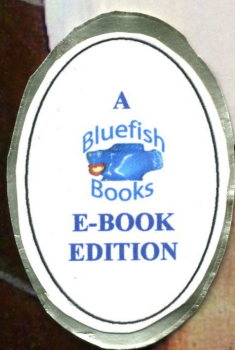


LETTERS FROM STACY

Edited By
John W. Cowart





Letters From Stacy



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Letters From Stacy



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This book is dedicated
with fond regard
to
Jack & Alva Worthington

*Because Stacy and Ginger remind me
so much of the two of you.*

-- jwc



INTRODUCTION



I bought an old wooden file drawer a few years ago at a yard sale in the Riverside section of Jacksonville, Florida. As best I recall, I paid three dollars for the file drawer and its contents.

It did not fit the spot I planned for it so I stuck it in the garage without examining the contents until last year. Trash littered the inside so I threw away old burger wrappers, some obituaries clipped from the newspaper, a wallpaper sample, box of rusty paperclips, a cluster of dried out ballpoint pens, etc. All of it went into the garbage can until a scrap of paper caught my eye.

A letter.

I pulled it from the garbage and read an intriguing phrase:

“When you know what your wife wants, it’s easy to make up your mind”.

That phrase introduced me to these Letters From Stacy.

Enchanted, I continued to read and realized the importance of these letters I’d almost thrown away. I retrieved a handful of crumpled letters from the trash can. I felt these letters demanded to be preserved because they would not only interest present day readers but would also come to be treasured by future historians.

Stacy, a gentleman living in Little Rock, Arkansas, wrote to Mary Lee, a lady living in Jacksonville. His letters touch on events, culture and daily life in both cities.

Everything interested Stacy: gourmet cooking, black-powder rifles, gardening, geology, astronomy,

brewing beer, coin collecting, computer programs, machine guns, travel, ham radio, home repair, history - and he talked with Gnomes.

Love for his wife, Ginger, for his family, and for his country shine through every page of Stacy's writings.

I decided to preserve these letters and make them available to readers. Here are a few notes from my computer blog about preparing the letters for publication:

Feb. 23rd: Slight Problem: *Most of the letters had been crumpled and all had been folded and refolded so many times that my scanner will not pick up the full text.*

So, first I spent a few hours removing rusty staples being careful to keep the pages in order because they are not numbered. Then I spent hours and hours flat ironing dozens and dozens and dozens of these letters one page at a time.

Does Stephen King prepare his manuscripts this way?

Anyhow, if my career as a writer ever goes belly up, I have a trade to fall back on - I can take in ironing.

Feb. 24th: *Click. Click. Click. Swish. Swish. Swish. Whirrr. Whirrr. Whirrr. Click. Click. Click. Swish. Swish. Swish. Whirrr. WhirrrThat's been my day.*

John Cowart, human document feeder as I fed 200+ pages of Stacy's letters through the scanner from 3:30 a.m. till 3:30 p.m.

Ah, the excitement and romance of a writer's life. Gives me an adrenaline high.

Feb. 25th: *I attempted to scan in the letters I ironed yesterday. HA! I tried and tried and tried but nothing I tried worked; the scanner would overwrite all previously scanned pages and save only the last page. Drove me nuts.*

I called Donald who came over and did something or another to the machine and taught me how to do it right. Thank God for him!

The scanner, of course, picked up every wrinkle in the pages and produced them as text! Wear, insects and time produced lacunae in some pages. I have repaired these spots as best I can.

NOTE: usw. is the German equivalent of et cetera (etc); it stands for "und zu wieder" (and so again).

Because these are familiar letters, Stacy seldom uses last names. All I know about Stacy himself comes from internal evidence within the letters. I've tried computer searches for more information about Stacy or Mary Lee and come up with nothing.

One thing evident in the letters: Stacy enjoyed cooking for guests at a shelter for the homeless. Therefore, I think it appropriate that half of all profits from the sale of this book be donated to Circle Of Love, a homeless shelter in Jacksonville.

John Cowart, editor
Jacksonville, Florida
July 13, 2005

15 October 1988

Dear Mary Lee,

TRAVEL DEPT: Frankly, I don't know where to start except at the beginning.

It was all wonderful! I left home weighing 165 lbs and ate like a pregnant starved hog with a tapeworm and LO! when I weighed in Jax, I was 168 (Ginger said the scale was wrong) and when I weighed in Little Rock on my correct, trusty scale, I weighed 168!

Virtue triumphs -- or something.

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY DEPT: He who beats his sword into a plowshare usually ends up plowing for those who kept their swords. (Chip and I are in political agreement; we are both just to the right of Attila the Hun).

People, like sheep, tend to follow a leader; occasionally in the right direction.

If you always keep saying that things are going to be bad, eventually, you have a chance of being known as a prophet.

SIGNS SEEN: "Used Antiques". Has anyone ever seen an unused antique?

Bardsbog. I never knew that Bard had a bog. A nice boggy one, too, in a select section of Maine.

BOOZE DEPT: Going into Canada at Windsor, we stopped at the Duty Free Store and purchased our quota of booze. Ginger bought an Imperial quart (40

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oz). of sour mash bourbon and they were out of Glenfiddich... I was heart broken, so I swallowed my pride and bought an Imperial quart of Glen Livert...just to keep you from being envious, I won't divulge the ridiculous low prices,

CANADA: Montreal has changed from what I remembered. We walked and toured the town enjoying every minute. We had "walking" tour maps and used them to good avail. We had heard of the underground Montreal with boutiques, restaurants, usw. but could not find it at first.

St. Patrick's is near the center of where I figured it should be, so we entered and I asked the secretary....she had never heard of it, but pointed us back to the center of town where we secured directions and found it. Very interesting and we ate subterranean. We were staying at a "bed and breakfast" and the owner was a school teacher who was on disability leave (of several years) with two overweight cats. Good accommodations and so-so breakfast, which was saved by Earl Grey tea, one of my favorites.

She steered us to a wholesale club store (she is a member) and I purchased some maple syrup there. Ginger said not to get much as it would be cheaper in Maine so I heeded her advice. The price was \$5.25/20 oz for #1 clear syrup. Please compare this to the price for Maine syrup to be quoted later. Remember that wives ALWAYS know best. (If you don't think so, ask them). We ate at a Greek restaurant and I thought it was good. Ginger and I had identical meals. She got sick (later) and I didn't. This proves something, maybe that I am meaner than she is.

Incidentally, they have excellent Chinese restaurants also. We sampled one. We walked the entire section of Old Montreal and visited ALL of the



churches and cited points of interest. Excellent food in some of the smaller shops.

While walking by an antique and homemade woven store. Ginger saw a bed spread identical to the one she crocheted in Europe (12 countries), in Japan, Mexico, Canada and most of the US). But this one was smaller and not for a double bed. We went in and priced it. Ginger found out that HER bed spread would sell for: HOLD ON! Fifteen hundred (\$1500.00) dollars! I immediately suggested that she crochet a few more. After all, it only took her about eight (8) years.

We did a fair amount of shopping and visited the Hudson Bay store where I looked for: woolen Hudson Bay blankets, a Canadian winter coat and a navy blue beret. The blankets (double) were \$250.00 EACH! The winter coat came in two (2) sizes: too small and too large. The beret came in one size: too small. Pfui! It is a five story building and we checked out most of it.

Quebec City is not too far away and we made it early in the afternoon. Yes, the place was crowded and we had problems securing accommodations till we found a room at a motel with rooms almost like those in the Hilton hotels. No problems with the clerks or the language until the next AM.

I went down and asked about directions to go somewhere and the girl rattled off something in French. I answered that I did not speak French and she rattled off more French. I then said, "Ich kann nicht Frankzoesische sprechen, aber ich kann Englisch sprechen. She rattled off more French and I continued speaking in German and then in excellent .English she asked what language I was speaking. I told her German and she replied that she did not speak German. So I told her we had two (2) options: speaking German or speaking English. From then on, no problem; she spoke English to me but I noticed

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that she gave other people a hard time by speaking only French.

Quebec City has really changed since 1948. The old city no, but the new city yes. Ginger and I walked the old section even when it rained. We would park the car and then put in lots of foot mileage. It was raining when we walked to the Citadel. I wanted to walk around to the entrance (maybe 1/4 mile but Ginger was not interested) so we did not enter the Citadel.

The Chateau Frontenac now has boutiques and stuff like that on the main floor. I personally think it detracts from it (but no one asked me). Joan recommended that we eat at the Continental which is diagonal from the Chateau Frontenac. Excellent, superb, wunderbar! Fine wine. Outstanding service. We decided on the Gaspé crab with a cream/wine sauce. The crab meat was about the size of your index finger and there were numerous pieces. I highly recommend it. The dessert wagon was very tempting. I succumbed.

Down the street is the *Anciens Canadiens* which is a restaurant featuring the cuisine of Quebec. Have you ever heard of cod in puff pastry served with a cream sauce? Excellent! Well, we had it plus home baked bread and lots of other goodies. I recommend that restaurant also.

Ginger found the oldest Presbyterian church in North America and talked with the pastor. It was locked and we did not get in. I believe that is one of the few churches in Quebec City (and Montreal) which was not toured by us. There are LOTS of *Notre Dames* in both cities and we checked them ALL out..

There is a Hudson Bay Co. store in Quebec City... the blankets were only \$225.00 here, but Ginger wouldn't let me buy any as "We have enough

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blankets". There was one (1) beret in my size and I bought it. Still only two (2) sizes in Winter coats.

The Isle Orleans is just northeast of the Quebec City in the St. Lawrence and we toured it in the car. Beautiful examples of old farm houses, usw. It is a forty two (42) mile trip around the isle and is most interesting. (No rest stops either and when you drink gallons of coffee, this can be a problem).

Rural Quebec is interesting, however it appears that they do not speak anything except French. I thought Canada was bi-lingual and it is, except for rural Quebec where they speak two languages: French and French. We toured most of the small roads paralleling the river. I think we spent more time on the secondaries than we did on the Trans-Canada highway (like our interstate). Gas is sold by the liter and at places in Quebec it was \$.57/liter. That figures to about \$2.20/gallon. I was glad we got good gas mileage and that the tank had been filled at el cheapo \$1.55/gallon gasoline in Quebec City.

I'll comment more in the next letter. No point in boring you with details in one letter when I can bore you in several letters.

MAPLE SYRUP DETAILS: In New Brunswick, maple syrup was \$7.00/half-liter (17 oz).. In Maine, the land of cheap maple syrup, they were selling #1 AMBER syrup (not as good as clear) for \$7.50/16 oz. As .this was SO MUCH cheaper than the Montreal price (see page one), I didn't get any. Yes, I kept my big mouth shut.

TERRY, BARD, LAUREN and TIGGER: They are all doing fine and we had a wonderful stay with them. Terry is an excellent cook and we had some wonderful meals. Bard is an expert on the grill and proved it with delectables tastily grilled.

Bard and I sneaked off and did some shooting at the range in Royal Oak. We exercised the P-38 and

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emptied quite a few 9 mm cartridges. My shooting has gone to pot and I need more practice. Bard is getting good with his. I need to reload and send him about two hundred (200) or more cartridges -- One of my pending chores.

Lauren is growing like a weed and is all over the place. Tigger has become a house cat and seldom goes out (he gets into fights when he does as there is a roaming tomcat which is jealously guarding what he considers HIS territory and Tigger is not part of it). After Vet bills which were unbelievable, Bard made a house cat out of Tigger....to Tigger's disgust.

JOAN/NORM: This was another of interesting points of the trip as we had never stayed with Joan and Norm before. The stay included a trip to New York and Ginger saw sections which she had never seen before. Lincoln Center, Jewish deli's, the west side (Riverside Drive), Semitic type females laughing, speaking Yiddish and saying, "Oy vey!" Later I translated for Ginger. This is a Yiddish contraction of "Ach, Weg ist mir". Some females, especially when excited say, "Oy vey" which means trouble or something upsetting is pending. End of Yiddish lesson.

One evening we ate in a Japanese restaurant and the food was excellent as was the Sappho beer. Very tasty.

Joan cooked Sunday evening dinner and her parents (Madeline and John) ate with us. Madeline had prepared a wonderful pie. Norm grilled the meat and did an excellent job. The salad was superb. Normally, chopped green bell peppers in a salad give me problems. I discovered, due to Joan, that RED bell peppers (ripened green peppers) do NOT have this adverse effect on me. Now I know and appreciate the knowledge.



NAVMARCORMARS: The joint Chiefs of MARS (Army, Navy and Air Force) had a meeting in Cheltenham, Md. I was invited to a portion of the meeting and attended Tuesday, 5 October, Very interesting. I asked Ginger how she liked the area as this is where I would have gone if I had accepted the job of Chief MARS, Navy-Marine Corps. Her comment was, "Not enough to live here". Beautiful area. After I left the meeting., a deer ambled across the road leading to the south gate on the Washington Naval Communications Unit Base. Hunting is not permitted and the deer AMBLED across the road with a "you can't hurt me" look on its face. (And it was correct!).

COLORING OF TREES: We viewed the trees all over northern US. Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and down the eastern seaboard. They ranged from gorgeous to uninspired. It seems that the coloring is due to the coolness of the nights and the warmth of the days. In some areas, the weather was almost summery. Ginger had packed our clothes in northern clime suitcases and southern clime suitcases and we used the southern clime suitcases almost exclusively.

BIG JINKS: We saw her new apartment for the first time. Beautiful and very tastefully decorated. This is so much better for Big Jinks than the house on Sharon. No yard to keep, plus she has maid service, excellent food, and all maintenance taken care of. The retirement complex is full of her friends and she really fits in well. I think it was an excellent choice.

ETHEL: Her back still bothers her, but she gets around well. Ted came out and worked on Ginger's Singer sewing machine that we had brought with us. He discovered that the feed foot was chipped and causing her problems. I'll bet that Singer has worked on the machine several times and they never found the problem which Ted found in about five minutes.

Letters From Stacy

As everyone (except Ginger) likes Chinese food, Barbara, Ted, Ethel, Ginger and I went to a Chinese restaurant and enjoyed a good meal. Very tasty. (We had two from column A and three from column B) in the Chinese dinner for five.

Ethel's refrigerator is well stocked. I was going to make some barley soup for her but found that there was no place to store it, so I didn't. I did, however, make some yellow rice with chicken.

GULFPORT: We lucked out and stayed in a motel which was DIRECTLY under the landing pattern for Keesler AFB. Lucky us. We smelled JP-5 all night. (Jet fuel) Win some and lose some.

After touring the docks and fish markets, we filled the Coleman cooler with fifty (50) pounds of lovely shrimp. Some looked like small lobsters. Ginger and I de-headed them upon arrival at Little Rock. I calculated that there were about 1,400 shrimp! Ginger put them in half gallon wax paper milk cartons which she had been accumulating for these shrimp. We graded the shrimp for size, filled the cartons 2/3's with shrimp and then added water to cover, and froze them in the deep freeze. They stack nicely and when thawed are like fresh.

BUYING SPREE: As previously mentioned, I was looking for several items: i.e. Canadian Winter Coat, Hudson Bay blankets, beret, smoked herring, dried salted cod, lettercase wallet, maple syrup, usw. Ginger was looking for LOBSTER, Lennox china, pocket books, usw.

I located 4 oz of smoked herring, which I am hoarding, but will share with smoked herring lover(s), however nothing on the salted cod and blankets.

Just wait until you see my winter coat. I located it in St. Johns, New Brunswick...lovely. We visited TWICE L.L. Bean in Freeport, ME. They never close and it is most interesting. Ginger located and bought me a

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50% mink fur, 50% wool sweater. Wonderful feeling and warm. She also bought lots of other items in L.L. Bean.

At Kittery, ME., there is a discount Lennox china store. As you know, we have Lennox Tuxedo china....service for eight. We now have service for TWELVE (12). Ginger refused to buy the additional cream soups. Said we did not use them that much and at \$100.00 for each setting, we could do without. Yes, we drove back to LR from ME with the back seat loaded with CHINA. Didn't break a piece, either.

It is wonderful to be home and sleep in our own bed (with my feather pillow cushioning my weary head).

Take care, relax, have fun and enjoy life. We love you

Canada was fun. We drove 4955 miles. ..ugh. Tried to contact you three times, but no one was home.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ginger", is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a trailing flourish.

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**4 January 1989**

Dear Mary Lee,


A belated Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and a Happy, Bountiful New Year to all! I hope each and every one of you had the very best holiday season of your life.

At the risk of boring you, I am going to relate some things which occurred during the hiatus of letter writing.

**HOLIDAY TRIP-GOING AND RETURNING:** We left LR in a light rain which developed into a frog strangler. I thought I had a gremlin on the hood playing a firehose onto the windshield. At times I couldn't even see the road...needless to say, the trip was SLOW. We had reservations in Jackson, late arrival (naturlich) and I had guessed 2200 (10PM) and our actual arrival was 2350 (11:50 PM). I was vibrating as if gnomes were using my nerves as harp strings. We hoped the weather would clear.

Next day it was drizzling, raining, usw. plus fog. Fun and games. We arrived J-ville at 2130 (9:30PM) and found the house locked up like a jail. Ethel had the headset on and couldn't hear us. I went to Don's and had Dessa call Ethel on the telephone to let us in. As we had not eaten, Jinx and I ordered a pizza and that was dinner for Ginger, Jinx and me.

On the way back, it was FOGGY, rainy, overcast and plain miserable. Oh well, you can't win them all, hut I certainly would like to have a few draws. We spent the night in Mobile and as we arrived at 1500



(3PM), Ginger decided to do some shopping at the largest of Mobile's Malls. I traveled with her and finally decided that reading a book in the car was more fun. I opened the front seat windows and was settled down, relaxing when I heard, "STACY, don't sit like that! STACY! SIT UP!" Well my eyeballs snapped to attention and on the west side of the car (driver's side), a young mother was talking to her 2 or 3-year-old daughter. I started to tell Stacy, welcome to the club....but I didn't. Anyway, it was startling.

As all of my meteorological predications were 180 degrees out of phase (100% wrong), I (hopefully) told Ginger that I was predicting FOUL, RAINY, FOGGY, OVERCAST weather from Mobile to Little Rock. I was, as usual, wrong. The weather was MUCH better and after a bit of fog, it cleared and we had sunny, blue skies.

**JOAN AND NORM:** They arrived Monday afternoon at about 1500 and were warmly welcomed. It was mighty good seeing them. The only fly in the ointment was the fact that Terry, Bard and Lauren were not there also. We ate out at the Charthouse and the food was very good. Jinx and I had excellent Caesar salads. The entree was grilled teriyaki Mahi-Mahi. Excellent. *Meiner Meinung nach* (in my opinion), after tasting the grilled swordfish, *uzw*, it was the best of the selections.

OK, I didn't know what Mahi-Mahi was either. It is dolphin type of fish. Very good. Tastes a bit like a freshly-caught small tuna (no resemblance to canned tuna). Excellent eating. I drank dark Beck beer. (Made in Bremen). Since 1945, I probably have drunk enough to float the BB 63 --*USS New Jersey*.

Joan and Norm left at 0630 to visit Joan's parents on John's Island near Vero Beach.

**OLD FRIENDS:** Wednesday, Floy called from Ponte Vedra and said that they had just gotten in

## Letters From Stacy

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from Atlanta and for us to come down for drinks, usw. We arrived about 1600 and saw them for the first time in YEARS. ... Howard has not changed a bit, if anything, he looks better. He has put on about ten (10) pounds and NO gray in his hair...but, as you know, he had almost none in 1960's. (He was known at the Club as the man with the high forehead).

They caught us up on missing friends, what they had been doing, usw. Howard said that three of his class mates from Annapolis were living nearby but they did not know that when they bought this place. It is on a golf course about two hundred (200) yards from the beach. Lovely place. However Ginger commented that it looked like an expensive Hotel/Motel as there was not one magazine, letter, or any personal object visible.

Yes, Howard still makes wonderful drinks. He made me (and himself) a delicious Old Fashioned. We used to make these on Avon Lane using fruit we had candied ourselves. This time he used, in lieu of candied orange slices, ORANGE MARMALADE, and it was superb! After drinks we drove south, almost to St. Augustine, and had dinner. They featured crab cakes and advertised on the menu "No fillers". Both Ginger and I ordered them as we love crab cakes (Baltimore style) and we were BOTH sadly disappointed. My politest comment would be: "damn, pfui and a plague on the place!"

We hope to see more of Floy and Howard. Maybe visit them in Atlanta, or something. Lovely people and we both commented that we wished we lived closer to each other.

Yes, Howard needs some of my electronic testing equipment and I shall send it to him. He is discarding (in my direction) a bubble sextant. It will be an even swap as all of the before mentioned was owned by the US Navy. To answer the unspoken

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question, "Why do I need a bubble sextant?" Well, I have been wanting to know my EXACT location and I can not use my sextant as it has to have a horizon to get a sun sight. With a bubble sextant, the bubble is the horizon and I can get a sun sight (position) with a wall around me, just as long as I can see the sun. (Location is for radio work and plotting of directions).

**ETHEL:** Doing well. We tried to get her to allow us to fly her to Little Rock for about a month's vacation, but she refused to leave. Said she wanted to stay in J-ville. Ginger worked herself to a frazzle cooking, straightening up, usw. Christmas day, she cooked for NINE (9) people. We had a gorgeous turkey (which I carved), sweet potatoes, fruit salad, rice, gravy, green beans, biscuits (courtesy of Charlene), cranberry relish, and lots of other items...all delicious.

Rosa and Catherine came and they look good, especially as Catherine is 83 and Rosa is 80?. Charlene, Roy and Fran, plus Ginger, Jinx and myself. WISH ALL OF YOU COULD HAVE ATTENDED! Oh yes, two bottles of wine. One French and one Italian. Lovely!

We visited with Mary Lee and had her down for drinks and dinner. She was introduced to Glenfiddich and enjoyed it. Next day, we had drinks at her place. She is getting an application for Jinx from the School Board in case Jinx decides to move to Florida.

**FRAN:** She and Jinx really had a ball. Fran looks good and had time off, so she and Jinx visited and did all sorts of things. She showed Jinx a place where they make homemade sausage, so Jinx bought me some delicious Bratwurst. I cooked it and it was LOVELY. Fran has a very nice apartment on Hershell St.

**JINX:** We walked every day in J-ville. Jinx went to Orlando Thursday with Chris. She arrived in Little

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Rock Sunday evening. I picked her up Monday, so she could get her car (and clothes) from our place. She was telling me about Orlando and Chris. He has a five (5) bedroom home with a large kitchen and a swimming pool. Chris cooks and it sounds wonderful. Lobster tails and fillets was one dinner. Another involved stone crab claws with drawn butter, bottles of wine, usw. Wonder what the poor people eat? Anyway, she had a wonderful time in Orlando.

**TERRY, BARD AND LAUREN:** We have had two calls from them. Unfortunately, both Terry and Lauren have colds and infections. Lauren's ear is bothering her again. They left Jackson a day early and returned home due to these little problems.

Bard told me he was not superstitious BUT: just before they left Michigan, he broke his shaving mirror. The electric door locks on the out-of-warranty Buick stopped working. Then the electric fan on the radiator (to assist when the car is not moving fast and the radiator is hot) stopped. Neither is covered by warranty. Then the electric seat stuck after Terry adjusted it to her measurements and Bard drove later with his knees under his chin. Not covered either. How is it disasters come in threes -- but neither of us is superstitious. Pfui! Alles ist Strum und Drang!

**ODDS AND ENDS:** Tuesday is Prayer Breakfast and I have it! Have gotten the orange juice, bacon and sausage, pancake mix, syrup and butter. Checked with Park and my dissertation on the last Prayer Breakfast appeared in the Bulletin on 1 January 1989. That might stir up interest and we will see what occurs Tuesday. Will advise. Have checked with my cohorts and they are ready with electric frying pans, etc. to cook the pancakes. We shall meet at 0600 to have things ready by 0645.

We cooked and nine (9) people showed! UGH! Everyone said that the meal was delicious. Most of



them had seconds on the pancakes and bacon. Think I might make eggs Benedict for the next Prayer Breakfast. If we don't have more than a dozen people, it will be a snap. That reminds me: Ginger fixed Eggs Benedict for me and couldn't find my English muffins, so she used a BAGEL. What is that? Eggs Benedictberg? Benedictstein? (I prefer English muffins for this dish).

Bi -Racial Committee meets Wednesday and Stewpot is Friday. This year is really starting off with a BANG!

**CHRISTMAS PRESENTS:** I received some wonderful presents: electric furnace to melt bullet alloy, a most interesting cook book with an exquisite apron and matching insulated glove, a beautiful English tailored shirt, a badly needed brown leather belt, a matching shirt and trousers from Ginger, and a bottle of Glenfiddich. For some reason, people think I cook, wear beautiful clothes, and drink good booze. They know me rather well!

I just tried out the electric furnace -- it holds eight (8) pounds of bullet metal and heats rapidly, then the heat is adjustable for the correct temperature.

**COMPUTER:** Have been looking at IBM XL 24 printers. (Norm has one with his PS/2 Model 50X). Frankly, at the risk of hurting feelings, I prefer the Epson LQ 1050 in spite of its being more expensive. Will probably order one shortly.

Went by UALR to use one of the computers in the Computer Lab and LO' No computers ... out for maintenance. The ones at the University Library are being set up so I will use them shortly. Have one reserved for three (3) hours. Have to transfer my 5 1/4 inch floppies to the new 3 1/2 inch disks. Ugh. Oh well, I'll finish soon. ..I hope.



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Just received my grade point average, etc. Am stuck on 3.51, which isn't too bad for a part-time scholar (I'm using that word loosely).

**SHOOTING:** Talked with Dr. John who just reloaded four THOUSAND (4,000) .38 special cartridges and is starting in on the 30.06 cartridges for the Springfield. He wants to try out the rifle range at Mayflower. That will be a good excuse for me to break out my Springfield, the German 8mm Mauser, and the Weatherby 30 caliber magnum.

**SIGNS AND BUMPER STICKERS:** Ginger didn't care for some of these, but they appeal to me:

DON'T CALL 911, USE 9MM  
PREVENT CRIME, SHOOT FIRST  
I MAY GET OLDER, BUT I WON'T GROW UP  
...and others which I have forgotten.

**US POSTAL SERVICE:** After I went through the accumulated mail, I make the following recommendation: Only read First Class Mail and trash can all other mail as you won't miss a thing, believe me.

**JIM:** Talked with him and he is down with the "flu". He was scheduled to solo Monday and had to cancel out this week due to health. He is eager to solo....can't blame him for that. We are over due for checking out the bees. Jim promises to call me the first day he is free, the weather is right, and he is well so we can work the bees.

The Christmas tree is down and everything is put away courtesy Ginger and minimal help from me.

Had best close for other chores.



Had a

Enjoyed chatting with you and am very glad you  
& Ethel are now friendly - Don't tell Ethel, but  
I should be back about mid-March - See you then -  
Alice

---

**15 January 1989**

Dear Mary Lee,

Due to the press of the items coming up during the week, I am beginning this on 8 January and will try to write during spare moments in the week.

**BACKYARD:** The last twenty eight holes have been pounded into Mother Nature and filled with 13-13-13 fertilizer for the last of the fruit trees. All that is left to is the pruning and the discussion with Ginger as to do it per the book or per her wishes of not hitting any branches when you walk under them yet having the fruit within reach.

Ginger has a friend who knows a blueberry grower. This grower buys blueberry bushes from Fayetteville where the UA has an experimental station. He says that the blueberries are wonderful tasting, huge and prolific. I have contacted him and he is going to buy me some bushes i.e. Blue Ray, Blue Crop and Avon Blue. We shall plant them between the garden and the grape vines. Ginger advises that the blueberries we have produced lots of "volunteers" between the bushes and we will be having LOTS more of our Tift Blue and other Rabbiteye blueberries.

Just received word from Ginger, "MAKE THIS LETTER A SHORT ONE".

Well, once you know what the wife wants, you have no problem making up your mind. (Confucius)



**WEATHER:** Ridiculous, nonsensical, asinine, preposterous and egregious. Saturday, the high was 74F, sunny and clear skies. Sunday afternoon, I left to mail some letters and go to the grocery and it was a very light drizzle, which turned into snow flakes and then a snowstorm. From a high of 74 to a high of 35 in 24 hours, is the acme of absurdity. Monday morning I started my walk at 0645 and it was beautiful...snow on the houses, trees, shrubs, usw. It looked like an etching (care to come see my etchings?) as everything was in black or white. Gorgeous. Due to the unseasonable warmth Saturday, the snow did not stick to the streets. They were bare and black to harmonize with the other blacks and whites. I almost became poetic.

In two days, it was hot and sweaty again. Highs in the 50"s. Ugh! Saturday was a sleet and freezing rain day. Pfui.

**COMPUTER:** I was about to order the printer and, on a hunch, called VISA.. You are 100% correct. The bill which Ginger paid and mailed 3 January 1989 STILL had not been received by VISA, as of 9 January 1989. I refuse to comment further on the US Postal Service, but if ever I become Dictator of the US of A -- USPS, LOOK OUT!

The printer is definitely going to be the Epson LQ-1050. It seems to fill the needs I have, plus has lots of features I'd love to become accustomed to. I am confident that you will get all sorts of weird things in print, graphics, usw, when I finally get it and become familiar with it.

As of 11 Jan, VISA cleared and I ordered the printer: Epson LG 1050. Delivery about 17 Jan. That means that I will have to learn all sorts of new stuff (and I'll love it!).

Have been conferring with Emery, a computer expert for Arkansas Power and Light (AP&L). He is

## Letters From Stacy

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furnishing me with the updated version of *Copy II*, which will copy every "protected" program I know, plus the latest *Flight Simulator* which has about ten or more different airports (O'Hare, National at DC, Atlanta, Ft. Worth/Dallas, etc). This version of *Flight Simulator* has four (4) different aircraft: Sopwith Camel (believe it or not, a WW I fighter) Cessna 172, and two more. According to Emery, it is hellava program. He is also sending several other programs. I have sent him copies of DOS 4.0 *with Windows* and *PC-Write* Ver. 3.00 (the one released 1 Jan 89 and I received 7 Jan 89).

Believe it or not. my printer arrived THURSDAY evening, I ordered it Wednesday AM and they told me that it would be shipped UPS and I would get it about Monday. Yet, it takes the USPS a WEEK to go to Delaware! And this came from Augusta, Ga.

**GINGER:** She is at my elbow, going through books, trying to decide where we are going in the Fall 1989. Looks like the Eire, Scotland, trip is back on the fire. She mentioned a resort in Scotland halfway between Glasgow and Edinburgh and the date of 1 October for a week. Time will tell.

She now tells me that we will spend time in the condominium at Fairfield Bay in Northern Arkansas. It is adjacent to a wonderful golf course, tennis courts, horses, fishing, usw. Anyone want to join us? It is a two bedroom condo and will sleep six as the sofa unfolds. We have a hot tub big enough for six (6), more if you are friendly, sauna and all sorts of "goodies". Come join us. We plan on going 23<sup>rd</sup> of April for a week, as we plan on traveling in June to visit the new grandchildren in Michigan and Connecticut.

**CUISINE:** In looking around the kitchen at the jars, etc., I noted that we were out of home-made pasta, both the spaghetti and the medium noodle, so



I decided to do the necessary. While Ginger was shopping, I made a batch of pasta. Frankly, I like it MUCH better than the purchased pasta. These are the spaghetti and 1/2 inch noodle sizes. Thursday, I made another batch of 1/2 inch noodles and the 2 inch wide noodles. Ginger says that she will use them with chicken.

**BARD:** He called Thursday evening just after I finished changing the calendar/time on the old computer. It showed Tues 01-12-88, which was the correct date but a year off. When I changed the year, the day went to Thurs from Tues.

He advised that he had been working on the kitchen table, the one we had in the dining room, years ago. It is the one that when the Head Auditor of GM was a dinner guest, the table started slowly tilting toward him and his plate almost slid into his lap....The center leg was giving away causing the table to tilt. Well, I glued it and dowelled it, but it is going again. Bard had cleaned the glue off and re-dowelled it and re-glued it. This is probably for the LAST time.

He commented that he was working on his income tax and was planning on taking the \$6.000 loss on his house in Texas as a Capital Gains/Loss item. Lo! You have to declare any profit, but you can't take the loss! Ugh!

Ginger commented that she knew that from her tax experience. Anyway, Bard is planning on consulting a tax CPA on his taxes.

Rots of Ruck.

**CLASS:** Classes started at UALR and I attend the Medieval Civilization classes. They are most interesting.

Dr. Bowlus (Chuck) is a good lecturer and really makes it interesting. We have fifty (50) minutes of lecture and then twenty (20) minutes of class discussion.

## Letters From Stacy

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My friend, McGehee, is taking the course also and we sit adjacent to each other and hassle (friendly style) Dr. Bowlus.

He is the Viet Nam vet (TSgt Rangers) who has a medical due to multiple gun shot wounds. You can see one on his left cheek and one on his neck.

The dog he bought in Texas (Rottweiler) is doing fine and is shaping up to be a fine companion and a well trained dog --voice and hand command responsive. (It only cost \$1,500!!!!) Yes, Ginger does not want me to have one. I translated the papers for him as they are all in German. Shall keep you posted on the class.

**SOCIAL:** While in Jax., I bought a bottle of Glenmorangie Scotch for Emily. She and Hank are coming over Saturday for dinner and we shall have a Scotch tasting.

When Allen and Lois were over, I tried out a blind tasting on them. I offered five jiggers of scotch and they had no markings. Glenfiddich, Glenlivet, Laphroaig, (pronounced La-Froyg), Glenmorangie and Scoresby. Scoresby is an el cheapo blended Scotch, but good.

Well, everyone picked Glenmorangie as first choice, Glenfiddich as second, Laphroaig as third and Lois picked Scoresby over Glenlivet!!! It will be interesting to see what Hank and Emily pick as they are SCOTCH lovers and drink Glenfiddich exclusively. I'll bet that Glenmorangie still comes out first.

Shall advise.

**COMPUTER AGAIN:** You are more comfortable with what you know! The IBM is lovely/wonderful/powerful, but my old computer is

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more "friendly". Same with the new printer. It has lots of new features which I will have to get accustomed to i.e. single page feed, envelope feed, selectable fonts (print types) on the console.

It will take a heap of getting accustomed to.

This is probably the last letter on the old printer and computer. I hate to tell them farewell.

Take care, relax, have fun and enjoy life. We love you.

care, relax, have fun and enjoy life. We

*This is not one of my better letters -
maybe next week -*

Have fun -

Shary

22 January 1989

Dear Mary Lee


CELEBRITY SECTION: Jinx called and told us to listen to a local radio station and LO! **Jinx is the Teacher of the Week!**

The announcer interviewed her pupils and it was most interesting. Some of the comments were: I love My Teacher because she doesn't give us much homework. Another: She slobber kisses (???), She makes Math interesting, usw.

This honor also brings daily surprise gifts; so far she has gotten a framed certificate honoring her, a gift certificate from Beal-Ladyman (Ladies Department Store), a pot of tulips or daffodils (which she will separate and plant) and similar gifts each day for a week. This is my favorite daughter and I knew she was smart/capable/competent.

NEW COMPUTER: On Monday 16 January, I started the major project of moving the old printer, monitor and computer from my desk to where I had the new IBM computer, monitor and the Epson LQ 1050 printer.

To do this, I had to clean off my desk and that involved removing all of my radio gear i.e. Kenwood TL 922A, Kenwood 930S, Murch Antenna coupler, Collins Phone Patch/SWR, and the Pakratt 232 plus telephone recorder, clock, 5 inch 38 shell base (paperclip holder), model of the Little Mermaid



(Copenhagen harbor), memo pad holder, earphones, pencil holders, usw.

That is NOT everything which was on my desk either!

After clearing it off, I wiped it with a clean, damp rag and then started replacing. Believe it or not, it took almost four (4) hours. By the time I had it wired and checked, it was time for the noon Navy net, so I checked in and established that all of the radio gear was operational. After lunch, with fear and trepidation, I started up the computer. IT WORKED!

I had to get a word processor program going, so I entered *Word Perfect* and started teaching myself how to utilize it. This is the *Word Perfect* program instead of my old user friendly *PC-Write* ver. 2.4. I had to get the printer matched with *Word Perfect* and LO! The menu did not have my new state of the art Epson LQ 1050, but it had a similar printer LQ 2500, so I used it. The trial run worked, so here I am trying out the weekly letter.

Between hook ups and tests, Ginger was having me disassemble the downstairs couch prior to her recovering it. She hopes she has "conned" the expert at Home Economics/Extension into helping her recover this sofa. Complete with heavy duty sewing machine, air staple gun, and all the rest of the essential tools for a good job, I have taken out the "guts" of it (metal frame of the hide-away-bed). That was a chore. Yes, a few pinched fingers and a few exercised profane words, I even muttered, "Yoh'tvoyu mat'!" Which is about as profane as you can get in Russian. (I didn't want to soil my German profanity). Remember, I was there in 1942 and picked up a lot of things -- profanity for one. It is obvious (to me anyway) that some of the wood will have to be replaced -- Looks like my day(s) as a carpenter/cabinet maker are not ended. Hope I can find the necessary seasoned wood. Pine won't work. If

Letters From Stacy

necessary, I think I'll use some redwood or similar wood. Shall advise.

