

September 10, 1959

1959

Dear Min & Oline

Thank you for my present and lovely card. The children's music teacher had a recital the afternoon of the sixth. She served tea afterward. I imagine my surprise, when every one started singing "Happy Birthday to you" when I went into the dining room. I had forgotten what day it was. The day before May 1st had gone to D. about a big surprise for the dorm. May had bought me a toy. That night Marie Crosby came & gave it to me. As you see I had a lovely birthday with your card & two dollars & all. We have had a busy month. There were 100 people there for our missionary retreat. We fed them here at the dorm for the dorm meal for 2 days. Doug from Harvard College was visiting here. He gave us three wonderful talks. The kids have been arriving in twos and threes & a week now. Five more arrive today. Next week three more. That fulfills our quota of twenty. Patty had her first day at school yesterday. She's pleased to enjoy it. Love to you all, Betty

October 11, 1957

Dear Mum, I love you

Oh dear, I remember
your birthday just like I do
everyone else - Too late to do
anything about it. I'll just have
to make them up in 1958
when we are home. Here comes
Patty & her Classmates - I asked her
what she wanted to say to you all.
She said, "I'll write my own letter".
She got tired quickly though & finally
dictated it to me.

We are all having colds
now. It is always so at the
change of season. We are having
a Smorgasbord & some
slides on Norway tonight.
We have three Norwegian
guests. We are celebrating
David Dahlcamp's birthday.
Tommy is still a clown &
Kerry is a young man. Lucy
is fine. Betty, 100%.

Missão do Dondi, C. P. 28
Bela Vista, Angola
October 22, 1957

Dear Sis,

You'll be so surprised to get a letter from me that you'll not get over it until the next one comes. Your brother has ceased to be any kind of correspondent, let alone a good one. I intended to have a letter at Box 1 by your birthday. Perhaps it will arrive by November 12.

We have had some sickness lately. I guess that when we're busy we write less than when we have sickness though. I have been somewhat under the weather since June, just before school closed. I have done some writing home since then, but have not felt up to getting around in the morning and for a week in June was unable to be out of bed. I have had a medical examination since then, last week as a matter of fact, which showed absolutely nothing. It is rather puzzling of course, and to have something that one cannot track down when he most definitely feels something is rather discouraging. You know what that is like of course, having been through it many more times than I. This is my first. I'm sure this will pass, altho perhaps not until we get away from Angola and on furlough.

Sorry to hear that you have been having allergy troubles, and hope the doctors will find something to help you out.

I am reminded of something now. How many times have I been reminded of something like this? Well, never mind. But Betty and I were thinking this morning as she read over an announcement about Norman Rockwell's School in Westport, Connecticut, that you might very easily get something out of a course with them. We will try to send you one of the coupons from Statepost about the school. But if you looked in a copy of one of the early 1957 issues, you would see the thing yourself.

Well, Betty is down now, too, for a while. Last Friday she got out of bed feeling very lame. When she went to go back to bed, she couldn't because of a slipped disc in her spinal column. Since then she has been flat on her back and the doctors say that they can tell nothing before a week has passed and it may be that she will have to stay in bed two or three weeks, or even longer. Fortunately she is feeling much better and can turn some in bed without feeling the awful pain, can also lie on her side. When you receive this, we shall know what more developments there are, need for X-rays and so on. She is not in the dorm of course. The agricultural teacher and his wife are taking care of our twenty children plus two of their own. Betty is in the home of the evangelist in another section of the mission, as am I, while the children are at the dorm.

Right now we feel the need for the furlough coming up and shall be looking forward to being with you again.

Love and a hug and a kiss, *hacks*

Missao do Dondi, C.P. 28
Bela Vista, Angola, P W A
October 22, 1957

Dearest Mother,

A letter to Olive and one to you. You won't get over it!

Well, I didn't write in hers about John Farrow. Tragic for his wife. Tragic for Mrs. Farrow, too. Test pilots certainly haven't much to gain for the most part. Others who live and those who fly in all kinds of planes have something to gain of course, but it does seem as if many of the up and coming young men of the past few years have been blowing up in the jet jobs. For some of course it is the only kind of life, however hazardous. For others it is a job, and of course gets to be more of one. And if the trend continues a lot more fellows are going to be killed in jet accidents and in other high powered machines of the present age. No worse than getting killed off by Indians I suppose, or the waves of the Atlantic, or a dinosaur, or a dynamite explosion, or a buzz saw, but there it is and the tragedies continue. If you see Mrs. Farrow, please tell her that we were very sorrow to hear of John's death. You might convey the same to John's wife, but the chances are she will remain in Florida.

