

Dec 3, 1967

Dear Mom,

I'm really sorry that we haven't written sooner, especially after your phone call. We all felt very sad at the news of your mother's death. Even though she was very old & you were expecting this you must feel a great loss. At times like this I wish we weren't so far away as I know Jim would like to have been able to be with you for the trip & the funeral.

I can't believe that Christmas is less than 3 weeks away. I have done a little shopping for the children's toys, but I don't see how we'll get everything done on time this year. It seems like there is something to do almost every evening. Jim still plays volley ball & I've been taking a painting class, & then there's P.T.A. & our church group. This week-end we went to

a big party at the apartment of one of the Air France representatives to Boeing. They are a couple about our age from Paris & are here for a year. They have no children so are able to travel a lot (they just spent a week in Hawaii) and entertain beautifully. Saturday night we had 2 couples to dinner & today we took the children to the Museum of History and Industry to see the display of Christmas traditions from around the world. They had a tree ~~from~~ decorated in the traditional style from 17 countries & while we were there, there was a French pageant with costumes, carols, & traditions from all the different provinces. Each week end til Christmas different groups will perform.

Jim has been busy at work. Capt. Maya from Lisbon is here & Jim has spent quite a bit of time with him & has brought him home for dinner. He is very nice (father of 14 children) & has taken Jim all over Portugal.

Lon and Clare have moved & have started redecorating. They are planning a New Year's eve party this year as they have a beautiful walnut-panelled recreation room.

Our black cat was killed by a car a couple of months ago, and we now have a Siamese kitten. It belonged to a friend, but they found their daughter to be allergic to it so they had to give it away. He is beautiful & the children love it.

The girls all love school & are doing very well. Their schedules make it a bit difficult to get out for errands etc. as Susan gets home at 11, Kelly at 2, & Karen at 2:30. They have CCD on Monday afternoon & Blue Birds on Tues. so the weeks sure go by quickly.

P.S. Kathie wrote this letter while I was doing some writing for work. I don't have much to add except how sorry we

are at Grandma's passing.

I'm quite busy between work, trying to finish the basement, & trying to be a good father & husband. We'll take a 25 hour a day job - We're finally starting to see some progress in the basement. All the walls are framed and ready for paneling. I've opened up the stairwell, cut back the walls as much as possible, & it really opens up the basement. I've also got the bar roofed in, & now just need to finish the back wall to separate it from the back storage area. I think it will look quite nice when it's finished. Hopefully in time for your ~~visit~~ visit next summer (hope you are planning to visit us again.) Will close now as it's late & we haven't had much sleep this weekend.

Love,  
Jim