

# 1949

- Communist's Republic of China proclaimed by Mao Zedong
- Ellen is in Saginaw, Michigan
- Gould and Virginia are in Manhasset, New York
- Geraldine is in New York
- Dorothy and Harold are in Saginaw, Michigan
- Marjorie and Ralph are in Saginaw, Michigan
- Kathleen and Hugh are in Jacksonville, Florida
- Ellen is 81, Gould- 53, Geraldine- 51, Dorothy- 48, Marjorie- 43, Kathleen- 41.

[This letter dated **Oct. 14 and 23, 1949** was written from Saginaw, Michigan by Ellen to Geraldine. They attended Fulton Hume's wedding in Ohio. She updates Geraldine on her health, activities and Marjorie's activities. Letter in the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson.]

2306 N. Bond St.  
Saginaw, Mich.  
Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> 1949.  
23<sup>rd</sup>

Dear Geraldine,

Hasn't this been a glorious fall day with its blue sky and golden sunshine!!! I hope you were situated so you could get out into the open for some hours of it. It would have been joy to be rolling thru New England today. I suppose Autumn foliage is almost past its peak of beauty now tho, but I hope you have been favored with more than one opportunity to see it at its best this fall.

I fear a cold I had, interfered to a certain extent with the family here enjoying this fall's color display at its best, but they have taken two trips to Flint and have some other travels, so they have not missed it all. The wind has made it inadvisable for me to lie out on the porch couch these golden days, but I have greatly enjoyed the sunshine that floods in my window. I sit in its warmth and glow more than an hour each day.

Today and yesterday were Mich. Teacher's Convention days in Flint, so I have been alone all day from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.- later yesterday. But I don't mind that, for I never mind being alone, there is always so much one can do with a surplus of undisturbed time. I didn't make a very startling record of accomplishment to-day, however, for I had to bathe and dress to go for an office call to the Dr. when Dorothy got home with the car. And caring for my own necessities, meals, bath, dressing and medicine with answering the door and the telephone used up about all the minutes available.

To-night, Marjorie and Ralph are dinner guests at a 7:30 dinner and Johnny is staying here with us tonight. Marjorie and Ralph will probably not be able to rest their heads on their pillows till 1:30 or 2:00. Their host and hostess are my Dr. Petty crew and wife who are famous for their late hours. They are great friends of Ralph and Marjorie. M. says she doesn't see how the Dr. keeps up his practice and his wife's social hours. She can lie abed as late as she needs to make up for lost sleep but he has to respect the professional man's hours.

I have just eaten a delicious bunch of concord grapes, cold and sweet, which I just brought in from the back veranda where I keep them covered with newspapers to hide them from the robins who are helping themselves to otherwise. Harold bought them for me from the corner city market a few days ago; I hope he can get one more basket before they are gone. Dorothy is very fond of them too. If you visit Putnam within a few weeks, you can have some of their specially fine "Wordens" which they are keeping in their refrigerator; they have the Concords too. I think I have read of a grape diet being recommended for an ailment like yours.

And now, how are you feeling these days since you last left us? And how goes the regime you are now trying? You must be feeling the thrill of vigor and ambition to take this Autumn trip up the river to the highlands by train to view the Autumn foliage which Virginia wrote us about. I'm glad you took the opportunity to view the foliage, and hope you didn't entirely miss the alternative offer of autumn raspberries from Gould's garden. Perhaps you can get a chance at them on some later week-end.

Well, we all had a grand time at Fulton's wedding meeting all the Hume clan,- some I had never met. [*Is this Fulton's second marriage?*] They certainly put on a grand affair for the wedding, without ostentatious or over display. There were some odd omissions, along with a well planned and well executed affair. I am very glad I went and have not felt any harm.

One odd omission was that, so far as it concerned us, no one seemed to be commissioned with the office of informing the out-of-town guests where the wedding gifts were on display. And so far as I have heard none of our family saw them.

The five-tiered bridal cake was a light cake with moist frosting and was delicious. I didn't see any dark wedding cake, or else I have forgotten it. Delicious punch was served. They planned a supper after the wedding reception for the out of town guests, I think, which we from Saginaw declined so that we might be making a few tens of miles on our way back home before a late hour. But they urged us so hard to stay for it (and the Humes urged us, also, on the ground that seventy had been invited to this supper and had been prepared for, and at the last minute, so many of them seemed to be going home that the bride's mother wondered who would be left to eat what she had prepared; so to please the Humes we decided to stay. Myron and Janice couldn't stay and Etta was to ride with them, (rather hastily arranged at the last, I guess,) so they all wanted us to stay, in their place. Donald's family were not staying, so they urged us to stay. Stewart's family stayed. Elbert was riding to Saginaw with us, so we

didn't want to take him away from the festivities too early. It was a delicious chicken supper with ice cream and cake and coffee.