We were filled with a conviction that the atomic age has really come the other day when we heard the news of the Russian satellite having been successfully pushed up beyond the earth's atmosphere. Mother, what you have seen in your lifetime and what we are seeing in ours is something to make one gasp. Who in high school in Strong in 1928 would have thought of TV, wide screen movies, jet planes, atomic power and the myriad other things which have been invented in these years. There were scientists who knew that some of these things might possibly come to be some time, but to have had these countless revolutionary inventions appear in these years with two world wars raging has certainly brought about great changes in many, many different parts of the world. No wonder some people cannot keep from going off. Were it not for the faith of my childhood and the contacts with others of the same faith, the stronger than mine, I should be close to that state myself I think.

Well, we shall hope to see you again in a matter of some months, Mother. We are now preparing for the trip home, hoping to go part way by air and part way by boat, but nothing is settled as yet. I hope that we don't have to go earlier because of our state of health. We should like to take the children by the World's Fair in Brussels and from England by boat. We have written to Pan American asking for information on such a trip. We shall let you know more shortly. We plan to leave here the second week in July and to be in Maine by the middle of August. We shall put the children in school in Auburndale this time. It will be better for us all. We already have the promise of a house there. We hope to have a car, too, a used one of course. We have asked Dad Dorr to do some inquiring about a used heavy car of Chrysler make and hope to do a little traveling with it. More about this in following letters.

Stay well this coming winter and we shall be looking ahead to seeing you.

Most lovingly from your son, *Racho*

Nov 12, 1957

Dear Mum, Oline & all of you.

you will be surprised to hear that we shall go home soon. Max's health has not been good since last spring and then 3 weeks ago, I slipped a disc in my back. The doctors think it would not be wise to continue with the heavy load that the dormitory and Max's Audi work entails so we are leaving as soon as we can get plane passage, probably in about two weeks.

We'll be seeing you. Don't you go and get ~~anything~~ ~~the~~ or anything.

Love
Betty

Dear Mum & Olive,

Sissy
Chest - 37"

shoulder seam to bend in knee - 25"

Waist to knee cap - 18"

shoulder to elbow - 9"

middle of neck to elbow - 13"

Patty 22"

20"

13"

6 $\frac{3}{4}$ "

11"

You must lose patience with us, Mum and I don't wonder. We are so slow to answer your questions etc. Please don't feel badly at all about the dresses. Patty has just lots but Sissy really needed them. They love sister dresses and we are taking care. I'm washing the one Sissy is wearing so that later they can wear them together. There is quite a bit of difference between the two of them as you can see. Sissy being a husky gal and Patty a dainty one.

We are very very busy these days. Right now the eleven pastors are having a conference here. We have 14 for tea every afternoon and 5 or six guests for supper every night. Max is running a work shop in audio-visual for them from 2 to 4 every afternoon. He has had a program four nights running so far and another tonight in a village about 12 miles from here. Your spring and our winter will soon be here. I can almost smell the lilacs a thinking about it. God bless you all.
Keep I love, hug & kisses. Betty & all of us

Missao de Dondi, C.P. 28
Bela Vista, Angola
November 23, 1957

Dearest Mother and Olive,

Just a note on our travel plans, and we hope they go all right.

By train - from here to Nova Lisboa next Tuesday, the 26th.

By small plane - DC3, Nova Lisboa to Luanda on Wednesday or Thursday we hope.

By small plane, DC 3 again - Luanda to Leopoldville on December 1st.

By DC6 perhaps - Leopoldville to Rome, also on December 1st, by Sabena Belgian airline.

Rest stopover in Rome, or Paris, for several days. Then on, but we don't know the date, by Pan American to Boston.

We can't tell you, because we don't know ourselves yet, when we will be arriving in Boston. We'll let you know soon. We shall have to stay there for a little while because of the need to go to the clinic. This is routine for all returning missionaries, but necessary in our cases.

We'll write to you later on, next week sometime probably, from Nova Lisboa or Luanda.

Love and a hug to you both, from your loving son and brother,