Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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Gloucester, Mass
May 23, 1950

Dear Lottie & Ellison,

What a cold spring we are having! And doesn't it make the apple blossoms last a long while in "slow motion" blooming? Our back yard tree is not much for shade but its flowers from our upstairs windows are breathtakingly beautiful. Inga & I are glad we didn't cut it down to make clothes line space.

Our week-end was busy. First we went to Stoneham about those tools I have been dickering for from Tom's friend didn't see Tom but had a nice visit with Marion & Polly. Then we rode to Newton & stayed at Bet's. Her Doctor-boss kept her at work till after 4 so I tickled the television knobs till I got a picture of the ball game which kept me (also Inga) contented till Jack & she got home. We ate a nice supper & too much ice cream from her deep freeze but got home too by before dark.

Jack's transfer to San Diego hasn't become official but he's expecting it soon. Bet is in a stew—what to do? Just get home nicely furnished. It's beautiful. You should see it. Makes me proud of my Bet. She used such good taste—(I think)

Sunday rode up to help Bob fix his trailer. He's building a whole new floor. He jacked up the cab & wheeled out the chassis to work on it. He hired a big farm for the job. Nice dinner with Georgia & Bob & Roberta.

Took Mom over to Kittery to stay with Madeline & E. & kids. Judy spilled the beans about Sandy's near drowning. They weren't going to tell us about it. It happened during
that awful windy spell a week or two ago when the
New Bedford fishing boats were lost at sea.
Sandy was pulling his seal traps & should have known
better than to go out in such a small boat but he hasn't
been earning much money for a long while & wanted to
get a barrel of seals to ship to New York by express.
The boat swamped. No one seemed to pay any
attention to him so he kicked off his brand new rubber
boots & fairly new heavy red & black shirt & lost them
& started to swim toward the causeway. He was about
half way there when he realized he couldn't make it. His
clothes weighed tons, he said. He wanted to kick his pants
off but kept thinking about the 12 dollars in his pocket book.
He swallowed sea water & was gasping for air when a boat
came out & grabbed him just as he was about to give up.

It was a matter of probably 20 or 30 seconds more and it
would have been all over for Sandy. He owes his life to a
man named Goodrich who sells bottled gas around Dutton.
Just by luck he noticed Sandy was in trouble bailing
frantically. He stopped his truck, ran to two men who were
repairing a boat. They shoved the boat overboard & got
there — just about Sandy's last conscious moment. Thank
God for that. A dreadful tragedy could have happened that would
mar our lives forever. We'd never forgive ourselves for not
taking him & his family home when work petered out last fall.

Sandy never had an ounce of fear of the water in his
whole life. I hope this teaches him a lesson.

Love as always, George.
Sunday Sept 23, 1950
Gloucester, Mass

dear Lottie & Ellison:

I haven't the slightest idea where you are located at this writing but I'll write anyway. It's bound to reach you sometime either in Maine or Connecticut. I assume you are at home. It must be getting real cool at Friendship now. I bet you had a pleasant summer tho. in that beautiful location. I am glad you have got it.

I visited camp this morning just to see how the boys who bought it are getting along. Only one boy was there. They have done a pretty fair job of repairing things. Changed the name to Camp Six Acres. Use an oil burner for cooking. The concrete floor is well padded with carpets. The
clothes, ah me! What a blessing he got his old job back again. They feel much encouraged after that awful tough winter. And you may be sure we are breathing lots easier too.

Bob goes along on an even keel. We don’t have many worries about him unless he should be transferred back again to sea duty. They are increasing the beds to 300 at the hospital so that would seem to mean that he will go along “asis” for the present. I hope so.

Monday eve. Not much time for chores with the change to standard time. I found all my squash and tomato vines blackened and wilted by frost. Have a tremendous lot of both. Planted an over supply just to fill space. Have 4 or 5 wheelbarrow loads of squashes in the barn and there’s several more loads to come. Reminds me of “Pigs is Pigs” story.

That new butternut variety certainly well was completely dry after such a dry summer. Leaves have not colored much, as yet but last nights frosty air should start them turning. That’s when I liked it best. It was really beautiful in the fall.

Betty’s letters from San Diego come 2 or three times a week. She is very good about writing her Mom. Seems happy making a new home for Jack. Rents are tremendously high so they won’t save much money while he has duty there. But it’s an experience. San Diego must be a beautiful place according to the picture cards. Jack is worried about being sent overseas, of course. We too hopes he won’t have to be sent there but if this trouble develops into an all out war. It’s hard to guess where we’ll all end up.