SOCIAL: Saturday, Hank and Emily came over for dinner. We had the Scotch tasting.--.five (5) different ones -- per last letter.

Believe it or not, Emily picked out the Glenfiddich (her favorite booze). My favorite, Glenmorangie, she placed second. I won't argue with Glenfiddich as first, as I drink (actually sip) it as if it were going out of style. Riesling wine with dinner. Ginger prepared Shrimp choupitoulas -- named after the oldest street in New Orleans. (This is from my Xmas present cookbook) and Emily prepared a salad of artichoke hearts, asparagus, string beans, usw. plus Ginger's homemade cloverleaf rolls. Hank made the dessert. HUGE GLASSES of Brandy Alexander. It was so good that I broke out a bottle of brandy, ice cream, Kahlua (instead of creme d' cocoa) and Hank did it again.

As I had been drinking a Martini before they arrived, Scotch, Riesling, and Brandy Alexanders, I decided that an ounce of prevention was needed, so I took two Ecotrin (coated aspirin) before bed and awaken Sunday feeling FINE.

Ginger had the hangover of ALL hangovers and she did not have the Martini, nor Scotches, only Bourbon/water and wine, plus Brandy Alexanders. She decided not to go to church, but to rest, so she would be awake for the Symphony. Guess what happened during Mozart's 40th Symphony. ... yeah, you are correct. Anyway, it was a GOOD dinner party.

Ginger just read this and commented that I shouldn't emphasize drinking so much and that we are not alcoholics.

SYMPHONY: Alan Chow, an excellent pianist, was the Guest Artist. He replaced Gina Bauchauer who was unable to perform. It was an excellent concert. It began with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Symphony in



G minor (40th) and it was a trifle slow to my thinking as well as some of my friends' thinking. I almost dozed myself. This was followed by Sergei Rachmaninoff's Concert for Piano and Orchestra in F Sharp Minor (No.1). Excellent, stirring and spellbinding. Chow did a superb job of playing. The concert finished with Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 in A Major. As you are probably aware, Beethoven's odd numbered Symphonies are much stronger and more stirring than his even numbered ones. All in all, a very good concert ...even if Ginger did have a hangover.

CUISINE: Wednesday, I prepared some of that good "meatless spaghetti gravy" (also know as vegetable spaghetti sauce). This is the one which uses herbs with tomatoes to make a delicious sauce. Maybe the fresh herbs are the reason. I use fresh sage, fresh rosemary, fresh parsley (eat your heart out, all from the garden). It was good on the homemade pasta,

EXERCISE: Am still walking the 3+ miles daily. It has been about 30F each morning and is delightful. A few days ago, the conditions were just right and the sun had not come up. I looked up at the sky and it looked as if someone had laid white yarn strands across a medium blue velvet. Beautiful. These were the con trails of aircraft. Shortly, the sun approached the horizon and the effect was spoiled. See! You should be out and observe the beauties of nature BEFORE DAWN. As an after thought, I have noticed that my legs (calves and thighs) are hard as rocks, but unfortunately, I can not say the same for my abdomen. Pfui.

MEDIEVAL CIVILIZATION PART 2: This class of Dr. Bowlus' is wonderful. I am really enjoying it. The background classes of Charlemagne, Medieval Warfare, and the preceding Medieval Civilization (450-1050 AD) really prepared me for this, which is

Letters From Stacy

1050-1450 AD and things really get together in this period. Wish you all could be exposed to it.

PRINTER ANTICS: How about that! I can now do things like:.... \$. This is due to the new State of the Art printer.. Whee! After I get familiar with graphics and that stuff, I'll demonstrate. (Don't hold your breath).

ODDS AND ENDS: Monday evening I was at the Church nominating committee meeting and that lasted until after 2100 (0900 PM). Then Thursday evening was Men of the Church meeting and I had to discourse on Prayer Breakfast plus the fact that Ash Wednesday (Lent) follows this month's Prayer Breakfast and we usually have it weekly (during Lent) instead of monthly. Yes, we are going to have it weekly. That means a real good breakfast, complete with trimmings (contingent to Lent) until Lent is over, Whee.

BARDWELL: He had a birthday on 20 January. We called him on 19 January as I knew that he would be gone when I got up at 0600 (0700 his time) as he leaves at about 0630 Eastern Local Time, so I put in the call to sing him Happy Birthday! He appreciated it. Both Ginger and I talked with him. I was planning on picking up some of the tab on his P-38 pistol repair, but it has not been repaired...so another delayed present.

Had best close" We love you, relax, have fun and enjoy life

— ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ —

Affectionately,
Harry

January 28, 1989

Dear Mary Lee.

COMPUTER: I am going to try to do some things which I have never tried before with this new printer, so please bear with me...especially, if I goof.

CUISINE/SOCIAL: Thursday evening, we were at the Stewart Long's for dinner. Lib invited us over and, naturlich, we attended. Nice chit-chat before dinner and Ginger had told them she had to attend the SPOA (Sturbridge Property Owners Asso) for the board meeting at 2000 (8 PM). I was drinking a very nice Burgundy (change from my Glenfiddich, as they didn't have any and it has spoiled my taste for other "blended" Scotches). Lib served us a very good French stew and a superb Spanish onion.. .receipt follows: (.1 hope)

Three Grain Filled Onion Rings

2 med sweet onions	1/3 cup plain flour
3 tbsp cornmeal	6 Tbsp oatmeal
2 tsp sugar	1 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp baking soda	1/2 cup buttermilk
2 egg whites	2 Tbsp vegetable oil

Peel onions and cut crosswise into 1/2 inch thick rings. Remove centers, to leave 1/4 inch thick rings.

Prepare batter by combining oatmeal, cornmeal, flour, sugar, baking powder and soda. Beat



buttermilk, egg whites and oil. Stir in dry ingredients to make a relatively smooth batter.

Heat a lightly oiled griddle to 350 F. Place onion rings on griddle. Spoon batter into each ring just enough to fill. Cook until bottom sides begin to brown, turn and cook until other sides are done. Serve hot as bread or vegetable side dish. Serves 4-6. Absolutely delicious!

1fa •. This (printer) is not doing as -I want it to, so I'll hold off and do the rest after I get ***" tins beast under control. I do highly recommend the-cgjnisl fiileo (Spanish Filled) onion rings.

COMPUTER AGAIN: The past few days have been spent slaving over a hot computer.

I have transferred files, programs, data, usw from approximately 185 of my 5 1/4" floppies onto 3 1/2" disks. I cleaned off the hard disk of the old computer, except for the DOS (Disk Operating System), my Utility files, and a Specialty file (*Fastback*).

I secured the old computer for shipping and then cut the Styrofoam inserts to fit it, the monitor and the printer. Now, everything has been shipped, plus the floppy diskettes, manuals, mouse, usw. It was really a project.

Bard called and said that the printer arrived, seemingly, in good condition (pending testing). I was getting my semi-annual shipment of supplies from the US Navy and I told them that I had a new printer...the MSgt (USMC) who handles my supplies advised that the box of printer ribbons had been shipped, then he checked, caught it in the mail room and pulled it, so as to swap it for ribbons for the new printer. Bard will have to be satisfied with the eight (8) new ribbons included with the printer (left overs from my last issue).

Hope everything comes through in good condition and WORKS when Bard gets it. Time will tell. Now

Letters From Stacy

Norm can say that Bard has a Third World Slant-Eyed Computer. In any event, it has served me well and didn't give a bit of trouble.

GINGER: She is about sofa'd out. She did a magnificent job of re-upholstering the den (Hide-a-bed) sofa. However she has redone the cushions about three times. The first time looked good me to me, but the cording sorta waned. That bugged Ginger...she has finished them now and they look BETTER THAN BOUGHT! The sofa has had additional stuffing/padding added to the arms, back and cushions and as a result, it is MOST comfortable.

I told Ginger I would take an oath on the family Bible NEVER TO GET INVOLVED WITH A SOFA AGAIN! I have cuts/bruises, abrasions, usw on my hands and arms from the springs, framework removal and replacement. Plus a sore back and a twisted hip. Pfui! I'll do less exerting work, i.e. turning the garden, cutting down trees, pruning fruit trees, et al. No more upholstering. (Until the next time she asks).

HONEY: Several people asked about honey the last few days, so f poured up a batch and filled their orders. One person (Sharon in Foreign Language Dept) bought three quarts (nine pounds). She obviously likes it.

.. •* Damn new printer!

DENTAL: After many, many years of "No problems, come back in six months for the next cleaning", I was told that I had a cracked filling. Friday, George Gillilan deadened the area with a humongous syringe then removed the filling and replaced it. No problem until the Novocain wore off. Then I had a hellava ache and a sore jaw. I took aspirin and it helped until the aspirin wore off and then it came back. I finished it with aspirin AND several glasses of that special reserve Burgundy. That will fix most anything...



And it did.

Ginger says she can't figure out my drinking habits as I seldom drink the same thing two days in a row. A typical week will be: Martini with Bombay Sapphire gin (lovely stuff), Old Fashioned a la Cdr Danner, Glenfiddich on the rocks, Rum Gimlet with Anjeo rum, wine (usually Burgundy), Martini with Beefeaters Gin (or Boodles gin) and Glenmorangie on one small ice cube.

All this keeps my teeth clean and healthy. George gave me a box of dental burrs (diamond and carbide) to use in my gun repair and disassembly (removal of staked shims, etc).. I really appreciated it, George is a good friend and he still remembers the tree surgery I performed on his pecan tree when it split and I saved it and it now looks like it had never been damaged. Sometimes when you cast your bread upon the waters, it returns as croissants (hot and buttered).

HORROR STORY: I am afraid that I have lost (in the transfer shuffle) all of the work that I have done on that cookbook I was writing. I can't find it anywhere, but I am still looking. The problem is that I did not label the disks when I copied them and I have to enter each one and check the directory. Oh well, such is life. I remember copying it, but WHERE is it?

WINE: Racked the twenty five gallons of Mead and it is now in the wine cellar, giving me more room in the workshop. It still has too high a specific gravity, so I may have to restart the fermentation this summer (if it doesn't restart of its own accord). The wine cellar is becoming crowded. I have ten gallons of white wine (I call it Maison Blanc) ready for bottling (two glass carboys) and now there is the Mead in five carboys. Oh well, one of these days....

(The conclusion to this letter is missing....jwc)

Letters From Stacy

9 April, 1989

Dear Mary Lee,

SHEER STUPIDITY: I keep telling myself to write down what I am going to write about, so as not to forget it and I forget to write it down. Senility is creeping up on me.

WALKING: Because of the weather, I have walked in short sleeved shirts and sweated. Then the next day,, I walked with a jacket and was cold. This Arkansas weather has a saying, "If you don't like it, wait five minutes". It is that variable. Anyway, it is pleasant, most of the time, to walk at 0700.

I note that I see MANY more people walking, jogging, running, usw, here than I did when I was walking in Jax. (East on Avondale to St. Johns, south past Boone Park, west to Park St. and north to Avondale). That is a fine brisk walk, but shorter than the 34 miles I do here.

Just for the record, it is dangerous to walk . . . even in the early morning. As you know, I was hit and knocked down about two (2) years ago while I was walking and legally crossing Old Forge on a cross walk. That was about 1500 (3PM).

Well Thursday at 0715 I was hit (fingers only) by a car backing out of a drive and crossing the sidewalk. I was so angry that I could have expectorated nails! I was walking behind the car, ON THE SIDEWALK, when it suddenly started backing up and I JUMPED ahead and it missed me except for my right hand which was behind me and it hit the fingers ... no damage. The


Letters From Stacy

fellow saw me and I kept going as I knew if I stopped and talked with him, I would say things which I might regret. This is the place where they usually park sloppily in the driveway and partially block the sidewalk. Enough said. There is a lot to be said for walking at 0630 and earlier.

VACATION: Saturday, Ginger and I are going to Greers Ferry Lake and relax for a week in the condo. I might take my fishing tackle and exercise my gold fishing license (lifetime). As a result, you will PROBABLY NOT get a letter next week as we will not return until Sunday or so. You can think of us relaxing by the lake, next to a golf course and near the tennis courts, enjoying sauna, hot tub, swimming pool and an inside wet bar.

Ginger is asking me what to take in the way of food, refreshments, usw. I will have to think about it. There is no indoor grill, nor one on the porch. It is outside in a patio, so that curtails (somewhat) charcoaled steaks, hamburgers, usw. Ginger wants to visit places she has never been before: Silver Dollar City (Missouri) and Eureka Springs. If I have my way, we shall indulge in hedonism during this time frame. Shall advise final results.

SOCIAL: I was supposed to have a Bi-Racial committee meeting on Wednesday evening but Jinx and some of the students were giving a presentation at the church after the potluck supper. I asked her and she said the Bi-Racial was more important and to go. That afternoon, they cancelled the meeting, so we attended the presentation and I had some of Ginger's good fried chicken and the strawberry cake (remember the cake she used to make for Bard?), plus other goodies. Jinx's presentation was excellent and I was relaxed when Ginger nudged me and said that Jinx was calling me to go up on the stage. It turned out that she was displaying the skills of the 1-6 grade students and she wanted me to talk with a



student in German. I did and it was fun, even if unexpected.

CUISINE: Ginger dug up some of my horseradish, washed it and peeled it. I was given the job of fixing grated horseradish. I used the Waring blender and some white vinegar. EXCELLENT! It really cleaned my sinus -- or should I say sini (plural). There is no question that it is pungent, piercing and sharp. Good stuff. Jinx advised that she wanted some, so it looks like I will have to make more. Fortunately, we have LOTS in the garden, so that is no problem. It seems that Chris loves it ... so there went my horseradish.

GARDEN: Have planted more tomato plants. The herbs are doing well. The lettuce is certainly growing and looking good. Some are red lettuce and others are Bibb and the leaf type. Several pepper plants are in the ground, sweet bell peppers and hot peppers. It is still too cool to plant okra, or even thinking of soaking the seeds prior to planting. Lima beans, string beans and peas are still yet to be planted. Radishes are coming up and the basil, which was planted at the same time, has not appeared, but it should be up shortly. I just planted nineteen (19) more lettuce plants, mostly red. Ginger is planting the four additional tomato plants I purchased.

That late freeze killed some of the strawberries, but we have loads of blooms, so MAYBE the birds will leave us a few. The blueberry bushes are full of blooms also. The new raspberry garden (SE corner) is doing well. A large limb fell from one of the adjacent pine trees and crushed a few but they will survive. The rest are doing fine and should come up with a few berries this Fall. The older raspberries by the grape vines will have berries this Spring as well as in the Fall as only the older stalks produce berries.

Looks as if we have borers in the peach tree. Hope it doesn't get killed as the apricot was.

Letters From Stacy

Grass is beginning to show through the spread dirt. The front, side and back yards were treated for weed control, so all we have to do is to sit back and cut the grass. These damned violets are resistant to weed control and have to be dug. These are the ones Ginger transferred from Madison, to Tallahassee, to Jax (two places), to Towson, and then the Little Rock. They have gotten out of control, into the yard, the garden, the grape vines, the berry bushes, usw. Pfui. You poison them with weed killer and all they do is wilt (temporarily).


Just remembered, Ginger killed a snake in the yard Tuesday. About four inches long, it appeared to be a gopher snake or something similar. I told her that MOST snakes are beneficial, but she was not listening.

BEES: Have been medicating them and I am now finished. Yes, I bring them to attention, have them form a single line, and then take my little spoon, and give each one their medication. If you believe that, let me sell you a bridge or two.

Jim and I will finish up this week by putting in more supers, swapping locations of the hive bodies, and inserting, where needed, the excluders (to keep the queen bee from laying eggs in the empty supers). We will set up a "nuke" to produce some queen bee cells to replace some of the old queens. The colony in the number one position has become a bit mean.

The bees are getting dark (wider black stripes) and that means that the queen needs replacing with a younger and more placid Italian queen. Our number five colony at Sam Perronni's place is pure Italian and we use it for new queen stock.

The virgin queen after hatching goes on a maiden flight and mates with drones in the area. These drones are hybrid or wild bees, so the resulting eggs are 50% Italian and 50% wild. German /Italian or what



have you. The ideal hybrid is 50% Italian (for gentleness) and 50% German for honey gathering ability. That way you have a hard working, gentle bee. Pure Italian bees do not work hard, so what else is new?

JINX: Just put her on an airplane for Orlando. She flies to Dallas and then to Orlando. She went to class Friday AM, gave a spelling test to the class, then had her picture taken with the class, and left. I drove her to the airport. She returns Monday evening and, as we will be at Greers Ferry, she will have someone pick her up.

MANUAL LABOR: Ginger asked me to nail the yard timbers together where we have placed them on the property line (north side) to prevent water erosion.

They are double height, so I nailed them with 60 penny nails. These are nails about 1/4" thick and about 6 1/2" long. It takes a bit of pounding with a two (2) pound hammer to drive them.

Gad, isn't it lovely that I am so healthy (and stupid) to indulge in manual labor. The next item is to dig in the stepping stones which had been removed when we spread dirt.

On the chore list, I already have taken care of the grill parts ordering/replacement; rear deck rail repair; and timber spiking.

The only item remaining is the stepping stones. UGH!

ELECTRONIC: Stewart returned the OS-8 (oscilloscope) which I had lent him with the comment that he couldn't get it to work.

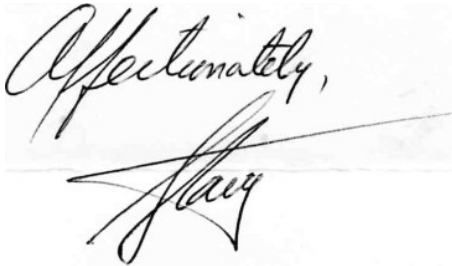
It seems there is no horizontal sweep.

That will be put in line for my return along with: remove the 120 hertz hum from my (FM) shop radio (bad filter condenser), ditto a small AM radio for Jinx,

Letters From Stacy

also a bad filter condenser, wire up the bubble sextant for 24 VOC, so I can check our location (latitude and longitude), and calibrate the dial on the house Sanyo AM/FM stereo receiver (it is off about 1/2 MHz,)

Had best run. We love you. Take care and have fun.

A handwritten note in cursive script that reads "Affectionately," followed by a large, stylized signature that appears to be "Stacy".

This undated, unsigned, hand-written draft of a letter with several strikethroughs is on the back of the above:

Pokey just called to tell me the shocking news about your beloved Gene. We're never prepared for such devastation as the passing of someone so dearly loved.

Of course words, no matter how eloquently written, can't help the sorrow you are going through. I can only sympathize with you because I lost my mother without warning and I would not have found any comfort without my close friends & relatives around me.

I thought Gene was the greatest ever and he made my life richer just knowing him both socially and at church school services.

I just want you to know my heart & blessings go out to you & your charming children. God blessed me by letting me meet you & Gene. For our true friendship over these past 6 years, upon our first meeting - that was six years ago when we first met.

Loving you in Christ --



9 April, 1989

Dear Mary Lee.

WARNING, ANYONE WHO SNICKERS, GETS CLOBBERED: Tuesday evening, I went to bed feeling fine. Wednesday AM, I awakened, got out of bed, and was stabbed in the right foot (big toe) by an excruciating pain. I did my usual 3 1/2 mile walk and it was ROUGH for the first mile or so. Then it eased off a bit. I ate a light breakfast of orange juice, grapefruit, creamed chipped beef with fresh mushrooms on toast and Oolong tea. When I tried to get up, it was worse. I made an appointment with Bobby McGowan and he saw me at 1300. The diagnosis is Arthralgia. I'll save you the time of looking it up ... GOUT!

Bobby sympathized with me and said that he had a bout of it last year (he is MUCH younger and me and eats health, fat free foods and junk like that). He gave me some anti-inflammatory pills and had the lab technicians draw enough blood to satiate most of the vampires in the western world. This is to determine the uric acid level. We checked and mine has been low normal for all the physicals since 1971. Bobby said that we needed to monitor it as when he had his attack he didn't, and the uric acid levels became higher and he developed gall stones as a result.

FUN AND GAMES: When I got home, Ginger advised that she had just gotten a call and they were delivering seventeen (17) cubic yards of dirt at 1500 (3 PM). As they forecast rain this weekend (so what



else is new?), Ginger decided NOT to delay the delivery. She called Bryan and agreed to pay him the minimum wage to haul dirt..

Thursday at 0900, we picked up Bryan and started hauling dirt. My foot (toe) was hurting, but I refused to let them know about it until it almost crippled me, so I came in and started and this letter. When the toe eases off, I'll be back hauling and shoveling dirt.

It looks like fairly good loamy, clayish, silt type dirt. We filled in the triangle in the south east corner by the compost pile and that will be planted in raspberry bushes. I guess that the triangle is about eighteen by eight by twenty feet (height, base and hypotenuse).

We have a lot of volunteers (Latham raspberry) to put in this area. I hope we'll have enough berries for the birds, the neighbors and us, (Not necessarily in THAT order).

The toe eased off. I went back and worked steadily until Saturday afternoon when the job was finished. All the dirt is now hauled and spread. Ginger is complaining about her back as she did some shoveling of dirt from the piles in the backyard into the flowerbeds, usw. I can honestly say that I either shoveled, hauled, or spread seventeen (17) OR MORE cubic yards of dirt and I don't have an ache, pain, or what have you (except in my damned right big toe). That is the result of a misspent youth and lots of walking and other exercises.

Marsha came by and Ginger loaded her up with raspberry volunteers. Marsha is a member of Ginger's Horticulture club and the spouse of John, my shooting buddy. We have an appointment to go shooting Sunday. He is bringing his Mauser 8 x 57 mm. rifle, the cut down Springfield .30 '06 and a NATO .308. I am bringing my Mauser 8 x 57 mm. and the regulation Springfield .30 '06, plus much ammo,

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PIE: She is doing well and began the chemo therapy Thursday. She is tolerating it well and hopes to go home Tuesday. She has decided that she likes HER bed best and her sister from Florida is coming up to care for her, so she is going home. She declined our invitation with regret.

BIG TOE: Bobby McGowan advises that my uric acid test came back and it is within limits. He has no idea why I wound up with gout. I am glad to say that it is not severe and instead of a fourteen (14) day recuperation period, it was about three (3) days. WHEE! Clean living and all that sort of stuff did it.

I am glad the residual lead test was LOW normal, otherwise Ginger would have blamed the gout on it! She is really anti-bullets. Just received a package from Bard consisting of about three hundred (300) empty 9 mm. cases to be reloaded. He also sent the manual for the word processing program I have been using. I certainly appreciate both packages.

NAVMARCORMARS: We had a meeting Saturday at the North Little Rock Amateur Radio meeting/convention and twenty (20) Arkansas members attended. Not too much of interest was covered. Our Director (MAS, Dallas) is thinking about retiring 1 November 1989, so he could care less. Disgusting (to me anyway).

Washington came through. I received a box of six (6) ribbons for the new printer. Master Sgt. Pastore, USMC, enclosed a note telling me that if I needed anything else to advise and he would do the necessary. Obviously, DC is about to spring something on me involving the computer and printer. Time will tell,

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: A phrase from the Koran: "Truly man loves best what he has not". There is a lot of meat in that thought.



ODDS AND ENDS: After many years of wanting, I finally bought a dial indicator vernier caliper. This is for measuring length of cartridge cases. This can be MOST IMPORTANT in both rifle and semi-automatic weapons. I have never had an accurate one (BEEN using a plastic vernier), so I decided that NOW was the time and ordered one. It arrived and I have really had fun using it.

FIVE MINUTES LATE AND A DOLLAR SHORT: Dr. John (MD) wanted an AK-47. So I tried to locate one for him as I have a firearms dealers license. Everywhere I called, "Sorry, we are sold out". The price has jumped from \$409.95 to \$750, IF THEY HAD ANY! Tried to locate a Garand .30'06 for him, also to no avail. Sold out. This fuss about assault rifles, usw, has certainly started a run on them. It looks as if when Congress makes them illegal, then they will be making a lot of citizens criminals. I won't get on my soap box and orate on this as everyone has a right to their own opinion.

CUISINE: Ginger made an excellent cheese ball. She got the receipt from Jane and it is absolutely superb. Cheddar cheese and sixteen (16) strips of crisp bacon, plus Hellman's mayo. usw. Excellent. If anyone wants it, let us know and I'll do the necessary,

JINX: She just called and is troubled with a pain in the small of her back and aches in her legs. I suggested a good massage by Ann. Ann, as you remember, is the good looking girl who is an excellent masseur (and the reason that Ginger didn't want me to have any more massages -- at least that's the impression I got).

Once you know what the wife wants, you have no trouble making up your mind.

COMPUTER: Several friends advised that during this last series of thunderstorms, their modems went out. This is attributable to nearby lightening strikes to

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the telephone lines which induce a momentary high electrical surge in the lines. This "spike" punctures some of the solid state transistors, usw, in the modem and causes all sorts of troubles and EXPENSE.

I'm working on a surge suppressor for the inboard telephone lines. This will protect the modem as the voltage surge suppressor protects the computer. After I get the "bugs" worked out and a good schematic drawn, if anyone wants it, let me know.

Bard should get a modem for his computer so we could link up and "dump" at 2400 baud. Norm has a modem on his computer and after he gets settled, we might link up. Just received a package from Nevada (Navy) consisting of twenty two (22) diskettes full of programs. Haven't had the time to get into them, but they look interesting. Think I'll send them to Bard for transmittal to Nevada. That way he can look at them and copy what interests him. (They are on 5 1/4" diskettes). When I put them on 3 1/2" disks, I'll advise Norm and if he wants any, I'll send them to him.

BACKYARD: The apple and pear trees are blooming and I need to spray. The grape vines have a myriad of shoots and the fig tree is putting out buds. The Japanese plum (Bewa) has quite a bit of new growth also. The plum trees have loads of unopened blooms as do the peach tree. I burnt out two webs of webworms from it. I hope I got them all this last time. Looks like I have lost the volunteer bush cherry on the south border of the yard. (Hope not). The strawberry plants are a mass of blooms. We should be getting strawberries soon. I realize that Florida has had them for months, but we are slightly north and the temperature Friday night was 38. That sorta slows down the strawberry bearing.

I never did prune the grape vines. That is the first time I have missed since I planted them. I don't think it will bother them this one time. The blueberry



bushes are doing well, especially the three new ones. Excluding the volunteers, we have nine blueberry bushes. Some are four-five feet tall. The big one got some "die back" and Ginger pruned it back to about three feet. If we don't have a drought again this year, we should have some good crops. Currently., we are seven (7) inches OVER on rainfall, year to date. AND we need a GOOD rain! Pfui, such is life.

At the Horticulture plant sale, Ginger bought several Japanese egg plants. In my opinion (meiner Meinung nach), they are MUCH better than the regular egg plants. The white icicle radishes are in and the spinach seeds are soaking to germinate prior to planting. Still haven't had time to pull the horseradish. One of these days.

Think I shall take one or more of the red chili peppers (Arizona purchase) and remove the seeds for planting. We are out of picante salsa and THAT is something that will be made this year in much larger quantity. We ate the last batch like it was going out of style and ran out in December. It was very good. Ginger complimented it and THAT is supreme praise. I need hot peppers for it.

We are definitely getting some GOOD green bell pepper plants this year. Last year we had a bunch of duds. Maybe it was because of the drought, but I doubt it. The red lettuce is doing well. Shall advise how it is in salads. Basil is planted, as is the garlic I got from Roy. Last year's garlic is doing well and should have large bulbs this summer. The leeks are growing rapidly and I need to bank them with dirt to produce some white stalks for vichyssoise.

BOOTS: Believe it or not, but wearing my leather boots makes my toe feel better. More support? Something helps and I am not going to knock it. It annoys Ginger to have me wearing them around the house. I used my old leather boots in hauling/spreading the dirt and they helped.

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As a sidelight, I tossed my dirt working dungarees in the dirty clothes basket and Ginger put them in the washer. After the washing, there were still traces of dirt in the knees, usw, so Ginger washed them again. This time they came clean. Yes, they were dirty. Dreckig, schmutzig, kotig. Yes, the Germans have a lot of words for dirty. (It depends on the degree of filth).

SYMPHONY: Last Sunday was the fifth concert of the season and it was excellent. Alvaro Gomez, the concertmaster, was the featured artist. He plays the violin superbly. The selection was Concerto number 3 in 8 minor for violin and orchestra, Opus 61.

When Alvaro started playing, goosebumps started on me. That is how I know whether or not I enjoy a selection. I have had the pleasure of personally talking with him previously.

When I took the music course taught by the conductor, Robert Henderson, Alvaro came and demonstrated to the class. That class consisted of five students and on that evening only three of us were there, so it was almost one on one. His wife, Routa Kroumovitch (Latvian) was with him at a Kiwanis meeting and I had the pleasure of talking with both of them. Very talented and interesting people. He is Chilean and met her when he was a student in Moscow at the Violin Conservatory as was she. While on tour, they married and never went back to Russia..

The second half of the concert was "Carmina Burana" by Carl Orff. Yes, I am with you as I had never heard of either the selection, nor the composer. It is a choral work of TWENTY FIVE (25) different pieces. These were sung by; a featured soprano, tenor and baritone, plus Arkansas Chamber Singers, Cathedral Boys Choir, Henderson State University Concert Choir, Ouachita Baptist University Concert

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Choir, and the University of Central Arkansas Concert Choir.

The stage was PACKED. I don't think that they could have put another person on stage even with a shoe horn. The Symphony orchestra was at the edge of the stage and the choirs were on staggered scaffolding behind them and on the sides. The second half did not produce any goosebumps. (Only a few yawns).

Had best close. Take care, relax, enjoy life and remember that we love you

*Received the application Friday
Many thanks,
Jacy*

16 April, 1989

Dear Mary Lee,

SOCIAL: Ginger invited three couples over for dinner Friday, so I got the word to fix the meatless spaghetti sauce on Thursday afternoon. Then on Friday after I returned from cooking, usw at Stewpot, I fixed the pasta and oil -- this is the one which I make with anchovies and garlic -- as well as several carafes of chenin blanc and burgundy. Ginger made hors d'oeuvre of which the main item was the cheese ball (lovely). One of the guests brought a cold marinated green bean dish and another brought strawberry tarts with whipped cream for dessert. Micki and Reg brought a delicious tossed salad as only Micki can make. Can you imagine a Caesar salad with some fruit? Well, that describes it. After dinner, we played *Pictoriary* and had a ball. Some of the drawn pictures/diagrams were hilarious. A fun time was had by all.

OXYMORON: Have you ever considered some of our trite sayings, i.e., pretty ugly. Candidly, I have never seen anything ugly which is pretty as well. I HAVE seen many items which were rather ugly but never PRETTY ugly. Another combination of words we have is "little big" i.e., those trousers are a little big. How can anything big be little? In this vein, I have never heard anyone say that something is big little. Oh well, it always amazes me when I hear some odd ball comment. Am I being too picky?



STEWSPOT: Here it is the middle of the month and the number of patrons at the Stewspot is high. Normally, we do not hit 200 until the end of the month when the welfare checks run out. All this week, it has exceeded 200, except Friday (my day) which is always about 25-30 lower. We hit 176 and that is horrific for the middle of the month. Normal is about 125. There is a message there somewhere. We served our famous chili as they had been served beef stew, beef ravioli, chicken and dumplings, usw., the rest of the week. Numerous compliments were received.

HOBBY: Have been resizing, depriming, and then trimming my 9 mm. parabellum brass. I am cutting it back to minimum specifications, .351". As a result, I have a blister on my right middle finger from the turning knob rubbing it. Oh well, I enjoy doing it. There are about 1000 cases and then I have the .45 ACP, the .30'06 cases, the 8 x 57 mm. cases, the .30 carbine, and the .300 Weatherby magnum cases. I am ignoring the .38 special cases of which there are about 1500. This is enough to keep me busy for several days.

John ruined a tungsten drill by running it against a piece of imbedded carbide. This grooved the bit faces. As an act of friendship, I took it and resharpenered it on my emery grinding wheel and it is as good as new.. Having the proper tools and know how helps.

The Gun Shop did its good deed Wednesday. I ordered two (2) Walther P-38 type (P-4 actually) pistols for my friends. As you know, Kaja and Warren were burglarized and then the burglars came back when Kaja was alone with no protection. They wanted a good pistol and instructions on how to use it.

John wanted a P-38 after seeing mine., so I ordered two when I saw a special ad in one of the flyers I get. The federal paperwork is horrendous on

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the sale of firearms and they want to make it worse. UGH! Criminals usually get their weapons from the black market or by stealing them. Paperwork doesn't prevent them from getting guns.. I'll get off my soap box on that. Yes, I am selling them the weapons at cost ... as you do not profit from friends (the better ones anyway).

WEATHER: Would you believe we had a forecast of SNOW, but it missed by a degree or so. It was a misty rain. The next day, it went down to 28 and there went most of our tomato plants. The entire week has been nice and cool (highs in the low 50s) and the walking at 0700 has been LOVELY. I can see my breath and life is wonderful. I am hitting 45 minutes for the 3+ miles and that is good.

BELATED BIRTHDAY PRESENT: Wednesday I had an appointment for an hour of massage from Ann Heyen. This was the birthday present Jinx gave me. I reveled in it. Lovely, superb and wonderful. I told Ginger that if I could afford it, I would have a massage on alternate days. Ginger was aghast at that as she does not care for massages, uzw--To repeat myself, it was wonderful.

PIE: She is home and feeling much better. I went by Thursday afternoon and sharpened her knives.. She had told Ginger that she didn't have a sharp knife in the house. I checked and she was accurate. I have table knives that are sharper than most of her knives. I took my sharpening steel and a twelve inch second-cut bastard file with me and visited her. Jan (her sister) was there and Pie was feeling good, but looking haggard (natürlich). I sharpened fourteen (14) knives and have two cuts on my hands from being careless in handling them after the sharpening. Pie was most appreciative. Ginger cautioned her, "Do not put them in soapy water and feel around for them as you WILL cut your fingers".



PUBLIC AFFAIRS: The School Board Bi-Racial Advisory Council met Tuesday and I was somewhat frustrated. It is ridiculous what we have to do as the result of the Federal Judge appointed Master who supervises the "desegregation plans" of Little Rock. It has reached the point where the whites are the minority group, but it doesn't read that way in the court orders. UGH. Off your soap box, Stacy.

BACKYARD/GARDEN: We had a light rain and it helped to settle the dirt spread on the yard. I told Ginger I thought we could use another seventeen (17) cubic yards in about six months or so. She shunned the idea and said, "NO MORE!" Anyway, it looks good and will do the lawn a good service.

Ginger has gone to buy some sweet green bell pepper plants and a hot chili pepper. I still think that I will plant a few seeds from the New Mexico chili peppers. I put one small pepper in about four quarts of spaghetti sauce and you could feel the bite of it in the back of your throat. I will need some of these for the picante salsa I will be making when the tomatoes come in. (A preposition is a word which you should never end a sentence with). She is also buying a "hot" pepper plant. I think we will need MORE tomato plants but Ginger says, "NO!" Care to bet who is right? Who will complain that there are not enough tomatoes to can, make picante salsa, and squeeze for juice? Enough said.

The fruit trees are a mass of blooms. It looks as if the bush cherry did not make it. It was a volunteer from the cherry which died several years ago. Pfui, I wanted it to grow as the fruit was SO good in preserves.

We may be losing one of the Jonathan apple trees (one in the NE corner), as I have cut off a section which had died back and I hope I saved it. Time will tell.

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TAXES: I still have the Arkansas state income tax to do. It is due 15 May, so I am not hurrying. I have the companion state tax program to the Federal income tax program. I will use it. But as I was having trouble with it, I waited until Emery Francis returned from New Orleans and Boston before getting back to it. He is the expert on this program. I am curious whether it takes into consideration the state \$6,000 exemption on pensions. That is a total of \$12,000 of exemptions to look into.

JOAN AND NORM: It is now official. They have moved and are in their new home about three (3) miles from Big Jinks in the Quail Hollow area. According to Norm., the move went well.

Had best close due to a stack of pending correspondence, tax forms, health forms/doctor bills and other messy stuff.

Enjoy life and take your fun as you find it. We love you.

Small is going well - Thanks for the help on the application - Am up to my ears in alligators and don't have time to drain the swamp -

*Affectionately,
Stacy*

30 April, 1989

Dear Mary Lee,

RECREATION: We left for Greers Ferry Lake on Saturday, 22 April and checked into the condo that afternoon. It is located on the golf course, near tennis courts and pool. Incidentally, none of the pools now have diving boards. (This is attributable to the insurance problems). The weather was lovely, but a bit windy. We decided to do some fishing on the lake but the wind was causing waves and blowing our lines back at us -- we were fishing off the rocks on the bank. No fish.

At the marina the carp were as large as those at Loch Raven dam in Towson. Huge, to say the least. We initially threw popcorn at them and they churned up the water. The next time, I brought some bread and that really threw them into a turmoil. In the corner of the floating walk and the marina, the carp actually got on top of each other and were stacked up like sardines in a can while trying to get more than their share of the bread.

