

Thursday 11/5/53

Dear Grote:

Your letter of the 31st made good time arriving here on Monday. It certainly was good to hear from you, and I have tried frequently to sit down and drop you a line. However, we have been busy here too, and thus there are always postponements. Because there is much to relate, I may not finish this tonite, but I'm sure you won't object to a serial.....

Perhaps you haven't got the word, but Marjorie Gilbert passed away very suddenly at the end of last June. While on a trip out west with Mal and Billy she was stricken with spinal meningitis and was hospitalized in Denver. She made a normal recovery and was apparently all right. However, about a month later had a relapse and died within four days. Apparently, this was the aftermath of the original illness from which she never completely recovered. Jean was in New York with all the children at the time, so I represented the family. I told Aunt Agnes I would write to you, but I didn't believe it would be this much later.

About six weeks later in the middle of August Father Varley (Ed's dad) died which was unexpected because he had been fairly robust. Then about three weeks ago Art Cooley died as the result of injuries sustained from an accident while horse back riding. He was 54 years old, and was riding on Saturday. The following Wednesday he died. For the last year he hasn't lived in Wheaton because he remarried and moved out to his farm which was west of Ft. Charles.

Now for a few remarks on the brighter side. Jean is out rehearsing for another Drama Club show which will be put on the weekend after Thanksgiving. This takes a good bit of time, but it is always satisfying to see the performance that they turn in----and she enjoys it++!! We are all well and have been surprisingly so all summer and fall. Until today the weather has been extremely mild which undoubtedly has something to do with it. Last June Jean took all the children on the train and went down to see her family for about three weeks. It was a welcome change, but what a safari..... four excited children, one tense mother, and my being late as usual by not allowing enough time. We just made it with barely enough time for me to buss everyone soundly and get off the train.

Under separate cover I'm sending along a few publications and one thing and another which have accumulated. There isn't much because most of your sources now have your foreign address. You Macle!!!!

Some good came out one day last summer who was a nut on radio astronomy, and said he had been writing an article about your work in a Tribune competition. It turns out he works for the Tribune and would win \$100 if his article were selected for printing. He wanted to see the site of the first "machine" which we showed to him. He didn't seem overly bright--and didn't know you.

Not so long ago, I stopped by to see Paul H. Davis and I showed him the photos you sent us some time ago. He was very much interested in your project and your progress, and I gave him your address. Probably it would be a nice thing to write to him one of these days. It develops that he is merging his firm with Hornblower and Weeks, and his brother Ralph W. Davis is pulling out and setting up his own brokerage business. This will be at a new location in a building where we have a Verti-Blind installation. They contacted us for blinds and in making the sale, I went over to Paul H. Davis and Co. since they hadn't taken occupancy at the new place. Therefore, it was only natural that I would drop in to see him because I wanted to open the door for further discussions at a later date concerning his advice on obtaining funds for expansion.

More Later.....