprised to get a red bike present. My grade is going to give Mrs. Boardman a surprise birthday party next Friday.
I'll be seeing you. Hope you have a nice
Valentine's Day.
Dear folks,

Well ten we back to work and doing fine. Wayne Ballow came home from Germany last Sunday night. He has been in the army 3 years and over in Germany 2 years and a little over. He looks fine but nobody will get the chance to dress him around for awhile.

Judy has been cheerleader for the town team basketball team. 6 little girls all dressed alike in green skirts and white flowers and they do as good a
job as the big girls do. I sure saw any girls that could make any more noise than those kids. John Alexander furnish transportation so they can go to the important games.

The kids bicycle is ordered but not delivered yet. Next week the kids have an unexpected vacation. They've changed it to one every 6 weeks and none knew until yesterday but they're supposed to get another one the third week in April. Would that be convenient?

Lots of love

Alicia
Dear folks,

Hope you all have a happy Easter together. Lovely sunshine today after all our rain. No real flood up here. The kids were sent home from school at noon last Friday because the water was over the road at the flat below the 1st underpass & at Shepherd's corner but it was down by evening.

We have a big flood control Dam at Barre you know & on the Corn at Wilder that helped Montpelier & Barre. Lebanon had some damage because the emergency boards went out at the top of the Mascoma Lake dam and let a lot of water...
though I guess the town did think they had ground for suing the (Cite) Company that owns the dam but found out that they couldn't because those flash boards were put there for just emergency purposes and built to go out whenever the pressure of the water got to the point where it might undermine the dam.

Judy has a bright red new Columbia bicycle from the paper co. A beauty came too.

Snow is all gone except perhaps deep in the woods.

Vacation date is still set for the week of the 19th to 25th regardless of the road because roads have reached their peak of mud and are on the mend not too bad this year.

Love

Alice
Dear folks,

Just got home from choir rehearsal. Dick Ellis' wife is in the hospital. Had a gall-bladder operation Monday.

You should have seen the church last Sunday. It looked like a baccalaureate. Every pew was full. I mean full and they brought in about 50 chairs in back. They were all full too. We sang part of the Messiah. "Open the gates of the city with I know that my redeeming health at the end of it."

We had 40 odd people join the church. Palm Sunday excluding Matt +
Ruth from next door - Marion (Gould's wife) + there were 2 or 14 kids joined last Sunday. I guess Mr. White is vastly encouraged. In our newly member canvas we had $3300 pledged which is about 15 or more than they expected, and the part that pleased me the most was that 74% was pledged to "The United Church" instead of to either one individually.

I must be sleepy I keep making mistakes. Judy square danced at Northfield Sat. Jim has got baseball fever already + Marble fever he comes home from school
April 53

Raymond C. Ballou,
South Royalton, Vt.

Dear folks,

Everyone is fine. Judy has written you so I will conclude a note. Glad you had such a nice visit with Aunt Alice. What a shame about Mr. Coolidge - I hope he progresses nicely.

Rain and then sunshine - regular April weather but Sunday was a beautiful day for the funeral. It was held at Mr. Bohannon's at 2 o'clock. Mr. White officiating. And he had a lovely service. He is apt to ramble on; ideas keep occurring to him but this time he kept strictly to business in hand computing and measuring words in a reasonable length of time like Daddy does and I was most grateful. Mr. Bohannon was sick, fighting pneumonia and
They had to call in another undertaker but he was very good. Your flowers were lovely. I guess I cried. After the funeral Mabel had most of us down for salad and chicken hot biscuits and new sauce. Harold’s folks had to leave. Pink’s folks had to leave but everyone else was there. All the children were taken to the cemetery around 5 so they could see the flowers and then taken to the movies so we could eat in peace and harmony and they could enjoy themselves too. We didn’t think it was necessary for them to go to the funeral except Harold’s oldest 4 boys. Hazel went. We shall miss her very much. She always treated me exactly as her own daughter and in every argument Ray & I never had she never failed to take my part which is unusual in a mother in-law.

Bob Duvall called & said as soon as he knew vacation was scheduled for the week of the 26th but it still depends on the roads. The way they’re going they’ll never last that long. I wouldn’t be surprised at the 13th at all. Will try to let you know. Breakfast time now.

Lots of love,
Alice
March 5

Dear fellow,

That is wonderful way just right. Sorry I didn’t mention thanks.

It looks like a beautiful spring morning today but the weekend was awfully cold up until yesterday. There not too much snow in the woods so they’re not looking for too good a sugar year.

Now let’s see if I can tell you all that happened.