We went to the other side and played with the wild ducks. There were a bunch of wild ducks (mallards and wood ducks) who had decided that playing the people was the easiest way to make a living. We threw bread chunks to them and they daintily ate them. Occasionally, one of the drakes would try to drive off another drake or a duck of another species, so as to have more food. It was enjoyable.

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There is an antique warehouse at Bodkinburg and we perused it. Nothing special except for some good buys in scrimshaw (which I started to buy, but didn't). Another day, we drove up to Branson, MO. and visited Silver Dollar City. There was a water ride which started about seventy five feet above ground and you had to walk up. Ginger almost didn't make it. You sat in a hollowed-out log type of boat with your feet extending by the person ahead of you. They cautioned us to remove our sunglasses and told me to sit on my hat. The warning was that you MIGHT get wet. When they released the "boat," we entered a chute which twisted, turned, dipped and dove. We were SOAKED from the water spray, usw. This was a water chute into a water pond. We ignored the white water ride as the signs said, "YOU WILL GET WET-" If the first one was a possibility and we got soaked, this one would have been a bloody disaster in anything except bathing suits. Even the fire dept. tunnel ride was a soaker. At least it cooled us off as the temperature was in the 80's. An enjoyable day was had.

Ginger bought a large sack of cedar shavings and I "toted" it around. Against her advice I bought a large bag of fried pork skins and guess who ate most of them. It wasn't me. Had an interesting talk with a gunsmith who was carving a gun stock. Nice time, all in all.

GUNSMITHING: Arriving home, I opened several packages which had accumulated. Two were grill parts and one was a box from Ashland Gun Supply. I had ordered two 9 mm. pistols before I left and they had arrived. One was for Kaja and the other is for Dr. John. The pistols are post war models (P-4) of the P-38 pistol. Both are "used" pistols of the Bundesrepublik Deutschland Polizei (West German Police). They look new to me, however the holsters leave a lot to be desired. They were a hellava good



buy. Both John and Kaja were well pleased with the weapons. John now wants me to order him a Garand rifle (M-1, .30'06) and Marsha's comment was, "He NEEDS another gun!" He has more than I have and that is several.

HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR: While we were in the condo, Jinx called Monday evening and advised that she had been given a beautiful ring. This is a platinum ring with a diamond surrounded by twelve (12) small diamonds. It was Chris' maternal Grandmother's.

Jinx told me that she wanted me to be the first to know. She is getting married on 22 July in Little Rock. Linda will be the matron of honor. Lauren will be flower girl; Sam, the ring-bearer. Alien will officiate as she knows him better than Park or Jim. Jinx and Ginger are busy deciding where the reception will be held. Initially, it was to be held in the penthouse at the Excelsior Hotel, but now that the Japanese have bought it and changed it to a restaurant, that is out. Villa Mare (where they film "Designing Women") will not serve wine or beer -- only champagne or mixed drinks. Our friends are a mixed bunch and some are 100% wine drinkers (we could get by without beer). Trapnell Hall is under consideration. When it is decided, you will be advised. I definitely have a seat, WAY in the back, during these discussions. It will be interesting to see what Jinx decides on her china, silver, usw. as she has quite a bit of her Royal Copenhagen china (which I really like, contrary to Ginger) and her flat silver. I think she is deficient in her crystal. However that is her decision.

Jinx is moving out of her apartment and back into the homestead (until the wedding). Die Katze is also coming and Ginger is talking of making an outside cat of her, but I have the feeling that this will run into opposition. Chris is arranging to have Jinx's furniture moved to Orlando sometime in May or June. Jinx announced that she is taking the baby grand piano

Letters From Stacy

and expected (meiner Meinung nach - in my opinion) to experience opposition. There was none as Ginger said she was glad to move it out of the living room. I have no idea what we will fill the space with, maybe Bard's pump organ. Ginger and Jinx are discussing wedding dresses, cakes, hors d'oeuvre and stuff like that. Chris is coming up about the 12th of May. The wedding will be fun, y'all come! I understand that Chip is flying Fayrene, Big Jinks, Joan, Norm, and the new heir to Little Rock in his plane. That should be a fun trip.

ADDENDUM: Jinx and I were talking about this engagement announcement and we originally thought that I should put it in the guns or computer paragraphs just to see how many people read the entire letter and didn't skip over some of the paragraphs. She talked me out of it but I still think it was a good idea.

OLDIES, BUT GOODIES: I ran across some 8 track tapes, remember them? Well, I played them and transferred the better ones to the standard cassette tapes. I am listening to: Peggy Lee, Roger Miller and Jackie Gleason (did you know that he conducted some very good listening music)? Patti Page is another on the tapes. The Frank Sinatra tapes were distorted and got tossed. It is good listening. I enjoy Roger Miller's *Me and Bobby McGhee*, *You can't skate in a buffalo herd*, *England swings like a pendulum do* and his famous *King of the Road*. Wonder what happened to him?

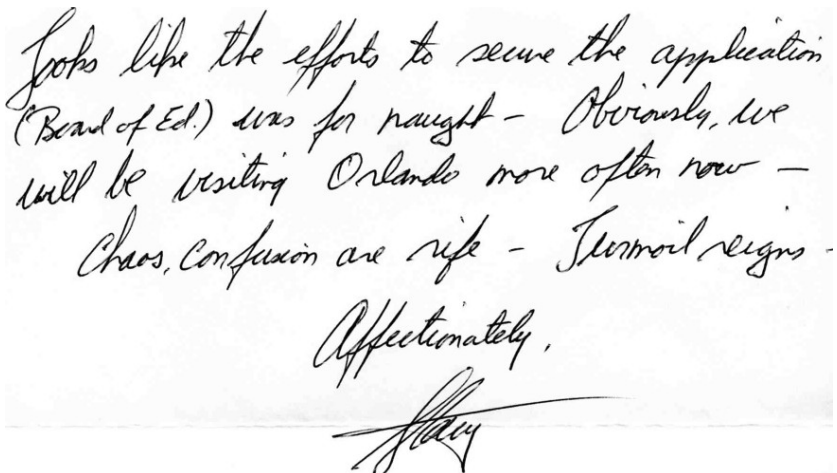
HANGING FIRE CHORES: Soon, I hope to dig some horseradish root and make some more horseradish. I have been promising myself to make some coarse ground mustard with red wine and garlic. This is similar to that which you find in the French countryside. It is robust and assertive with the deep red color of the red wine. I like the term *assertive* as it best describes it. It is similar to a

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Pommard mustard with a slight crunchy sensation. If I can find some good shallots, I'll use them for a more delicate flavoring than the garlic. I also plan on making some horseradish mustard, which is REALLY assertive. Time permitting, I will also include a tarragon mustard, which is rich-textured and flavorful. The last one will be the sweet German style mustard. Es ist wunderbar auf Wurst! Anyone can translate that: it is wonderful on sausage.

**SYMPHONY:** Sunday is the last concert of the season, I have mixed emotions as I enjoy the concerts, but the stupid powers that be at the Educational TV station AETN have rescheduled the Frugal Gourmet from Saturday AM to 1600 (4 PM) on Sunday. As a result, I miss the program during concerts. Natürlich, the BEST programs are scheduled during the concerts, so what else is new? This concert is an exception as the Frugal Gourmet is talking about catfish, i.e., blackened, poached, fried, also hushpuppies, usw, I am up on all that, so no problem. After all, I have to gripe about something.

That about ties it up. See you at the wedding. Relax, enjoy life and have FUN! We love you.



Looks like the efforts to secure the application  
(Beard of Ed.) was for naught - Obviously, we  
will be visiting Orlando more often now -  
Chaos, confusion are rife - Termoil reigns -  
Affectionately,  
*[Signature]*



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**19 May, 1989**

Dear Mary Lee,

**ODDS AND ENDS:** As I have said before, once you know what the wife wants, you have no trouble making up your mind.

I wound up on the roof, cleaning out the gutters. I have done this so often that I no longer get qualms teetering on the edge of the roof with a thirty-five foot drop -- Well, thirty anyway. The gutters are clean and flow freely. The northwestern down spout is leaking (according to Ginger), so that means a riveting job. When the down spouts were installed, they used metal screws which have a tendency to loosen and fall out. Aluminum rivets eliminate this problem (I hope). There are still about fifteen stepping stones to plant. The peach tree (and other fruit trees) need spraying. The grape vines need some pruning. And tying. The half screen between the den and the garage should be replaced (per Ginger). I am confident that there are other-items, but I am afraid to ask.

I have my workshop AM-FM receiver disassembled. I was working on it when I got the word of my having more important things to do. Yes, I received help and got the workbench light bulb screwed in. As you know, I have a spotlight over the workbench, an adjustable fluorescent light, and two ceiling large twin-tube fluorescent lamps. As you can see, it was most necessary to replace the bulb. After I

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get my receiver back on the line, I'll get with the radio that Jinx wants repaired.

**Later:** have finished my receiver and it is works like a chrome plated charm -- after replacing the dual can capacitor (with tubular-electrolytic as can capacitors of that size, etc. are no longer made).

After I replaced a dual tubular electrolytic, two paper capacitors and a selenium rectifier (with a solid state diode), Jinx's radio (which was once Pappy's) is now operational and works better meiner Meinung nach than it did when new (due to the few little adjustments and changes I made).

The yeast starter I was trying to get going for the mead was on the refrigerator to keep it warm and growing. Ginger moved the refrigerator to get the bottom drawer completely out. When she did, the jar fell and hit her on the head.

Quite a bump.

It was like giving a wildcat an enema to get Ginger to take an Excedrin. She REFUSES to take medication, as you know. The headache finally left, as did the knot. No concussion, it was rather severe jolt.

**INTERESTING TELEPHONE CALL:** Mary Lee just called and advised us that the pending breast operation has been completed. Unfortunately, the lump was the bad kind, but it was small and the prognosis is GOOD. She told us about the new procedure in which the breast area is distended after healing and then a silicone injection is made. This makes the surgical area almost normal appearing.

Ginger told Mary Lee that the scar on me looks like a smiling face (semi-circular scar) and all I need is two eyes to make it complete. Dr. Bauer probably figured that I didn't need the silicone! It was an interesting chat and Mary Lee is doing well. She is



about to leave for Tampa for a visit with Hayward and R & R.

**SYMPHONY:** Saturday was the last Pop Concert and it featured Mitch Miller. He is seventy six (76) and rather spry, but meiner Meinung nach, it was not one of the better concerts. It was comprised of semi-classical and pop tunes. The program read: American Salute (Gould), Fugue in G (Bach), Cavalleria Rusticana (Mascagni), Arlesienne Suite No. 2 (Bizet), Pavane (Gould), Battle Hymn of the Republic., Hollywood Songbook, and a Sing Along. Meiner Meinung nach, ho hum! Ginger has a tendency to fall asleep in the classical concerts and I had a.....

***The end of the above letter is missing -- jwc.***



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**4 June 1989**

Dear Mary Lee,

**ODDS AND ENDS:** I know that you will be glad to learn I am on my last box of these manila mailing envelopes. When the box is empty, I will be forced to use normal white envelopes -- then you won't be able to immediately spot the weekly Blurb in your mail.

I installed the modem (which arrived last week) in the computer and put the computer, monitor and keyboard back in place and closed up. Then I started to fill out the Warranty Card, Yes, they wanted the serial number of the modem which was buried inside the computer!

And everything was nice and neatly positioned on my desk. UGH! I called on the 800 line and explained to the powers that be. They laughed and said to send the warranty card to their attention and they would do the necessary.

Now that Jinx's swivel chair is completed, the generator does not have it (and other stuff) piled on top of it.. It is recommended that the generator be run at least once every three months. Well, this one has been put up several YEARS. When I secured it, I had drained all the gasoline from the tank and carburetor to prevent evaporation and "gumming" up. It won't start, I have been trouble-shooting it. The magneto is putting out enough voltage to fire the spark plug, so I disassembled the carburetor and cleaned it.

Nothing.



I disassembled the engine to check the valves, a major project. The generator is a typical military item with a heat duct and an air duct over the engine. I spent most of my time disassembling and reassembling the duct systems. Yes, I had a stuck exhaust valve. I used liquid wrench and WD-40 to free it up. After freeing it, I put everything back together and pulled the starter cord. It started on the first pull! (Much blue smoke from the WO-40, usw). I ran all the gasoline out of the tank (about 1 quart) and changed the oil. I need to change the oil in the air filter and then it will be ready for any eventuality.

**WEATHER:** Just after the last letter in which I complained about the temperature, a cold front came through and the temperature dropped a wonderful twenty five (25) degrees. It went from 92 F to 65 F (daytime HIGHS) and it was lovely, but it only lasted one (1) day. It has been in the 90s since. UGH. Hot and sweaty.

**SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?** I got tired of seeing my guitar (the one the children gave me for my birthday in 1971) leaning in the corner. I took it out and am now practicing on it about a half hour daily. Yes, I am getting calluses on the finger tips of my left hand.

**SOCIAL:** This past weekend was RIVERFEST. As we had three deep dish pizzas frozen from the time I made them, we invited Betty Jean/Park and Joann/George over for pizza, beer and to go to the RIVERFEST to listen to the Symphony and watch the fireworks. We went. The fireworks were beautiful. The crowd was too noisy for good listening, but it was free ... so?

**READING:** I am reading more of "The nameless Detective" books written by Bill Pronzini, His books are excellent. I recommend them highly. Another good one is a female author, Sue Grafton. She writes the alphabet books, i.e., *A is for Alibi*, *B is for Burglar*,

## Letters From Stacy

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*C is for Corpse*, usw. I understand she is up (or is it; down)? to "G" by now.

Due to all the thing happening, I have very little time for reading. Suggest trying both of these authors. The library just advised me that they had gotten in *Red Army* by Peters and they were saving it for me. When I arrived., they had a new Tony Hillerman (Navajo Tribal Police mystery) and I checked it out also. I am now involved in *Red Army* and it is GOOD! It rivals anything that Tom Clancy writes (only this is on land).

**GINGER:** She has finished the dresses for Linda and Lauren and they are exquisite. I have never seen anything so good looking before. She is now working on Jinx's dress and words fail me ... Gorgeous is all I can come up with. It is absolutely superb.

Ginger sews better than most tailors, seamstresses or what have you. She made me a shirt one time and it was one of the best shirts I ever had. I asked for another and was told that she didn't specialize in TENTS. What a put down!

**YARD STUFF:** Ginger got on my case again and I finally finished the stepping stones. I implanted twenty six (26) Tuesday.

I dug some of the horseradish. It is crowding out the tomatoes and that is a no-no. Stewart needed some horseradish so it was a good excuse to dig it. I have staked up some of the tomato plants. These are the ones which are not inside the wire "cages" I made years ago. The cages are made of heavy gauge concrete construction netting which is wiring with four inch squares. I constructed them about thirty inches in diameter and six feet tall. You place one around a tomato plant and you do not have to stake it as the cage supports it. The hot weather is really helping the okra. We have about eighteen (18) or



twenty (20) growing nicely. That should keep us in okra both stewed and fired (plus pickled).

**GUNS:** UPS delivered the five (5) Walther P-4 pistols I ordered, John came over and signed the federal forms for two. I had picked out the "pick of the litter" for me. Mine is a brand new pistol with a new/used brown holster and an extra new magazine. Yes, it was made Jan. 1975, but it has been stored carefully by the German Police (Deutsche Polizei) in the original box. Lovely and a hellava good buy. Edwin, the technician who wanted one, came over and signed the forms. I will have to get the paperwork completed for the other one. It goes to the Saline County Coroner. I am trying to get some of my 9 mm cases loaded for "playing" this weekend. Time will tell.

**TROLLEN UND GNOMEN:** I have had an inquiry, "What's all this stuff about Trolls and Gnomes?" I might as well explain.

The last comment re. Trollen usw. was basically for Jinx. Some years ago, when Jinx was smaller and I was younger, we would walk and I told her about Trolls and how they lived under bridges. We would talk with the Trolls when we crossed a bridge, but as they would not answer, I pointed out to Jinx that Trolls were very shy and usually would not talk if there was more than one person on the bridge. We continued trying to talk with them, but the local Trolls refused to talk to us (as there were two of us). The Gnomes are little people from North Central Europe (Germany, Austria, Denmark and part of Holland). They are also very shy and avoid people because if you catch one, you can hold the Gnome for ransom. It seems that every time a coin is lost, the Gnomes sneak out and retrieve it. As the Gnomes have been in existence since Creation (4008 BC according to Bishop Usher of Ireland who added up all the life spans in the Bible and came to that figure,) they have accumulated a

## Letters From Stacy

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tremendous amount of gold, silver and bronze coins.  
The elves of Ireland are cousins of the.....

***The end of the above letter is missing -- jwc.***

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**24 June, 1999**

Dear Mary Lee,

**GOOD NEWS:** As all of the family knows, Joan and Norm became proud parents 19 June. Norm called us at 0830; he had taken Joan to the hospital at 0630. He called later at 2010 to say he was a proud father of a red headed 8 lb 7 oz. baby girl. Joan and the baby are doing well. The granddaughter is 21 inches tall and is named Allison Claire.

**CHARLINE, ROY AND FRAN:** Our friends arrived Saturday at 1430 and we really enjoyed seeing them. Jinx flew in and called at 2230. Sunday, Jinx, Fran and Ginger went to church. I remained at home with Charline and Roy. As you know, I wanted to go, but duty called. We had a ball cussing and discussing our friends. Fran is a living doll and a ball of fire. She and Jinx went charging out to visit the Malls and other places.

Ginger did herself proud fixing wonderful meals including a delicious roast beef, boiled shrimp, bar-b-que'd chicken, fresh asparagus, squash casserole, potatoes au gratin, usw. We broke out a can of the delicious Canadian maple syrup for our waffles. Roy checked out the garden, fruit trees, grapevines, berry bushes and gave them a passing grade (I think). We were sorry to see them leave Monday. They called when they arrived in Jacksonville. All went well.

**JINX:** Things are rolling along. The bridal and wedding portraits were taken Friday afternoon. Jinx posed at the piano. This session lasted about an hour

## Letters From Stacy

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and half ... the results should be good. North American Van line is picking up Jinx's furniture now for transport to Longwood. Jinx called and said that they are headed this way to pick up the chair, piano, desk, cedar chest and stuff like that. It will be interesting to see how they get the piano out of the house. They initially brought it in via the rear deck, but that was BEFORE I roofed it! Wedding presents are pouring in. Jinx is using my computer spreadsheet to tabulate who did what to whom. Fun and Games!

**CHARLOTTE/JOAN/NORM:** It appears that we will be leaving LR for Charlotte on 26 (Monday) and arrive the afternoon of 27 June. Yes, no letter for the first of July. We will probably stay about a week so to be back in LR for the wedding preparations.

**BARD:** He left for Sacramento, CA, Thursday and will return to Detroit about Sunday (25 June). He is representing his company at a meeting with the State of California regarding their proposed automobile title issuance revisions. I suggested that he check out some good wines while he is in the wine area.

He advised that my P-38 is repaired, reassembled and ready for test firing. I had gotten the replacement firing pin, firing pin spring and cartridge indicator springs for him after my P-38 had a firing pin failure (after UGH, fifty (50) years!) These German weapons are not too reliable; going bad after fifty years of extensive use ... wonder if warranty is still good? Yes, it is one of the first P-38's made by Walther in 1939 for the Wehrmacht, used extensively in WW II.

**GINGER;** She is having a ball making dresses, and stuff like that. She is the happiest when she is out in the yard playing with her flowers/roses/uzw or at the sewing machine.

**FATHER'S DAY:** Lovely day, I received telephone calls from Norm and Bard. Bard called just as I was opening my Father's Day presents. I received a lovely



Mulch Monster which is ideal for mulching the garden, removing weeds and turning the soil.

I was recipient of a wonderful Italian cooking book: Marcella's *Italian Kitchen*, her new book of classical Italian cooking. It is superb. Well written with excellent receipts. I dearly love grilled Italian bread with olive oil, garlic and tomato. Julia would fix this for us when we were staying in her hotel outside Florence. She told me how to fix it, but my Italian is poor and her English and German was worse than my Italian, so I never knew exactly how. There is a receipt in the book that sounds just like the one I enjoyed so much. Will have to try it SOON. There is also a receipt for an "Aperitivo" which I had years and years ago in Naples, or at least it sound like it. It is exquisite: Campari, vodka, sweet white wine, fresh mint, orange juice and a slice of lemon. It is a beautiful coral color, smooth, refreshing, fragrant and somewhat potent. Just the thing to start a good Italian meal and I don't mean spaghetti either. I could go one for hours about the receipts, but I won't. There is a section on salads which give me lots of new ideas. The dessert section is stupendous.

Last, but not least, I received a wonderful blue and white shirt with several handkerchiefs which I badly needed. A wonderful day.

As I was writing this, I received a belated Grandfather's card. It was from Allison and apologized for the delay, but she commented that she had been rather busy being born at the time.

**MEAD:** It is still bubbling and working and THAT is a good sign. The longer it works, the drier it will be and I like mine DRY. One of these days, I will get back to the carboy of oxidized Chablis and distill it. I need to soak and "tighten" up the keg in which I am planning on aging it. It is always something.



## Letters From Stacy

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**PFUI DEPT:** In my next life, I am (if I don't forget) going to have tattooed on me, "I DON'T DO WINDOWS"!


I can readily understand why maids, in job interviews, state, "I don't do windows". As you know, the windows in the boys' former room are easy to get to and clean. The den windows (two) are easy to get to, but a Gott verfluchter Scheibkerl (and I am being polite) to disassemble and clean. The eastern window was rough, fighting me every inch of the way, but I did it with no major problems. The southern operating window came apart while I was trying to remove it to get the storm window out. It jammed.

I called the installers and ordered a service call for repairs and disassembly. The girl on the other end said that they were scheduled for all day Friday, did not work on Saturday, and it would be Monday before they could get to me.

I told her that we were leaving for Charlotte on Monday. Sorry about that was the reply, but she would try to work me in Friday afternoon. I figured, what the hell, if anyone could do something like this, then I could too (not as well or as fast,) so I got with it.

About three hours later, I was finished (In more ways than one). The window is cleaned and reassembled. Ginger reminded me that this is the one the installers had such a hard time with and finally had to disassemble it from the outside to get the sliding windows out. This is due to the builder not installing the window squarely. Oh well, it is all water under the bridge now. All I have left to do are the windows upstairs.

Yes, I cancelled the work order.



**CUISINE:** Friday evening, Jinx, Ginger and I ate out. For a change we ate Chinese. Jinx, as usual, ate the Hunan (hot) food, (Kung Po chicken and Hunan egg rolls). Ginger had the mild chicken chow mein, and I wound up with hot and sour soup, plus beef, bamboo shoots, and Chinese mushrooms. It was all excellent. I was the only one to eat all of their portions. So what else is new?

I had best get this off so we can pack and get ready for the trip.

Take care, have fun, relax and enjoy life. We love you.

*It is hectic!*

*Fun & games —*

*Affectionately,  
Shay*

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**9 December 1989**

Dear Mary Lee,

**PIE:** Pie died 4 December at about 1500, peacefully. The funeral was 6 December at the Methodist Church. The ministers officiating were: Dr. John Miles, Dr. Randy Mullikin, Rev. Parke Moore and Rev. Ann Young. The church was packed. I understand that there were over 500 people present. Pie was buried at Tilar, AR.

**LETTER:** This will be the last letter until my return to Little Rock about 5 January 1990. Merry Christmas and a Happy Year!


**GINGER:** She is handling it alone in Jax. According to the last telephone call, the downstairs bathroom is almost finished and really looks good. I called her on her birthday and she had just returned from taking Mary Lee to the hospital.

It seems that ML had a knot/lump on her neck and the doctor decided to remove it. It was benign and everyone is happy.

**ODDS AND ENDS:** The new rule of medical science seems to be:

1. Everything that tastes good is probably unhealthy.

2. The healthiest and safest foods are those with the least flavor. This is predicated on articles regarding real butter, coffee, alcohol, red meat, eggs, gravy, cream, usw. (For those who have forgotten: und zu weider).



As you know, I get a lot of junk mail addressed to: Ms. Stacy C. Would you believe that I received a letter inviting me to become a Charter Member of the National Center for Lesbian Rights? Well, I started to write them that my wife objected, but decided not to.

I went into the Computer Science class with an average of 92 and 90+ is an A, so I wasn't worrying about the final. It was an hour test and I finished in about fifteen (15) minutes.

The Geology Laboratory final was rather rough but I feel that I did all right.

The Physical Geology final is Tuesday. At the beginning of the semester, Dr. Kehler told us that 800-869 was a B and 870+ was an A. Going into the final which counts for 200 points, I have a total of 781 points. I figure that I should be able to get one (1) out of every two (2) questions right, so I am rather relaxed.

My airline reservations are for Wednesday AM.. I fly out of Little Rock on Delta flight 672 at 1020, arrive Atlanta at 1240, and leave Atlanta on flight 375 for Orlando at 1335 (1:37 PM), arriving in Orlando at 1500 (3 PM). This is basically for Jinx and Chris' information.

**WEATHER:** It has gone from 22 C (72 F) as a day time high to 2 C (35 F) and the low has gone from 18 C (65 F) to -4 C (25 F).

Whee.

I hate the hot and sweaty weather of 20+ C (70 F). As the weather is now rather warm 10 C (50 F), I am going up on the roof and work on my antennas. They have been giving me problems. It won't be any warmer in January, so now is the time.

I need to dig a horseradish root for Chris/Jinx.

Our front yard is the cleanest in the neighborhood. This is for Ginger's benefit.

## Letters From Stacy

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**SOCIAL:** The GM Christmas party is Saturday evening (tonight) and I have to get ready for it. I plan on leaving shortly after the dinner as I need to do a lot of chores at home.

Bettyjean and Parke invited me over for dinner Friday night. Delightful evening. I left about 2130 (9:30) and did a few chores at home and then went to bed. At 0600, I was up. It is getting so that I have problems sleeping after 0600. I had breakfast and then got on the Navy nets at 0800, 0900 and 0930.

**SAMS WHOLESALE:** I had heard the NLR store is now carrying beer and wine. I went and checked it out. Yes, all brands of beer and wine coolers; no wine stocked. Pfui!

While I was there I found the Premium Columbian Mountain Coffee in roasted beans, so I bought a package of two (2) pounds. I put it in glass jars and placed them in the freezer. I ground some this AM and it was LOVELY! I am drinking like it is going out of style. Yes, see page one (1) and coffee is bad for you. So what else is new?

Had best close. Have fun, relax, enjoy life and remember that I love you.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope you didn't mind me telling  
the children about the operation - they are  
interested too - Am very glad all is done  
and it came out well —

See you soon & we'll have a drink

Harry

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**11 February 1990**

Dear Mary Lee,

**TERRY AND BARD:** Good news, they have bought a lovely house in Clear Lake area of Houston. It is in the Bay Glen subdivision and is a tremendous buy. The house is on a cul-de-sac, a block from the school, and there are eighteen children on the street, oldest being in the early teens but most elementary school age.

The house is two (2) years old. It is a two story brick veneer house with R-39 rating insulation, which translates to about twelve-fourteen (12-14) inches of insulation in the attic and heavy, thick insulation in the walls.

The entrance area is parquet floor. You then step down into a living room with a wood burning fire place; to the left is a formal dining room. All the windows have mini blinds and curtains which match their furniture and go with the house.

Behind the living room is the patio with a NEW gas (double burner) grill with weatherproof, removable cover. To the left of the LR is the breakfast room with bay windows (ditto mini blinds). Between the LR and the kitchen is a wet bar and the kitchen has a 36" bar between it and the breakfast room. They will need stools for it, if it is to be a bar. The kitchen has tile walls under lovely wooden cabinets. The corner-lower cabinet is a lazy susan to utilize the usually wasted corner space and there is a built-in corner cabinet



with a vertical sliding door on the 25" kitchen counter.

The sinks are double stainless steel. The utilities are GE: dishwasher, disposal and built-in microwave oven over the GAS stove. There's to be a new side by side freezer/refrigerator with built-in ice maker. This will be delivered when they move in.

The kitchen connects with the dining room and the two car garage. The wiring for the garage door opener(s) are built in, but the openers have not been installed. That will be a chore for Bard and me. The garage has a completely finished interior and more power outlets than I have ever seen in a garage. In the power circuit breaker box, there is a spare circuit breaker and room for two (2) more circuits.

Oh yes, off the DR/Kitchen passageway, there is a powder room, wall papered and very attractive. At the entryway, the steps go upstairs (large closet under the stairwell). Upstairs are four (4) bedrooms. The master bath has a tub you can swim in, and separate glassed in shower stall. I fussed because there was no sauna. There are huge walk-in closets. One of the bed rooms has a window in its walk-in closet. All the bedrooms have overhead ceiling fans. There is a partially floored attic with the usual ceiling stairway. Extra heavy carpeting is on all the floors. Telephone and TV cable jacks are in the rooms.

The backyard has a good lawn, garden, trees, a storage building, and a built-in play gym. A wooden privacy fence encloses the backyard. Two trees have been planted in the front yard.

It is an excellent house, well located, well built and on relatively high ground. I believe it is about 22-23 feet above sea level and the hurricane flooding rarely exceeds ten-twelve (10-12) feet. I looked in the attic and it is heavily braced and has the heavy wind-



## Letters From Stacy

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resistant attachments so it should be in good shape in the event of a hurricane, wind and water-wise.

The occupants have agreed to vacate by 1 March, or closing, if after that date. Bard made arrangements for a tentative closing on 2 March (Friday) as the furniture is due to arrive about 5 March. Quite a bit was done in the few days I was there. Arranging for a realtor and letting her know what was wanted, plus the parameters prior to arriving, was helpful.

Laura, the realtor, had a list of houses fitting their specifications and the one which was purchased was the fourth or fifth house shown. That was Wednesday evening and an offer was made Thursday morning and negotiations closed by Friday-

**SOCIAL TIDBIT:** Have you noticed when you are paying your check in one of the better restaurants (no shirt, no shoes, no service) that there is usually a toothpick container/dispenser nearby? Well, there was an advertisement to the effect that there was an attractive brown and gold metal box containing 1,000 "mouth watering, calorie free after dinner treats in the Old World style".. This charming tin (Bote I said "tin," just to be European) contains 1,000 candy flavored, round wooden toothpicks, each individually wrapped in color coded cellophane: brown for chocolate, green for cinnamon-mint, red for sweet cinnamon, yellow for lemon and black for licorice.

The price is \$7.50.

I am wondering if the Old World style means that they are used in Buckingham Palace, or at the Vatican?

I can just imagine HRH Queen Elizabeth II saying, "No, I am tired of the red, please pass the green ones". Do you think the Holy Father uses black or yellow? Gad, it is mind boggling!



I arrived Saturday at 1430 and went home after getting my car out of hock at the long term parking area. After unpacking and putting the frozen shrimp (which we had purchased on Galveston bay and then de-headed and frozen) in the freezer, I showered and dressed for the Robert Burns Memorial Supper.

I put on my kilts (formal Stuart plaid), long knee length socks, usw, and poured a dram (Gad, how Scottish can you get) of Glenfiddich, which was drained. Then I left for the dinner. We planned for two hundred (200) people and there were one hundred ninety seven (197) tickets sold. Rather fair estimating, I do say.

Numerous people commented about my "shapely" legs (due to walking, natulich) and wished they had brought a camera. I was the bearer of the Haggis and paraded around the hall behind the piper (while hoping that my socks didn't come down -- they didn't).

It was a very successful evening. Excellent Scottish dancing in kilts, including the sword dance, fine food and singing, It opened at 1830 and closed at 2100, per schedule. The guests were appreciative of that.

O yes, in Houston I met Bard's immediate boss, who was with Bard a year ago at the Executive Office in Detroit, and the manager. Both are very nice people and appear to be glad that Bard is being transferred there. It was almost like old home week with quite a few people coming up and welcoming him back, as they had worked with him before. I can tell that Bard (and Terry) are GLAD he received this transfer.

**CHORES:** I am going to start working on the 1989 tax returns after- I finish this letter. Pfui!

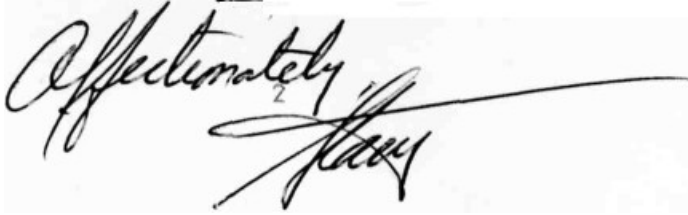
## Letters From Stacy

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**PETS:** Terry and Bard are talking about maybe getting a golden retriever like Jinx and Chris have. I am envious.

Take care, relax, have fun and enjoy life, we love you,

--- You should have seen me in kilts!

A handwritten signature in cursive script. The word "Affectionately" is written in a large, flowing script. Below it, the name "Stacy" is written in a similar script, followed by a long, horizontal, sweeping flourish that extends to the right.

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**March 10, 1990**

Dear Mary Lee,

**THIS IS THE WEEK THAT WAS!** Thank goodness not all weeks are like this one. Tuesday, I left for school and noticed a small trail of water coming from the plenum of the air conditioner space. I, mistakenly, thought that Ginger had turned on the A/C and the condensate line was stopped up where it discharges from the house into the flower bed and thought that I should check and unstop it.

At school I found out that we had a Historical Geology lab quiz coming up Thursday covering everything from protozoa to brachiopods. Plus we're responsible for knowing the phylum, order and class of everything. The class was crushed to put it mildly.

At home Ginger gave me the news that as she could not reach me at school, she called Stewart to check her actions as the hot water heater had sprung a leak and was leaking into the A/C unit, the cedar closet, and things like that. She had done everything correctly, according to Stewart. in the cutting off the gas, the water inlet, usw.

We then went looking for a bargain in gas hot water heaters. We settled on J.C. Penney, Sears or Montgomery Ward as we need installation (as I did not have the time and it was then 1430 (2:30 PM). That eliminated Sam's Wholesale and K-Mart.

J.C. Penney no longer carries hot water heaters. Sears showed us some. We wrote down the price and the salesman said that installation was \$75.00 -- if

## Letters From Stacy

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everything was up to "standard". I told him that the house was built to the city code, but he said that it had been changed and the hot water heater needed cold as well of hot shut off valves, plus flexible couplings for both, and if it was gas, a flexible coupling .

I told him that ours had copper piping and a hot water shut off valve only and black iron (per code) gas service line. He said the additions would cost extra.

We checked Montgomery Ward and found that they had a 10% discount sale going. We priced a Rheem hot water heater and it was cheaper than the Sears model and the installation was cheaper, PLUS THEY COULD PUT IT IN THAT DAY! I asked about the extra connections, etc. and the salesman told me that he was not aware of any but the plumber would know.

Then Ginger checked gas barbecue grills and we bought a floor model as they had none other. It was completely assembled. The usual assembly charge is \$35.00, which they waived. And they gave us a 10% discount off the previously discounted price!

We arrived home about five (5) minutes ahead of the plumber.

By 1715 (5:15PM) we had hot water.

The plumber told me that we did NOT have to have cold and hot shut off valves. Only the hot flexible couplings were needed and the gas service line was up to code. I told Ginger that lately every time I deal with Sears, I leave with a bad taste in my mouth.

Wednesday, it started raining and got worse with a lightening strike near our place which put the phone out of order. I assured Ginger that it would be OK in the morning. It wasn't. She called the telephone



company. They checked and said that it tested to be similar to a phone being off the hook. There were no phones off the hook. When I returned from school after the quiz (more on that later) I checked the phones and nothing. All were on the hook. I checked the connections on the modem as well as the answering machine and all were good.

In about five-ten (5-10) minutes, the phone rang and all was going well. It was a call from NAS, Dallas. They said they had been calling me all day and got a busy signal. While I was talking with them, the phone repairman arrived, checked everything, and could find nothing wrong. He was at a loss as to what was causing it. I raised the thought that possibly the connect/disconnect circuitry in either the modem or the answering machine might have a charged capacitor and that triggered the short circuit (phone off the hook) signal, and then, in time, the capacitor discharged and opened the circuit making it normal again. The repairman shook his head and said that it could be. He could find nothing wrong anywhere else.

I scared me (and Ginger) as I tried the computer. It worked, but every disk I tried indicated that it was BLANK. I tried the master disks for DOS, M/3 Windows, etc. and EVERYTHING was blank.

I told Ginger that we were talking \$300-500 in replacement for the master disks only -- not to mention the programs I had accumulated. I went back and found that the surge had messed up the tracking on the 5 1/2 inch disk head.

After I got that squared away, it ran and worked like a hose on a chrome-plated charm. NOTHING WAS WIPED OUT.

The lab quiz was a pip. We were given sixteen (16) fossils and had to identify each by phylum, class and/or order. Then, on selected ones, we had to

## Letters From Stacy

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answer additional questions as to location, age environment, usw.

These are some of the answers I remember:

Protozoa, cl. Sarcodina, o., foraminifera, sessil, aserial, non-colonial; Coelenterata, cl, hydrozoa, benthonic, generations alternate between polyps and medusa; Brachipodia cl. Inarticulata, lingula, sessile, non-extinct, has valve bilateral symmetry with pedicle; Brachipodia, cl. Articulata, Rhynchonellida, curved hinge, costate with prominent beak, fold and sulcus, Jurassic.