Sandy and Madeline had the kids down last Sunday. All are fine except Judy has got that pesky infantigo from other kids at school. It cost about $6.50 for doctor and medicine already. Always something to keep the rabbit-tail short when you’re raising kids. Dentist bills, glasses
produces. Guess I'll advertise green tomatoes for sale. Must have 5 or 6 bu. Picked my last feed of corn—mostly stubby ears that have been passed by, but they taste extra nice. Inga is dieting by doctor's orders but I ate a shameful lot to help her out.

Most time for the eclipse to begin.

I hope you have a nice birthday. But I am beginning to wish that they didn't come as often for both of us. Seems as tho' time is just gaining momentum the older we get. It must be jet propelled.

We enjoy Betty's television. The plays best of all. Some are extremely interesting. If you haven't already you & Ellison should get one. The advertising is annoying just as it is in radio. But you just can't turn it off. I enjoy the baseball games.

Much love from us all as always

George
Dear Lottie & Ellison:-

If I could only shut the darn television off I'd write more often, perhaps.

It was nice to get the package from you folks, only I thought we had agreed not to do that any more except to kids.

It pleased me lots to get the letter-headed paper & rack for either shop tools or kitchen cutlery. I use it in my shop for files & I have files for every clamp mostly for saw filing. Inga says the pillow-cases are very nice, especially practical for a dirty old carpenter to sleep on. I am terrible hard on pillow slips.

We had a fine day together Xmas except that Petit & Jock were missing. The kids were wonderful. I guess I will always
remember the picture of the three girls sitting in a row on the couch intently watching the T.V. screen. Beautiful beads that made me very proud I was their grand.

Bruce was dear & sweet as he could be too. Guess it makes us love them more to be separated at times. We laughed when he told us the brooch he gave Lute cost 99 4 plus tax (he saved himself). He bought his dad & I putty knives. "Good to use on the boat," he said.

I work every day just across Wash. St. from end of Marsh. 40 unit housing project. Nice & handy for me. I do not come home to dinner as we only have a half hour for lunch. They expect to have the 20 houses done by April but of course a lot depends on the weather. One of the jobs my partner & I did was to make 80 door frames (outside) with heavy oak stools.

I suppose you two are very happy and contented in your own little home"
the heart is". Many times Inga tells me she's very happy here in our upstairs apt. It is plenty big enuf for us and when the kids come they call it an adventure to sleep in our attic.

Bruce has a dog named "Squirt" that is a perfect pal for a boy that age. He was abandoned by a Marine Capt. and adopted Bruce + family right away. He sleeps in the house + wakes Madeline at crack of dawn by going to her bedside + "woofing" ever so quietly to be let out. I guess Madeline is one of very few women in this world good-natured enough to do this chore daily + uncomplainingly. We think Madeline is "one in a million." She has the disposition of an angel.

Betty sent me this "Parkers 21" pen I am writing with. The chrome ink dries as soon as it touches paper. She sent all three girls gaudy red coats embroidered in Mexican designs + us a striped Mexican blanket in very loud colors.
Inga has been going to Dr. Garlands and he seems to have done her a lot of good as her legs do not have those awful cramps any more. "Knock wood!"

Bob got a deer in Nottingham U.H. He is now tied with Sandy at 3 each while I have downed only two in my lifetime.

He has spent a lot of money repairing his trailer. They are almost as expensive as a house to make repairs on. He is putting in a shower now. Georgia gets better and stronger every day since her operation. At first she didn't seem to recuperate fast enough but lately she seems O.K.

This letter is getting long drawn out and I better sign off with love to you both from all of us as always.

Thanks again for George.

the nice remembrances.
Dear Lottie & Ellison:

It is raining here this Washington's birthday. I call it a useless holiday. You lose a day's pay when there's really nothing to do—nothing worth while—like hunting or fishing for instance. I am glad not to have to work this. Rainy days are "fairly miserable" over across the street at the housing project. We do have inside work when it rains but the houses are cold and drafty. I have not lost any time to speak of due to weather. I like living so handy to my work. That yellow sticky mud that I bring home on my rubbers is not pleasing to my lungs, but the pay envelopes are. Enough "shop talk".

I suppose you got two checkes from Marion as Carol & I did. I returned the $1,000 to Carol and am enclosing the check for $150. you advanced me for which I am grateful to you as it came at a time when it helped. Luga & I a lot. As I understand Marion is dividing the co-op money in fifths instead of fourths to include Charlton, but not Marion's Glad's boys. My head swirlls trying to fathom things her way.