On our way home, we stopped for the night at a Motor court in Marion, Ohio, which we had engaged as we were leaving Marion that morning, having staid there in an ordinary group of over-night cottages. Harold drove around the town while he was waiting for us to dress and pack up, and found this DeLux Motor Court and engaged it for our return trip. It was absolutely new and fresh, and not entirely finished, new furnishings of extra quality, - blankets, sheets, pillows, and pillowcases, towels and all-over carpets, metal bureaus, with the idea of building fire proof, I fancy. It was not too expensive, considering what it supplies, - and so clean and new. Showers and everything very modern. I greatly enjoyed the ride, Ohio has many beautiful large trees along the roadways. I had not realized Ohio raised so many sheep and so much field corn. Quite a lot of hogs and cattle! We drove thru good farming area.

I sent as my gift to the bride one percale hemstitched sheet and a pair of pillowcases to match. The girls seemed to think I ought to give a larger gift as I was in the generation above them so I did not join with them in their gift of a white wool blanket which was exquisite, for I saw it before it was sent. And Elbert said it was far superior to the only other blanket he saw among the gifts.

I am very glad that Emma could bring her self to be willing to stay alone befriended by Mrs. Warren, one of Elbert's tenants in the big house. And I am thankful it did all work out so well, being a venture of some uncertainties. We, here, are all waiting eagerly to hear from Elbert himself just how he took the whole trip and how he enjoyed the whole and how his health is holding out. We have had two well filled postal cards about his travels since he left us, but nothing since he arrived home. We have all been very slow to write each other since we have settled down to business after the summer's goings and comings.

Marjorie felt she must give up singing in our church choir as it required her to be out one evening for practice and Ralph does not like her to be out so much from home evenings. But I miss her presence in the choir, - it was a joy to me to see her there for I knew she enjoyed it. She felt she ought to help in Sunday School, so I do not have her with me now in the morning service; and she misses a very interesting and able sermon each Sunday.

Johnny is just beginning his practice in the Cherub choir; he has been to two rehearsals. I do hope he will be a good boy there, so that they will want him to stay.

I think Marjorie is still singing in her women's choral club simply because she feels she cannot honorably pull out and leave them, for some reason I do not understand. Ralph would like to have her give that up too, I think. She also thought to give up her AAUW in order to be at home more evenings with Ralph, but she had done such good work in the section she joined that they wouldn't let her off there either; (I can't think of the name of the section now, but it was the one in which they studied the United Nations).

As for myself, I remain here in Saginaw, about so-so from week to week, and have attended church regularly each Sunday and get out to a meeting or a dinner, or to go shopping once or twice a month beside; so I get around a bit, but I am not strong and still have a cough that attacks me at intervals. I do hope you are keeping fairly well and do let us hear from you often.

Very much love to you. Affectionately, Mother.

Enclose this in your letter to Kathleen if you think there is enough in it for her to enjoy.

Be careful to dress warmly when you go out on a windy day like today. It has grown cold since noon today. Has your co-resident in your apartment returned from her summer home yet?

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*[This letter dated Oct. 30 and Dec. 10, 1949 was written from Saginaw, Michigan by Ellen to Kathleen and her family. Ellen talks about the fall weather, leaves and fruit. She took a trip to Northern Michigan with her daughters. Elbert visited them for two weeks. Ellen send money as a birthday gift for grandson, Allen. Letter in the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson.]*

2306 N. Bond St.  
Saginaw, Mich.  
Oct. 30", 1949.  
Dec. 10th

Dearest Kathleen and all the family,

Are you having such wonderful sunny Oct. days down there as we are having up here. It seems a pity to stay indoors; the wind is often a little too strong a breeze, to permit me to sit or lie out on the porch swing, which I enjoyed so much this spring, but the fall weather has been beautifully blue and sunny.

Now, almost all the shade trees up and down our tree-lined streets have dropped their leaves and only a few apple, pear and plum trees and a few others, are holding on tenaciously to theirs. Jack Frost has taken all the flowers except those of the Chrysanthemum family. Dorothy and Marjorie both have a few of those left in their gardens. Today Dorothy found two strawberry blossoms in the bed in their back yard. Cranberries are in market. Do you get them down there in your markets? You like them do you not? If you do not get them there, I will send you some. By the way, we sent you some apples a few days ago, - by express, I think. There are three kinds in the crate; the Greenings are for cooking in pies, dumplings, applesauce, etc; the delicious are for eating fresh; and the Northern Spy also good for apple sauce or pies. Now I think I have named the three kinds correctly, and their uses, but I am not quite sure so you will have to try them out and see for yourself. I know the greenings are always considered a cooking apple. And I know one of the other kinds makes good applesauce, but which?!!! I wanted to send you some pears but they are not a very good kind, - the Keefer pear; and the earlier and better kind, the Sheldon, ripened so fast there was not time to get them to you.