The class gave more moans and groans than you'd hear in a torture chamber of the Inquisition. I think I did acceptably, but I now remember two stupid errors I made. I knew better, but in the rush, erred. Oh well, you can't win them all.

Yes, misspelling counts OFF!

Friday, we took Ginger's car to the shop for the wind noise. It turned out that it was not wind noise, but an exhaust resonance causing the exhaust system to vibrate and make noise. They are trying to counter balance it to cut down on the vibration and hence the noise. It only does it at 60-75 HPH.

On the way home, Ginger suggested we go by Kaufman's Lumber Co. to buy more of the timbers we used to terrace the yard. We bought six (6) more and I installed them in the places where dirt had filled in behind them and was overflowing in the rain. If this keeps up, our yard will look like the terraced farms in Japan, China, and the Philippines. I counted and we need ten (10) more timbers. One of these days, maybe, I'll get them. I have been putting them together with 30 or 40 penny nails. These are nails are about eight (8) inches LONG! Try putting them in with a tack hammer. I use a two pound machinist's hammer. It does get heavy after awhile.



Oh yes, Monday, I was on the roof cleaning out the gutters, usw. That was questionably good. Last heavy rain, the down spout on the SE corner of the house dug a hole about six-eight (6-8) inches deep in the flower bed where the discharge hit. Ginger wants me to put additional elbows on the down spouts and re-direct the flow.

According to the weather bureau, we had three and half (3 1/2) inches of rain. Stewart's rain gauge overflowed. It has a capacity of five (5) inches of water. Red's gauge overflowed at six (6) inches ...so I question the validity of the weather bureau's measurement.

**SOCIAL:** Friday night Park and Bettyjean invited us for a supper of Kentucky ham, baked grits, fruit salad and biscuits with red eye gravy. Absolutely delicious. Dessert was a fig jam cake. Martinis before the meal and a good red wine with supper.

During the night, I actually got up four (4) times to drink water. I drank a total of five (5) eight (8) ounce glasses of water.. This is due to the Kentucky ham being salt cured and smoked. It was one of the best hams I have ever eaten.

**CLEANING UP:** Ginger has been doing the house for Jinx's arrival and I've been working in the garage. The "passageway" from the front of my car to the workshop has been rearranged and is much clearer and wider. Jars have been taken out of paper bags and put in cartons and stacked, I have been working in the workshop "neating" it up also. I still have a way to go.

**SHOOTING:** Sunday, John and I went to the range and test fired some of the ammo we have been working on. I had loaded up some military brass with FMJ (full metal jacketed) bullets over 38 and 40 grains of 2230 powder. I tried it out at 100 yards and it grouped well in a group of about four (4) inches.



## Letters From Stacy

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I moved the target to two hundred (.200) yards -- which is as far as this range extends -- and fired. The grouping expanded to about eight (8) inches and I was satisfied with the load. I am convinced that some of the grouping is due to my failing eyesight. After all, I will admit that I do not see as well as I did at 20-40 years of age.

It is further complicated by the fact that I am trying to focus on the front sight AND the bull on the target 200 yards away. When you are young, your eyes are "flexible" enough that it can be done and it appears to your brain that both are in focus at the same time. IT AIN'T TRUE NOW! When I focus on one, the other one is blurred, and vice versa. PFUI!

Anyway, it is a good load and I shall try to refine it. There is a problem I need to resolve. It appears that I am puncturing the primers on about 5% of the loads. This may be attributable to a too long firing pin(?) or to the webbing of the cartridge case being off, which I doubt. I think I shall measure the firing pin and maybe MAYBE do a little judicious grinding.

**BARDWELL/TERRY:** We talked with him this AM and all is well. The house has been professionally cleaned and the pest control people sprayed it. The walls are cleaned and spackled to fill the picture holes; and the new refrigerator and ice machine installed. Bard says Terry and the girls are arriving this evening (Saturday) and he is glad. He plans on painting the walls when Terry decides on the colors,

**JINX:** She will arrive this coming week and we are looking forward to having her for a few days. She will be celebrating her birthday with a few friends. Ginger plans to cook the shrimp I brought back from Galveston/Houston. I shall let you know about how it went in the next letter.

Jinx has had a problem with some aches and pains. This was resolved by a physical exam; she



learned she has a fibrous growth which is not malignant. We're relieved to learn that it was not of major concern. That was the only silver lining in the entire week.

***The end of the above letter is missing -- jwc.***

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**5 May 1990**

Dear Mary Lee,

**GEOLOGY:** This will probably be more acceptable than my "soapbox lecture" of the last letter.

I finished Paleontology and Historical Geology. I did some adding and figured that to make an "A" I had to make a total of 129 points on my two finals. One had a possible 200 points; the other, a possible 50 points. Needless to say, I entered with no stress and a heap of confidence. I made no comments re. this to any of the other students naturally. We chatted about how he "had" to give a decent final as the last quiz was such a brute. When exams were passed out you never heard such a wailing/moaning (except at the wailing wall).

To coin a phrase, it was a double barreled bitch. I muttered to myself, "Thanks to the Highest that I only need 129 points, as I might barely get it".

A typical question was to draw a cross section (which we had to prepare from notes he furnished) and answer the question, "Where in the US would you possibly encounter a cross section like this?"

An easy question was, "What possibly caused the four glaciations in the Pleistocene age?"

I started to answer it with, "Cold weather" but I didn't as he probably wouldn't have appreciated my humor.



The answer is: Astronomical: cosmic dust clouds, varying solar output, world precession (wobbling on the axis), and probably combinations of the preceding; Atmospheric: volcanic dust clouds, albedo effect, greenhouse effect. Other: probable change of Gulf Stream current into the Arctic in lieu of its present course.

The exam was eight (8) typewritten pages of "stuff" like this. In spite of that, I enjoyed the courses.

**PHYSICAL:** As you probably know, we have had LOTS of rain and while I was at school, I slipped on some wet, slick pavement and caught myself without falling -- but in doing so, I twisted my back.

I went to the library to check on a few items prior to the finals and when I started to get up from my chair, I almost hollered. I had the damnest backache I have ever had.

After finals, I went home and took some of Ginger's Robaxin, the muscle relaxer. Vintage 5 Feb 85! Four hours later, the pain was worse and I took more (per prescription) and that went on ALL night. Damnest night that I have spent in ages. I reached the point that I had taken all that I could take in a 24 hour period, so I stopped and have been relaxing all day (Friday). It is starting to ease off and I hope it goes shortly as we are going to the condo on Greers Ferry Lake for next week.

I had told Ginger that I was going to make something to take, so I prepared a cherry-topped "World's Best Cheesecake". Ginger has been at a meeting all day, so I have been alone relaxing/cooking.

Many years ago, one of my loving children (name not mentioned) gave me a lovely marble rolling pin. I keep it in the freezer and use it for rolling out the crust for the cheesecake. It works wonderfully on the

## Letters From Stacy

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dough which has to be kept cold while rolling it out prior to putting onto the spring form pan.


**WEATHER:** We are over thirteen inches plus in rainfall. Fayetteville, AR is over +20 inches!!! The Arkansas river is flooding and Ft. Smith has several feet of water in the streets.

According to the weather bureau, it will pass the 500 year flood mark. They predict five or more feet OVER flood stage here at Little Rock. The crest will be Monday.

The flood of 1986 came to within fifteen feet of the bee yard at the old prison farm. We have the bee hives on cross ties, which will keep them out of water until it gets two (2) feet deeper than it did in 1986. I will be at Greers Ferry Monday, so I won't know until the following weekend. We have ten (10) colonies in the bee yard. There are six (6) at Sam's and one (1) at Chuck's. If we lose the bee yard, we will still have seven (7) colonies, but will have lost the supers, etc. as the bee yard is where we keep all of the surplus items.

I know, why don't we move them? Logical question. But we can't get to them due to the heavy rains, which caused sloughs, silty mud you can't walk in, let alone drive a car in. Last week, we walked 3/4 mile in boots and almost didn't make it and that was after a few days of drying weather. Fun and games. Ugh!

**DEATHS:** Sunday night Charlie returned from a canoe "float" on the Buffalo river with about thirty or more other people. Francis helped him unload and then they sat down to watch TV. About 30 minutes later Charlie noticed that Francis was not breathing. She had died about 2015 (8:15 PM). The funeral was Wednesday and I was a pall bearer. It was raining and continued.



Tuesday, Allene, Bettyjean's aunt, died at St. Vincent's. Memorial Service was Thursday while I was taking the finals. Al will be buried in Kentucky on Derby Day. Bettyjean, naturally, canceled her annual Derby Day Party.

**WEEKLY LETTER:** Yes, there will NOT be one next week due to us being out of town.

**GARDEN:** We are eating lettuce from the plants Ginger put in and some of the strawberries that the birds missed.

90% of my fig tree is dead from the sub zero weather of last winter. It is coming out around the trunk where I had the mulch heaped to protect it. ChemLawn finally came up with refund checks for the money we had paid them for this year's service (paid in advance). Ginger and I decided we shall invest it in zoysia sod and place it in the front yard. We figure that about one hundred (100) square yards will start it. That is three hundred (300) pieces of sod one foot by three feet (1' x 3'). If it is butted together, we should have the beginning of a solid, grassy front yard by Fall.

**HORTICULTURE:** There was a big horticulture meeting today with food and things like that. June had it at her place. Ginger brought back some of Marsha's salad and it was superb. Artichoke hearts, heart of palm, cherry tomatoes, sliced sausage in olive oil, wine vinegar, Swiss cheese chunks and spices. Lovely. This was installation of officers and Ginger is president. Marsha was presiding.

**JINX:** She just called to bring up to date on various things. I had to reassure her that she was my favorite daughter as she was claiming that I had ignored her. She wanted the receipt that Charline and Roy sent us and we enjoyed so much. It is like an onion (Vidalia) custard. Very tasty.

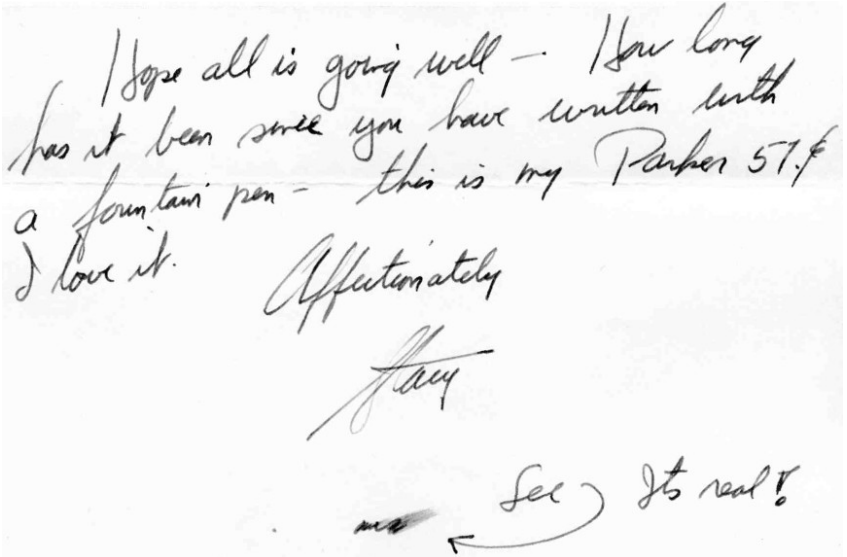
## Letters From Stacy

**BARD:** Bard called saying the results of his mammogram will be known Monday. All is going well at Clear Lake; they have no flooding, just nice weather.

**SYMPHONY:** The last symphony was last weekend. Guest artist was David Hamilton, a baritone. He sang selections from Gustav Mahler's *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* (The young boy's magic horn).

This was the last program of the year. It appears that we will not renew our 18 year membership. The prices have more than doubled in the past ten years and the prices for next year's series are, meiner Meinung nach, outrageous. We are not renewing and we are not alone. Oh well, you can't win them all.

I had best close so we can tie up loose ends and get ready for our trip to the condo. Take care, relax, have fun, enjoy life and remember that we love you.



I hope all is going well - How long  
has it been since you have written with  
a fountain pen - this is my Parker 57.  
I love it. Affectionately  
Stacy  
See - It's real!

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**19 May, 1990**

Dear Mary Lee,

**GEOLOGY:** Minor miracles have occurred. I was sweating out making more than 129 points to make an "A" on the lecture final and the lab. final (out of a possible 250).

I just received the results.

Remember how I commented that they were brutes and all of the class was moaning and groaning? I made 166/200 on the final and 44/50 on the lab final! Will wonders never cease? This gave me a total of 982/1000, which is half way respectable. The extra point questions, usw\_ really helped. I certainly enjoyed that course, I was dreading the final results, but it appears that I did some skillful guessing.

Oh well, occasionally a blind hog finds an acorn.

**GREER FERRY LAKE:** We really relaxed at the condo. We arrived Sunday afternoon. There was a slight drizzle and the Arkansas river was only two feet OVER flood stage. Every day we were there, it rained. I planed to do some geological "playing" by checking some interesting strata and pounding a few rocks to look for fossils, i.e. crinoids, horn coral, cephalopods, usw., but the weather never dried up enough for me to do any walking/searching/digging, usw. Oh well, you can't win them all.

We had the following guests: Joanne and George, followed by Charlie, followed by Freda and Bill. We



## Letters From Stacy

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had ONE (1) day without guests. It was enjoyable. Charlie talked almost continuously about his recently deceased wife, Francis. We felt that it was good for him to talk, so we let him. We nodded and agreed to his various comments. When Charlie left, he told us how much he enjoyed the stay and how much he appreciated us inviting him. He was worried about his garden patch near where I have my bees. He figured from the comments on the weather channel that his garden patch was covered with water and he had lost his entire garden along with the rota-tiller that he just bought. I had told him that I would help him drain, disassemble, and renovate the tiller when I returned.


When I got home, Charlie called and said that the river came to about ten (10) feet from the edge of the garden patch and NOTHING was damaged. The tiller was untouched except for rain.

Jim just confirmed that we have lost ten (10) colonies of bees . That means we lost twenty (20) hive bodies, forty supers, ten bottom plates, ten tops and ten excluders -- plus about 1,000,000 bees. This totals about two thousand dollars going down the Arkansas river. Oh well, the hives needed painting anyway but I won't have to do that.

While Joanne and George were with us, we visited an arts and crafts exhibit. It was "cruddy" to say the least -- neither art nor craft.

Saturday, while Freda and George were with us, Ginger decided to go to Harrison, AR, so we drove about 100 miles. We visited an Arts and Crafts fair. It was as bad, if not worse, than the one we had visited earlier. Such is life. I bought some peanut brittle which was good and we consumed it.

Sunday, when we left, it was a BEAUTIFUL day. Naturally, because we were leaving. So what else is new?



While we were there, there was a called meeting of the owners, so Ginger decided we should go. We met a charming (elderly) lady named Mary Bell Byrd and that set Ginger off as she had a step aunt named Mary Bell. Anyway, Mary Bell is from Houston and she is older than we are and she drives up alone twice a year to spend time in her condo. At the meeting, they were electing a president, vice president and sec/treasurer. Mary Bell started agitating for me to be president. I declined. It finally wound up that I was vice president. Never a dull moment.

**TRIVIA:** While at Greer Ferry, I finished *Two Ocean War* by Samuel Elliot Morison. (Yes, only one "s"). There were three mentions of Admiral N. Sakonju, who is VAdm.Toshi Sakonju's father.

We met Toshi Sakonju in Japan while visiting Ann and Bob. Toshi was a friend of Bob's and is a very interesting person. To summarize, RAdm Sakonju commanded a destroyer division in the New Guinea/Marianas campaign. This was 1943. In 1944, he became a Vice Admiral and was commanding the SW Guard Force and Transports of the Combined Imperial Japanese Fleet during the Leyte Gulf battles. Mr. Morison stated, "This was the only section of the Combined Imperial Japanese Fleet to accomplish their mission". His transports ran men and supplies into the Philippines until Luzon was almost secured and then he ran single ships to supply isolated Japanese forces. I am sorry that I was not aware of this before so I could have talked about it with Bob.

**MORE TRIVIA:** In the workshop while I was sharpening my knives using several whetstones and an Arkansas hard stone, it dawned on me that I had never mentioned the history of the Arkansas hard stone.

When I was about 8-10 years old, I was visiting my grandparents in Louisville one summer. My grandfather had ordered an Arkansas hard stone for


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sharpening knives and it arrived while I was there. It is a stone about three (3) inches long, about one (1) inch wide, and a half (1/2) inch thick. As you can tell from the size, it would be difficult to hold while sharpening a knife. My grandfather took a piece of walnut and inlet it to hold the stone and then made an inletted cover for it out of the same walnut. He notched the edges, so that you can hold it between your thumb and forefinger and thus sharpened a knife. I still have it. It is about sixty (60) years old. It shows NO wear! That indicates how hard it is. All my other whet stones are partially hollowed due to wear. The next time you are here, remind me and I will show it to you.

**HOBBIES:** Just before I left to go to Greer Ferry, I gave the Garand stock a coating of polyurethane. It was as hard as a rock when I returned, so I sanded it and then steelwooled it. The stock is getting into good shape. The dents are almost completely filled and I have given it a few more coats. When it is smooth, I shall steelwool it again and do the final refinishing and fitting. Frankly, it is looking good.

While I was in Clear Lake, Bard asked me to give a band saw a home as he, currently, had no need for it. I have some aged walnut and am planning on using it to make grips for the P-38 and P-4. I have the checkering tools and files, so I, hopefully, will checker the grips. In the days of my youth, I was able to do a rather fair job of checkering and I hope I have not lost my knack. Time will tell.

**YOU DON'T MISS IT UNTIL YOU DON'T HAVE IT DEPT:** Last year, Chris, very thoughtfully, gave me a subscription for *Bottom Line*. I read it (and so does Ginger) in the evening. While I was gone, I missed it and looked forward to reading it when I returned. Ginger and I both grabbed for it when I returned from the post office with the accumulated mail. If you do



not read it, I suggest trying it and you won't stop. It is GOOD!

**CUISINE:** Ginger took some of my spaghetti sauce and half of the "World's Best Cheese Cake" which I had just made. Both went FAST!

I plan on making some peanut brittle in my spare time (I should live so long).

This heading started me to thinking and I went upstairs and made some of the sticky cinnamon rolls (36). I gave Bettyjean and Park a dozen as Bettyjean had brought me a loaf of salt-rising bread (which we can't get here in L.R).. Ginger has frozen two dozen and we have eaten four ... which I need like I need another hole in my head.

**EXERCISE:** The first thing we did upon our arrival home (Monday) was to start our exercising. Ginger went to water aerobics and I went on my 3+ mile walk. I am not doing it in 45 minutes now, so I will have to get back in shape. Ginger made the comment Sunday, "if I didn't exercise, I'd get fat," I agreed that our sojourn with no exercise was a fattening experience. We are both working to shed the excess. (See comment re. cinnamon rolls).

**GARDEN:** We are eating raspberries -- we have enough for both the birds and us. The raspberry patch in the south east corner is doing well and the bushes are loaded. The blueberries, unless there is a major catastrophe, will be in good supply. The bushes are loaded. The plum trees are so loaded that they are dropping plums, having set too many. Maybe a good plum crop also.

We are now ten plus (10+) inches over normal rainfall to date. Unfortunately that probably means that effective immediately, we will have NO rain and will enter September about five (5) inches BELOW normal in rainfall. That is what usually happens. Since writing this, it has started to rain and Ginger advises

## Letters From Stacy

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we need more "landscaping timbers" to hold back the water and dirt that it is carrying. UGH1

The tomato plants are doing well,, both the regular tomatoes and the "space" tomatoes given us by Jinx. The horseradish is flourishing as are the herbs. It is too early to tell about some things, but the lettuce is doing well, however of all the beans Ginger planted, only ONE (1) has come up. Fun and Games!

**HOME CHORES:** The deep freeze has frosted up due to being left partially open. Ginger had left a plastic cutting board by the freezer and someone (NOT ME!) closed the lid and didn't notice that the lid was resting on the plastic leaving a gap of about 1/4" open. Nothing thawed but it certainly accumulated frost. We (Ginger) emptied the freezer and then we defrosted it with warm water and cleaned it with a baking soda solution. It is now sparkling clean.

We found some apricots I had picked and frozen in a simple syrup during 1988. That was the last crop of the apricot tree before it died. They are excellent. We had some of them for dessert Wednesday.

I have spent several days cleaning out my workshop. It certainly looks better. The sheet lead which I had accumulated and left lying on the floor is now conspicuous by its absence as it is now melted into lead ingots. I now have three hundred fifty four (354) ingots of either lead alloy or pure lead. This I have concealed on the floor underneath the end of the workbench.

I need to bottle the thirty five gallons of Mead and get rid of the accumulated bottles in the workshop and entry way. This will remove the five gallon jugs in the workshop and about one hundred eighty (180) bottles, which translates into fifteen (15) cases of bottles!

This just might give me a little more room in the workshop.



I just finished racking the five (5) five gallon jugs of mead and taste tested them. Whee..... It is rather potent and I am pleased to state that four of the jugs have mead which has worked out and it is relatively dry. One jug is still semi-sweet. I will add some sparkleloid to these jugs to precipitate any suspended material and then comes bottling.

I have gotten the electric fence wire down and have used it to finish the wiring in the raspberry patch. I have driven nine (9) steel fence posts there and it has formed an aisle with the wiring holding the raspberry bushes back into neat (?) rows. I just finished this and then ran some wiring across the top of posts so we can drape nylon netting over the bushes.

Ginger tells me that the onions need pulling in the garden and I need to chop a few weeds. She also had me delete some of her activities, so if there is dearth of news regarding Ginger, you know why as she is getting shy -- or something.

***The end of the above letter is missing -- jwc.***

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**2 June 1990**

Dear Mary Lee,


**WEATHER:** No change; wet, humid and cool (at times). We are 13 inches above normal in rainfall, year to date.

I have been waiting for a dry day so I can rent a grass roller and roll the grass sod. This is necessary to insure a good contact between the roots and the soil underneath the sod. Failure to contact is the primary reason for sod not to grow. The roller is 36 inches wide and about 18 inches in diameter. You fill the roller with water and it then weighs about three hundred (300) pounds and THAT pushes the sod into GOOD contact with the underlying soil. Whee, I just can't wait to push this roller up and down the hill. ... if I pushed it sideways, the water would slash to the low side and there would be uneven pressure, I know, fill it 100% full ... then it would be too heavy. Yes, I can't win. Oh well, I need the exercise.

**GOOD DEEDS:** Lately, I have been doing odds and ends for friends. Everyone is thinking, "What is he up to? There must be an ulterior motive".

Jim Hicks has an ice maker with a crimp in the water line, so I replaced the water line, but we found out later that the crimp wasn't his only problem as the ice maker makes one (1) dumping of ice and then quits. Maybe I can find a manual on this ice maker and have another shot at it.

Mike McClain is now going to U of Arkansas Medical Center for his physical therapy courses. He



had to buy a stethoscope and they are expensive; he is afraid it might be come "lost". I offered to engrave his name, etc. on it, so he brought it by and we did the necessary i.e., name on the diaphragm and on each ear piece plus his telephone number.

Alien Smith has been under the weather lately, plus all this rain. As a result, the 25 ft. by 50 ft. garden plot at the old prison farm has been untended. I offered to assist Friday (his day off,) so we went out to the plot and: I turned the entire plot and then made furrows/rows for planting eight (8) rows of corn, and two rows of purple hulled peas. I then made twenty four (24) hills 24" x 24" to plant watermelon, cantaloupe, and acorn squash. We then planted the seeds and I went home to my usual chores. This should hold my good deeds for a few days.

After this chore, I took Alien by Sims Barbecue and I bought the chopped beef order in lieu of two (2) sandwiches at twice as much (Ginger taught me how to shop). We went home and made (using their furnished bread) two tremendous sandwiches and then had enough left over for Ginger's and my dinner that evening. It is (meiner Meinung nach) the world's best barbecue.

**GARDEN:** I cleaned out my section (north end) of the garden and planted two rows of shallots on the east end. The "space" tomato plant is doing well as is the regular Rutgers plant. The one Ginger has in the bucket is about five times larger than either of mine. The horseradish is flourishing. The Vidalia onions are doing as well as I had hoped. So what else is new?

The herbs are doing well and Ginger's collard greens are flowering, so they are being picked and cooked down with ham trimmings (absolutely delicious). The bell pepper plants are doing fine, ditto eggplant. The fig tree was pruned down to the live wood and that took it to the ground. The new shoots



## Letters From Stacy

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are about two (2) feet high and it is doing well. Ginger is picking about a QUART! of raspberries every time she picks which is usually on alternate days. Yes, we will be having raspberry jelly soon.

**WORKSHOP:** I have been cleaning it up and am making slow, but sure progress. I talked with the DPDO at LRAFB and am getting the necessary forms to turn in some of this equipment and have it taken off my record. After I finish, there should be considerably more shelf space. I have been asking myself, "Do you use this daily, weekly, monthly, yearly or seldom?" If I don't use it monthly, or more frequently, I am turning it in. When Ginger reads this, I'll be deafened by her cheers.

**WINE:** I racked the mead which was made last year and Lo! it has started to ferment in four (4) of the five (5) carboys. That is good as it has been too sweet and I prefer dry wine. When this secondary fermentation ceases, I shall do my bottling and thus get rid of a few bottles (more cheering from Ginger).

**ODDS AND ENDS:** While at the hardware store, I saw some good hoes on sale. These were good heavy metal hoes, so I bought one and sharpened it. That is what I used in the garden for weeding (actually shaving off the tops of the weeds without disturbing the ground too much).

I talked with Guy Beard who has charge of the garden plots at the old prison farm and made arrangements to have a plot for 1991. Ginger is already talking about using it for (shudder) "flowers". I plan on using it for the items we cannot grow in the backyard garden i.e., corn, cantaloupe, watermelons, purple hull peas, crowder peas, usw. Time will tell. We just might wind up with a "his" and "hers" set of plots. Charlie offered the use of his tiller for my turning, usw.



**GEOLOGY:** One of these days, I am going to take a day off and check out some of the good geological areas in the neighborhood. There are two (2) within six miles of our house and another about thirty (30) miles away. At Marshall, there are tremendous layers of exposed Mississippian strata with fossils (crinoids, horn coral, usw) prevalent, Obviously, I cannot do this in one (1) day, but I can get started (eventually).

Charlie and I have been talking about "floating" the Buffalo river from Marshall to the White river in the canoe. This will take about three (3) or four (4) days. The river goes through several geologically interesting areas. I can also look for a few fossils at Marshall. There are a few sets of rapids on the Buffalo river and that should make it interesting. Hopefully, we can do it this summer when the water goes down (but not too much).

**GUN WORK:** I have finished the stock on the Garand and it is nice. It is as smooth as glass and all the dents, gouges, usw have been removed. John is not very envious and has, indirectly, made hints about me doing his.

For a price, I will.

He is always speaking of how much money he makes (as a Radiologist) and how much he has in the bank, stocks, usw, so he can afford my phenomenal fee!

Hopefully, in a few days, I will be able to finish melting the wheel weights and thus get rid of that box of stuff, stacking up the cast ingots with the rest of the ingots. Neatness -- I must be getting sick as neatness is not a normal urge for me. Maybe if I fight it, it will pass. I don't want to spoil my reputation.

This should be enough, so I'll close. Remember that we love you. Take care, relax, have fun and enjoy life.

## Letters From Stacy

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Hi - Hgs all is going well - looks like I'll  
be an only lonely from 15 June to about 10 July  
as Gergin is headed for Fla & N.C. —

Affectionately,

Stacy

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**10 June 1990**

Dear Mary Lee,

**GOOD NEWS:** Friday, Chip flew in with Big Jinks in his Comanche airplane. Unfortunately, he could not spend much time with us and had to leave Saturday at 1300 (1 PM). He had the plane filled up and figured that it took 58 gallons of aviation gas to fly from Charlotte to Little Rock. Three and half hours to do the trip and, considering everything, that is not bad.

We are sorry that Chip couldn't spend more time with us. Hopefully, he will have more time the next time.

Chip told us that he is planning a circum-navigational flight. He plans on flying to Europe, across Russia/Siberia to Japan and then to Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, Hawaii and then to the States. This will be all done with his Comanche plane. He will be taking one (1) person with him and will have the rear four seats removed and a gas tank installed. It sounds like great fun to me.

Ginger and Jinks are leaving for Florida and the 1942 class reunion in Monticello, FL. They will leave 15 June and will arrive Longwood about 17 June to spend a few days with Jinx and Chris, then to Jacksonville for a day or so with Ethel, and then to Atlanta and across to Charlotte for a visit with Joan and Norm. Yes, I am not going, as I am to look after the house, water the lawn and stuff like that. Maybe I'll take a trip later.

## Letters From Stacy

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**GARDEN:** As mentioned in the last letter, I worked Alien Smith's garden plot and planted corn, cantaloupe, watermelon and purple hulled peas. Well, I was out there doing a few odds and ends (watering and fertilizing) Thursday and I noticed that the plot next to Alien's was not being worked. I asked Guy Beard, who is in charge of the plots about it and he told me that the fellow who rented it came and planted a few tomatoes but never came back. He agreed that it made the place look bad, so he called the fellow. The word was that the renter did not want to work it as it was too much work and he would let anyone who wanted it have it.

Guy struck off the fellows name and replaced it with mine.

I borrowed a tiller and turned it, three (3) times, to get it loosened up enough to cultivate, I found the tomato plants in the weeds and tended them. I now have ten (10) tomato plants going and have put in two twenty-five (25) foot rows of okra.

Chip told me that he would send me some Silver Queen corn from his supplies, so I can plant about four rows of Silver Queen corn. I plan to go out there about Monday and cultivate it some more and make more rows so I can plant some cucumbers, a few hills of cantaloupes/watermelons, a few rows of bush lima beans and maybe some bush green beans. It is late to be planting, but now that I have the plot I intend to utilize it. It is good exercise, also.

I pruned and fertilized the tomatoes; I have some set and quite few blooms. They are further along than the tomatoes we have in the garden in the backyard. Speaking of that, we are harvesting about a pint or more of raspberries EACH day. That is lovely! The blueberries are about to ripen; one bush is so loaded I had to drive in a steel stake and tie up the plant. The



red plums are starting to ripen and I am going to have a grape crop this year.

The bad news is that the weather has been so wet that the fire blight is rampant. It has gotten into both of the Jonathan apple trees and the pear tree, I am cutting out the infected branches, trying to save the trees and the crop of apples and pears. Ginger's roses have black spot because of the dampness also. The horseradish is growing like gangbusters and this is also attributable to the excess moisture. We are thirteen and half (13 1/2) inches OVER normal rainfall. In spite of that, we are watering the front yard where the sod has been put down due to the drying wind. It is always something.

**GOOD FOOD:** Chip and I went by Sim's Barbecue and Chip was impressed. He checked out the kitchen, the preparation of the meat, and the barbecue grills. We bought some barbecue for lunch and he (and Jinks) said that it was some of the best they had eaten. That made the third trip I had made to Sims in one (1) week. We are enjoying it. This last order was chopped pork. Prior to this, we have been ordering beef, either sliced or chopped. Once I bought some pork ribs (excellent), but we decided that the pork is best and we shall be getting the chopped pork and/or ribs. One disappointment was the baked beans. Ginger's are SO MUCH BETTER. Chip agreed that they needed more smoke and seasoning (mustard, garlic, uzw).

**STEW POT:** Last Friday was Stewpot and I told Ann McSwain (head of it) that I was bowing out of Stewpot effective the last of June. I had told her this on 1 June and from what I hear, nothing has been done yet. That is her problem and I will make one (1) more Stewpot and then hang it up.

**ODDS AND ENDS:** Every time I look at a picture of Barbara Bush, I find it hard to believe that she is a few years YOUNGER than Ginger. In that vein, while

## Letters From Stacy

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working at the garden plot I get asked, how much longer do I have before I retire. Maybe this exercise, walking and notous living does something for you.

**WINE:** The mead which was racked several weeks ago, has stopped fermenting in two of the carboys; one is clear as crystal, three are still bubbling. It looks as if I shall have to wait a few weeks longer before I bottle. I just may bottle the two clearing jugs while Ginger is gone and I have room in the garage.

**BARD:** He called and all is well in Clear Lake. The job is progressing well, the children are settled down in the new environment, and Lydia is walking all over the place. They have taken down the stairway guard which they put up to keep Lydia from going up and down the stairs. She is going up and down with no problem. Tigger is using the "cat" door we cut in the garage door and things are settled down and peaceful.

**JINX:** We chatted with Jinx. School is out for the children and 12 June is her last day. She is packing her school equipment and moving it to her new location. She volunteered to take one of the "portable" rooms. Jinx's comment was that it was larger, had windows, and would be all hers with no other classes. I am confident that it will be the show place of the school after Jinx finishes with it.

As you may have known, Jaxon, the golden retriever, spends the day in the fenced in backyard by the pool and sleeps on one of the lawn/pool chairs. She has a tennis ball she plays with and lately she has been bouncing it around and it goes into the pool. Prior to this time, she has not been going into the pool. Now, she throws the ball into the pool and then jumps in behind it, swimming to the ball, grasping it in her jaws and then swimming out to either the ledge at the deep end or the steps in the shallow end. The hilarious thing is that Jaxon is trying to lure die Katze

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into the pool with her. She gets die Katze by the edge of the pool and tries to nudge her into the pool. Die Katze resists and escapes, wanting no part of that wet pool. I am wondering what would happen if Jaxon did get die Katze in the pool i.e., could die Katze get out?

YARD WORK: We have been trying to get a delivery of twenty five (25) square yards of zoysia sod. No luck yet. That is what we need to finish up the yard. That equates to seventy five (75) pieces of sod.

I had best wrap this up. Take care, relax and have fun. Remember that we love you.

Affectionately,
Jaxon

21 July, 1990

Dear Mary Lee,

GARDEN PLOT: Frankly, I didn't know how to start this letter, so I decided to tee off on the garden plot. As previously mentioned, it is knee high in weeds. This is what happened while I was in Florida.

Monday, 16 July, I started out for the plot at 0700. Ginger went to water aerobics and I began getting the garden back in shape. The first morning, I weeded two (2) rows (one corn, one okra) and thus set the pace for the week. Each morning, I weeded two (2) rows and then did maintenance, i.e., fertilizing, tying up tomatoes, cultivating and weeding the cantaloupe hills (12), watering., usw. This would put me back home about 1100, in time for a shower and change of clothes.

It is now Friday and I have four (4) more rows and I'll have weeded the entire damned patch. The corn was planted at different times and is from twelve (12) inches high to waist high. The corn I planted for Alien has tasseled and has formed ears. (Alien left today for Mexico, so I will be watering, fertilizing, usw., his plot). I checked and I have cantaloupes larger than tennis balls. The watermelons are about large size cannon balls (I'd guess about eight {8} inches in diameter). The butter nut squash are about six (6) inches long and are two (2) inches in diameter. The tomatoes are beginning to turn a light green and should be ripening soon. The okra is about two (2) feet high and the purple hull peas are almost ready to pick. By the time

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you receive this, I will have picked about a grocery sack of purple hull peas. It is getting so that my eyeballs snap to attention at 0545 or 0600. It is utterly disgusting, so I get up, dress, and get with it.

BOOKS: Tony Hillerman has come out with a new book, *Coyote Waits*, and it is excellent. It is another Lt. Leaphorn, Jim Chee book about the Navajo Tribal Police. If you have not read any of these books, I highly recommend that you do. I have never found one which was not most interesting and well written.

As you know, Rex Stout died and the Nero Wolfe stories stopped. Well, Robert Goldsborough has started writing Nero Wolfe stories and they are excellent. I am reading, *Murder in E Minor*. Try it, it's good.

Len Deighton has come out with another gripping spy novel, *Spy Line*. This is the middle of a trilogy like his *Berlin Game*, *Mexico Set*, *London Match* (Game, set & match). He has written *Spy Hook*, this is *Spy Line* and the next one will be *Spy Sinker*. He wrote *Ipcress File*, (made into a movie) and others.

Yes, I am still working on my USN correspondence course. In my spare time, I play.

Speaking of that, four (4) MP 38 u 40 (9 mm) magazines arrived today. These are cartridge clips for the MP 40, the Schmeisser machine pistol (Burp gun of WW II). That means that John and I will have to go out and exercise them.

The library advised me that one of my reserved books, *G Is Gumshoe* by Sue Grafton is waiting for me, so I picked it up. She is another very good author. It is about a female Private Investigator (PI, i.e. Private Eye). Try it, you'll like it. She wrote *A Is For Alibi*, *B Is For Burglar*, usw.

FUNERALS: They say that you are getting old when you go to more funerals than you do weddings. Bruce Blackall's mother died Tuesday and the funeral

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service was Thursday. We attended. Ginger wanted to take something for Bruce and Jane after the service, so she got out a turkey breast and asked me to smoke it. When I returned from the garden plot (1045) I put it on and at 1500 (3 PM) it was a golden brown and beautiful. Ginger put it on a platter, garnished it with parsley and took it, where it gathered praise.