I went to tillery last Monday and tried to get hired back into the yard but guess my age is against me. When anyone gets to be 60 its time to take 'em out & shoot 'em—as too far long to be useful—according to nunny ideas. I work a lot harder for this Pitman & Brown firm than I ever did at the yard and hold my own with lots of younger men but can't "click" up there. They were hiring men by the hundreds. I couldn't be hired after next birthday 62 but up to then should be eligible for employment.
May hear yet but then it's a problem to find a reasonable rent near Sandy & the kids, so may be just as well to stay put.

Bob has received orders to be stationed at Lowell, Mass. Some kind of a R.O.T.C. instructor at a school or college I think. Till spring, he intends to keep Georgia & baby at the Hampton trailer camp and commute.

Our folks down stairs have bought an automatic washer & we agreed to have it piped to our water system & waste—also it requires a heavy electric line from the meter box same as an electric stove — and a new wall plug. Quite a complicated process to get a few clothes washed. The plumbing bill we have to pay is equal to a 5.00 per mo. cut in their rent for a year. I am beginning to scratch my head and wonder if dim coo-coo. If the water dept. finds out we have two more faucets (hot & cold) we'll have to pay another 50 per year on our water rates.

I am thinking I should have kept the camp, where living would be much simpler, with well water, kerosene lamps & wood for fuel. Maybe I could then have something saved from my wages to spend for other things besides expenses.

Betty & Jack are doing fine in Calif. They took a trip to the desert one weekend. The temp. was 82°. Betty & Jack play golf. Bob's friend Chief Tollinson called on them when his boat returned from Korea. We knew him in Kittery. Lots of Love George
Dear Carol,

I know you will all understand when I say that I just can't manage Christmas gifts this year. I am sending a card with a check - $2.50 of which is for the Knee bandages which I sent you on your Birthday and which you couldn't use - of the remainder $3.50 you and Scot can divide it any way you want to. I hope you can find something that each of you wants - even the the seem small.

You asked about the house on Staten Island which Jay and Kate wanted. They have bought it with five years to pay the remainder at 6%. They hope to rent the garage this winter and to rent the house during the summer. It is only 5 mins walk from the sea and a good beach.

Gladys's doctor was sick and in Worcester Hospital when she
Wrote last just before Thanksgiving — or just after.

Alice refuses to take more than one nap a day. I found her standing beside a shelf which she cleared yesterday — and today is heaped with miscellaneous things. She is gradually getting things into their proper places. I get discouraged, but not Alice.

Lots of love and best wishes for the Christmas season and many thanks from Alice and me for the lovely pajamas and the bed which will be used so oft. She wears them day and night now. I fear her right arm will be useless — but right leg is getting stronger.

E.S.H. is getting on splendidly according to his letter — on the way to a good deal — P.T.A. supper tonight — or something almost every day — Letter.
Dear Carol,

I was so glad to see your letter to Marion, which showed on very promptly.

How did you get on with Dave's two boys?!!!

I wonder if Dot found a "gay 90's" man bathing suit? Perhaps it would be one such as Uncle Charlie wore in that picture of a family group on the front beach. I can see how funny it looked in my mind's eye.

Where and what is "Oleannas"?

Carol dear, don't bother to write too when you are willing for M. to send on a letter. Save yourself a little! I think I didn't tell Marion about our little birthday luncheon for the Tylers. Perhaps we'd like to see that, if you still have it.

Hope you'll have a wonderful week end at the church celebration.

I'll copy some bits from Letter from J.O.H. or other side - Marion has not seen I think.

 Lots of love to you all

Leatrice
Jay went to Cleveland Orchestra concert at Carnegie Hall.

"They had a party for me at St. George library as I go back to N.Y. (Bonnell Bldg.) on Mon. 3/10.

Mr. Hulton (head of St. George Library) picked Jay & family up and took them home to dinner after which Kate & Mrs. Hulton went to a concert while we two fathers took 4 little girls to see (Tot......) I can't make out the letter.)

I got some ice cream. Then home to bed.

My boss at Bonnell has not yet been appointed and it may be some weeks before he is - in the meantime I'll be in charge.

Katie & D. L. had lunch in back yard today.

Took down the dog house. I hope to plant a garden.

