

November 27, 1954

Dear Grote:

It was good to get your play by play account of our trip down, and we are glad to know you arrived safely. Your letter of the 19th arrived here in less than four days which indicates how the size of the world has been shrinking ---even compared to your surface voyage.

That was certainly a close call getting your gear off the Orion, and you were plenty lucky. How far is Tasmania from the mainland, and how far is Hobart from Sydney---miles and time?

We are all in good shape here, and have all been minus colds etc this fall for the most part. Andy won a prize for making a poster which pleased her and us no end because art is not her forte. She is also taking piano and is doing very well. Jeff is now a cub scout which is a junior type Boy Scout set up. He is an eager beaver, and is very interested in it. The two demons are both getting big and burly and noisey and rough---with each other, and with the furniture, toys, etc. Larry is growing up and is a much more appealing child than he was a year ago. Todd picks up a lot from the older two, but what he remembers seems to be what they tell him in the heat of passion. As might be expected many of the phrases are something less than genteel. Jean has been assisting on getting stage furniture for the public production of the drama club these last three weeks. A bit of a rat race, but tonight is the end of it.

I have obtained a quotation from Richardson of your Insurek discs of \$2.94. Delivery 2 to 3 weeks. Apparently, this is a botched up quote because I don't know if it is "each" or for all six. There is a minimum order of \$10.00---you don't need 20 of them do you.?? I'll get the straight dope in good time.

There are several pieces of mail and a couple of magazines here which I will send along by surface mail and since they are fairly heavy in the aggregate. I would guess it might be a month before you get them. This reminds me that Christmas is less than a month away, and I hope you'll be satisfied with an airmail letter since a christmas package would probably reach you about Valentine's days.....or later if the strike is still on and the damn boats put in there only once every three months.

We are still working on the house moving proposition, but no concrete developments as yet---the hooker is still the problem of running a ~~sewer~~ sewer line and getting the dope is next to impossible. Will keep you advised.

Unfortunately, this fall our business has fallen off, and we have had to really fight for it. Just what caused the decline is hard to pin down, but it is damn discouraging. All this started about the 1st of July, but instead of getting better it got worse. The first half the year was fine, but we'll be lucky to do in two quarters the last half what we did in the second quarter alone.

Let us hear from you when you get time with particular reference to your project, the attitude of your colleagues, and living and working conditions as compared to your mountain eyrie.....

Love from all of us,