GERMANY: A letter just arrived from Giesla and Erhard Schick. It is handwritten and I have problems with Giesla's handwriting. The German is not too bad but figuring out the words is rough. They had attended a banquet where a bottle of 1915 Erbacher Marcobrunn Riesling sold for 6700 marks. That translates to \$4,154.00 US. This was at the Kloster Eberbach where Erhard took Ginger and me for a wine inspection, tasting, usw.

The clipping which Giesla enclosed stated that a 1975 Trockenbeerenauslese brought 250 marks (\$155.00) and that is what Fritz Allendorf opened for us (Ginger, Erhard and me) when we visited his home in Eltsville. I knew it was one of the best wines I had every tasted but I didn't know that it was that expensive! Fritz commented that it was his father's favorite wine and it was the last bottle in his cellar and he wanted to celebrate our visit with it. I was honored more than I knew.

FUN AND GAMES: Sunday, for lack of anything else better to do, I broke the side off of an upper right molar! I had some dried apricots and bit down on one, and there was a fragment of the pit in the dried apricot. It caught the tooth just right and snap, crackle and pop. I measured the chip and it was 8 mm x 5 mm and 1.5 mm thick. **THAT IS A CHIP!**

George Gillian was on a canoeing trip and arrived home at 2000 (8 PM) Sunday evening and he agreed to work me in Monday AM. I had a few Tylenol #3



tablets left over from my knee operation so I ate them like peanuts. George confirmed that my tooth was broken and I needed a crown, so Tuesday, we had a drilling good time. The crown will go on 30 July . I'll be glad when that's over.

YARD: Ginger just gave me the word that the yard needs a haircut. The zoysia which we put down a little while back is going great guns. You can't tell where the sod squares were as it has all filled in nice and lush green. Ginger had me set the mower at 2 3/4 inches height and, if it stays that height, I will have to extend the lawn watering faucets set in the yard as the sod has decreased the space between the handles and the ground. Oh well, I needed something to do anyway.

WEATHER: It is relatively good. We had a nice shower Thursday, but NOTHING at the garden plot. The temperature has been running about 88-92 and the humidity has not been too bad, so things are half-way decent. The evenings drop to the low 70's and that is lovely. For a while, the sun was coming up at the unreasonable hour of 0545, it has now reached the point that when my eyeballs snap to attention the sun is at the horizon just starting to come up. That makes walking a pleasure.

DISASTER: A few weeks ago, Charlie Calkins and I bottled five (5) gallons of mead. Charlie wanted to learn, so I gave him explicit instructions. While I was getting the corks ready, he was to flush out the bottles and rinse them with sodium metabisulphate solution to sterilize them. I was using the same solution to sterilize the corks and other equipment, so the place smelled of it. We bottle five gallons and about two-three weeks later, the corks started blowing out. It seems that Charlie forgot to rinse the bottles with sodium metabisulphate. Oh well, you can't win them all.

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CHORES: Ginger is edging the yard and has given me the word to cut the grass. I promised to do this after I had finished the letters.

JINX AND CHRIS: They left Wednesday for Richmond and I know that they are having a fine time. This will be the Nielsen's second grandchild and they want a girl. As all of our grandchildren are of the distaff side, we would like a boy, so either way, someone will get their wish. Jinx says that twins (boy/girl) would satisfy everyone especially her and that would wrap up her family. Who knows, twins are prevalent on Ginger's side. Jinx just might get her wish,

BARD: We chatted Friday evening and he had just come in from a meeting. It was most successful and we are glad,

ODDS AND ENDS: I'd appreciate it if you would send back the "want" lists, so we can see what is desired and by whom. Ginger says that if more than one person wants some items, then they should draw numbers and thus allow whoever draws 1, first choice; 2 second, usw. We'll see when the want lists come in and Ethel has her say.

CUISINE: Jinx said she had an excellent cold fruit soup at the Citrus Club. I have been looking for a receipt I have for an excellent south German cold fruit soup and when I locate it, I'll share.

PARK AND BETTYJEAN: Friday was Park's 65th birthday and we attended his dinner party. Bettyjean is an excellent cook and it was most enjoyable. It started at 1830 (6:30 PM) and we left at 2200 (10 PM).

Take care, relax, have fun and enjoy life



Affectionately,
Harry

28 July 1990

Dear Mary Lee,

ODDS AND ENDS: As you know, I have been trying to lose weight. I am at a horrible 173 lbs. (78.6 Kg). and that is too fat. I have been trying to get back to 165 lbs. (75 Kg). with minimal success. What galls me is that Ginger is her usual 125 lbs. (58.6 Kg). and hasn't changed from that in YEARS. I do my usual 3+ miles/daily plus getting up at 0600 and going out to the garden plot and all I do is stick on 173 lbs. (78.6 Kg). UGH! I can diet, stay off booze, and it is still 173 lbs. Oh well, one of these days, I'll get back to 165 lbs. (75 Kg).

GARDEN: I have finally gotten rid of the TALL weeds which grew when I was in Florida. I have been weeding from 0800-1030 daily ever since I returned and on Thursday, 26 July, I finished the last (final) row.

Now I can see the corn without weeds blocking the view. The Silver Queen corn is forming tassels, getting ready to set ears. I have fertilized it again and the color of the leaves has changed from a light green to a dark. I have been picking purple hulled peas for several days and bringing them home for shelling. Thursday, I brought home a large grocery bag about half full of purple hulled peas. Ginger gave me the word that they were mine to shell. Have just finished shelling them and we have a heap of peas and I have purple fingers. Ginger says that she is going to put them in baggies and freeze them. Incidentally., we



had purple hulled peas (which Ginger had shelled) with bacon trimmings this evening for dinner. Delicious!

Ethel also shelled some of the purple hulled peas, which Ginger put in a baggie and froze. Ginger made the comment that we probably will not be patronizing the "Farmers' Market" this year. The tomatoes are coming in and we are having bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwiches for lunch. Very fine food!

The cantaloupes are setting and some are about six inches or more in length. The watermelons are coming along, also. The okra plants are about two feet (.26 meter) high and look good. The corn is about four feet (1.24 meter) high and looks good. The lima beans have blossoms, so they will be putting on beans shortly.

We have had NO (zero) rain in about two weeks and it is disgusting. It has rained all around the area, but not here. I am watering frequently, so the plants are not hurting, but it irks me that we have had no rain. Such is life.

Ginger works like a slave in the yard and the garden here. She is actually getting more tomatoes than I am, but her tomatoes were planted long before mine. The birds have gotten more of our blueberries than we have, ditto grapes, usw.

That reminds me, Don asked me, on my last visit, what usw. meant. It is the German equivalent of et cetera (etc). and it stands for "und zu wieder" (and so again).

Now you know.

The front and side yards are beautiful. The sod has taken hold and the zoysia has filled in the spaces between the sod pieces, resulting in a smooth, even, lush yard. The back yard which was planted in fescue is a different situation. The heat is playing hob with it, resulting in a barren, desolate back yard. The

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bermuda grass which Chemlawn did not kill, is slowly spreading and, eventually, we will have a bermuda back yard. The nut grass is flourishing and both Ginger and I pick it as fast as we spot it. Oh well, one of these days. Ginger wants to reseed it with fescue this Fall and I am in favor of using bermuda seed, or something other than fescue.

As you know, once you know what the wife wants, you have no problem in making up your mind. (This is an old German proverb).

MAIL: Thursday brought a postal card from UALR telling me that I was to register for classes on 10 August at 1000. I have gotten my Fall catalogue and have decide to take another Geology course, Mineralogy. It is held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1300 to 1600 (1 PM-4 PM). They confirmed that I have 40 hours of credits and an average of 3.69. (One German class and some Economic classes in which I got "B's" blew my 4.0 average. Oh well, you can't win them all.

The mail also brought me a return of some manuals which I had lent some of the Navy types, i.e., *Harpoon*, *Sub Battle* and *Strike Force* which are naval simulations.

The *Harpoon* simulation is used by NROTC (1-3 battle sets) and the Naval War College uses battle sets 4-12. I am "hooked" on this simulation as if it was cocaine or crack. It is most engrossing as there are no right or wrong maneuvers and there is a random factor built in so that if you duplicate your maneuvers in a similar battle set, the results might be different due to variable enemy moves, different vessels/aircraft, usw. This simulation is to teach strategy and correct reactions in various situations. It is challenging and much fun. I am sorry that Bob is not able to engage in these simulations, as he would have loved them.



Sub Battle is a simulation of submarine warfare using actual submarine actions. It puts you in a situation which is identical to what was encountered in WW II and then you are on your own. It is interesting to see what happens as the submarine commanders were not infallible. These are situations of both actual US sub action and German sub action.

The US subs are of the Gato and Pench classes and the German subs are of the VII and the XXI classes.

As a side line, if the Germans had gotten into production of the XXI subs before 1944, the battle in the Atlantic might have been MUCH different. We were able to sink most of the VII subs but damned few of the XXI subs.

I remember a situation in the English Channel in 1944 when I was on the MT 255 (transport) and we were engaged with a XXI and it sank two destroyers (one British and one US) plus two transports and then it got away which was a major feat in those restricted waters. Those were the subs which evaded all our ships and took a lot of German personnel to Argentina and Chile as the war ended. I saw one in Bremerhaven and it was a fine ship, much better than what we had at the time.

COMPUTER: I have been having fun redoing my hard disk and cleaning up my "act". A friend has sent me copies of *Spinrite*, both the old version 1.2 and the new 2.0 version. It is a wonder on cleaning up the hard disk.

Speaking of that, my first computer had a memory of 48 Kilobytes and only ONCE did I run out of memory. My second computer had memory of 5 megabytes which is 104 times MORE memory and I was cramped for space and memory.

I now have 20 megabytes of memory on my hard disk and am down to 6 Megabytes, which is 292 times

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as much memory as I had on my first computer and I feel cramped. It only goes to show that it is easy to become accustomed to more (money, memory, usw). and damned difficult to become accustomed to less. Oh well, so what else is new?

CUISINE: Ginger has been talking about me making some more of my pasta and oil. This is the pasta I learned how to make in Palermo, Sicily. It is nothing but butter, garlic, olive oil, anchovies (which Ginger hates) and onions. The first time I made it, she did not believe that it had anchovies in it. Now she likes it. You make the sauce and then pour it over the pasta and then add a beaten egg and grated Romano or Parmesan cheese. LOVELY, especially with a good red wine.

I just got the word that I shall make it Saturday evening and we will invite Park over for dinner. A tossed salad with olive oil and wine vinegar, Italian bread and a bottle of good red wine should do it. Dessert? I am thinking about making some Zabaglione Semifreddo, which is the specialty of a restaurant (forgotten the name) near Parma.

Can this be way I have problems in losing weight? (5 eggs, whipping cream, Marsala, cognac, German chocolate, confectioner's sugar and other low calorie items).

MAIL: I received a nice letter from Gisela, which I will have to answer soon and a lovely letter from Ann. Ann brought me up to date on what is happening in Jupiter and I wish we were closer, so I could assist Ann in some of her paperwork problems and cheer her up.

FUN PROJECTS: I have been removing the bullets from .38 special cartridges which were issued the Navy pilots during the Korean war. These are tracer bullets, so that if the pilot was downed behind the enemy lines., he could take cover and then when



the rescue helicopter came over, he could fire tracer bullets up in the air to let them know when he was and thus not let the North Koreans know of his location.

I am reloading the bullets into 9 mm- cases (.38 special bullets are .357" diameter and the 9 mm. are .356" in diameter). These reloaded tracer cartridges are being loaded into my MP-40 (Schmeisser machine pistol) magazines on the ratio of 1 tracer to 5 solid loads (same as in the military loading). This will be fun to shoot on the range.

I spent one afternoon casting .451" pure lead balls for the muzzle loading .45 caliber rifle and pistol I have. These are black powder/percussion cap weapons and they are fun to shoot, *Meiner Meinung nach*, this odor of burnt black powder is delightful to smell. (As a refresher, *meiner Meinung nach* is German for "in my opinion" and the literal translation is "from my opinion".

The mail just arrived and we just received a kick in the head. The City of Jax has just assessed the house for "Solid Waste User's Fee" and it is ugh \$96.00. Whee! The estimate came in for: removing the wall paper and repainting of the interior of the house; sanding and refinishing of the floors; installing a stacked GE washer and dryer (with electrical and plumbing attachments); installing a GE 23,000 BTU air conditioning unit in the upstairs hall window; repairing and re-roofing of the garage. Take a guess and I'll buy a present for the closest guesser. I missed by about \$300.00.

I had best close. Take care, relax, have fun and enjoy life. Remember that we love you.

Letters From Stacy

I appreciate the stamps
Many thanks,
Affectionately,
Stacy

4 August 1990

Dear Mary Lee,

MEDICAL NEWS: I went in for my annual physical and found out some news: I am male, my heart is beating. I'm not getting any younger. I am about seven (7) pounds over weight according to Dr. McGowan (Bobby), but not according to the usual height/weight charts. He is a runner (he will be in the West Coast Iron Man run later this year) and he consistently runs in every marathon that is anywhere close (close being in the continental Americas).

He set me up to have a CAT scan, which was scheduled for Friday (more on that later) and then a (UGH!) Sigmoidoscopy on Monday followed by a stress test Wednesday. The stress test is a no sweat deal as I walk my 3+ miles daily and this is a treadmill walk with the incline becoming steeper and steeper. Oh well, it is what you do to remain healthy and make the doctors rich.

The CAT scan was for my "numb" feet. The x-rays taken of my lower back indicated that the S7/S6 vertebrates are much too close together which indicates a herniated disc. So what else is new?

Dr. Meade (Chuck) told me that in 1963. But then my feet were not getting numb. Prior to going to Dr. Soop, (Warren) the Neuro-surgeon, Bobby suggested that I get all this done to expedite matters as Warren would want to know the results before making any decision. Fun and games! Pfui!

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The CAT scan involved lying on a moveable "couch" with my feet/legs up almost as if they were in OB/GYN stirrups. This was to flatten my back. The table with me on it moved into a glorified chrome and enamel doughnut. I had to keep my arms beyond my head, which was easy for the first fifteen minutes and then it became a drag. This scan took about twenty plus minutes. I then took copies of the x-ray plates to Bobby for his perusal. I'll be seeing him Monday for the (ugh) sigmoidoscopy.


SOAP BOX ORATORY: I don't know just exactly what triggered me on this, but I am getting irked at the one sided "guilt" of WW II.

Yes, I know the Nazi officials slaughtered many Jews and as a result, Germans have been damned for it for over fifty years. What is irking me is that NOTHING is ever heard about the Japanese except what friends /allies, usw. they are.

I would like to point a few ignored facts: The Germans were anti-semitic only. The Japanese officials and most of the people were/are anti non-Japanese. This is evidenced by their trade barriers, immigration restrictions., usw. This is further confirmed by the fact that of the prisoners taken by the Germans (French, English, American, usw). less than 1% died in captivity. Of the prisoners taken by the Japanese (excluding Chinese as the Japanese made a point of taking very few Chinese prisoners), i.e., English, Dutch, French and American, **OVER 57% died in captivity!**

Other than the infamous Bataan death march, what have you heard of it?

Have you heard anything about Japanese atrocities in the last year? five years? ten years? No! But have you heard anything about the German attacks on Jews in the last week? Yes, I have. I am wondering why the "guilt" isn't being spread around,



especially as the Japanese are buying up the US like it is going out of style. Rockefeller Center is now owned by Japan as well as lots of real estate all over, with concentrations in California and Hawaii. *Meiner Meinung nach*, we will be owned by Japan by 2000. Off your soap box, Stacy!

GARDEN PLOT (FARM, ACCORDING TO GINGER): The corn (Silver Queen) is as tall as an elephant's eye (not to coin a new phrase). It is about seven (7) feet tall and is tasseling, so I will be taking some mineral oil and liquid sevin spray out with me to prevent worms in the ears.

Who knows, we just might be having Silver Queen corn in a few weeks (boiled, grilled, fried, barbecued, usw).

The okra is about a meter high and is starting to bud. That means okra pods soon. I took a garbage bag of pine needles out to the plot for the cantaloupes. As you may or may not know, in damp weather, they have a tendency to mold on the bottom where they are against the soil and then turn sour. The bed of pine needles prevents or reduces that. The count was twenty five (25) cantaloupes. (I see some in the grocery stores at \$1.29 EACH!) Some are 25 cm x 20 cm or larger. (For the non-esoteric and non-metric types, that is about 10 inches by 8 inches). In other words, LARGE cantaloupes. A few are still the size of eggs, so that means we will have a staggered crop.

Naturally, this is predicated on minimal theft by the midnight callers we have out there. Some of the fellows have lost a lot of vegetables as a result of these thieving types, usually minority males, however some females have been spotted and chased away. Ugh!

DISASTER: Saturday, I turned on my radio gear and adjusted it for the Navy nets at 0800 and 0900.

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At 0735, I was tuning on CW (Continuous Wave) (Morse code) when my transceiver went black. It was just as if I had turned the power off, but I hadn't. The fuse was checked, O.K. The power cord was checked and it was delivering 124 VAC at the connection to the transceiver. I am afraid that it is the power switch, or (shudder) the primary windings of the power transformer, or power diodes. It all translates to \$\$\$.\$ \$ (yes, three figure, or [hopefully not] more). I have packed it up in the original shipping container and took it to UPS for shipment to the repair center.

DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE: Friday evening, we received a telephone call from Terry. She was in Little Rock, on her way to Jackson, TN. She was with her mother and had Lauren and Lydia with her. They had already checked into a motel, but we convinced her that Lauren should spend the night with us. Lauren slept in Guion's old room and all went well.

At 0555, I awaken and was arguing with myself whether to get up or to wait until 0600 to get up, Lauren tip toed into the room and climbed into bed with Ginger and me. She didn't take up much room, but shortly., I decided to rouse myself out, so I did. Lauren kibitzed while I brushed my teeth, dressed, usw. As this is my last day before my diet prior to the sigmoidoscopy, we had orange juice, prunes, waffles and bacon for breakfast. LOVELY!

FYI (for Your Information) I went to Kroger's and loaded up on Cran-raspberry juice, consomme' and clear beef bouillon which will be my breakfast, dinner and supper-Sunday. Pfui!

ALLISON: We received a very nice letter from Norm with Allison's first birthday picture. She certainly looks good. There is no question about how she got her red hair. It is an excellent picture and we appreciate it.



COMPUTER: I have been working with *MS (Microsoft) Windows* for the past few days. I have gotten it up and running and have been doing the tutorials. As usual with Microsoft, they cram ten pounds of information in a five pound bag and expect stupid people like me to absorb it in one (1) tutorial lesson. No way, Jose'! I have been through them twice and I think one more time will get me going with a fair handle on it. Time will tell. This is the old 2.1 Version of *MS Windows*. If I get a good handle on it and get "hooked" then I will try to "con" someone out of *MS Windows* Version 3.0, or possibly buy it as I can get it at a discount being an owner of 2.1. Time will tell.

For the past few days, I have been going through the programs and separating them into use categories: daily, frequent, seldom and once a year. As previously mentioned, I did this to my hard drive and eliminated the seldom and once a blue moon programs from it. As this worked so well, I decided to do my program files the same way, so I could reduce my searchings.

Orderly? Neat? You bet! That noise you just heard was Ginger laughing in the background. Oh well, a prophet is without honor in his own country.

BARD: We have had several calls from him and all is going well. He has sold his motorcycle (sob, I only rode it once). The Karmann Ghia is for sale and there have been a few nibbles but no bites as yet.

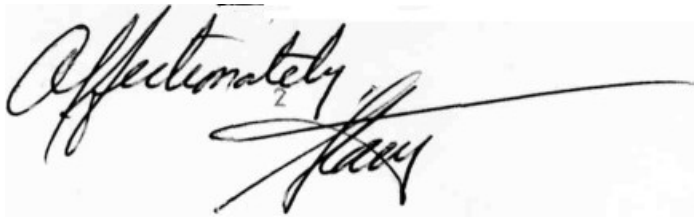
The 1965?/1966? Chevrolet Caprice is coming along nicely. Bard has cleaned it up so the vinyl top looks good and the electric windows are now working nicely with new rollers. He has had the engine tuned and various electrical components replaced. He advises that the front end needs some work. He needs to replace the right side of the exhaust system. The next time I go to Houston, I'll take my tool kit and we'll get into the stereo radio system to fix that.

Letters From Stacy

When Bard finishes with it, it will be a lovely antique car. He is reworking the entire car and putting it back into almost new condition. Some of the original GM parts had been replaced with non-standard parts and they are being replaced with the original parts (right side of exhaust system, usw). Bard says that the garden is doing well, tomatoes, okra, usw are coming in well.

JINX: We chatted with Jinx (and I finally got to talk with Chris). All is going well. They enjoyed their trip to Richmond and Jinx said that Martha Ann wouldn't let her do a thing (and Jinx loved it). Jinx told about the party which Martha Ann and Ned gave for them. It sounded fabulous, four tables of goodies and hors d'oeuvres and this was just in one room, in another were beef tenderloins, seafood, usw, I'm glad I wasn't there due to a definite weight gain probability. The first trimester is going well.

I had best close. Relax, have fun, enjoy life and remember that we love you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script. The word "Affectionately" is written in a large, flowing cursive. Below it, the name "Stacy" is written in a similar cursive style, followed by a long, horizontal, sweeping flourish that extends to the right.

1 September 1990

Dear Mary Lee.,

ANNOUNCEMENT: As you can tell, I am back in Little Rock. You do not know, nor can you imagine, how glad I am to be here. I agree that it is hot, but it will be cooling off soon. It is not as humid as J-ville; however, Jinx is correct Orlando is cooler and less humid than Jax.

Anyway, brace yourself, here goes the weekly letter again.

US POSTAL SERVICE: This, as you know, is not my favorite organization. The following illustrates how confused it is. After I arrived in Jax, people told me they had not gotten my weekly letter. I mailed it on Friday, 10 August. After checking with Charline, Mary Lee and Don, I found out that letters mailed at the same time, all arrived on different days, i.e., Monday, Wednesday and Friday! The logic of this escapes me. I believe that Charline received her letter on Friday, a week after it was mailed. This is absolutely ridiculous and the stupid, asinine postal bureaucrats want more money so the mail can be delivered better (which translated means, **LATER than usual**).

The House On AVONDALE AVE.: The interior of the house is completely repainted with the peeling old paint scraped and sanded off, the cracks sealed and the window fascia boards, which I removed to replace the sash cords and free up the overly painted windows, caulked. The place certainly looks good.

Letters From Stacy

The bathroom linen closet door was removed and shelves taken out. These were replaced with a stacked GE washer/dryer. It looks good and it works. I tested it washing my final dirty clothes. A 23,800 BTU GE window air conditioning unit was placed in the hall window and it does an excellent job of cooling off the upstairs. The garage roof was repaired so it no longer leaks. There were three (3) leaks, two (2) major, to repair.

The only thing I did not accomplish was renovating the hardwood floors. I could not get it done with furniture in the place and, now that the furniture is out, it is not feasible to have it done with the freshly cleaned and pressed drapes up.

I had Suddath Movers come in Wednesday and remove for shipping the furniture going to Norm, Bard and Ginger. Jinx came the previous weekend for Fran's wedding and loaded the furniture she was getting into a friend's van. I vacuumed the upstairs and was starting on the bottom when Joyce arrived and told me to stop. She would clean the house after the sale; that's included in the transaction. She had a crew with her and they emptied the garage (upstairs and downstairs), bringing in the iron bed I used to sleep in when I was living in the garage apartment. This bed was set up in the NW bedroom (old guest room) and Joyce arranged the house as if someone still lived there.

For the *estate sale*, articles were placed on folding tables, or pieces of furniture. The cashier's table stood by the front door with the rear door latched. The garage is now clean!! The leaking oil from the car has been scraped and swept up. You would not recognize the place.

The furniture will be shipped on; the first partial loadings going toward Charlotte or Houston. I was assured that the addressees would be notified before

— ❦ —

the shipment left Jax. Yes, they are prepaid. I sincerely hope that everyone is satisfied with what they get.

I learned a very good lesson from this hassle, i.e., I am going to label, or identify each of my valuable (one man's junk is another man's treasure) items with a name, so there will be NO hassling about who gets what. That reminds me, I need to update my will, oh well, one of these days, (Famous last words!)

GINGER: She has a bad bout with sinus (sinii)?, allergies and a cold with sore throat, usw. It seems to be lessening and getting better. Ginger claims that the old papers, documents, usw. which I brought back did not help a bit.

STUFF AND JUNKUE: You would not believe all the stuff I brought back in the car. I had it stacked up by the door in living room at the house and. Joyce asked me if I was going to get a trailer or a van for it. I told her that I was going to pack it into the car. She laughed and said that I'd NEVER make it.

Where there is a will, there is a way.

I bought some boxes from U Haul and tried to fit them into the car. Too large. So I used my trusty CASE knife and trimmed them (one at a time) to a size which would go into the trunk, I then fit the box in the trunk and loaded it with pictures, usw., and when it was full, I pushed it forward then repeated with another box. When I finished, there were a few empty spots to fill with towels, sheets, usw. I'll wager that you could not put another thing in, even with a shoe horn.

The car looked as if I was bootlegging. The rear seat was filled with my suitcase, boxes of china, large pictures and other items. The front seat (besides me) had: cooler, briefcase, my boots, box of packed china, silk flowers from Jinx, my hats, road maps, and a coffee thermos. Yes, the car was packed.

Letters From Stacy

I'll bet that you could not get all that "stuff" in a pickup truck.

HELPFUL PERSON: Jinx saved me. She sorted items while I was the uneducated, strong-back, weak-mind "go-fer". If she had not helped, I would either be stark staring, raving mad, or still be at the house. I repaid her by lunch at the Goalpost, i.e., Desert Rider, Veggie Rider, baklava and lemonade. This is a wonderful place. On Thursdays, they have KIBBE! When the proprietor learned that I was a kibbe fan, he saved some for me on non-Thursdays and I "gorged" . He adds more cumin than I do and it is good, so here comes more cumin in mine.

SIDELINE: Would you believe I lost weight while in Jax? When I unpacked my booze, Ginger commented, "you didn't drink much". She was right. The last day in Jax, I emptied the freezer compartment and took two (2) LARGE boxes filled with frozen dinners, vegetables, usw. to Charline. This was after I had been eating from the freezer for almost two (2) weeks. Yes, I did NOT buy any frozen food while I was in Jax (excluding orange juice).

For years, I have been looking for my Emory diploma. I had been told that I had taken it with me when I moved out, but I knew that I had not taken it. Well, when Jinx checked the attic, she located several suitcases (not mine) which had items in them. LO! In one was my diploma, crumpled, soiled in places, and moth eaten in spots. I carefully brought it back and will try to restore it enough so I can frame it, as I have been wanting to do.

There are more pictures than you can imagine. After we get them sorted and identified, you will be advised. If you desire any, let me know.

I located the Norman family tree as prepared by Hortense, plus a lot of pictures and also part of the Tischendorf/Wetzel family trees. We now have



background on both sides of the family, if anyone wants it. Maternal and paternal on my side. Ginger has quite a bit of information on the maternal side of her family and has some information on her paternal side. Items you are eligible for: Sons of Confederate Officers, Sons of Union Veterans, Daughters of American Revolution (DAR), and others.

JINX: She went for a sonogram a few days ago and heard her child's heart beat (actually a flutter). The doctor said she is two weeks further along than he figured. So this will make the birth date the early part of March or the latter part of February. The fetus is too young, at this time, to establish sex.

LAUREN: She has a new friend, Flower, a black and white, flop eared rabbit. Bard called and told us about it. Flower and Tigger (one of the world's best cats) are friends, but Bard has made an enclosed wire cage for Flower, just in case.

THE FARM: I have been calling it the garden plot, but Ginger calls it the Farm -- so that is what it is now called. I went out Tuesday and harvested corn, cantaloupe and tomatoes. Thursday, I picked three huge cantaloupes, a large bucket of tomatoes, and a large "mess" of okra. The raccoons ate the last of the corn, about ten (10) or so ears. I will borrow Charlie's tiller and turn the corn. During my stay in Florida, the weeds grew waist high, so I will just harvest and then turn the ground/weeds for next year. I plan on planting; Silver Queen corn, okra, tomatoes (Big Girl), crowder peas, purple hull peas, Hale cantaloupe, bell peppers, eggplant and some herbs. This is not set in concrete and is subject to change.

Ginger just brought in two buckets full of tomatoes, greens, eggplant, bell peppers and stuff like that from the backyard garden. It is lovely having two gardens, one for herbs, and one for the stuff needing lots of room.

Letters From Stacy

SCHOOL: Monday was my first day at school. My Geology classes are on Monday and Wednesday. The first one starts at 1200 and leads into my next one (same class room) and that ends at 1550 (3:50 PM). Mineralogy lecture/laboratory are the classes.

We started off on crystalline structures. There are fourteen different forms and thirty two different classes of crystals. This gave me a double barreled fit in 1940, but I, hopefully, am getting a handle on it in the two (2) classes we have had. Possibly because I am listening this time.

The class has eight students. Five are from the previous Physical and Historical Geology courses I just finished- The Instructor, Dan Owens, commented when he came in the first day, "I see five familiar faces and three, I will have to learn". Yes, Michelle is one of the students. She is the one who was so competitive with me (grade wise) in Physical and Historical Geology. We both made "A's," but she wanted to beat me on points. I beat her in Physical by two points and we never did find out the final results in Historical. I went into the final about twenty points ahead of her and did well on the final. But that is neither here nor there. We are competitive friends. Her boy friend, Sammy, is one of the Geology major students in the class and we seem to be the "cutting edge" of the class in questions, comments, usw. This should be a very interesting class.

COMPUTER: Courtesy of Chris., I now have *Windows ver. 3.0*. I have not installed it yet, but from what I have read, it is wonderful. I am currently trying to become proficient with *Windows ver. 2.1* which I have had. When this is mastered, I will get into *Windows 3.0*. They are basically the same in operation, icons, usw.; the major difference is in the utilization of memory, speed in action, usw. In other words, the time I am spending on version 2.1 is not



wasted as it is a more difficult version and when I master it, the other will be a snap.

I just wrote Gibson Research regarding their program, *Spinrite II*, a utility program for hard drives. I hope they have the glitch worked out which prevents the IBM PS/2 model 30-286 from being able to have the hard drive low level formatted by *Spinrite II*. As usual, if it was raining soup, I'd have a fork. This is the ONLY IBM model that will not work 100% with *Spinrite* and I have it. UGH!

CUISINE: Tuesday night, I cooked the ten (10) pounds of green peanuts I bought in Mississippi. At a stand they told me that green peanuts were \$1.00/lb. (At the stores, they were \$1.29/lb). I commented that it seemed high as I had seen a sign, a few miles south of the stand, that said green peanuts were \$.60/lb. The lady said, "Well, how many pounds do you want? We sell them by the 30 lb. bag for \$18.00". I told her ten pounds, and she said, "OK. \$6.00".

I started boiling peanuts at 2000 (8PM) and finished at 2300 (11PM). We have fourteen quarts of boiled peanuts. Who would like some (besides Bard)?

MISC: In the event you have some old, lumpy feather or down pillows/comforts, usw., here is help for you:

In the past, we have used this outfit in Texas for redoing pillows, usw. and they are good. They do an excellent job in recovering down comforts, fluffing pillows, adding down/feathers, usw. Alden Comfort Mills, P.O. Box 55, Piano, TX 75074.

They are reasonable, do good work, and are prompt. They just returned a comfort we sent about three weeks ago. It looks good.

If you want feathers or down added to the pillows/comforts, they will furnish it and the prices are good. Down costs \$44.00/lb, but a pound of down will swamp you.

Letters From Stacy

MOVING, ETC: Moving is NOT cheap. I figured it up! By dividing the total charge by the poundage and it costs \$.7989/lb. In other words, \$.80 for each pound to Little Rock, UGH!

Ethel wanted me to ship her electric organ, so I checked it out. It was bought in 1961 and has over 100 electron tubes. I checked the tubes and all that I saw were made in 1959 or earlier. The filaments are well burnt and brittle, so I doubt they would survive .shipping.

I then checked for availability of these tubes. About 90% were non-available; the balance were over \$10.00 EACH! (In 1961, they cost about \$1.50 each!) I then had the organ/speaker/bench weighed and it was over two hundred fifty (250) pounds. My calculation showed me that it would be over two hundred (\$200.00) dollars to ship it to Little Rock.

I decided not to spend \$200.00 to ship something which would probably be non-operative after it arrived. Incidentally, I checked it out and there are two (2) keys which are non-operative, (audio wise). That convinced me that it would be a. foolish move, so I left the organ in J-ville.

I have so damned much to do, I don't know which way to turn. So what else is new? Maybe one of these days, dust will settle and thing will get back to normal.

As usual, take care, relax, have fun and enjoy like. Remember that we love you.

h

I appreciate you keeping us posted up to the
When you called, I was sacked in (exhausted) and
that is why I didn't come to the phone - Yes,
I have the radio and am enjoying it immensely -
Thank you ! Affectionately.

I called Joyce before the sale & gave her the word re-
St. Mary's - she will ^{IF} they will pick it
up when called - Hany

8 September, 1990

Dear Mary Lee,


CHORES: Since I have been home, I have been overwhelmed by the "stuff" which has been accumulating. Little by little, I am nibbling at the stack and it is slowly going down.

For instance:

Knives: Unless they are sharp, they are worse than useless, (Meiner Meinung nach). You can do more damage accidentally with a dull knife than you can do on purpose with a sharp knife. While I was gone, our knives became dull (to me anyway). I sharpened fourteen and now you can shave with them. These are carbon steel knives, non-serrated, which hold good edges.

I do not believe in the serrated, stainless steel types, which are so popular with the non-esoteric and don't hold a good edge. We are down to two (2) stainless steel paring knives and unless Ginger "leans" on me extra hard, they are ignored as we have a good carbon steel paring knife and an excellent boning knife.

Microwave: Removed the upper inner shield and cleaned out the accumulated crud (from vapors) while Ginger cleaned the shield. Then I opened the back and replaced the burnt-out oven bulb. This is the same as a twin contact base sewing machine bulb. I had a box of ten (10) courtesy of the USN as they were also used in teletype equipment (which I had turned in years ago). We are now on the last bulb



which means we'll have to buy the next one. UGH! See, it pays to save "junk".

Furniture: Per Ginger's request, the cherry lowboy, which I made, was moved from the dining room into the living room. The breakfront in the LR was moved to the former position of the lowboy. The Duncan Pyfe table in the LR was moved into the dining room under the window. All this is getting ready for the breakfront coming from Jax.

Workshop: It was so disorganized and cluttered that even I was dismayed (and that HAS to be a bodacious disarray). I spent most of one afternoon just straightening up, tossing out (see, I DO throw away some stuff ...and immediately need it and regret tossing it out).

I disconnected the old rotary telephone, put it in the Navy salvage pile, and replaced it with a push button type. I rewired to accommodate the push button type and then checked the circuit. No ringing on the bedroom telephone. I rechecked the wiring and all was OK. Ditto the handset on Ginger's desk. Then I remembered the radio clock with wake up alarm and telephone which Jinx had given Ginger during the move from her apartment.

I checked it and the ringing circuit draws considerably more amperage than the desk phone. That caused the non-ringing after I tied in the telephone in the workshop which is directly below the junction box in our bed room. The load of the workshop phone prevented the desk phone from ringing with the clock radio telephone in the circuit. I just disconnected that telephone and all is well. Now Ginger will have to get out of bed and go to her desk to answer the telephone.

GE Toaster/Oven: During my stay in Jax, it went on the blink. I opened it up and established that the

Letters From Stacy

power breaker was bent out of shape due to use and heat, so I re-bent it and it is now operational.

Replaced the burnt-out fluorescent tubes in the overhead workshop lighting. I still have the drawing table to clean off, plus the reloading equipment to straighten out.

There are several sacks of granulated limestone in the garage which I need to spread on the rear yard and compost pile.

YARD: The front and side yards are lush where we laid the zoysia sod. It has taken hold like a carpet. The grass is about two and half (2 1/2) inches high and there isn't a weed in it. The gaps between pieces of sod all filled in and it is beautiful. The backyard is coming along with the bermuda spreading into areas where ChemLawn so nicely killed everything, especially the grass.

As you know, Ginger bought a huge sack of fescue that was sown in the backyard earlier. It is now time to reseed, so Ginger sowed it (with what little we had left) Saturday after the backyard was cut. We need to get another fifty (50) pound bag to sow this Fall. Fescue looks good, but it is a one-stem-from-one-seed grass and it does NOT spread. It looks good in winter., but summer heat kills it. I suggested that we lay zoysia under the pine trees where the bermuda does not grow well....Oh well, maybe one of these days.

ALLEN: He is doing better. The cancer in his stomach had not spread, according to the Pathologist. He is slowly getting better in spite of the cardiac problems. I doubt if he will be back at work until the Spring of 1991 .