Katie has all neighboring children to play in yard.
Brooklyn, Conn., May 31, 1961

Dear Gladys and Fannie—

It was almost uncomfortably cold, early on May 29 (Friday) when Ellison took me to Danielson to get on the small self-propelled train for New London, but I was comfortable in my new rain coat; I also had my new hat with a plastic protecting cover, and new shoes, bought last fall, but worn only once till that day; very comfortable.

Of course I had to change at New London to a train from Boston to New York. And I caught the train before the one that I should have, because it was late. At New Haven a woman came in to share the seat with me. She was the talkative type, which was lucky for me, for she told me that the train we were on was headed for Pennsylvania Station, and not for Grand Central, where Jane Elder was waiting for me. What to do? After arrival, there was plenty of advice, but when I started to take the advice, I caught a glimpse of a Traveler’s Aid booth—and hastened to it. What a help it was! The man there took entire charge, phoned Grand Central and had Jane paged, and within a short time she answered and was on her way across town to meet me. We had lunch together at the Penn. Station, and started on express subway for Forest Hills, where Jane has a lovely 5-room apartment on the fourth floor, with good air and a good view of gardens, trees, etc. We phoned Jay and Kate, just by dialing.

On Saturday morning, Jane insisted on going in to New York City with me, to meet Jay, at the ramp of a certain subway station, where we had agreed to meet. We left her apartment after lunch, and went to the ramp but we had to wait a while, for Jay was delayed by a traffic jam. He was the guide then. I enjoyed the ferry ride, with its view of the Statue of Liberty, and gulls following the boat for bits of bread that many folks throw to them; very pretty. It seems that Kate was planning to meet us at the r.r. station, and waited there; but Jay took me to their home by bus. So when Kate got tired of waiting for us she came home, dropped D.L., who was home for the week-end, and rushed back for a hair-do.

D.L. really has improved wonderfully in speaking, and says almost everything that she wants to say, and in a natural tone. I am very
much pleased with her progress, and she is much easier to care for, altho she is still into everything. She has a large tricycle, on which she drives around the cement walks inside their yard, and she enjoys that immensely.

Kate amazed me by saying that she was going to serve two meals on Sunday to the guests from Manhattan; Auntie Gray, rather feeble; Ed Lilly, very helpful; Ruth Harris, soloist, formerly in library with Jay; and Ursula Serken, one of the teachers in the School for the Deaf, which D.L. attends. Ursula's father is a pianist who travels all over the world, giving concerts. You will see his name in TV news - Rudolph Serken.

I hope that is spelled correctly. The K might be g, but I don't think so.

In addition to the New York guests, there were Mr. Nat Sung, who came with his family in a Desoto car, bringing a birthday cake, for his little son Henry, who is deaf like D.L. and goes to the same school, also has his birthday on the same day as hers, May 28. His smart wife, only 23, brought her doll-like baby 3 months old.

Kate served spaghetti and meat lunch to all of us 12, and then by 2:00 p.m., neighboring children with their parents began to arrive with gifts, etc. D.L. was showered with dresses, slips, games, candy, towels, terry cloth bath robe for camp, books, hand bags, money, etc. And Henry received clothing and many gifts, too, the most amusing of which was a bank for pennies. A penny dropped in a slot goes down a jumping escalator, to a slit, where it falls into the bank below.

Very amusing. He had a plentiful supply of pennies with the bank and they played with it a long time.

After gifts, the crowd went outside to the back, where chairs and a table loaded with potato chips, candy, cookies, fruit drinks, etc. made the younger group happy. The birthday cakes were cut and passed around to everyone, and the neighboring group left at about five, not without a little urging for Kate had to finish preparing dinner, which was very good, a big stew which had simmered all day, asparagus, fresh peas, and the fixins. Kate drove the N.Y. bunch to the ferry about 7:30, after Ed. Lilly had washed most of the dishes. D.L. let me have her bed, and she slept on folding cot in living room.

P.S. Have been spray painting my shellac up in Texas. Worked ever since my return — seedlings are still alive & flourishing. still a very lonely —
On Sunday evening we phoned E. at Holyoke, that Kate would put me on the 5:00 p.m. train on Monday, and he promised to meet it at Danielson. He has been spending the week end with Fannie at Holyoke, and was planning to come back to Brooklyn Monday p.m. He did not hurry, and did various things on the way, and got here after I did. For Kate decided to drive up and bring me direct to the house. But E. got here very soon after, and had a little visit with Kate and D.L. before they had to start back. They phoned yesterday (Memorial Day, evening,) that Kate got to their home about 11:00 p.m. and Jay had just got there a little before.