Well, Marjorie has written you all about the wedding, and of Elbert's visit to us all in Saginaw, and I could not hope to add any thing of interest following her dexterous pen. We all enjoyed Elbert's somewhat surprise visit for we had hardly expected him to be able to do it. He staid with us over two weeks, and he was so desirous of recruiting more physical strength that I put him under my Dr.'s treatment for the time he was here and I really think he actually did gain a little strength while he was here. He also visited the nephews except Myron, and he was with Myron a good deal during the wedding. I will enclose with this some letters and post cards which will fill in bits of information, where there may be blanks in piecing together the family news from our scanty correspondence of the past few weeks. We all seemed to fail out at once. Did either of the girls tell you that they took me way up in the [*scribbles*] (fell asleep here) north of Mich. on an auto trip as part of their vacation trip when I was not supposed to be able to take a vacation trip. But I went the whole trip with them. (Geraldine was with us) and I lost only ½ day when they went to the Soo, the very place I wanted much to see, but had to stay in bed and rest in our hired cottage with Dorothy staying with me while the rest went, as she had been on that trip a previous year. But I came thru the week's trip all right and did enjoy it very much. We took in the Macinac Island trip with its wonderful Hotel and the longest veranda in the world and where no automobiles are used; we took the long ride around in a double carriage with a span of horses and a driver. A steam boat trip of over an hour took us to the island and another hour's trip took us back to the main—land. Very memorable trip.

Our papers have reported hurricanes at two different times some where south of Jacksonville and I have watched their progress and direction but have not seen that they hit Jacksonville very hard. But some one recently spoke as tho Jacksonville did get quite a damaging blow at one time. Is that true? And did the storm come near enough to you to jeopardize you or do any harm to your home? Did it give you hours of anxiety, or any trouble or inconvenience or loss? Do write us all about it, and what date was it?

We have enjoyed the girl's letters very much and are glad to hear of their summer activities. I knew little Allen would keep the family busy investigating his whereabouts and activities when he found his feet. You are doing very well to include in his training and education regular church attendance. I hope all [*scribbles*] (Another nap!) the family have been well this fall.

Dorothy thinks she never has seen a fall here in Saginaw when weather and health conditions have been so good. Has polio been very prevalent in Jacksonville?

Are the girls taking band music this fall in school? And are they taking up their piano practice at home?

This Sunday morning I went to the Ames Methodist Church with Dorothy. A Meth. missionary from the Philipines was to speak and I thought it would be interesting and it was. A well prepared address and very ably given. His name was Rev. Riley; if he comes you may be sure to hear him.

I presume the same series of missionary meetings in Florida were held this past summer as has been conducted for many years. Did you get to attend any of them?

Dec. 10". - This letter has waited long to be finished but I will try to finish and mail it even tho its news is no longer new. As I was making out this check it seemed to me I ought to be making out another check to you for something- I cannot think what. If you know of anything I should pay you please let me know. I forget so.

I will try to send in this letter the last installment of Allen's birth gift. If I am right, I have given him three checks of twenty-five dollars each, to make up the amount of one hundred dollars, equal to the gift that Father gave to Jacqueline and to Cynthia each. Now if I am wrong, and this is the third \$25.00 instead of the fourth, please be sure to write me at once and I will correct it. My memory is getting so poor I can not trust it on important matters. So be sure to write me soon if this is the amount that completes the \$100.00, or if it is only the third \$25.00. And

because Allen has had to wait so long for his gift and has lost some interest in taking it in instalments, I am going to make this last check thirty dollars instead of twenty five. And I think that will put him even with all the other grandchildren.

Oct. 31", - Well, this is Haloween and we have had a large number of visitors, in groups of from one to eight, averaging three or four to a group, and ages of all the way from two to seventh grade. They ring the bell and ask for "Treats or Tricks". Harold bought a bag of candy to dispense, but when his 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys came in, he gave them each an apple. The candy gave out and when the calls continued thick and fast he got into his car and went to the nearest store for a fresh supply leaving me to hand out the last of the first bag full. I think we must have had nearly 25 callers. Harold took care of them all as Dorothy is out teaching her gym class to-night. I didn't think I could accomplish it all, as it is one of the newer ways of celebrating the Haloween.

Dec. 10", - I have been sitting up quite long periods recently and yesterday I wiped most of the lunch dishes sitting beside the sink. But I have not tried to do any work at all,- it takes so much strength, of which I have little.

Thank you for the kind remembrances of friends I met down there, and return my appreciative greetings to all of them,- Christmas Greetings too, to them all,- I am not strong enough to write them all. A boy just came to the door selling Christmas trees- pretty little ones five feet tall.

With deepest love to you all, especially little Allen,  
Mother and Grandmother.

Very cheery Christmas and New Year Greetings to each and every one of you. A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.- Mother and Grandma.

Johnny sings in the Cherub Choir of our church tomorrow morning at church for his first time. He has practiced with the choir three times. They will wear white gowns. There will be 45 little boys and girls. How I wish I could hear them but it is too cold for me to go out.

One last word!

Don't give up your trip north for any reason pertaining to our side of the question. There is plenty of room, beds and bedding. Plenty of help to take care of baby and do washing and cooking, large family no bother to anybody, plenty of eagerness to see you all, wish I could say plenty of strength and comfort for you to make the trip both ways, but I have so little strength myself to spare, that a realizing sense of the actual experience rather weakens my pen when I try to enthuse truthfully on that phase of the undertaking.

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