COMPUTER: I just installed *Windows version 3.0* and it is MUCH, MUCH better than the 2.1 version! All I have to do now is to get familiar with it -- no small chore.



SHOOTING: Just talked with John. He has arranged two (2) days off from his radiological duties at the Medical Center. Both days are Wednesdays (12 and 19 Sept). We plan on going out to the range at 0830 before it opens and try out the Schmeissers (his and mine). We cannot use them if there are any "civilians" on the range. As we are both law enforcement personnel, we can use the machine pistols on this Fish and Game Dept. range. John is a Deputy coroner and I am a Deputy Fire Marshall, so we both qualify! I have loaded three clips of 9mm. ammo with every fifth one, a tracer. It will be interesting to fire these clips.

I have about one hundred (100) rounds of .30.06 ammo loaded for the Garand rifle and want to see how much the accuracy has improved (I hope). Someday I plan on glass bedding the Garand stock to further accuratize it. It is shooting a group about the size of a base ball at 100 yards and I want it to do that at 200 yards (about as good as it will get). Unfortunately, my competitive shooting days are over as my eyes are not what they used to be. Old age strikes again. Pfui!

GARDEN PLOT/FARM: On alternate days I go out to pick okra, cantaloupe and tomatoes. The corn is gone, ditto purple hulled peas. I bring back four or five cantaloupe each trip and they are consumed! For once, I am getting enough cantaloupe. We have given some away, i.e., Marcia came by Wednesday and we loaded her down with a large bag of tomatoes and cantaloupe. When the weather cools, I shall take some of the tomatoes we have frozen (peeled and quartered) and make some of the items I wanted (but Ginger halted due to the heat), i.e., ketchup, tomato sauce, tomato juice, usw.

GEOLOGY: The class is certainly getting interesting. We are studying crystallization, cleavage planes, mirror planes, axes, lattice, and stuff like that.

Letters From Stacy

Years ago, (1939) this material gave me a fit in the Mineralogy class I was taking, but now it is beginning to take form in my mind. Either, I am listening and comprehending, or I have a better Instructor (or both).


Wednesday, we had a lab. assignment to do symmetry studies on letters, motifs, shapes, common objects and crystalline forms. We had to use the Hermann-Mauguin system to describe their symmetry content.

For instance: the letter X has two mirror planes and three two fold axes. This would be shown as: $2m\ 3/2f$. The letter T is: $m\ 1/2f$. An equilateral triangle is: $3m\ 3/2f\ 1/3f$ -- and I have probably confused you. I know it certainly confused me initially. Anyway, it is fun and that is why I am taking these courses, for fun and information.

Live and learn; die and forget it all.

CUISINE: Some while back I made an excellent pasta dish: Pastitsio; this is Greek and was the forerunner of lasagna. It is made with hollow tubes of pasta (ZITI) -- not elbow macaroni. Ziti is made by Mueller, Ronco, and others. I had no problem finding it at a decent grocery store. It is simpler to make than lasagna and (meiner Meinung nach) better tasting. I am enclosing a copy of the receipt. Try it, you'll love it.

We are beginning to use some of the items I made and then froze in the deep freeze. You know how I love meat loaf (*Three things you never want to do: 1. Play cards with a fellow named "Doc". 2. Eat in a cafe named "Mom's". 3. Eat meat loaf any where except at home*) and I make it from time to time. On Thursday, we had a meat loaf I had made months ago and it was delicious. One nice thing about meatloaf is that it makes such good sandwiches.



After havine had those good Kibbe Riders at the Goalpost, I am tempted to make some kibbe and pita bread, then duplicate the "Kibbe Rider" -- *Rider means that it is made with pita (pocket bread) in lieu of regular bread* -- to make sandwiches (The word *sandwich* comes to us courtesy Earl of Sandwich who couldn't take time away from gambling to eat, so he put meat between slices of bread, ate and gambled, dying broke). O.K. More trivia.

WEATHER: It has been unseasonably warm (HOT)? this first week, about ten (10) degrees higher than normal. I am awaiting cool weather. I think anything above 60F is hot, sweaty weather. I want to use my Canadian winter coat with the snow boots and heavy woolen muffler ASAP! Meteorologists blame this heat on the jet stream staying too far north keeping the Canadian cold fronts away.. Pfui!

MORE EDUCATION: I am starting on module 13 of the Navy NEETS correspondence courses: *Introduction to Number Systems and Logic Circuits*. There are five (5) more modules and then I will have wiped out the entire series and probably won't know what to do.

SOCIAL: Park and Bettyjean came over Thursday evening to have us witness their "Living Wills". It. was a nice evening. Park and I drank some of the John Jamison Reserve Irish whiskey. Ginger and Bettyjean decided that they wanted a libation and fixed a Kahlua/Coffee ice cream frappe drink – Tasty! I highly recommend the "Living Will". If anyone wants a copy, I have it in the computer and can print it for you.

Bard: He called and he has gotten his furniture allotment. The car glove compartment lock has finally been opened on the 1965 Caprice. He found the original owner's manual in an unopened package and the original owner's sticker with Pappy's name on it. He is still having repairs made, i.e., carburetor repairs

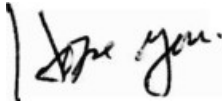
Letters From Stacy

in lieu of replacement. It is coming along nicely, so he tells me.

Had best close with the usual, relax, enjoy life, have fun and remember that we love you



feeling better
affectionately. Stacy



Love you.

Pastitsio Meat Mixture

3/4 cup finely chopped yellow onion
1 1/4 lbs lean ground beef
4 Oz. tomato sauce
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
6 tbsp butter
2 cloves garlic, crushed
1-16 oz. can tomatoes, mashed
1/2 cup water
1/8 tsp, freshly grnd. blk pepper, & 1/8 tsp. ground cloves

ZITI

3/4 lb. Ziti; 6 eggs beaten; 4 qtz, salted water; 1/4 cup butter; & 1 cup grated Romano or Parmesan cheese

White Sauce

6 tbsp flour
3 eggs beaten
1/2 tsp. Nutmeg, & 1/2 tsp. salt
6 tbsp butter
2 cups warn milk

2 tbsp dry sherry

1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Prepare the meat mixture by heating skillet and adding 2 tbsp butter. Saute the onion and garlic until golden. Add remaining butter, ground meat and rest of ingredients and simmer uncovered for 20 minutes, or until most of the liquid has been absorbed. Mixture should be thick. Set aside.

Prepare Ziti by bringing water to a boil, add ziti and cook uncovered for 7 or 8 minutes. Rinse with cold water. Drain well and place in large bowl, adding melted butter, beaten eggs and grated cheese. Put half of this mixture into a greased 9x9x2 inch baking dish. Top with meat mixture. Cover the meat with the remaining half of the pasta. Make certain that the ziti are in rows (lengthwise in the dish) and even.

Prepare white sauce by melting butter in a sauce pan. Stir in flour and cook for a moment Gradually add heated milk, stirring constantly, and cook until thickened and smooth. Beat eggs in a separate bowl and stir in 1/2 cup of the sauce. Blend and stir the mixture into the sauce pan. Continue to stir and cook over low heat until all is thickened. Add remaining ingredients to the sauce. Pour over the ziti and bake at 350P for 25 minutes, or until the top is delicately browned. Serves 6-8. Enjoy!

Affectionately
Harry

15 September, 1990

Dear Mary Lee,

THIS IS THE WEEK THAT WAS:

MONDAY: This was a rough day! Up at 0600, on the phone regarding furniture delivery to Norm and the fact that it had been prepaid. At 0645, off for 3+ mile walk. At 0730, Ginger left for water aerobics. At 0745 I was back and eating breakfast when a call came in telling me that our furniture would be delivered at 1230 or 1300 and a check was not acceptable, only cash or certified funds.

Off to the bank for a cashier's cheque at 0900. Ginger back at 0915 and got me to rearrange furniture so we could accommodate the furniture arriving. At 1000, was given word that the grass needed cutting. Once you know what the wife wants, you have no problem making up your mind -- so I cut the grass.

At 1130 I left for school, was called back to rearrange and move more furniture. Left again at 1140 and was called back for more furniture moving. Left for school again at 1150. Left class early due to arrival of furniture, arrived home at 1530 (3:30 PM) and was directed to move furniture, put stuff in the attic, and items like that.

At 1700 (5 PM), called a halt and fixed a drink for Ginger and poured a glass of wine for me. RELAXED. Watched the local news and found out that the high was a hot and sweaty 80. At least the temperature is moving in the right direction (down). Rain has cooled



things off. Forecast is more rain (which we need) with highs in the low 80s or high 70s; lows in the low 60s or high 50s. Whee!

TUESDAY: Up at 0615, off for the usual walk; finished breakfast at 0815 and started on furniture rearranging, moving, usw. Lunch and back to the furniture including disassembling, placing various items in the attic, reassembling the "moved" stuff and decisions regarding what mattresses to keep, usw. Removed, washed, and then reinstalled the mattress covers and box spring covers.

1700 did not arrive too soon for booze time.

WEDNESDAY: Drizzle, so no walk. Picked up John Holder and we went out to the range, arriving at 0900. We were going to fire the Schmeissers, but the pistol range had several people there when we arrived.

I had brought the Garand and the muzzle loading cap and ball rifle which I made for Bard years ago. I fired the muzzle loading rifle at 50 yards and shot a group of four (4) that you can cover with a golf ball. At one hundred (100) yards, I shot a group of three which could be covered with a base ball. When I shot the Garand, I could not make as small a grouping. There is a message there somewhere.

Off to school at 1130. Previously, our Mineralogy professor had stated that he did not give homework. Everyone was happy. Today, he announced there would be no lecture; the time would be spent in lab. He listed 30 crystal models that he wanted identified and listed by symmetry content and Hermann-Mauguin notations. Joe, my lab partner, and I worked until 1550 (3:50 PM) when the prof said he was leaving. I commented that I thought he was overly confident in our ability as most of us had only done seven (7) or eight (8) crystals during this four hour

Letters From Stacy

period. He said that there was always Thursday and Friday for us to come back and finish!

He wanted ALL finished and turned in Monday AM. Yeap, NO HOMEWORK.

Arrived home at 1630 (4:30 PM) and John picked me up. We arrived back at the range at 1700 (5 PM). The range was closing and the custodian allowed us in to fire the Schmeissers. He fired a few clips himself. We fired a total of fifteen (15) clips of thirty two (32) rounds to a clip. That translates to four hundred eighty (480) cartridges. It was fun. The tracer-ammo I had loaded worked well.

THURSDAY: Rain, so no walk. Ginger and I left at 0800 for St. Vincent's where we donated blood earmarked it for Alien's account. Came home via lighting store where we tried to locate some special bulbs (unsuccessfully). Cleaned the rifles and Schmeisser from Wednesday's shooting. Made deposits at the bank. Tied up loose ends and moved some furniture.


I had made arrangements to meet Joe at 1400 (2 PM), but I arrived at 1300 (1 PM) and started in on the crystal identification.

So you will know what I am talking about:

A cube is identified as: symmetry content -- has a center of symmetry, 3 four-fold axes, 4 three-fold axes, 6 two-fold axes and 9 mirror planes (C₃A₄, 4A₃, 6A₂, 9P). Hermann-Mauguin notation is 4/m,3,2/m. Now isn't that fun and games?

I did eight before Joe arrived and he couldn't find any problem with what I had done, so we continued, finishing at 1645 (4:45 PM). NO HOMEWORK!

Ginger-suggested we eat out. She called Lib and Stewart and we went to their house and had a few drinks. Stewart showed me the hummingbirds which have gathered at his place. There must have been at



least ten (10) at the feeder. I stood about two (2) feet away. They checked me out, then went back to feeding. That is the closest I have ever observed hummingbirds. Some are ruby throated and all have an iridescent green down their backs.

I showed Stewart how to remove files and directories from his hard disk. At 1900 (7 PM) Ginger and Lib wanted to go eat, so we left. It was an enjoyable evening.

FRIDAY: Up at 0630. Ginger left at 0730 for her water aerobics while I was out doing my 3+ miles. Later I went to the garden plot (farm) to harvest okra & tomatoes and check the cantaloupe. It looks like I will get about three more cantaloupe and that will finish them. I arranged to borrow Charlie's tiller to turn the garden (and Alien's) when the season is over. Ginger spent most of the day playing in the yard (trimming bushes, cultivating, pruning, and stuff like that).

Speaking of that, I finally got "conned" into applying for the Master Gardener course offered by the County Agent Extension, which is being taught by Janet (Bierman Carson). I am now trying to talk someone else that I know into taking it so I will have a "backup" for the course. Marcia said she would think about it. I found out that Zollie does the cooking for the luncheons which are included in the price! Zollie's cooking makes it worth while.

JINX: She sent us a package of photos, an herb booklet, and a nice letter. She enclosed a copy of the sonogram, which had just been taken. There is no question but what the embryo has Chris' profile (facial!) Jinx commented that it is a picture of Chris Jr. -- or Christina..

Since Chris's mother is Martha Ann, Ginger's grandmother is Ann(e)? and my grandmother is Anna, Ginger suggested that they consider the name of

Letters From Stacy

Christina Ann if it is a girl. I have a bet (a case of beer) with Chris that it will be a girl. If it is a boy, I'll send Chris a case of beer of his choice; if it is a girl, he reciprocates.

BEER: Dr. Bowlus called Wednesday evening and we chatted. He said he had spent the summer in Europe (Hungary, Austria and Yugoslavia). While there, he made a pledge not to drink any more American beer. (He loves my beer). The call's purpose was to see if I would teach him how to make GOOD beer. I gladly agreed. As soon as it cools off (max. daytime temperature of 65 F) we will make beer.

NORM: Had a phone call from him Tuesday. The furniture arrived and they like it. No damage noted to any of the pieces. He is doing some traveling and his golf game is going well. Joan called Saturday while I was on the Navy net and I did not get to talk with her. Ginger chatted with her and relayed the information. Jim, Mary Ann's husband, was initially assigned to Bahrain (in the Persian Gulf) and they were in the States on vacation when all this happened. Jim was told to return to Bahrain. It now appears that he will go to London. It will be a problem getting their "things" moved from Bahrain back to London (where he was before Citibank moved him to Bahrain).

FUN AND GAMES DEPT: I just hung up from a phone call from NAS, Dallas. There will be a change in command ceremony 28 September (the current CO made VAdm). The replacing Captain passed word that he would like to talk with me regarding Navy-Marine Corps MARS and technical publications.

The crux of the call was to establish what type of aircraft are at LRAFB, so they could make arrangements for me to fly to NAS, Dallas, if there is a flight that AM. If not, they plan on contacting the Texas and Arkansas Air National Guard to see if a

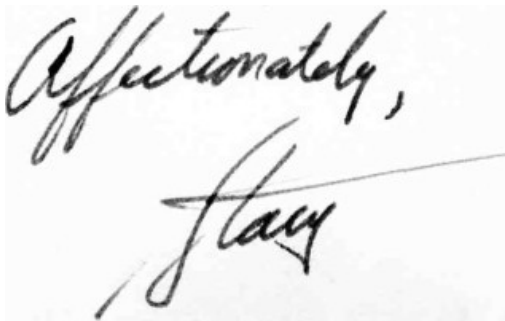
— ❦ —

flight could be arranged and also to see if I had any qualms about flying in a fighter aircraft. I have none, but Ginger takes a dim view of it. Don't hold your breath about my flying to NAS, Dallas, as you might turn purple.

Hopefully, the warm (hot) weather is over and I can revel in "normal" temperatures, i.e., highs under 60 F!

Speaking of hot weather, I talked with Stewart and he is giving me a daughter plant from his banana tree for planting in the "farm" next year. It should do well as there is NO shade and I keep it well watered. Time will tell.

Relax, enjoy life, have fun and remember that we love you.



Affectionately,
Gary

22 September 1990

Dear Mary Lee,

GEOLOGY: (What else)? Well, he did it again, the "no homework" prof.


Monday, he gave us a stack of papers with crystal diagrams, lattices, usw. and told us to do these in the Monday lab and to turn them in Wednesday. Joe and I stayed until 1615 and finished up. One of the students dropped the course. The rest are disgusted,

A Geology Club has formed. Its first meeting was Friday at 0930. I attended. Michelle (remember her as my class competitor)? was the instigator and led the meeting. She tried to get me to accept the presidency. I refused and returned the favor by nominating her as president and it carried. I declined vice-president and that convinced them that I was not "officer" material.

We plan a picnic on 19 October at Pinnacle mountain beginning at 16.00(.4PM). I raised the point that it would be getting dark shortly and would be a bit nippy. Michelle's comment was that we would be likely to take a "nip".

That settled that.

Next thing on the agenda was a proposal that we take a "float" trip down the Ouichita river on a "party" barge to observe geological formations while drinking beer. That passed also. There were a couple of civic projects which we will be involved in, i.e.: preparing rock collections (with labels) for fifth (5th) and sixth



(6th) graders, repairing a geological map cabinet, usw. The meeting lasted about an hour. I was the only one there over 22. It was fun and, believe it or not, they hassle me just as if I were in their age group.

MEDICAL: George has problems. He found blood in his shorts (front) and has been having tests run, i.e. cat scan of the kidneys and bladder, cystoscopy (sp)? of the bladder and IV dye tests. It seems that he has a cyst on one kidney and a "haze" on the other. The doctor is running more tests and told George that even more will be scheduled shortly. George and I commiserate with each other,

I went to Dr.. Lucy for the EMG tests and after that shocking experience (shocking as they shock your nerves to see what the neural transit time is) they told me that I had numb feet but they didn't know why. That is what they told me in 1976 and also at Johns Hopkins in 1973. They also confirmed that I am losing neural sensitivity in my right hand (fingers)

Whee, just what I needed for Christmas.

It, obviously, is not debilitating and is not fast as I first noticed it in the mid 70's. Maybe if I last until I am 125-150 years old, it might bother me. Oh well, I am not worrying. As long as I can hold my glass of single malt Scotch whisky I am not bothered,

BEER MAKING: My new catalog from Alternative Beverage & Home Beer and Wine Supply arrived today. When it cools off so that the highs are 60-65, then we will make beer. It will be good beer made according to the German Reinheitsgebot (purity law). Chuck (Dr. Bowlus) wants to learn, so I will do it according to the book. Everything has to be sterile. (Including the makers)? I have started drinking some of my beer which was made last year. GOOD! GOOD! GOOD!

WEATHER: It has been so rainy and cloudy all week. I have not been able to take my walks. Oh well,

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we need the water. Hopefully, it will cool off. It has been running a high of 83 and low of 72. Pfui! Highs of UNDER 60 is what I look for.

HORTICULTURE: Ginger went to a meeting at Pinnacle mountain Wednesday. She was going to check on the "farm" on her return, but it rained so hard she couldn't see. Janet called and wanted to know if I was still interested in her "Master Gardener" course. I told her that as long as it was on Thursday I was agreeable. She said I'd be getting a letter soon. It will be five (5) eight (8) hour classes on consecutive Thursdays starting sometime mid October. I think I mentioned that Zollie will cook the lunches - Goodie! Goodie! I don't know if Marcia was accepted or not, I hope she was.

Ginger had the pine tree by the driveway removed. It was over twenty inches in diameter at the base and was about sixty five (65) feet tall. We have now had three (3) pine trees removed. That makes a scarcity of pine trees as we only have twenty four (24) left. The work crew had a "stump remover" which ground up the stump. They presented us with two (2) commercial wheelbarrow loads of chips for our compost pile and flower beds. That equates to ten (10) cubic feet, or one (1) cubic yard of small chips.

NAVY MARS: I received a call Thursday from NAS, Dallas. Yes, the Texas Air National Guard frequently flies into LRAFB and they are arranging a trip for me to NAS, Dallas and back. They have some F-4's. I hope one of those will be the aircraft. If so, maybe Norm can give me some "do's/do nots" (besides keeping the cotton picking finger off of the switches). Oh well, I'll believe it when they call from LRAFB and tell me my "cab" is waiting,

ARKANSAS: I hope all of you watched *Evening Shade* with Burt Reynolds Friday evening on CBS. It was one of the better portrayals of Arkansas. In my



opinion, (meiner Meinung nach), the comedy was good, the children were normal types in lieu of the usual TV geniuses or idiots, and the writing was excellent. Who knows, it might become a popular weekly comedy. In any event, the characters were more typical Arkansan than any I have seen in movies, stage or TV.

SOCIAL: We had dinner with Bill and Freda Friday. He makes an excellent gin and tonic, not to mention his good Martinis. Dinner was prime rib of beef and it was very good (as you know, if it doesn't twitch when you insert a fork, it is overdone according to my tastes). While dinner was served, *Evening Shade* was being taped.

Trivia: There are two (2) *Evening Shades* in Arkansas according to the newspaper; and they are in Sharp and Hempstead counties.

Joanne, George, Ginger and I took in the fish fry at the American Legion and again it was excellent. George decided to join as he said that he was tired of Ginger and me taking them. It is not a place you would want to inhabit regularly, but they do have excellent fried fish and good (strong) drinks. As you know, we go about once a month.

PARK: His mother died Thursday and they left for the funeral. We had planned on having them over for dinner Saturday (Sim's bar-be-que, natürlich) as they were coming back that afternoon. Park begged off due to other pressing matters. They had fourteen (14) pines taken out of their backyard, leaving the oaks, hickories, usw. One bid was for over four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00), so Ginger told them about the person who removed our trees and it was done for less than half the money and includes stump removal also,

Letters From Stacy

ODDS AND ENDS: After I finish this epistle, I shall go out and check the "farm". The okra will probably be as long as my arm and hard as a rock.

Time will tell.

I will pick the last of the cantaloupes, if the raccoons have not already gotten them.

I tried to clear off Alien's plot with Charlie's reverse turning tiller. I made a six (6) foot swath and the tiller choked down. It took me about fifteen (15) minutes to free up the tiller tines from the vines, usw. and then I made another six (6) foot by two foot swath and it was the same song, different verse. After three (3) passes, I quit.

After talking with other people, I discovered that the proper way is to get a weedeater and slice down the tall grass, weeds, vines, usw. and then rake it into a pile and either burn it or haul it off. My weedeater is electric, so it appears that I will have to rent a gasoline job from Wade.

Fun and Games!

CUISINE: I have been trying to talk Ginger into having my vegetable (meatless) spaghetti for dinner. I offered to make it and as you know, it is delicious. But Ginger-is hesitating as the freezers are full and she doesn't want me to put anything else in. Speaking of that, I offered to eliminate some of the frozen fresh shrimp from the freezer by making Italian/Greek or Chinese dishes with it. Same reply.

Oh well, I am about to season some black iron frying pans which have been (ugh) steel woolled. A properly seasoned frying pan should never be scoured, washed with detergent or soap. They should be cleaned with hot water and paper towels. A properly seasoned black iron pan will not allow the food to stick (it is just like teflon).

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Ginger just asked me why I wasn't cooking, so after this is written, I'll get with the Italian meatless sauce. She must have changed her mind.

**FURNITURE:** Ginger re-contacted the Lucas' who get the chest of drawers and mirror which came with our furniture load. They promise to pick it up Sunday.

My Pontiac is out in the driveway and will be until my side of the garage is cleaned out (bed, mattress, box springs, head and foot boards, chest of drawers, mirror, usw).

**BARD:** He called and we chatted. Hopefully, they are coming to Little Rock for Thanksgiving. I have reloaded a "heap" of 9 mm. cartridges for Bard.

Lydia has an ear problem and they have decided to place small tubes in her ear drums for drainage. They were about to do this to Lauren, but she got better. I hope Lydia grows out of it before the operation.

Had best close, so; relax, have fun, enjoy life and remember that we love you.

*Affectionately,*  
*Harry*



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**29 September 1990**

Dear Mary Lee,

A good Yom Kippur to you!

**Trivia:** 29 Sept. 1990 is Yom Kippur this year, or should I say in 5751? I forgot to get my Jewish calendar this year, but as Sid is dead and I have minimal contact with Dr. Morris Friedman and no contact with Rabbi Norman Klein, I really don't need it.

**NEW SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING:**

Exercise may endanger your health. Monday, I was out walking at my usual time and it was a beautiful morning, i.e., clear, cool (49 F) and the sun was shining. At the corner of Rodney Parham and Old Forge where that car hit me at 1600 (4 PM) they now have a traffic light -- which I observe carefully for obvious reasons. Traffic was brisk, as usual at 0730 and the light said "WALK" so I started across.

At the identical spot where I was hit before, a car came charging out. I jumped backwards. It missed me by about six (6) inches and my right hand and arm was outstretched so my knuckles hit the quarter panel of the car. No damage to my knuckles, but that is how close it came to me. No, he did not stop. My blood pressure immediately climbed at least one or two points. Pfui! Er ist ein Gott verfluchter Scheisskerl! That, I will guarantee, is not polite German. It seems there is no safe time to walk.

**TO EACH THEIR OWN DEPT.:** Tuesday morning Ginger asked me to do something to the area where



the pine tree had been cut down. She had some zoysia sod put it on the area. As the area was not level, it looked like Mother Nature was pregnant there. I removed the sod, removed about three cubic feet of dirt and pine chips and then re-laid the sod. It is now level and looks good.

So I went back into the house and started on my project. I decided that a good home made pizza was in order and had checked it out with Ginger, who agreed to let me fix supper. While Ginger was out "playing" in the yard, I prepared pizza dough and sauce and lined up other items. This sauce is one of my better ones, i.e., tomato sauce with chopped FRESH rosemary, FRESH oregano and FRESH basil. It is a lovely tasting and smelling sauce. This is another reason that you should have an herb garden. The fresh stuff is so much better than the dried.

Anyway, I went to the grocery for Mozzarella, Romano and Parmesan cheese (block not grated). When I returned, Ginger had decided that the flower bed in the front yard needed a stone wall at the front of it, so I could put additional dirt and compost in it and level it. Due to the slope. I placed some of our "little rocks" in place, the ones that Ginger couldn't budge with or without a crow bar. Then I retired to the kitchen to finish up the pizzas. It is obvious that Ginger's interest is in yard and mine is in the kitchen. Yes, I know that I am headed for Master Gardener's school. I only wish they had a Master Chef's school. Incidentally, the pizza was excellent and as I had made two (2), I froze the other one.

Thursday, Ginger suggested that I dedicate Thursdays to household chores. This was after she "suggested" that I remove the front door (and the brass hardware) and sand same. As you know, painting is not my forte. (I will clean brushes and stuff like that, but the hands-on painting -- no way, Jose). After sanding the door smooth, I cleaned and polished

## Letters From Stacy

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the brass hardware. After the cleaning/polishing, Ginger said it looked better the last time when I used the doubled-ended grinder with buffing wheels on it. So, I took it back to the workshop and buffed it again. Yes, it did look better.

Ginger painted the door and when the paint dried, gave it a coat of poly urethane. She sprayed the brass hardware with a clear lacquer. Result: Ginger says the door is too shiny and the brass hardware is too dull. So what else is new?

Thursday evening was Men's Council and as I was leaving at 1845 (6:45 PM), Ginger suggested that I hang the front door. It was hung with the brass kickplate, brass door ringer and "most" of the lock assembly installed. Yes, I was a tad late to the council meeting, but it was short and I was back in an hour to finish the job.

**GEOLOGY DEPT.:** It is getting rougher than a cob. We are still "playing" with crystals, lattices, usw. and I feel like a lost ball in the tall grass.

We got back two tests on this "junk" and I received a seventy three (73.9%) and an eighty one (81.6%). That is ridiculous as they are the lowest grades I have EVER received at UALR! Pfui! The problem is that it is getting worse rather than better. Thank goodness I signed up for this course to be an AUDIT course and it will not be recorded, not that my grades are that important, but it is a matter of personal pride.

**WEATHER DEPT.:** Lovely and it is slowly getting cooler. The nights are in the high 40's and low 50's. Wonderful sleeping weather. We keep the windows open and it is so nice not having the place bottled up (except downstairs as Ethel is cold).

**GARDEN DEPT.:** Ginger has pulled the "space" tomato plants and we are saving the seed. In spite of Ginger's warnings, I have been eating the tomatoes

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off those plants which grew from the seeds Jinx gave me from the seeds she received from NASA, which had been in that space capsule for five years. I realize that the seeds might have mutated, but the mutations will be in the seeds of the tomatoes produced anyway. I am not dead, paralyzed or disabled in any way from my eating of the "forbidden" fruit. They are VERY tasty and I am glad to be able to "hog" them with no complaints.

Marcia got word that she's accepted in the Master Gardener's course. At least I'll know someone in the class. Ginger is now at the County Extension Office answering the telephone on garden/flower, usw telephone information requests. She is still putting in (the last) part of her forty (40) hours community service required by the course.

**CUISINE DEPT.:** The pears I picked, left over from Ginger's canning, were beginning to turn. Ginger suggested that I use them (Thursday during door work) before they all go bad. Her suggestion was "poached pears". Yes, I poached them while seasoning black iron skillets. They were poached in a syrup of: red wine, water, lemon peel, cinnamon and sugar. This was all done in the microwave and it took about twenty (20) minutes (after I had peeled the pears). Ginger served them in a sherbet dish with a dab of whipped cream and a sprig of our wintergreen mint. DELICIOUS!

I tried one of the skillets Friday and it is excellent. It doesn't stick. I fried eggs in it and I didn't even have to use an egg turner to move the eggs; I just wiggle the skillet and the eggs slide around. Lovely! I cautioned Ginger about the skillets; NO SOAP, just wash them with hot water, use a green scouring pad to loosen (if needed) food particles and then wipe it out. This is per cooking books, Frugal Gourmet, Julia Childs and others.

## Letters From Stacy

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**BUDGET DEPT. :** You are probably wondering how this was written, if the Navy flew me down to NAS, Dallas. Well, the Federal Budget struck again. As you know, the fiscal year runs from 1 October through 30 September. Federal thinking is that ALL the budgeted money MUST be used, otherwise they would not have a basis for requests of MORE money. As a result, all budgeted items are wiped out by the end of September. The new 1991 budget is currently in limbo (due to the Republican-Democrat arguments over the deficit and what is causing it). The order was passed, "No non-budgeted, or non-tactical expenses until the 1991 budget is approved". It seems that the fuel budget was zeroed out about 26 September and normally, they would go into 1991 fuel allotment for the remaining four days, but due to the edict, they couldn't. I am not budgeted, or tactical, so here I am in LR and not at the change of command ceremony and the following conference. Oh well, maybe one of these days.

**IF IT WASN'T ATTACHED TO ME, I'D LOSE IT**  
**DEPT.:** I have been looking for the ear protectors I wear when I am shooting and for the .30.06 empty cases and clips which we fired the day we went out to fire the Schmeissers. I was also looking for a reloading book (new) which I had lent to John Holder and he said that he returned. I found the book (misfiled with my cooking books and the Frugal Gourmet books,) but not the other items. I called the range and "No, I did not leave them there". I am still searching. Senility and old age has set in, obviously.

**GINGER:** She has had a bad/severe hacking cough and nasal drainage for the past ten days. The doctor prescribed several items which she has been taking, but none have seemed to do much good. She has gradually worn it down and is slowly getting back to normal. For a week, she hacked so bad at night

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that she got very little sleep. (Yes, I heard her also). That is gone and things are almost normal.

Thursday evening, (after the door) she deep fried some of the catfish fillets I had gotten, Absolutely wonderful. She served them with hush puppies, Ruby's sauerkraut, sliced garden tomatoes and the poached pears. That was the night we drank beer. Ginger was drinking the Michelob Dry; Ethel and I drank some home made beer. I finished up with some of the Michelob (frankly, the homebrew was as good/or better--meiner Meinung nach).

**ITALIAN DEPT.:** I'm thinking about making some ravioli. Probably several different fillings: ground meat, spinach and spiced meat/sausage. The problem is that the deep freeze is 102% full. The freezer under the kitchen refrigerator is about 99% full. But happily, the freezer in the refrigerator in Ginger's "workshop" is almost empty. That is where I usually keep my bagels and English muffins. Zero (0) English muffins and the few bagels I have left are upstairs in the kitchen freezer. Once you know what the wife wants ... so I will check with Ginger and then (probably) decide not to make them. One of these days, I'll make them.

This is getting too long, so I had best close. Remember that we love you while you are relaxing, having fun and enjoying life.



## Letters From Stacy

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ML: I had told Joyce to tell you to be certain to get a receipt from St. Mary's for the residue from the Estate Sale as I will take this off of my income tax as a charitable donation. Joyce was going to itemize and price the items and I hope you did. Any way, I would appreciate getting it so I can close out the affair. It looks like the place is leased, effective 15 October.

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**6 October, 1990**

Dear Mary Lee,

**GINGER:** Friday morning (0630) Ginger commented that she felt like a new person and no longer had the hacking cough, draining sinuses (sinii)?, fever, usw. I AM GLAD! She has had this illness since August and that is TOO LONG!

**SOCIAL:** Saturday afternoon (29 September,) we were invited by Miki and Reg to come to Lake Ouachita (Wah-chee- tah) and have dinner on their boat. This is 68 miles from LR and where they spend their weekends during the summer.

Upon our arrival, I could see why they spend their time there. The boat is a cabin cruiser, twin engine, sleeps six (6). It has a complete galley and all amenities. We brought a chilled magnum of Chardonnay and an excellent tossed salad which Ginger had made. Reg took us for a small cruise on the lake (it is over 35 miles long) and I observed quite a few interesting geological items.

This is an area where geologists, world wide, come to look at formations. It is one of the most complex and interesting geological places in the world. About 500 MILLION years ago this area was under about three miles of sea water and a large river flowing from the north had its mouth about one hundred (100) miles to the north and its under water delta began about fifty miles north of Little Rock, extending past this area.



## Letters From Stacy

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After it had deposited over FIVE MILES (deep) of deltaic layers, the Caribbean tectonic plate which was moving north started folding and tilting these deposits which had (due to pressure and heat) lithified (turned to rock). Some of these layers overturned, and most tilted or folded. Some areas were faulted and they slid past each other. Now you know why it is so complex and interesting, geologically.

We anchored by a limestone layer which had been tilted to an almost vertical position and adjacent to it were layers of quartz which had been produced by extreme pressure and heat. These quartz layers were in narrow stripes like a zebra, which is unusual. We were about five to fifteen (5-15) feet from the cliff (depending on how the boat swung) and the water was over 100 feet deep under the keel.

Miki prepared hors d'oeuvre, which consisted of: Muenster cheese, crackers, sliced zucchini, carrot sticks, cucumber strips and a dip of Ranch salad dressing. Dinner was a HEAVING plate of shrimp scampi, sautéed scallops, garlic bread, wine and Ginger's salad. Ginger commented that we couldn't eat that much, however I noted that NOTHING was left on anyone's plate.

As you know, Miki and Reg are members of our four (4) couple gourmet group. As Nancy and Warren have been dragging their feet: on their session, I had suggested to Reg and Miki that we occasionally meet and have a semi gourmet dinner for the four (4) of us.

I'm now contemplating a Greek dinner. Months ago, I gathered, processed and canned grape leaves which I had picked from the backyard grape vines. These leaves are conducive for stuffed grape leaves, Ouzo and Retsina to drink and "stuff" like that. Ginger does not like Retsina as she claims it tastes like pine tar. Yes, it is a Greek white wine which is aged in pine



barrels and Retsina is Greek for "rosin flavored". I like it, but it could be an acquired taste -- like okra.

**PRAYER BREAKFAST:** Tuesday was Prayer Breakfast and in lieu of cooking, as we have had only had about six or seven (6-7) people, we had orange juice and doughnuts with coffee. Park spoke and we discussed Barnabus as related in Acts. It was decided that when we had ten (10) or more participants, then I would resume cooking (eggs Benedict, chipped beef with mushrooms on toast, usw). This morning we had nine (9), so I think I'll resume cooking in November.

**ALLEN:** He is back in the hospital. As you know (?) he went home two weeks ago with a low grade fever and against his doctors wishes. Well, the fever went up and he returned to the hospital and they found two (2) foci of infection with "pus " pockets. These were drained and he has a tube in one (1) of them. They ran a test on his surgery where the esophagus is connected to the duodenum (as the stomach was removed). They found that the seam is leaking, so Alien is now on an IV with no liquids/food, usw. in an effort to let the seam heal and seal the leak (they hope).

From what we understand, he will have the IV in for three or four (3-4) more weeks with NO WATER OR FOOD. He is on oxygen which dries out your throat and mouth. I certainly "feel" for him. He can suck on an ice cube for a minute or so during the day to relieve the dryness of his mouth.

We received a note from Lois telling us that she was writing for Alien and how much he appreciated our blood donations in his behalf. Ginger has just received her card stating that she is now on her second (2nd) gallon of blood as she had just donated pint number nine (#9). I haven't gotten my card yet as they were renewing mine due to the lapse in donating which necessitated a note from my doctor

## Letters From Stacy

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telling them that I was healthy, pure and stuff like that.

**STEWPOOT:** I promised Alien that I would cook and do the necessary on his Stewpot days. He has the second (2nd) and fifth (5th) Wednesdays.

Well, Wednesday, I got up and took out for Stewpot at 0815., arriving at 0830 and started cooking. They had served 250 the day before, so I cooked five cookers of chili and a cooker of rice to mix with it. Yes, I added my usual seasonings of garlic, chili, onions, usw. I made five gallons of iced tea and a five-gallon container of ice water.