D.L. went to sleep about New Haven, and stayed asleep till they got home. D.L. slept an hour or more white.
Jay carried her into the house, and undressed her, and she talked a little and then went to sleep. They did too. On Tuesday, they took here into the school, very early, for the school had its holiday on Monday, instead of Tues., and Tues., was a regular school day. Then they went back home and slept for several hours.

When they left the home the electrician was re-wiring it, and they just left everything. I guess that proved to be all right. When they phoned, they didn't mention anything wrong.

E. seems rested a little. If he had known my change of plans, he would have changed his, and then missed two important matters. He got to the hospital just as a very important Christian in Danielson was being brought in by ambulance; she had been knocked down by a car. He was able to help her in her statement to the police, and eventually he signed it for her, as she didn't have her glasses. And then, when he had to wait at a grade crossing, he met the sister of an invalid that he was about to call on; and she told him that the invalid had had another stroke, and wouldn't be, etc.

Dear Glad this letter still omit many interesting things. Please send to F. in enclosed envelope.

We have many happy memories of your visit - E. has driven to FFTD today, I will have to go tomorrow (beyond FFTD).

It seems good to settle down one month before the Ocean Park trip.

Love from us.
Brooklyn, Conn., Sept. 27, 1931

If you want to hear our story from the beginning, start at the end, and work backward. Wed. Sept. 27, a lovely sunny day. Received 9 letters, which we read & ate some. Stuffed and baked a chicken, but have postponed washing dishes so that I could write this for you to copy.

I thought of Mother; also that I am beginning my 30th year; how folks write of our pep or endurance - and then I had to have that fall!!! I should be, and am, extremely thankful that I got off as well as I did. After two weeks I am still black and blue in the spot where I hit (left hip) but I guess it just escaped the bone, or I should be in the hospital today. We called there yesterday (Tues) to see a lady much older than we are. She went down cellar to get some canned apple sauce, didn't see the last step, and pitched forward, breaking part of pelvis. Two months in hospital or nursing home. Today (Tues) we received the lovely shruggy from Carol. E gave me an alarm clock. Door-Face which he bought in N.Y. a new dress which I bought in N.Y. and an invitation to go out to dinner, which we decided to postpone to a later date. In a.m. I used the vacuum in our bed room, did a hand wash of over 20 pieces and prepared 16 lbs for the Launderer, where we went after visiting the hospital. In the evening, E. went to the Grange to be installed as Chaplain for the Sixth time. He and I were made Honorary members, with a lot of appreciative words, but I didn't go. I was too sleepy and fell asleep while trying to write a letter, so I just went to bed, and didn't even wake when we came.

Wed. Sept. 25. Pannie had phoned Sat. eve., asking if she could come here for a birthday celebration Mon. p.m. instead of the 26th, bringing Jean and Betty. I was still quite sore and stiff, and wondered how I could make the house presentable. But I decided that I'd like to see them, even if I didn't get the window drapes changed, and the rooms dusted and vac'd. But, wonder of wonders, E. and I managed to get it done. Luckily I woke at 6, instead of 7, 8, or 9, 30, as I have done since the accident, so I got a good start, and things went smoothly, especially the boxes of papers and letters which I left under the bed.
Jean's sister Betty had made a lovely cake, Fannie brought ice cream, and E. made coffee. Fannie gave me four 9 oz tins of papaya flavored with pineapple juice (delicious) three bottles of health French dressing, made from soya, sunflower and wheat germ oils, with lemon juice; and a jar of greens put up by a woman in Friendship. They came about 22 2-15, and stayed only a little over an hour. After they were gone we read the mail, 15 pieces. And in the evening Catharine Williams came with a framed colored photo of E. and me, which she had taken last June.

Sun. Sept 24. J. was here, and in the morning he planted some chives which he had brought up from N.Y., and raked the lawn. (leaves from "Esther") E. had to preach at the Baptist Home at 9:00. And it was Grange Sunday, so he had to go to church early to see about that. And he didn't have a chance to see much of J. who took me to church after he had changed his clothes, and packed the lunch which I made for him. He would not come back to the house after church because he wanted to get going and get to N.Y. before the late p.m. rush. E. had to go to South Willington for Baptist Association, 3:00 to 6:00; he was re-elected Asst. Clerk-Treasurer. After supper I was very sleepy and unambitious; couldn't make myself write, so lay down to rest. In about ten minutes the phone rang; some Granger with a message for E. J. phoned at about 7:00, that he had arrived safely in N.Y. about two hours ago, and was about to eat dinner.