Friday morning Jay called and said they’d be up sometime that Friday afternoon we left (about three 15) for the tournament in Gardner Mass. That was sort of a forlorn trip because we didn’t have much of a chance of winning only wanted to see what it was like and have the honor of playing with all three big teams and was only a little too
hit spot on the maps. We got down there around seven and had to wait until after nine for the game. The game was a lulu. Their team was all pepped up and we weren't and their style of ball game was different and their way of calling fouls was radically different. Our officials call a foul if you dribble into a guard. They call a foul on the guard if he blocks with his body that is moves his body against the ball carrier but if the guard is stationary the ball carrier moves in and makes body contact. The foul is on the ball carrier. Not as down there. As long as the man had the ball in his hand dribbling or passing he could make any contact what
of manslaughter and the foul
would be in the defence. We
even set up stationary blocks
in front of their dribbler (which
consists of two men crouched down
with motionless in the path
of the dribbler) and when he
tries to go through the bound
it hit one or both. Up here
you can't get through a stationary
block without feeling but down
there they'd crash right through
and the foul would be on one
on both of the guards. Of
course it worked both ways
(in our favor too) but we are
so used to going round block-
and avoiding contact that we
couldn't take advantage of it
as well. In order to have a
comparatively fresh team for
the tournament down here Sat-
night they only played the
first team a quarter and then the
2nd team a quarter etc and they got way behind but the last quarter was really laughable. The 2nd team was in and at the 4 min mark (4 min left to play) the rest of the 1st team went downstairs to shower. The ball game was hopelessly lost 41 to 78 but in that last 4 minutes the guys that were left in the slow never made a shot and I don't think they even completed one pass. All Gardner Mass team did was intercept the ball and shoot and they ran the score up to 108 to 41 which is a mighty licking. We got kids slept up at Marinos home two about quarter past two in the morning and last week fatty quit because his back has been bothering him.
Ray had to do chores - pick up milk in the morning, have a short nap in the afternoon, and go down to White River in the evening for another game. Jay and I arrived around 4:30. I think we took a hurried supper and hurried departure for Haiti, but managed to deliver Ray there in time, went up to Len's house to pick up Genie and then back to the gym to watch a wonderful ball game. They beat Lebanon 7-4 but I've forgotten what the score was. As I remember, it was 10-12 points. This was a tough game. They had to work hard. I think Jay was surprised at what a good team we had. Then we went up to Len's. Genie had coffee because you always have to sleep awhile after the tension of a ball game. Then
Sat. night

we came home & Ray had to change

clothes & go up to the barn because

there was a cow freaking. He

was gone about an hour & we

had more coffee & went to bed. I've

forgotten when around 3 I guess.

Ray could sleep until 7:30 because

he asked Matt to run the milk

route but it was a mad scramble

for me to get to church. Jay &

Kate were up when I got back,

thinking about breakfast. Jay ate

some breakfast but from Kate was

afraid of upsetting my dinner plans

so she didn't eat much of anything,

and then Ray wasn't hungry and

so we waited dinner and when

we did eat it was hurried and

not too good. I'm afraid. Ray

went with only an eggnoy & we

came later. We saw a cooking

good game in the afternoon against

the Sudbod Owls. They worked

up a 14 pt. lead in the third
Quarter but were tying in the last quarter + Ledlow caught up and went ahead and when Jay + Kate left with only a minute to play they were ahead by 3 pts. I think but they put on a big surge + finally squeaked it out by one point just as the whistle blew. So that was a tough game and Woody passed out right afterward so they had to bring him to. We went up to Len + Genie's where she had a nice supper. Lobster, tuna fish, salad, raised rolls, cake, coffee. Ray + Woody lay down for an hour while we dried out their clothes and then they went at it again. But this time they were just too tired to make the extra split second tries. They played well + they played hard but they couldn't win.
They got behind 10 point in the 2nd quarter and though they matched them point for point the rest of the game, they couldn't get those 5 baskets back so they got beaten by the shielded Indians (whom they have beaten twice during the regular season). However, they still won $100.00 for 2nd place. Well that takes care of Sunday. Monday morning Ray did chores and milk route and then came home went to bed. He's been there ever since Sun-Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri flu, high fever. Gerald and Matt have done chores. Fatty and Wayne picked up the milk yesterday his temp finally went down. He's expect to be working normal. I don't expect will be working again by tonight or tomorrow. I hope he won't start too soon. Sat.
Dear folks,

I'm sorry I haven't written before, but things have been quite upset. Ray's mother had the flu a few days after Ray had it and apparently recovered but was weak a little. Last Wed. Marge & I took her to WH River to Dr. Whitney who takes care of her & he said she was tired & run down from the flu, gave her penicillin & pills for cough & said she'd be better in a few days. Thus she wasn't better & Friday not better & sat her was definitely worse. Mind not clear etc. She was drowsy all the time. Whitney couldn't come until night so we called Ternbridge dr. He gave her...
injection to pass off fluid & ease her heart & said he'd be back soon. Soon she was definitely worse & he said hospital at once so she went to Hanover and baffle them for a while until after many tests. They found out that for years something hasn't been working right in her lungs & her blood has been making too many red blood corpuscles & gotten so sluggish it was too much for her heart. They said at 6 o'clock that they draw off blood & ease it but they couldn't draw it off until finally they got to surgeon & he drew off some
after 2 incursions & they've been drawing it off since the color is back to normal & she was apparently better until yesterday we found out that this has been too much for her heart & they're keeping her under heavy sedatives and oxygen all the time. They describe her condition as heart failure and it may go either way at any time. There is no question about her being in good hands in the east and I don't know but what it's in the country, and they're doing
all they can so all we can do is just shed a tear.
I couldn't find out from school come anything about vacation. The vacation depends on the roads. It will come when the roads are bad with mud and that looks like it may be early this year and of course until things change up here we won't be coming. So will you let Jay know there's nothing definite and I can't tell him even tentative dates. Much love - time to eat dinner. Alice. 

I will try to keep you posted.
Dear folks,

It doesn't seem possible that next week is Thanksgiving. Nice rain we've had off and on but still the books and supplies aren't full enough for winter yet.

Jim won a hunting knife and Judy a box of tricks for being a good paper carrier. One of his tricks is a spoon with the center gone so when you pick it up brotherings rain in it. The new record report doesn't seem to be much better than the old one because we don't get too much news yet but maybe it'll improve.

Bill visited school with Marilyn yesterday and had a lovely time.

Mary's brother is singing a solo Sunday. She has a beautiful voice but she makes up the most awful faces. Terrible! Can't bear to watch her but she's next to listen to.

Ray has been cleaning out Hugh's tenement house a they worked until 11:30 last night moving Hugh's pullets. Must get the kids to school.

C.

Everyone has had colds but better now