At about 1030, after mixing the rice with the chili and while washing the pots, usw.s this unknown (good looking) young lady came in and asked if I was a new member. I told her, "no, I have been cooking for stewpot for over six years".


She said, "I must be on the wrong day".

I told her that it was the second (2nd) Wednesday and that is when I always cooked.

She smiled and said that it was the FIRST (1st) Wednesday and she appreciated me doing her cooking. I suggested she cook next Wednesday and she just smiled. I left and went home. How stupid can you get? Senility is setting in, which reminds me:

Tuesday, I went to see the doctor who told me that my blood pressure was 130/80 (so what else is new)? and that I was suffering from poly neurosis, I told Warren that I knew that I was the nervy type but what was this many/multiple nerve problem. He said that the tests reflected that my neural system was degenerating in the extremities and I had lost a lot of my sensory nerves. He does not know what is causing it and it is irreversible and incurable. Whee!

He said that, evidently, I had been exposed to some toxic material which caused my neural problem



and it was probably a short time before my right foot started getting numb. If that is the case, it was possibly at GMI where I taught for a while as, at that time, there were lots of heavy solvent fumes in the class rooms, lab floor, usw. They have since discovered that these solvent fumes cause nerve damage and have changed the solvents. Fun and Games! Anyway, it is not progressing very fast, so I am not worrying.

**GINGER, AGAIN:** She is getting ready for a garage sale. Both cars are out of the garage and parked at the curb. I went to the store and bought two (2) sheets of plywood to use for flooring the attic and I had them cut into two (2) strips (8' x2'. ) Ginger is using these strips (on saw horses) for tables and the place looks good as she has draped the walls with sheets (to conceal the shelves, cans, garden tools, usw). and the tables are covered with sheets also. Joanne brought some stuff over and other neighbors are doing the same, so there should be quite a collection. I told Ginger that I would check EVERYTHING Friday night to make certain that NOTHING of mine was included.

Friday evening some of the neighbors came over and Ginger sold one hundred dollars worth of "stuff" Maybe I'll be able to get my car in the garage come Saturday evening.

Friday, Ginger had Horticulture and Marsha gave a talk on composting. She had pictures, (including our pile) but she did not identify the owners to protect the guilty. Ginger said that it was a very interesting talk So I went by to compliment Marsha on the talk and she gave me a copy of the presentation. It was good reading. I found out that I couldn' t join this Horticulture club as it is for women only.

QUESTION: Why is it women file suits to join men's clubs and the courts order them admitted, but women have women only clubs and men can't get in.

## Letters From Stacy

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They allow women into men's locker-rooms, but have you ever heard of a man being admitted to the women's locker room?

That is what I like, absolute equality. Yeah! Some are more equal than others.

**BOOKS:** Jean Autel who wrote *Clan of the Cave Bear*, *Valley of the Horses*, usw. has a new book out.. I am number four (#4) on the library list for the four books they are getting this week, so I should be reading it soon.

I just finished *Animal Wife* and it is GOOD. Suggest you read it (if you like books set in the Pleistocene like *Clan of the Cave Bear*, usw). This author (name has slipped my mind) has written *Reindeer Moon* and she is a good author.

**WEATHER:** Lovely! When I walk, in the morning, it is cool (high 50s) and clear. There is dew on the grass and the sky is a beautiful blue. It is great to be alive.

One thing I like about Arkansas is that frequently, there is not a cloud in the sky and the sky is a beautiful blue from horizon to horizon. It is just a BIG sky.

Yes, I'm watching the autos like a hawk.

Warren said that it was good that I am walking and keeping my muscle tone up. This would help slow down the neural problem and he suggested that I take vitamin B complex which stimulates the nerves. So I am taking B complex and walking.

**WORKSHOP:** Chuck Duggan gave me another box of removed wheel weights. It weighed about one hundred eighty five (185) pounds, so I have been melting them down and casting ingots for my bullet making. I have just finished and it was OVER two hundred (200) pounds.

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Yes, my blood lead test was well within normal limits.

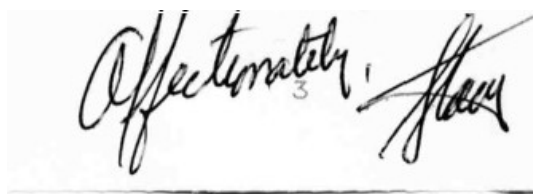
Warren also told me that my nerve problem is symptomatic of a possible diabetic problem. My blood sugar is well within normal limits and it has been for years (I have been having it checked for over twenty years). This is due to having all sorts of diabetic problems on my maternal side.

**CUISINE:** Ginger read a receipt in *Bon Appetit* about baked pears. She picked ripe pears from the tree, leaving the stems on and then I peeled them. I made a syrup of white wine, sugar, cinnamon and a little water. This was cooked down and then the pears were coated with the syrup and baked, re-coated with syrup and turned. When the pears were tender, they were cooled and then served with the balance of the syrup - Delicious!

They were better than the poached pears.

Bill and Freda left for England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales Friday. This is the trip that we were going to take with them, but things came up. Maybe one of these days...

That is about it for this week, Relax, enjoy life and have fun. We love you.



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**13 October, 1990**

Dear Mary Lee,

**NEWSPAPER:** This is something I saw which appealed to my warped sense of humor:


If PRO is the opposite of CON, what is the opposite of PROGRESS?

If you can't figure it out: CONGRESS. It is so true I love it!.

**JERRY TOLLIVER:** I don't know what I would do without him. As you know, he ran for Governor and lost in the primary. Well, Bard called and said that the barrel of the glove compartment lock (the part the lock cylinder fits in) was broken on the 1966 Chevrolet and that is why the lock would not work. Chevrolet parts dept. no longer stocks them and the console lock barrel ( which he can get)does not fit. I called Jerry and lo! he knows someone who has the barrel and he is getting it for me.

Last week the push button telephone by my desk fell off and the plate which is on top of the phone and surrounds the push buttons and has the telephone number on it., came off and disappeared. It probably fell into the trash basket adjacent to the desk and was thrown out. No problem, I said (stupidly) and called the AT&T Phone Center that sells parts and repairs phones.

NO! They do not have the plate, but I could call the parts center. They gave me an 800 number, which I called.



No! No plate part, but they gave me an 800 number for the handicapped section who will send out (upon request) a plate with LARGE numbers on it for the handicapped. I called and what they have is a decal to be affixed onto the plate I am missing.

In other words, NO PLATE from AT&T. I called other telephone selling companies and no luck- When I was talking with Jerry, I mentioned it and he said, "Come on out, I have a box full of push button phones. How many do you want?"

I went out to Jerry's with the Schmeisser MP-40 and the Garand with lots of ammo. We looked in the store room and there were about twenty (20) telephones, but they were all rotary, no push button plate! Jerry called around and a fellow in Stuttgart has a bunch of them and is bringing in one (1) for me. It is not what you know, but WHO!

While I was out at Jerry's, we did a bit of shooting. I broke out the Schmeisser MP-40 and the Garand. We fired five (5) Garand clips, which is forty (40) cartridges, and five (5) clips of the Schmeisser, which is one hundred sixty (160) rounds. We decided I can unload faster than I can reload. That Schmeisser fires at a cyclic rate of 800 rounds/minute. When Jerry fired a burst of about five (5) or so rounds, I could see all the empty cases, about an inch apart, ejecting from the breech. That is FAST firing. I might mention that it is accurate also.

Jerry asked if I saw a partially buried cola can about one hundred feet away. I raised the rifle, fired, and bounced the can in the air. I asked, "Is that the one"? Jerry said that in spite of my old age, poor eyesight, and stuff like that, I can still shoot. Yes, I have fun shooting.

**SOCIAL:** We called George and Joanne regarding Wednesday's dinner. They suggested a catfish dinner at American Legion (Gad, but we are going there a



## Letters From Stacy

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lot). We planed drinks at our house before leaving. They arrived and Joanne had a migraine. So George and I went to Sims Bar-be-que and bought the chopped beef. Lovely! We drank beer and ate bar-be-que. It was very nice evening.

**MASTER GARDENER:** Thursday, I went to my first class and it was (contrary to what I thought) fun. I saved a first row seat for Marcia where we had an excellent view of the posters, slides, usw. It lasted from 0800 to 1630 (4:30 PM). Zollie cooked an excellent meal as usual -- spaghetti with meat balls and parmesan cheese, tossed salad, garlic bread, and banana pudding. I complimented Zollie and she wiggled like a petted dog. She still has her bleached hair and her skin is like a Hershey bar. This course is for five Thursdays and the cost for the course, meals, books and literature is thirty dollars (\$30.00). They charge non-students five dollars (\$5.00) for the meal, so it is a real bargain.

**LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL DEPT:** The weather has gone from hot and sweaty to warm. This 55 F weather is wonderful to walk in. As you know, in my opinion (meiner Meinung nach) any thing over 60 F is hot and sweaty weather. Friday morning, I was walking and was seeing my breath (temperature was about 45 F) and I certainly enjoyed it. Days are in the high 60s and low 70s and nights are in the high 30s and low 40s. Excellent sleeping weather! Ethel commented about the weather turning COLD so I turned on the downstairs heat.

**CHORES:** Ginger said she needed help in the yard as I was making ravioli. She wanted a stone wall built in a semi-circle around the azaleas, liriopie (monkey grass,) usw, so I stopped the ravioli making and went out and became a stone mason. After the wall was set up, I went to the compost pile and brought four wheelbarrow loads of compost to ddump behind the



wall (after moving the azaleas and liriopse). I worked up a sweat in spite of the 55 F temperature.

Friday morning, Ginger decided that the living room sofa would look better in the den, and the two-seat sofa in the den would look better in the living room. Yes, we moved the sofas. UGH! Ginger has decided that she is NOT going to upholster the chairs, sofas, usw. She has decided to have them done by a professional. WHEE!

**DISASTER AND REPRIEVE:** Wednesday evening, I felt for my pocket watch and it was not there. I figured I had left it at home on the dresser and didn't worry about it. Thursday morning when I was dressing, I looked for the watch and it was not there. I had been wearing some summer slacks in which Ginger had sewed a watch pocket and the lapel loop at the end of the chain would not, for some reason, stay hooked to a belt loop. So I had stuffed it in the watch pocket. When I examined the watch pocket, I noticed that it had come loose at one corner and was hanging sideways. I searched every where. No watch.

Monday, with my heart in my throat, I went to Geology class. As I walked in, Michelle, with a smirk, asked, "What time is it"? I figured she knew something. I developed that a few minutes after I had left class, they had found my watch and chain on the floor under my desk and had given it to the professor to lock up. Yes, I got my watch back and was most relieved. (And Ginger is too as the lapel loop and watch catch were her grandfather's and are heirlooms).

**CUISINE:** The ravioli was finished up Friday evening (I still have some filling to use). It made sixty eight (68) ravioli. The filling is ground round, onion, garlic, ricotta cheese, rosemary, marjoram and thyme seasoning, and chopped spinach with ground freshly ground black pepper and a bit of salt.

## Letters From Stacy

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It is very tasty. That filling will attract your attention. This will be served with a tomato sauce, red wine and a good salad. I was thinking about making cannoli for dessert, but Ginger gave me the word that I had made: meatless spaghetti, pizza (2) and ravioli in one (1) week and THAT was enough as she was running out of room in the freezer, refrigerator, usw. Such are the trials and tribulations of an amateur chef. (Maybe next week I'll try for cannoli,) I have the tubes and everything that I need -- except permission.

Years ago, I discovered that it was easier to get forgiveness after doing something than to get permission beforehand. Sneaky?

**GEOLOGY:** The professor struck again. He gave us an exercise to do in lab and said that if we didn't finish, we could do it at home as it is due Monday. This is the NO HOMEWORK CHARACTER. I spent Friday morning finishing up. UGH!

**CHRIS:** He sent me photocopies of an article in PC magazine on hand scanners. It was most interesting and this is an item that I will eventually secure. He also said that Jinx will be coming to Little Rock in November. We (and her friends) will be glad to see her.

**ALLEN:** I went to see him Tuesday. He has lost weight on this IV diet. He commented that he gets three (3) bags a day and they are eighty dollars (\$80.00) a bag. I told Allen that he was getting very expensive meals, to which he commented that they weren't that good either. Two (2) of the three holes have healed and sealed. There is one (1) left and he and Lois are hopeful that it will heal SOON! Alien wants to go home and get out of the hospital and I don't blame him.



**BEES:** Chris commented that if I disposed of the bees and he doesn't get honey, then I can't hold the pending grandchild. What a nasty threat!

I called Jim and told him that we HAD to move the remaining five colonies of bees from Sam Peronni's and Jim agreed to come by today (Saturday) and we would set up a new location (in the old prison farm area) and ready the bees for robbing and moving.

Since Jim got this other airplane and decided to get his instrument rating, he has been flying in all his spare time. He wants me to go with him, but, unfortunately, I have too much to do (plus my depth perception for landings is long gone).

Take care, relax, have fun and enjoy life. We love you.



Last week, I was talking with Joyce and told her that as the house was leased 15 October and Damon was going to have it cleaned, swept, usw. before then, that she should get the bed, usw. ASAP. And that if the odds and ends which you were going to give to St. Mary's were still there, to have Goodwill or whoever get them so the place could be cleaned and ready for occupancy as it has been almost a month and a half since the sale.

Hope you had gotten the stuff by that time.

## Letters From Stacy

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**20 October 1990**

Dear Mary Lee,

**LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL:** I will be glad when this stupid "daylight savings" time is gone. When I go out to walk at 0650, it is almost dark. While I am walking, the eastern sky lightens up and then at about 0715, the upper edge of the sun peeks above the horizon. The sun coming up at 0715, or later, is (meiner Meinung nach) STUPID. Oh well, come Sunday (28 October,) things will be normal for a while.

Anyway, back to the walk, the air is crisp, dew is on the grass and birds are busy hunting worms in the grass. I see more birds on the ground (pulling worms) than I see in the air or on limbs. The sky is a beautiful azure blue fading into an almost blue black in the west with a pinkish blue (violet pastel)? in the east before the sun rises.

Some birds (morning doves, usw) I can still hear and the quiet, with only bird calls, the beautiful sky and the crisp air is wonderful. When the sun peeks above the horizon, for a short time, only the tops of the trees are in sunshine. It is gorgeous. While you look, the light slowly comes down the trees as the sun comes above the horizon.

Life is beautiful.

It is times like this that I remember Duke and wish he was still here, walking with me and bouncing around sniffing at the new odors and stalking birds. He was a wonderful friend and I miss him.

That reminds me, Jerry Tolliver has three (3) German Shepherd guard dogs at his salvage yard.

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The dogs are huge and very friendly in the day time, but watch out at night.

Jerry bought a female wolf. She is a cute, friendly rascal and looks almost like a German Shepherd, but has a silver cast to her fur underside and has warm foot pads. Every time I go out there I play with her. She is young, about three [3] months old, but is growing like a weed. When she is larger, Jerry is going to release her from the pen into the yard (ten acres) and breed her with the German Shepherds. That should be a very interesting hybrid.

Jerry tells me that he has had numerous inquiries about selling some of the pups, which he is going to do after keeping some of the better ones. He asked if I wanted one. It was very tempting.

**MASTER GARDENER:** Janet called wanting me to bring in an apple limb five or six {5-6} long to class, so she could demonstrate pruning. I agreed and removed a limb from the Jonathan apple in the southern side of the back yard. This made me very conscious that I need to do some pruning as soon as the leaves fall.

I spend Tuesday afternoon cleaning out the raspberry patch, i.e. pulling/clipping dead canes and "neating" up the place. Due to the drought we lost quite a few of the raspberry bushes, so we need to transplant some of the "volunteers" near the grape vines into the patch. I need to set up some sort of watering system in that area as the sprinkler does not get to the plants at the back (extreme southern edge of the patch). Oh well, it is another chore in the pending column.

The Master Gardeners class again was very interesting. We covered fruit trees, berry bushes and grape vines with related pruning and care for each. Frankly, I was a bit skeptical when I signed up for the course, but am now glad that I did. Marcia sits next to



me and we comment on some of the items. She has quite a sense of humor. Zollie came up with another excellent meal: a sautéed ham patty with a delicious sweet-sour sauce, sweet potato casserole, boiled cabbage, tossed salad, and a good apple pie. If this keeps up, I'll put on weight. Ginger attended and had luncheon with us, leaving afterwards for a funeral. My first week's quiz was without errors, so I was happy there.

**JINX:** Thursday evening Chris called and Ginger did not recognize his voice. We had just sat down to eat (I was picking up my fork) when the telephone rang and Ginger answered it. She handed it to me with a smile, saying, "It's for you". ... The gist of the conversation was that Chris owes me a case of beer as the latest sonogram shows that the baby is a girl. I asked if it was going to be named Christina Anne and got several different replies. In any event, it is their choice. This will be four (4) granddaughters. One more and it will be a girl's basketball team. Jinx is coming up on 8 November for a short visit. We are anxious to see her.

**PARK:** Bettyjean left town for a meeting and they asked if I would like to use her ticket and accompany Park to the Canadian Brass concert. I accepted on condition that Park eat dinner with us that evening. Ginger decided that we will have the ravioli that I made a froze a few days ago. I shall make an white sauce (Alfredo type) and serve the ravioli in it. Ginger will make a tossed salad with garlic bread and red wine. If I have time, I might make a cannoli dessert with an anise/ricotta cheese filling (or something similar).

**KLRE/KUAR:** My favorite FM classical stations are having the usual 1990 Promenade to raise money for equipment, usw. The first year I was involved, they tried to raise five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). They are now trying to raise one hundred thousand dollars



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(\$100,000.00) and that is ten years later. I have the duty from 0700 to 1200 on Monday and Wednesday (answering the telephone, tabulating, making pitches on the air, usw). and then on Saturday from 1200-1500 (3 PM), I announce and make comments on the opera presentation and stuff like that. It is lively and fun. I enjoy it.

**WEATHER:** Friday, it was 38 F at 0645, LOVELY weather is here, the type of weather I enjoy. Ginger put out a sweater for me on Thursday to wear to the Master Gardeners but I went in a short sleeved shirt (without sweater). It was a nice 60 F and I loved it. Everyone else was wearing coats or sweaters. In my opinion (meiner Meinung nach,) anything over 60 F is HOT AND SWEATY weather.

**GARAGE SEARCH:** Ginger has promised Jinx the use of the cradle but the rockers have been removed and are SOMEWHERE in the garage!

I think they are somewhere near the emergency generator. I have told Ginger that when I run it this weekend (I try to run it every three months to keep it free and useable) I will look for the rockers. We plan on taking it down and packing it in "flight suit" boxes to ship back with Jinx as extra luggage. The mattress and a side piece will go in one box and the rest of the cradle will go in another.

This is the cradle Norm slept in. When we put Jinx in it, Norm would rock it and almost dump her out, so the rockers came off.

Ginger used it (for years) as a container for potted plants with a metal receptacle in lieu of the mattress to hold the pots and saucers -- but not recently, according to Ginger

**PLUMBING:** I spent Friday AM fixing the toilet in our bathroom. It would hang up and continue to run. It is an American Standard toilet and the actuator valve would hang open. I tried an "el cheapo"

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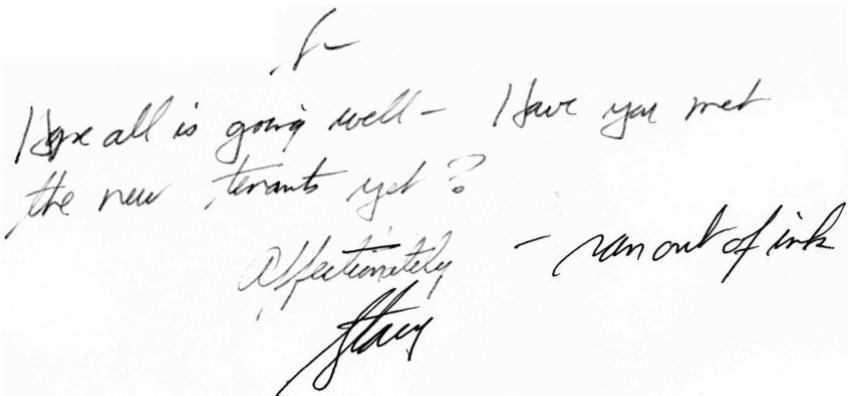
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replacement from National Home Equipment and it wouldn't work. The only thing which would work was an American Standard actuator. (\$14.50 vs. \$1.75!) UGH!

BARD: I talked with him a few days ago and told him that I had secured the glove compartment lock he was looking for. A fellow in Conway had several 1965 Chevrolet Caprice "junkers" and he removed the lock from one. It is not what you know, but who that frequently counts.

Things are going well with him. He said he and Mitch Cortino went shooting their pistols last week and had fun. Bard has the Walther P-38 and Mitch has a .38 Special. I had loaded up ammo for them and they had fun unloading it.

For once, I am running out of things to say. Oh well, have fun, relax and enjoy life and remember that we love you.



✓
Hope all is going well - Have you met
the new tenants yet?
Affectionately - run out of ink
Steve

12 January 1991

Dear Mary Lee,


WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE, WHO NEEDS ENEMIES?

Something that popped up in the *Irish Times* (Dublin) last week: On 17 Dec. 1990:

Wing Commander Farquhar, aide to Air Chief Marshall Hine, was asked to take a briefcase containing Top Secret documents back to RAF Strike Command Hq. These documents were highly classified allied battle plans for the Persian Gulf operation. Hine had been using the documents to brief Prime Minister John Major. On the way, Farquhar stopped to look at some used cars in a used car showroom, leaving the briefcase in his car. While he browsed, thieves broke into the car and stole the briefcase.

The British told the U.S. officials that all the stolen materials had been quickly recovered. A doctor had spotted the briefcase in a dumpster and had turned it over to the police. What they didn't say was that the laptop computer which contained the classified information had NOT been recovered and had not been at the time of the printing, 4 January 1991.

An unnamed Pentagon official (Navy) made the comment, "That bastard should be shot"! A massive search is still underway for the missing computer. I sincerely hope that the computer had a password entrance with a destruct program if there were three (3) incorrect password tries. •



I'll wager that none of your newspapers/magazines/TV commentators have mentioned this fiasco. Ugh! Hooray for the free press, who publish various types of derogatory information, but don't remark on a deal like this. I'd bet that if the Wing Commander was brought up on charges., the ACLU would holler "persecution and foul play". (If you are not aware of it, I do not care for the ACLU).

TRAVEL PLANS: This week, I'll be in Houston visiting Bard. He has some projects he needs help on and I volunteered. I'll come back to Little Rock with him Friday. I hope there will be an ample supply of shrimp in Galveston. If there is, I'll bring back a supply. Ditto, crab meat and flounder for broiled, crabmeat stuffed, boneless flounder. This is excellent and I enjoy (believe it or not) boning flounder. That is one of the reasons I want Jim to teach me how to bone whole chickens.

CUISINE: Saturday, while Chuck Bowlus and I were bottling additional beer, Jim was making tamales. He has a tamale maker which has two (2) cylinders in which you place the masa dough in one and the meat filling in the other. When you crank down the pistons, it forces out a cylinder of masa dough with a filling of meat. This is wrapped in corn husks or similar parchment paper. The tamales are then ready to cook. Jim fixed some for lunch served with Jim's home made chili. They were delicious. I have about nineteen in the freezer for future use. Is anyone available for GOOD tamales and chili?

HOME CHORES: The reason you are getting this letter later than usual is that I have been a busy little bee.

Friday, Ginger and I bought a metal door (3.0 x 6'8") for outside door in the garage. The original wooden door was was rotting at the bottom. I called Bill Dennis and made arrangements for him to be here at 0930 (after the Navy nets). After a hot cup of

Letters From Stacy

coffee (it was -2 C [30 F} outside) we tackled the door. Bill is an expert carpenter and now that he is retired from GM, moonlights at this. After an additional cup of coffee, (to thaw out), we finished the job. Bill, also gave me an estimate for the roof over the rear deck. (Mike Page had estimated \$980 and Bill's estimate was \$729.45). Anyway, it is a beautiful job. I have just finished filling the nail holes with putty and getting it ready for painting (Ginger's dept). I have silicone caulking ready for the door and seams when it warms up. That will probably been in a few months.


SOCIAL: Bettyjean and Park invited us over for drinks and supper this Saturday evening. They also invited Stewart and Lib. Ginger says that it in payment for the moving of furniture and books we did for them after Park's retirement. Park does mix a mean, but good Martini.

CUISINE: Friday evening, I went by Sims and purchased some of their good barbecue. This time it was beef. Ginger said that it was dry. I concur that they did not have as much sauce on it as they usually have, but it was very tasty and better than other barbecues!

Ginger has not noticed, but I have some Italian sausage in the freezer. I intend to use some of it for my meatloaf. Possibly, I shall make meatloaf after my return from Houston.

EXCELLENT AND NEEDED GIFT: Thursday, I received a package from Parsons Technology in Iowa. I wondered why I had gotten it and upon opening the package, I found out that it is an accounting/budget program which Bard had sent me.

Ginger had commented that she had seen a bookkeeping program that Norm used and asked why I did not have one. I had mentioned it to Bard and he commented that he used a good program and he



would send me a copy. It was not a copy, it was the original program complete with manual, usw. It is appreciated.

As a follow-up, a package arrived Friday from Chris and in it were two excellent programs, i.e., *Norton Utilities*, version 5.0 and *Right Writer*, version 4.0. I have started using *Right Writer*. This is a program which analyzes your documents and makes suggestions as to composition, phrasing, usw.

I am using it (to some extent) on this letter. The analysis of the first page was discouraging. I did not realize that I was such a poor writer. Oh well, I have other redeeming virtues (and I hear someone saying, "Name ONE!"). I'll ignore that comment. I appreciate the disks; I'll copy and return them upon my return from Houston.

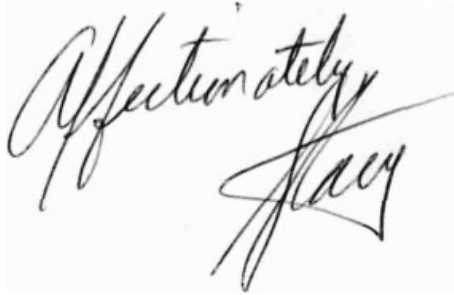
SOAPBOX COMMENTS: President Bush has just made his comments regarding the passage of the resolution in Congress. Whereas I am not in favor of bloodshed, (regardless of some peoples comments) I feel that considering the world situation, the attitude of Saddam Hussein, (sp)? and other pertinent facts, there is no other reasonable course of action possible.

Ted Kennedy's passionate plea for "more time" is (meiner Meinung nach) as self-serving as he could get. If he had gotten more time, I am confident that he would have sung the same tune at the conclusion of that time frame, and would want still more time. He is not one of my favorite people. How the people of Mass, can continue to elect that alcoholic, womanizing, egotistical SOB, (sweet old boy)? I cannot understand. Off your soapbox, Stacy (Remember that these do not reflect the opinions of my soul mate, Ginger).

I think I'll take a cook book with me and fix a few meals for Bard while I am down there.

Letters From Stacy

Take care, relax, enjoy life and remember that we love you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Affectionately Stacy". The word "Affectionately" is written in a larger, more flowing script, while "Stacy" is written in a smaller, more compact script below it. The signature is written in black ink on a light background.

20 January 1991

Dear Mary Lee,

TRIVIA: Did you know that the word *nauseous* (no comments about my letter writing, please) came from the Greek word, *nausa* which means "boat?"?

I can see where they would connect the two.

I have been seasick only one time. That was when I was a Boy Scout (I hear comments to the effect that they don't believe it) and went to Cuba on the *S.S. Florida*.

During the war, I was aboard her as an Engineering Officer. She was taken over by the government and turned into a transport. I found my old cabin which I had occupied as a Boy Scout and I found it no where as large as I had remembered it.

VACATION: Bard picked me up at Hobby airport in Houston, Sunday. He told me that he planed to take me to a good restaurant for supper. I suggested that I cook him a decent(?) meal as he had been eating TV dinners and stuff like that. We wound up doing Chinese pepper steak with soy sauce on rice, plus green beans for a vegetable.

From then on, I had fun cooking. I beat Bard getting up in the mornings and fixed him a decent breakfast. He usually wanted, UGH, cereal. I also had dinner ready when he arrived home in the evening.

To cite a few items prepared: poached eggs on corned beef hash, and creamed chipped beef with mushrooms for breakfast; Swiss steak, mashed

Letters From Stacy

potatoes, gravy and asparagus; Salisbury steak with mushrooms, grits and spinach, corned beef and cabbage, pickled beets, hot German potato salad (Speck salat), flan for dessert, ditto for apricot jello with mixed fruit; and stuff like that. These are not listed in the order served -- such as I did not serve pickled beets with corned beef and cabbage!

I even got into making egg salad filling for sandwiches; however, Bard decided I got carried away with the program in adding the grated onion. Oh well, into every life, a little rain must fall.

I had the idea of wiring in a telephone for the room where Bard has his computer. Checking the attic I found that he had a too-well built house. The area over Lauren's room, where there is a telephone jack but the wires had not been pulled, is floored over!

I then had the idea of tapping into the telephone wiring going down into Lydia's room and found that there is over six inches of fiberglass insulation ABOVE the joists, plus the area between the joists and the ceiling was also full. I was unable to find the wiring.

In view of this, I decided to attack it from Lydia's room and run it from there behind the base boards. I soon discovered that the wall with the telephone jack, is an outside wall which juts out from the house, so it would have to be run inside the room and through the closet wall into Bard's room. Ugh, there is an air suction duct between the closet and Bard's work room. That settled wiring in the telephone on a concealed basis.

Maybe the next time I am there, I'll use neutral colored telephone wire and run it on top of the base boards. Shall have to check with the powers that be there.

The entire time I was there it was overcast, rainy and rather miserable weather. One morning I was



able to get out and walk. By checking my watch, I found out that the Texas highway #3 is just under 1 1/2 miles from the house. A round trip, plus a bit on the east side of Pineloch, made my 3+ miles.

Tigger is a love. I would like to have a cat -- if I could be guaranteed it would be like him. He spent a lot of time with me, i.e., in my lap, or near by watching me. Flower, the rabbit, did not excite me.

I am not a rabbit enthusiast.

Tuesday, while I watched CNN from Baghdad, one of the commentators said that this was his last broadcast as CNN was sending a charter flight to pick him and some others up to return them to Atlanta. As he was speaking, he stopped and said that he heard an explosion and some gun fire. He went to the window and then the air raid sirens went off and all hell broke loose. That was about 1810 CST (06:10 PM) and the beginning of the Gulf Police action.

I call it that as the UN authorized it and there has been not declaration of war that I know about. From then on I was glued to the TV set. I told Ginger several weeks ago, that I would like to be about thirty years younger and be aboard one of the ships out there.

She thinks I am crazy.

Actually, I enjoyed being shot at (but not hit).. It's a sensation like nothing else I have ever experienced. When you are young, you think you are bulletproof and immortal. I have since learned that I am not bulletproof and I'm inclined to believe my immortality is wearing thin.

BARD: He was a busy little bee. One of the vice presidents was there, plus Regional Manager, usw. for meetings. Bard was in charge of the arrangements, booze, rooms, usw. One evening, he brought in limes and lemons and I prepared them for drinks, slicing the limes and then peeling the lemons into strips for

Letters From Stacy

Martinis. Bard bought some Chivas Regal and I commented about getting something better. His rejoinder was, "That is what they want".

Melner Meinung nach, that is poor judgement on their part as there are so many better Scotches. I approved of the Absolut vodka and Jack Daniels bourbon. He didn't mention the gin and I forgot to ask. After the affair was over, Bard picked up the remaining booze and commented that the only bottle opened in the "social" room was the Absolut. The other bottles were unopened. Gad, how the company has changed. Before I retired, alcoholism was an employment hazard. Believe it or not, they actually subsidized "drying out" programs for management.

Oh well, the world turns, to coin a "new" phrase.

I inspected the 1966 Chevrolet Caprice that Ethel had. It is gorgeous. Bard has repaired the electric windows and channels; re-stained the vinyl top; cleaned and polished the interior; polished the exterior, and replaced missing molding. The non-GM parts on the engine have been replaced, and the front end rebuilt. There was all sorts of engine work done and it now purrs like Tigger and runs like a scared Flower (rabbit).

Friday afternoon, we left Houston and drove back with a load of shrimp. These had been de-headed and were about 15-20 count. They are, in my classification, two (2) or three (3) bite shrimp. I also brought back two (2) lovely flounders and a container of white, lump crabmeat for the stuffing after I de-bone the flounders (eventually).

PROMISES, PROMISES: About two weeks ago, I visited my Ear, Nose and Throat doctor and asked for a prescription covering hearing aids and a bill for his services, as I need them for filing with the medical coverage I have. The accounting department said they would take care of it but were busy, but I'd get it

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before the weekend. That Saturday, I had not gotten it and I left for Houston Sunday. When I returned, I was confident that it would be here. It was not and did not arrive on Saturday's mail. Pfui! Wonder how they would like it if I did their billing that way.

**LITTLE ROCK:** Bard spent the night and left early Saturday for Jackson, TN, to pick up Terri and the girls. They returned Saturday afternoon. Ginger fixed a delicious supper. Bard wanted chicken and dumplings and that is what he got. Ginger also boiled some of the shrimp I brought and they were superb as was the sauce. Ginger also prepared white corn on the cob plus other goodies. Lydia is only one and half years old but she eats corn on the cob like a professional. Ginger had prepared a cake for Bard's birthday (20 Jan). and he blew out his candles that evening (19th). He opened his cards and presents and had a very nice birthday. Unfortunately, they left early Sunday morning.

I had promised Mitch a bottle of my sherry, so I bottled it and sent it with Bard plus a package (large) of .38 spl. cartridges. Mitch tasted the sherry which I had given Bard and liked it. When I told Mitch that it came out of my five (5) gallon barrel, (made in 1981) his eyes sparkled, so I promised him a bottle. It is a GOOD cream sherry, in the event someone would like some.

**SUNDAY:** Bard, et al, have gone and Ginger went to church. I told her that I was going to clean up my correspondence, incoming letters, medical/medicare junk, and "stuff" like that while she was in church. I fixed Ethel's breakfast (orange juice, toast, bacon, a poached egg on toast, and coffee). I am having at the accumulated junque.

**COMPUTER:** Chris, very generously sent me *Norton Utilities* Version 5.0 and *Right Writer* just before I left for Houston. I shall copy them and return the disks. While I was in Houston, I purchased a

## Letters From Stacy

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paperback, *Norton Utilities 5, Instant Reference*. It is not as good as the Norton manual, but it is helpful and backs up my limited knowledge. Fortunately, these programs are very user friendly.

I have installed *Money Counts* which Bard had given me and will be setting up accounts, usw. Fortunately, it uses a data disk for storage as my storage space on the hard disk is now down to about 1.5 megabytes (1,500,000).

Just think that in my first computer in 1978, I had 48 kilobytes (48,000) and only ran out of memory once. How times have changed. I am searching for a hard card drive of about 40 megabyte (40,000,000) capacity. This will be drive "D" and give me a total of 60 megabytes (60,000,000) hard drive.

I can then have my Microsoft Windows, word processing (when it comes), Excel and the hDC programs on the 20 megabyte "C" drive and the rest of my programs, i.e., *Word Perfect Library*, *Avery Label Pro*, *Norton Utilities*, *ProComm* (for my modem), *Pakratt II* for my radio Packet and Fax equipment, plus room for my standby relaxation programs of Chess and Harpoon. Even with all these programs, I'll have quite a bit of room left for future expansion.

**REAR DECK ROOF:** Ginger told me that the adjuster arrived, checked it, climbed onto the house's roof, and then said he'd be back Monday with prices. It will be interesting to see what he comes up with. Ginger is talking about having the rear deck enclosed. I can see where my work is cut out for me.

Bill Dennis and I have talked about replacing the vinyl roof with a regular roof and asbestos composition shingles. I can cover the flooring with 1/2 inch plywood and a commercial floor covering. Naturally, this will be after it is enclosed with a door and insulated -- double-paned windows with insulation in the walls. This means I can put my

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breadmaker (when it arrives) out there. A wet bar just crossed my mind for that area. We'll cross that bridge after it is decided what type of enclosure will be done.

It surprised me that there have been no comments about the letter of Chief Seati and the environment.

**VEGETABLE GARDEN:** No word yet from Guy Beard re. rent for the garden plots at the old prison farm. I am, mentally, making plans for what I want to grow in 1991.

One thing is certain: I shall use Roundup to kill the bermuda grass growing around and IN my plot before I plant and probably use it judiciously, as the bermuda grass reappears.

Things which are locked .in (mentally): silver queen corn (3 staggered plantings,) Traveller 76 tomatoes (about 8-10 plants), Hale cantaloupe (6-8 hills), Sugar Babe watermelon (3-4 hills), Clemson okra (20-25 plants), purple hulled peas (50 feet), and lady finger peas, if I can find the seed. I have ordered a new French tarragon plant to replace the one in the back yard which died.