Sat. Sept 33. Kate hustled around and did several tubs of wash in a laundromat in the basement, and then she and I started downtown. They had heard me say that I wanted a dress for winter, and they were determined to take me down to their favorite store, even though Kate had a guest coming for overnight, and a little deaf girl was coming to play with Dorothy Lynn (who had come home Fri p.m. for the week end). I didn't know about the guest till we got back home.

We found a dress, plain but well fitting, and one of these little black ribbon and velvet and veil affairs for one's head — and then
we started home; more than an hour's ride by subway, and then a walk of 15 minutes. Then we got off subway, Kate bought fried shrimp, French fries, and cole slaw; also two barbecued chickens to send home with me, because she knew that I would have no time to shop for food, seeing that we wouldn't get away from N.Y. till after three, which means getting here after seven; stores close at 6:00, and we would be on parkways, where there are no stores. That was great help.

J. drove the Corvair, loaded with us, our baggage, and piles of "78" phonograph records, for which he had no use, and a record player to play them on, for which also he had no use as he has better one. But this one is very nice. Sat eve he played the Messiah. We made up a couch for him in the piano room, and we had found a wasp up stairs, where he usually sleeps.

Fri. Sept 29. J. worked. K. worked 7 hours and then brought D.L. home for the week end. That was the day we saw my friend Jane Elder. Not knowing anything about our plans, she called Kate up on Wed. p.m. and asked if she knew anything about where the Hildreths were. We made a date to go down town to a restaurant on Friday (Nov Thurs., on account of father). But later we changed the plan, and Jane came up to have lunch with us in the apartment. Kate and D.L. arrived just before Jane had to leave. That evening J.J. showed us his colored films of Dorothy's camp life, and the Ballou's.

In another letter I'll send a plan of J's apartment. The building is only about five years old. It is really on the campus of Yeshiva University, and across the road is a very narrow park looking down on the Harlem River. It is near where the George Washington Bridge goes over the Hudson and the Washington Bridge goes over the Harlem. They have hard wood polished floors, ceilings and walls painted fresh, automatic elevator (they are on 3rd floor) ample closets, two for each bedroom, beside linen closet and utility closet, enclosed radiation, venetian blinds, windows all screened, colored tile bath, built-in hamper, and good hardware or fixtures.; incinerator in basement.
Thurs, Sept. 21 K&J worked. They gave us their large bedroom and they slept in the living room, on a new bed-couch, very comfortable and good-looking. On account of Esther, we stayed in except for a little walk in the afternoon, after it had cleared. We took Kate (in her car) to a Chinese restaurant, which we enjoyed. We hoped that I could join us but he wasn’t able. He had a library meeting in the evening, so we didn’t get home till late. On the way home, Kate drove via Riverside Drive, and we saw a wonderful sunset.

Wed. Sept. 30 was Esther’s day, at least the warnings said so, and Kate was anxious to get to New York before Esther did; she succeeded. She and Dorothy arrived here about 11:00, ate a sandwich with coffee, and we were off by noon. (in case you didn’t know it they had invited us to come down, Wed. to Sat., before we knew Esther was coming)
Kate went th’ throughway, then the parkway (I did the same on the return trip) and wasted no time, so we got to N.Y. long before the rain; we went through two tiny showers, no wind. Very comfortable trip.

During Wed. night it rained here but everybody slept comfortably, and hardly realized that a hurricane was going on. The Staten Island library sent J. home an hour early, but he didn’t arrive till about nine.

Thank you so much, dear, for the pretty stationery, the steak knives, the things of mother’s and the phone call to Gay. That was wonderful!

Love to each one
Very interesting talk.
Birthday Sept 26 1961
Letter Nov 27 1961

SAVE
Dear Family,

We have been home exactly 22 days minus the three we were in Holyoke when Jim started college. Today (Sunday) has been a very beautiful day—trees brilliant and the New York Wildruthe (with their car repaired) here with us—until least until 2:30 P.M. Before they left, Jay took time to pick a beautiful branch of red maple leaves, and some wild purple aster, to add to the few that Kate had already gathered for Dorothy to take back to school, together with a paper bag full of deliciously ripe purple grapes which grew on our own vines.

Before she went, Kate admitted that seeing our rural setting, made her wish that she could live in the country.

All the time their visit was less than twenty-four hours, we got a lot into the time. They came about 5:30 Sat., singing "Happy Birthday," and loaded down with delicious fruit, big white grapes and white one too, huge plums,
I cantaloupes, and 6 very large oranges, which I'm sure are rare at this season. They also brought a very sturdy birdhouse with a hinged cover and some oriental place mats.

After supper Jay showed his movies of Down This Christmas, of his camp life and of their Cape Cod vacation, and visit to Vermont Ballous. Very interesting but I need to see it a second time to recognize all the people correctly and quickly and correctly.

When we phoned VT., we found that Judy was home for the weekend—a fact which had already learned because Fannie had kindly phoned us as soon as she found a note on the door saying, "We just stopped to say Hi. on our way to get Jim and bring him home. Judy. We don't know who was with her. Fannie was disappointed to miss them."
We had read a letter from Jim giving his schedule, his address, and his phone number. His classes are all in the morning, Mon thru Sat. but the afternoons are busy with baseball, badminton, lab, etc.

Jim has not found his studies difficult. He hopes to prepare to be an Athletic Coach. His subjects of study are:

- Psychology 2 hrs. of lecture, 1 of discussion
- English 3 hrs.
- Zoology 4 hrs. of lecture, 3 hrs. lab.
- Special Science 2 hrs. of lecture, 1 of discussion
- Baseball 6 periods
- Badminton skill 3 hrs.

We hope to receive Judy's schedule soon.

She has chosen a rather difficult course considering the fact that she did not take college preparatory in High School. She finds Physical Geography which
includes Astronomy, Meteorology and Geology rather difficult and Physical Science which includes Physics and Chemistry even more difficult.

I hope she will drop one of these two courses until a later time. Most of the students have studied physics and chemistry in high school.

Ray and Bill are reported to be doing well. A woman comes in to cook at least one meal a day for them. Ray is doing 2 or 3 jobs. If both boys go away, he has to do all the farm work. He substitutes in P.O. for the R.D. man, and he is salesman for a man we know who handles auto accessories. For this he receives a small salary and missions. Bill will have lunch at school soon.
The birthday celebrations.

My birthday has been celebrated for several days. Cards began to arrive on Monday and continued for 3 or 3 days after 9/26.

Early on Sept. 26, Ellisson gave me the pretty blue stole which he has spent so many hours knitting (a precious gift) and a necklace with a small stone cross on it—made from stone which is turned naturally into a cross—and two paper backs—one about stars.

Next Cathi Wms. who works in the Letter Shop (and is a very busy woman) came to the door about 9 P.M. with a beautiful layer cake with Mocha frosting decorated with slivered almonds.

It was on a very large and lovely dish which, of course, I must return.

During the morning I had to dust and polish a little and by 2:30 Fannie Bros. Jean C. and her sister Betty were with another delicious layer cake with chocolate frosting. Fannie Bros. a pyrex double casserole came before we left the tea table. boiler, a pair of copper gloves for dishwashing & scrubbing—and a huge bottle of Brewers yeast flakes to put in cereal, salad, etc.
Before we got up from the coffee table, callers came, but wouldn't come in when they found out what was going on. Lee Ann persuaded a teen-age girl (neighbor) to come in to sample the cake (2 quarts of ice cream had disappeared because Fannie always served a whole box even if there were only 5 in number). Lee Ann took a sample of cake to Mrs. Mo Baird — and today I found a nice little loaf of delicious white bread hot from the oven) when I ret'd from Club.

Lee Ann had no sooner gone than Mary Rice arrived with one of those tall sponge cakes — perfectly delicious — glad write that she is bringing a birthday gift when she comes Oct 5 for weekend.
She of not to, for she has already given me a shorter curtain.

That day after 9 1/2 I had to go to a meeting at PMB where they serve a very nice dinner — so I had to eat alone.
It was lucky that Jay was here. Sun. Am for something went
a. car radio which shorted.
Along with E's car, we had
to drive him down to P. M. B. H.
and go and get him an hr. later.
During that hr. the mechanic had
come up or repaired the leaking
part. Jay drove us to church back to
Jay's, Kat and Di K. went to church
and they cooked the steak,
mixed the instant mashed potato
& cooked frozen lima beans while
I sat table, prepared salad, &
drink P & dessert.
They left at 2:30 - PM I
phoned between 6-7 that they were
home & ready to sit down to
chicken supper. They said to
them room.
My last birthday with E.S.H. Sept 26, 62

I left a few minutes before to go to Bapt. Ceres at Putnam where he had to report on changes in new constitution on which he had spent hours of work. He is 78 weighs 200 now and feels much better in spite of loss of weight. He works all the time, tho' not feeling very well yet.

Dear Caral, Oct 2

Thank you so much for beautiful bag, and tea cloth. Also nice cards.

Have you rec'd card from Ralph & Etha in Great Britain? A wonderful trip. I forgot to ask Marion whether she had one of the typed copies to Geo & Marion - which you can borrow - if you prefer.
August 20, 1965
Gloucester, Mass.

Dear Lottie:

My letter is late this week. Reason: birthday thank-yous. Yours came just after I mailed my last. Hence, a pause in routine if there ever was a routine.

Carol dropped in last night on her way home from the hospital where David's wife is being treated for a kidney infection. She was in a hurry as always and wanted to get going as he had desk work to do at home. David used a week of his vacation to stand by and care for his four boys. He dislikes to ask anyone's help but Carol, Betty's mother and Lilly Evs. wife have all pitched in with a helping hand at times.

Carol brought your last letter in which you were worried about transportation back to Conn. Only on Sandy or Betty but Bob almost never as he is so busy on his house & holding down a Navy Yard job. Last weekend Sandy & Madeline were here and it was a great help to us. A big help to get my hair cut long overdue. Then the First National for groceries finally a ride to Old Cape Pond & a circuit of Cape Ann, always a great joy to us and a feed of steamed clams - dug by Sandy in Maine and a gin of large shucked clams for a chowder especially good too.
I find it hard to take... this not being trusted to drive my nice Chev., and Rollie Graham over 80 mile driving, with his wife all over New England with never a thought of quitting on account of his age, the lucky stiff. Even the Dr. refused to let me ride a bike, although I was surprised when I told him about it.

Roger & wife & kids must have had a grand time crossing the country in their camping trailer. Thunk how much sooner & more easily they have learned their lessons in woodcraft & wildlife than me (for instance) if I was interested in Roger’s letter. How much they have learned seeing the country from Pacific to Atlantic. Coulee Dam, I’ve never seen & don’t have much of doing it. Seeing 3 live rattlesnakes, all I’ve ever seen is pictures in magazines. They were in a park where the Mississippi river starts & waded across it & threw rocks across the whole 10 feet of it. What a lesson in geography that must have been for them.

Something John always wanted to do but had to wait for Roger to pull off the whole stunt, Washington State to the Atlantic Ocean! Do you believe that John was looking down & watching over them through the whole trip? I have always felt that there was someone watching over me - mother or Charleston Sr., or maybe John himself like that warm day in March.
like when mother was worried about John sailing his ice boat on Cape Pond & sent me up there to be sure to get him on dry land. I yelled & waved my arms & he thought I wanted a ride so he came to me from way up by the big icehouse. With the south wind behind him the ice boat fairly flew. Momentum carried him to shore over such soft ice that it formed a wave ahead of him & he walked ashore over the bow-sprit & didn't even get his feet wet. If the ice had let him sink even a few feet from shore there was no such thing as swimming & he would probably have drowned right there with me watching, but helpless to do anything about it.

Thank you for all the nice things you sent us for our joint birthdays, that sure was a pleasant surprise. I wish you wouldn't do so much, it makes us feel kind of cheap not to be doing the same for you & yours. You must be wide awake to choose such a nice variety of things. Thank you again. My sister is a very clever person.

All kinds of excitement round here. We just noticed a small fire in the rubbish after all the workmen had knocked off for the day. Inga called Faulk Bros. on phone & the boys came up & doused it with 6 buckets of water from the water barrel where they mix the cement. If it going good it could have made considerable
more trouble... My milk man told me I am putting on weight— which I already have been told by the bathroom scales, 185 is from just sitting still and idle all the time.

Today 21 of August the man finally showed up to tile our ceiling after waiting all summer for a rainy day which never came. Last night we had our first real thunderstorm with wind & rain and about an inch of it so much needed & prayed for by so many.

Betty is bringing me her typewriter this week-end. I am sorry you are having so much trouble getting transportation arranged but everything will work out. I haven't asked them yet but I'm sure Bob & Georgia would drive you down in my car if I asked them to. Bob says he'd got to get the heating out of the way before another winter. I guess it was kind of cold on some of those days last winter.

Georgia was the prime mover & instigator of the first birthday party we ever had. They have invited us for Thanksgiving dinner at their house coming November.

Well Lottie, this will have to do as a letter for this time. Thanks for the many nice gifts to both of us. All of us send our love as always

Geo & Alma