This is getting long, so I best close. Remember to take care, relax, enjoy life and that we love you.

*Affectionately,*  
*Stan*

26 Jan. 1991

Dear Mary Lee,

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:** Life can be and is beautiful, if only you try to enjoy it. Some people look at the doughnut, others at the hole. Some think that their plates are half empty and others know that they are half full. Life is your perspective and how you think.

A friend, a Presbyterian minister, once told me that he was not certain there was a hereafter, but he was confident that our heaven and hell were here on earth and it was what YOU made of it.

Speaking of religion, I was called Thursday evening and asked if I would accept the nomination of Elder. I hedged and said I would call back. Ginger wanted to know why I hesitated. I hedged again. I made several telephone calls, i.e., Park and he was out of town, Stewart and the line was busy (so what else is new?), and finally George Asbury, who I had "conned" into accepting the deacon nomination in 1989. He talked me into it, so I accepted. It will be interesting (I think).

**NEW TOY:** Friday, I went downtown and bought a Plus Development Hard Card for my computer.

It is a forty (40) megabyte card and will increase my hard disk memory capacity to sixty (60) megabytes. I have started transferring programs from the twenty (20) mega byte drive (C) to the forty (40) mega byte drive (D). I think I will wind up with about thirty megabyte of memory left (I hope). Ginger has



not seen the check book and doesn't know it as of now. As she "proofs" the newsletter, she will find out as of the last few sentences. She can call it my accumulated balance of Christmas and forthcoming birthday presents from the various people who send checks. Anyway, it is FUN!

Tony Hill told me that he checked with Sara ? of Microsoft and she said that she had turned in the request for the Microsoft Word for Windows to the "Free" gift department and she would follow it for what has happened. Don't hold your breath until it arrives as you would probably turn purple. Oh well, one of these days, it will arrive.

At the last computer club meeting, Jim Hain won a program, *Finesse*. I have no idea what it is or what it does. Jim offered me a copy and I told him that I'd be glad to have it. When I get it, I'll check it out. He just called and it is a desktop publisher. He has *Ventura* and *First Publisher*. He said that he will check it out, compare and advise.

**GARDEN:** They still haven't turned the plots at the old prison farm. It's been too wet. Stewart and I discuss what to plant. I realize that planting will be after danger of frost is past (mid April) but it is fun discussing it. Stewart has about talked me into planting a variety of melons, i.e., cantaloupe, crenshaw, casaba and sugar baby watermelon. He mentioned Persian melons, hybrid Honeyshaw (honey dew and crenshaws) and a Mediterranean melon called Gallicum which has greenish, sweet flesh. We'll hassle about these until planting time, having fun. Alien is not renewing his plot and I have talked with Marcia about applying for it. She is thinking about it.

**UGH, U.S. POSTAL "SERVICE":** They have announced that their lousy service will be twenty nine (29) cents per ounce effective February. How I wish there was a viable alternative. This means that I will



## Letters From Stacy

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have to get a bunch of four (4) cent Official Mail stamps for the Navy mail. Pfui.

**GEOLOGY:** This "Geology 4323" course is turning into a fun course. We are down to five (5) students (two graduate students and three undergraduates). Dr. Thurmond (John) announced that our first field trip will be 16 or 23 March and that we will be guides for the Geology 1410 (Physical Geology) students in conjunction with our trip. While they are milling around, oh-ing and aw-ing at the rocks, we will answer questions and do our thing, which is examining specific formations and looking for fossils, usw. It should be interesting.

We'll go to Blanchard Caverns and make about other six stops. We leave at 0800 and come back about 2000 (8 PM).

We chartered a bus for the trip. Ginger told me that she will probably be in Longwood with Jinx. I will leave Ethel with her breakfast and some sandwiches for lunch on that day. Supper will be late and will be fixed after I return home. There will be a total of three (3) field trips and I am looking forward to each of them.

I turned in my talk to Dr. Thurmond and he approved it as it was. It is about the geology around Lake Ouachita (Washataru). This is basically Ordovician, Devonian, Silurian and Mississippian in geologic periods. That is a mere two hundred fifty million (250,000,000) years).

The Allegheny mountains with the Ouachita mountains rose in the late Mississippian and early Pennsylvanian periods. If anyone is interested, I'll be glad to send them a copy of my one (1) page dissertation.

After writing it, I read the instructions and found out that it was supposed to be a half page. (When everything else fails, read the instructions). Dr.



Thurmond said that it was too interesting to cut. (He was kind). This half page does not compute as I am supposed to talk on the subject for twenty (20) to thirty (30) minutes. This is the first talk and I am "breaking" new ground for the class. Evidently, the half page is to tell them what I am going to talk about and then I "flesh" it out. I'll tell them what I will talk about and then I'll tell them what I am talking about and then I'll tell them what I talked about. That should fill out the time slot.

**ASTRONOMY:** This is turning into a fun course also. We are kicking around sidereal time, solar time, right ascension, declination and stuff like that. My old Navigation course (HO 211 and HO 214, taken in 1942) is coming back. Anyone know what a gnomon is?

It is nice to enjoy courses.

**REAR DECK ROOF:** The Adjuster called and said that he had checked it out and had gotten prices. He then gave me a figure which, after removing the deductible, was almost the price Bill Dennis had quoted me. I called Bill and he can't do it until the weather warms, i.e., late April, or early May. Ginger wanted to use the deck for a Horticultural Club plant sale, the first of April. I told her that I would remove the roof and "neat" it up for the sale. A solid roof with asphalt shingles will be the replacement. We are now talking screening it in and installing a screen door at the steps. You will be advised of the final (Ginger's) decision.

**REAR YARD:** I hope to get some of my chores done soon. This is the "planting" of the subterranean watering system for the roses, acidification of the blueberry patch, urea on the compost pile, and phosphate on the raspberry patch; pruning of the grape vines, blueberry bushes, plum trees, apple trees and the pear tree; Fertilization of the fruit trees, grape vines, strawberry patch, blueberry and

## Letters From Stacy

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raspberry patches. Turning of the backyard garden and fertilization is also looming on the horizon.

The Heritage raspberry bushes have not arrived yet, nor the Mars, Venus and Saturn seedless grape vines.

When I get Roundup for the prison farm garden plot, I intend to spray the run off channel behind the grapevines and beds at the rear of the yard. It is beginning to be overgrown with: weeds, poison ivy, hickory sprouts, wild strawberries and volunteer wild blackberries. A good spraying will, I hope, keep it clean for a few months.

**MASTER GARDENERS:** I got the word that I have the telephone duty on 1 Feb. 1000-1400 (10-2 PM). Cecelia Buck came by and brought me the rough draft of the February issue of the *Master Gardener News*. This is for me to keyboard into the computer and come up with a finished copy for photocopying.

1 February is the dead line for the *Navy Newsletter* which I edit, format and print (copy for NAS to duplicate and issue). It looks like that the next week will be busy.

This Monday (28 Jan) is a pruning lesson day. At 0900, there will be fruit tree pruning lessons and that afternoon at 1300 (1 PM) there will be blueberry bush pruning. Ginger, Marcia Holder, and I will be attending. We will get credit on our "due" time for attending. Not that I need it as my computer time has wiped out what I owe, except for the telephone time. As a matter of fact, I have MORE time than needed in the "other" category. I need twenty (20) hours of telephone time and nothing will credit it except actual telephone answering time.

**CUISINE:** Gourmet I is now reactivated. Nancy and Warren Boop will be the hosts. This is over and above our Gourmet club activities with Miki & Reg, Nancy, Ginger and me. Nancy called and said that



this supper will be German. Hasenpfeffer, usw. I understand that we are having the Roh Fleisch (beef tartar) on schwarz brot (black bread) with chopped onions and mustard. Delicious! Red cabbage and apples, dumplings and the rest of the good stuff with a Black Forest cake (Ginger). I hope we have good beer. I might even volunteer some of mine. It should be ready by then and if it samples out good, I'll offer it.

**PROPHECY:** Remember a few months ago, we were discussing the probability that Saddam Hussein would bomb Israel in an effort to get Syria, Egypt, usw to leave the attacking coalition?

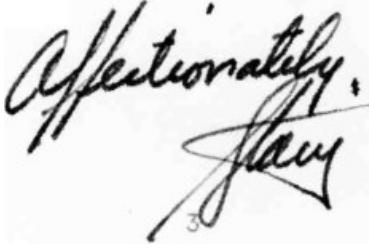
Well here is another prophecy: if Israel does retaliate, they will bomb the dams on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. These are upstream near the Turkish border and would do all sorts of damage to farm lands, towns including Baghdad and factories on these rivers. They would wait until the dam reservoirs are full (Spring) before doing it for maximum damage. One reason is that it would be a severe blow to Iraq, plus the fact that the US has taken out most of the "good" military targets.

Ginger is at CPR training.. It started at 0900 and will be over at 1700 (5 PM). I am here at the house doing odds and ends and feeding Ethel. I am recording the CD's Ginger likes on cassette tapes, so she can play them on her trip to Florida. ~So far, she has come up with eighteen (18) CDs! That is a HEAP of cassettes. I have cleaned up some of my German 90-minute tapes and am using them.

I had best close. Take care, relax, have fun, enjoy life, as we only go this way once, and remember that we love you.

## Letters From Stacy

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Affectionately,  
Stacy

*A gnomon is a time indicating pointer, i.e., the pointer on a sundial.*

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**10 February 1991**

Dear Mary Lee,

**SOMEONE MUST BE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT DEPT:** Today, Ginger and I have been married forty (40) years. How she has put up with me, I don't know. They have been wonderful and fun filled years.

I sincerely hope that each of you have as good a marriage with a similarly wonderful spouse. I had planned on taking her out to a wonderful supper with drinks, wine, and the trimmings, but fate intervened and Gourmet I is having their supper on 10 February. I plan on doing something to celebrate this forty years soon.

**LIFE GOES ON DEPT:** Friday, I received a package from Blossomberry Nursery. It contained the grape vines I had ordered: MARS, VENUS, SATURN and CELEBRITY. These are patented grape vines, developed by the U of AR Agriculture Dept at Fayetteville. They are seedless table grapes and are red -- except for Celebrity which is a blush (pink) grape. I have eaten some and they are delicious. The normal seedless table grape (Thompson white seedless, i.e.,) have a sugar content of about 10% These grapes run about 15% and are wonderful. The Celebrity runs about 20% and is a bit too sweet for me, but it would make wonderful jelly/jam. I planted them in the back yard at locations Ginger suggested.

Three (3) Heritage raspberry plants were in the package also and I planted them in the raspberry

## Letters From Stacy

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patch. I have tried them and they, if possible, are better than the Latham raspberries we are growing,

I have renewed possession of the plot at the old prison farm (\$25.00 payment) and have received the seeds I ordered from Nichols Nursery, i.e., Gallicum hybrid (honeydew and crenshaw), Persian melons, etc. I added these to the acorn squash, sugar baby watermelon, Hale cantaloupe, and Clemson okra seeds that I have. Hopefully, it will be a good, productive garden. I'll try to let you know what I plant and how it does.

**THIS WAS NOT MY WEEK:** If you don't like to read about multiple disasters, skip to the next section. In the order they occurred, (I think,) I was pruning the apple tree (S side of the back yard) on a six (6) foot step ladder, standing on the top rung, when it buckled and fell. I wound up with a limb under my left arm and another over my left wrist. I was afraid that it would break the arm, but luckily, I had a partial grasp on a limb with my right hand. I managed to worm my way out, then lost my grip and gravity took over. A few bruises and black/blue spots resulted.

I sprayed the fruit trees with a dormant oil spray and it then began to rain (washing off the spray).

The Sunbird's engine began skipping and I established that the #1 spark plug was not firing. I started to remove it and it wrung off, leaving the threaded portion in the cylinder head. I called around and either the repair shops wouldn't touch it, or the price was \$375+ to remove the broken plug. (My friend Jerry suggested a fellow and he did it for \$111.09 including new spark plugs and it runs better than it has in years)..

Ethel fell out of bed four (4) times Sunday afternoon and Dr. (Bobby) McGowan suggested that

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we take her to St. Vincent's (which we did). It turned out that she had a urinary infection.

I removed my contact lens and found that it was chipped. I took it by the manufacturer's and they smoothed the edge, but destroyed the bevel in removing the chip so it felt as if there was a hair in my eye. They couldn't restore the bevel, so a new one had to be made. The new one was of the wrong power and I couldn't read a newspaper. Back to the drawing board and another new lens had to be made. A day later I picked it up and AGAIN, it was the wrong power and the contour/bevel was wrong. I returned it, (mumbling dirty words in German). Friday, Sara called my prescription into another company. I picked it up and LO! it is the wrong power also.

Hell, I'm snake bit.

I went to the Computer Club meeting, pressed for time (riding with Stewart as my car was in the shop), and the meeting instead of ending at 1930 (7:30 PM) as it usually does, lasted to 2100 (9 PM). I had not eaten supper and Ginger thought that I had eaten there.

I called DAK regarding the autobakery Norm/Joan, Jinx/Chris and Bard/Terry gave me for Christmas. The word was that it was back ordered. I believe Jinx ordered it in early December, so???? Other than these problems and Ethel being in the hospital, the week was fine. I hope yours was better.

This week will be better. I KNOW THAT IT WILL and that's an order!

**GINGER:** She is dashing around like a whirling dervish; cleaning house, making a dress, working in the yard, usw. It is nice being young and full of vim and vigor. I can say that as I will be -- UGH!!!! -- seventy (70) soon. That is ridiculous. As you know, I never thought that I'd see thirty five (35) and so stated on many occasions. I almost didn't make it on



## Letters From Stacy

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many, many occasions, but dumb luck and a kindly guardian angel did the necessary and I made it. I feel that I have had thirty five years of pure extra life/good fortune. Enough of that.

**TRIVIA:** Do you know what SCUD (as in Iraqi missile) stands for? Sure Could Use Direction. Did you know that Israel is between Iraq and a hard place? (That's a pun, son).

My talk in Geology 4323 went well. The class is interested enough that it looks like we will have a "float" trip on a party barge around Lake Ouachita to observe these geologic items I spoke about. The Geology Club wants to attend also, so that will cut the cost.

**WEATHER:** I'm frustrated as it is supposed to be winter and the temperature is currently in the, UGH, sixties (60s). Ginger's daffodils are over four inches tall and there are buds. As previously mentioned, the annual snowtire and frozen daffodil festival is coming soon (probably in March). The only decent thing about it is that in the morning while I am walking, the temperature is about thirty two to thirty five (32-35 F). That makes for a nice brisk walk, I am sad to state that I have slowed down and my three and quarter mile walk now takes about forty seven/eight (47/48) minutes. Like a clock, I am unwinding. It was forty five minutes and that is a brisk walk. Oh well, I'm getting lazy in my old age.

**CUISINE:** There was a receipt for almond macaroons in the paper. I cut it out and will be making some, SOON. I hope they are as good as those I used to buy from Mama Worman at her delicatessen on Broad St. in Jacksonville.

**TRIVIA:** Did you know that delicatessen is German for *fine food/eating*?

Speaking of that, Big Jinks gave me the book, *The Frugal Gourmet On Our Immigrant Ancestors*; its sub-

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title is *Recipes you should have gotten from your grandmother*. It is full of excellent sounding receipts. There is a German onion pie which is like an onion quiche and is excellent. I'll make it one of these days. When I visit you, I'll bring it with me for your perusal and possible cooking.

**BEER:** The beer we (Chuck Bowlus, Jim Hain and I) made is now ready for consumption. Good. Chuck gave some to a Swiss friend who was visiting him and Barbara, and the consensus was that it was much better than American beer and as good as Swiss. Barbara said it needs more carbonation; Chuck's comment was that she had been in the States too long and had lost her Swiss/German beer taste.

**ATTIC:** That staircase I installed in the attic and the floor I laid has been a godsend. Ginger moved HEAPS of stuff up there. I don't know where it was, but it is certainly filling the attic space.

**GARDEN:** Ginger is working in the flower beds while I am writing this. She said we have nematodes in the garden, so we will have to do some crop rotating and not plant anything that attracts nematodes. After a year or two they die out if not nourished.

Looks like no tomatoes in the backyard garden this year. I'll plant them at the "farm" I planed on some Traveller 76 plants (tomato) and maybe some Rutgers. Looks like I'll be a tomato farmer out there with the other items. There is no question, but what this plot will be worked extensively. Unfortunately, there is a possibility that this might be the last year the county allows us to plant and grow vegetables there. There was a drive to convert it into Youth League baseball diamond and also to make a walk and park out of it. Time will tell.

**JINX:** I talked with Jinx and she indicates that she is ready anytime now, but she doesn't know when the

## Letters From Stacy

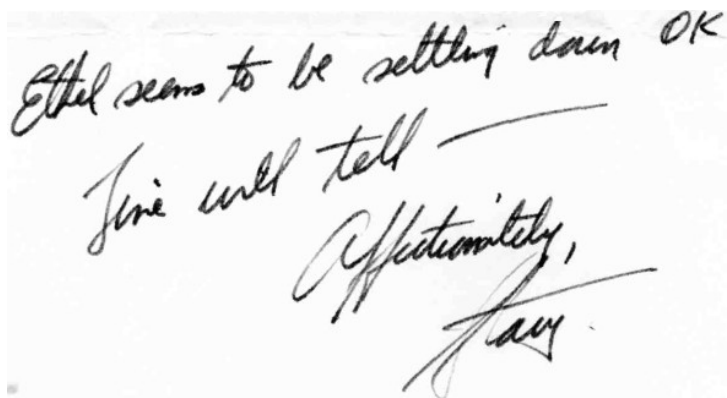
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baby will cooperate. The name has not been set in concrete yet. Jinx says she wants to look at the daughter before she names it. I believe that Ann is set for the middle name. The contenders for the first name are: Kursten, Christiania, Kaja and Dea. Yes, they are ALL Danish.

Unfortunately, I have lots of "stuff" to do, so I best close. If I think of anything else I'll add it.

**ETHEL:** Now that I have written her copy of the letter, I can advise that she is now in a Nursing home. One of the better ones and as I told Ginger, I have paid less/daily to stay in a Hilton Hotel. I suggest that you consider dropping her a note, Valentine card, or letter

Relax, have fun, enjoy life and remember that we love you.



*Ethel seems to be settling down OK  
Jinx will tell —  
Affectionately,  
Stacy*

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**15 February 1991**

Dear Mary Lee,

**IF I'M SO SMART, WHY DO MY LETTERS CRASH?** I had just finished a fine? three-page letter and I decided to run it through *Write Right* , a program to check grammar, phrasing, usw. I did and (sob) lost the letter by inadvertently wiping it out. Oh well, win some and lose some.

**WEATHER:** It was 24 Celsius Thursday (77 F) and Friday it was -6 Celsius (20 F) and with the wind chill factor, it felt like -18 Celsius (0 F). This is an example of the Arkansas saying, "If you don't like the weather, wait five minutes". Unfortunately, the blueberries, asparagus, daffodils, and many other plants had buds, blooms, or were swelling to leaf out. This will not help them in the least.

**BACKYARD:** The fruit trees are all pruned, as are the blueberry bushes, raspberries, grape vines, usw. The fruit trees have been sprayed and all that needs to be done is some fertilizing and putting ammonium nitrate on the compost pile. Ginger talked Park into letting us borrow the rota-tiller and Ginger started in on tilling the backyard garden. After about fifteen (15) seconds, she decided that it was too heavy and I fell heir to it. I tilled it so it was all completely turned over. Ginger removed what plants were left, so everything was turned, except the 2x6 foot area where the horseradish grows. I'll have to pull some and make some of the grated horseradish for Ginger to take to Chris --and keep some here.

## Letters From Stacy

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**JINX:** We talked with her and all is going well, but she is ready for the new daughter to appear. The new daughter is not ready yet, but Ginger is getting ready to go to Longwood. She has inquired about me going via Delta after she returns. This will "fatten" my Delta frequent flyer account. She checked and Delta is actually \$2.00 cheaper than US AIR who have been advertising their "cheap" rates. We have no idea when Ginger will leave, but I am thinking that it will be about the first of March as the OB/GYN told Jinx that she is about three (3) weeks from being full term.

Jinx told me she has a list of items for me to do. Nothing difficult, just a collection of items. I understand that when Chris saw it, he commented that when I saw it, I wouldn't come back. I think, repeat, think, he was kidding (I hope). Anyway, I'll get even by doing some of my cooking and that will balance the score. There are a few new receipts I want to try out and they can be my victims.

**CUISINE:** I bought a beef tongue Wednesday, boiled it, sliced it thinly, and placed the slices in a marinade of wine vinegar, garlic, lemon juice, sugar and raisins. This is Italian (Roman) tongue. It is served as an hors d'oeuvre, but Ginger won't touch it. The odd thing is that when she came in the house, she commented on the delicious odor, but when I told her what it was, it immediately became odoriferous. Can this be a prejudice?

**SOCIAL:** On Sunday, our fortieth anniversary, Gourmet I met at Warren and Nancy's home. When we got there, we found that we were guests of honor. They even sang songs for us regarding our anniversary. It was embarrassing, but fun. There were about 40 people, a good gathering. Much better than the one a year or so ago when the original Gourmet I fizzled out. This meant that I was unable to take Ginger out, but I'll do it soon. Someone signed us up as hosts for one of the forthcoming Gourmet meets. I

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believe it was Emily Means as she is a co-hostess with us. That should be interesting.

A few days later, I had a hankering for tamales, so I suggested we take the tamales Jim Main made and invite some friends over for tamales, chill and beer. We invited Park and Bettyjean, plus George and Joann. It was a very nice evening. Some of them even drank some of my latest beer.

**US POSTAL SERVICE:** This is not one of my favorite topics. On 1 Feb. 1991, I called and asked for copies of their poster 103, release 51 and 59, plus copies of their special bulletin re. Library rates.

I was told that they were not available as the rates were not in effect. This is typical Post Office logic as NO ONE would be wanting that information Sunday or early Monday morning before the Post Office opening. I called Monday and was told that these items were not available, but they would be sent to me when they arrived.

On Saturday 9 Feb., I received the poster 103. Monday, I called and was told that they were in the process of sorting out the revised literature and it would be mailed.

15 Feb., almost two weeks after the new rates have been in effect, I called again and was told that this information has not been received as yet, but it will be coming in soon. THAT IS POSTAL EFFICIENCY. They had no problem printing up the new stamps for additional postage, but information about the rates is something else. In other words, if you want it, go to the post office, stand in line and get it verbally. Off your soap box, Stacy!

**BIRDS:** I hung a bird feeder outside the south window in the den and have filled it with sunflower seeds. Small birds such as chickadees have found it and keep it in use. No sparrows or squirrels as yet. Just chickadees, finches, junkos, thrushes, and a

## Letters From Stacy

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lonesome mockingbird are using it. The chickadees are very attractive with their grayish bodies, black wings with white stripes -- nice to watch.

**MASTER GARDENERS:** There was a meeting Tuesday and the speaker covered Arkansas wildflowers with some interesting slides. While I was there I signed up for the balance of my telephone time (15 1/2 hours). I have more than I need of the volunteer-time. Due to my computer "knowledge" I have considerably more than the required twenty (20) hours. I happened to think that if I am computer knowledgeable, then I pity the computer uneducated.

Ginger bought me an alpine colored light-weight long-sleeved shirt. This is one of those with the Master Gardener logo and label on it, I'll wear it when I am working at the "farm" on the old prison farm.

**GEOLOGY:** I am getting things squared away so I can miss a few classes while I am in Florida. The Physical Geology class has their field trip on 16 March -- 23 March is the alternate day if it rains/snows or is iced out. We five students in Geo 4323 are the instructors on the field trip for seventy five (75), or so, students. The trip is to Blanchard Caverns and the five or six (5-6) geologic stops on the way back. As these are in desolate areas, we have to brown bag it. I'll take my knapsack with rock hammer, magnifying glass, a can of "OFF" for bugs, a few cans of something drinkable, and a few sandwiches. It should be a good trip.

**ANN:** We just received her letter and were very sorry to hear that Blair lost her baby.

This would have been their second daughter. It is always sad to lose a child. I hope to be able to visit Ann and Mike while I am in Longwood, but that is rather "iffy" at this time.

**GINGER:** She is making some of the best looking clothes that I have ever seen! I have seen some in



very expensive shops which do not compare to what she turns out -- She is talented!

It looks like we have nematodes in one or two sections of the garden. So unless she uses the north section only, we won't have tomatoes in the backyard garden. I plan on having about ten (10) or so tomato plants at the "farm".

Sixteen of the hot chili peppers seeds from the peppers George Asbury brought me from New Mexico are starting to poke their shoots above the potting soil I have under the "grow light".

**BOOKS:** I finished *Under Siege* by Coonts . Excellent. I recommend it. Several weeks ago, I recommended a book about a Galveston diver (I forget the author's name). I wanted to read more of his books, but senility set in. Pfui. If anyone remembers, let me know.

**DECEPTION:** I called DAK a few weeks ago and inquired about the auto-bakery. After much fumbling around, they gave me the order number and said that a shipment was coming in about 12 Feb.

I called 13 Feb and gave them the order number and was told that their shipment was in and my order would be shipped about 14 or 15 Feb. I asked if it could be shipped direct to Little Rock as it had been intended as a Christmas present.

The fellow told me that in November, they had gotten more than 40,000 orders for these auto-bakeries and he would be glad to ship it direct to Little Rock, if I'd give him the address.

I told him that it was for my father-in-law and gave him my name and address.

He said, "I'll be sure that it goes out as fast as possible". He apologized for not being able to have the forthcoming recipes mailed direct to that address as that was handled by another department.



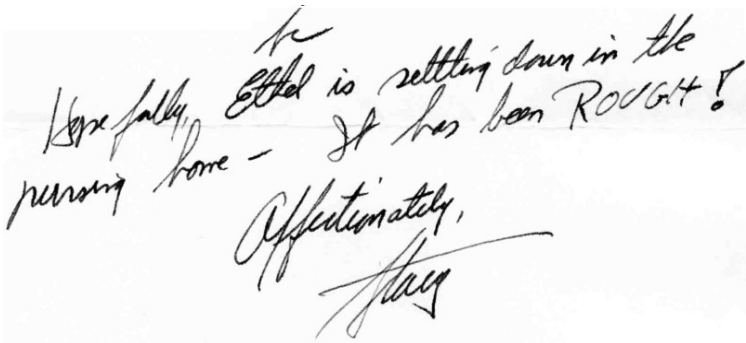
## Letters From Stacy

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At least Jinx/Chris will not have to re-ship it to me at additional cost. I will also get it about a week faster....

]Deception is the way to go.

This is getting long, so I had best close. Remember to have fun, relax, and enjoy life. We love you.



A handwritten note on a piece of paper, written in cursive. The text reads: "Kix fally, Ethel is settling down in the nursing home - It has been ROUGH!" followed by "Affectionately," and a signature that appears to be "Stacy".

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## Date Missing

Dear Mary Lee,

**NIEISEN REPORT:** I forgot to mention it in the last letter, but we were keeping diaries on the TV shows we watch for the Nielsen report. I did the paper work and hope I didn't slant it too much. I always wondered about these reports and now I know. FYI there is considerable paperwork with the diarys.

**GINGER:** She was very thoughtful and as we were going out to the Asbury's for my birthday dinner Sunday, she fixed a wonderful meal Saturday evening. I had an Old Fashion (booze, bitters, usw). and then she brought out some of the shrimp I bought in Galveston (boiled). I was only able to eat six (6) of them, due to the size. They were three (3) or four (4) bite shrimp. They were just a few sizes smaller than the rock lobster tails we used to eat in Jacksonville. Wonderful flavor with an excellent sauce.

Accompanying were fresh asparagus with a lovely cheese sauce, fresh corn on the cob, plus garlic-buttered French bread toast. Ginger commented that Joanna's cooking is typical mid-west (Iowa/Nebraska), and that cooking, while good, is, on occasions, jejune (gotcha!) (insipid/dull) so she made certain that. I had a good meal in the vicinity of my (UGH) seventieth (70th) birthday.

Ginger and I were pleasantly surprised by an excellent dinner at the Asbury's. It was a roast with potatoes and carrots plus an excellent salad followed by cake and ice cream. The only "defect" was the hot

## Letters From Stacy

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coffee which was the color of medium strength iced tea. Ginger commented later that my quip in a previous letter that you could read the date on a dime in the bottom of the cup certainly applied. As you know, my premise of coffee is: if you stand a spoon in the center of the cup, release it, and if it falls over, it is too weak. OR, if you can see the bottom of a teaspoon in coffee it is too weak. All in all, it was a good evening. George fixes excellent Martini's and he had some Boodles gin and Noilly Prat vermouth. He had Weller Bourbon and that is Ginger's favorite. After dessert, he brought out some schnapps, which set every thing off nicely.

**BIRTHDAY:** Believe it or not, the evening of 16 February, I was feeling rather depressed. I commented to Ginger about it and her diagnosis was that I was thinking about hitting the 70s.

She was right.

As Jinx pointed out when she called the next day, don't worry about age, you are as old as you feel, then she commented that some people are immature all their life. I didn't know how to take that one, i.e., generally speaking, or personally. I am confident that my favorite daughter meant someone else.

**JINX:** In her telephone call, she said she thinks the baby is due shortly as she had a bout of false labor, which did not last too long. She told us about the wonderful things the teachers in her school gave her for a baby shower. It was a luncheon at the country club and each of the grades got together and gave her a present. The parents of the children she taught last year were also there. An electric baby swing was one of the presents, as was a baby bath, baby oils, lotions, usw. The principle and the office workers presented her with a check for one hundred dollars (\$100.00). Jinx was so moved that she cried.



**COMPUTER:** I am in the process of placing programs on the new hard disk and I am now down to seven megabyte (7 Mb) on the "C" drive and fifteen megabyte (15 Mb) on the "D" drive. This is a total of twenty two megabytes (22 Mb) open out of sixty megabytes (60Mb).

The sad thing is that I still haven't finished adding programs. I thought that the additional drive would give me ample, never to be used, memory. Just call me foolish. You, obviously, immediately fit yourself into the added space, (financial, living, and COMPUTER).. So what else is new?

**BIBLE:** As you know, I do not argue or discuss religion. This is merely a discourse on why there is enmity between the Jews and Muslims. Do you know why, or when it started? Here goes: According to the Old Testament, God spoke to Abraham, who was seventy five (75) years old and told him that he would have a son who would found a new nation.

At that time, his wife Sarah was rather old also. For ten (10) years nothing happened, so Sarah told Abraham that she had an Egyptian slave she would give to him and maybe the slave could give him a child. The slave's name was Hagar.

Hagar became pregnant and had a son named Ishmael, meaning *Promise of God*. Hagar then told Abraham that Sarah was being mean to her as she had borne his child. Eventually, Hagar and the child ran off. They were located and returned to Abraham. He kept Hagar and Ishmael separated from Sarah.

About fourteen (14) years later, when Abraham was 99 years old, Sarah became pregnant and delivered a son named Isaac meaning *joy/laughter*, Hagar and Sarah had conflicts and then God spoke to Abraham telling him that if he sent Hagar and Ishmael away, Ishmael would found a new nation as He had originally promised, and Isaac, the second

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son, but from Sarah and Abraham, would also found a new nation as was the original promise.

Abraham told Hagar and Ishmael that they had to leave. Ishmael was fourteen (14) at the time and was very angry, cursing Abraham/Sarah and the Jewish tribe. He was angry as he was the first born, plus he would lose his inheritance. Hagar and Ishmael finally left. Ishmael founded a nation of Bedouins.

In 751, Mohammed was born. His father died when he was about a year old and his mother died when he was about six. His grandfather took him in and died shortly thereafter. An uncle took care of him and he became a camel driver. He later worked for a lady fifteen years older than he, whom he eventually married. He taught himself how to read and write. Later, he was visited by Allah who told him to write the *Koran* and convert the pagan tribes. In a few years, Mohammed and his followers conquered and converted (by the sword) an area larger than the Roman Empire at its largest.

In the *Koran*, Abraham is shown as the father of Ishmael, the first born and "true" inheritor of Abraham, and of the Jewish tribe. As a descendent of Ishmael, Mohammed had enmity toward the Jews and the forcing out of Ishmael. and the loss of the inheritance. Mohammed tolerated the Christians as he felt that Jesus was a prophet trying to divert the Jews from their erroneous faith. To sum up, the Muslims have been against the Jews since their founder, Ishmael, was driven away. This mid-East conflict is NOT new.

**NAVY NEWSLETTER:** I have been working on it for several days now and barely scratched the folder. There are six directives which are carry-overs from 1990 and have not been incorporated in the NTP-8(B) (Naval Technical Publication-8 (B)).



They want them put in the newsletter, so everyone will have copies. I have a five (5) page directive which just came out regarding security which has to go in, plus the articles turned in for publication (about eight (8), or more pages).

Ginger just told me that I should have been a female as I have been typing on this keyboard for days and would make a good secretary. When I finally finished it on Thursday, it has thirteen full pages, single-spaced, typewritten. Whee.

That is almost eight thousand (8,000) words. I was able to get it done and submitted before the stuff that I have to get set for the Master Gardener Newsletter arrived. I volunteered to do this as one of my duties as Master Gardener and it was stupid, stupid, stupid.

I must take stupid pills to cause me to do all of these stupid things. UGH!

**WEATHER:** This is ridiculous! One day the high is about four (4) Celsius (40 F) and the next day it is about twenty four (24) Celsius (75 F). Ginger's tulips, jonquils, daffodils are in bloom. The bushes, plants, and trees are budding and we haven't even had the annual Snowtire and Frozen Daffodil Festival yet (but it is coming soon).

Ginger and I spent the best part of several days cleaning up the fallen limbs, pine needles, pine cones and debris from the winter storm. The front and back yards were nice and neat. We have just had a wind storm, usw. and the place looks as if it has not been touched. Ginger has "asked" me to clean up the place as she has meetings, appointments, usw., so she can't do it. I agreed (did I have any other option)? Wednesday, I cleaned up the yard, picking up over three (3) wheelbarrow loads (five (5) cubic feet each) of limbs, pine needles, pine cones, usw, I put it all out for the trash collection.

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**GEOLOGY:** It is getting better and better each class. This class is about the geology of Arkansas which is very interesting., diverse and complicated. I can see where I will, I hope, take a few trips around Arkansas to view, visit, and explore these interesting formations.

**ASTRONOMY:** This class is OK, but the professor gets off onto religion vs. science tangents and that, meiner Meinung nach, is boring. The last few classes have been on things like Galileo vs. the Church, the Church vs. Science in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Dull, dull, dull. Yes, it is a phase where Astronomy was "suppressed/coerced" or what have you, but I wanted to learn Astronomy not an aspect (prejudiced)? of Astronomy harassment. Off your soap box, Stacy!

**BARD:** He called and we had a nice chat. All is going well in Houston. I could hear the girls in the background. We discussed cartridge reloading (and job changes).

**NORM:** I received a very nice birthday card from him enclosing a picture of Allison and Norm at the beach. This was evidently taken on Johns Island when they visited Joan's parents. Allison is certainly getting big.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Ginger has been checking on airline reservations for me when I visit Jinx and Chris. We have just about settled on Delta and that will increase my frequent flyer total.

On a hunch, I called Amtrak regarding travel to Orlando. They told me that it was a two (2) day trip, (taking a short cut via Chicago, Washington & Charlotte) to Orlando from Little Rock; and the round trip would be \$256 which is much better than airline. I knew that this was "Coach," so I asked what round trip Pullman would be. After a pause, they told me \$642, I don't know why, but I said, "That is the total

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fare and round trip?" They replied, "No, just Pullman, the total fare is \$998," Ugh! Almost \$1,000.00 plus four (4) days of meals on the train. That is a tad expensive. Yes, I am NOT, repeat, NOT going by train.

**MASTER GARDENERS:** Friday from 0800 to 1200, I was at the County Extension Office helping the inexperienced new Master Gardeners on their telephone duty. Janet told me that she was short of experienced help and as I had done four and half (4 1/2) hours of it on 1 February with no help or instruction and she had gotten compliments on some of my "messages", she wanted me to help the inexperienced ones Friday. Flattery will get you everywhere, so I agreed. It was relatively uneventful. We had about twenty (20) calls in the four (4) hours.

**MAJOR MIRACLES:** I called DAK and was told that the auto bakery was shipped 19 February and it should arrive in four or five (4-5) UPS working days.

I was called by Tony Hill and he asked me to pick up the *Word for Windows* which had arrived Thursday. I am about to put it in my computer and HAVE FUN! Stewart has *Microsoft Excel*, which is a spreadsheet program and he suggested that we make copies of each program and swap copies. It looks like I'll be using Excel shortly. Anybody want/need either program? If so, let me know,

**CUISINE:** I am growing bean sprouts from Mung beans. They are doing nicely. Ginger invited Park and Bettyjean over for dinner. We are having fried chicken and I intend to open the bottle of Tokay which I bought in 1980 for my birthday and never got around to opening. It is a 1976 vintage, so I better get with it before it goes bad.

**LEGISLATURE:** The State Legislature is in session. As Otto von Bismark said, "Legislature is like sausage, it is best not to watch it being made".

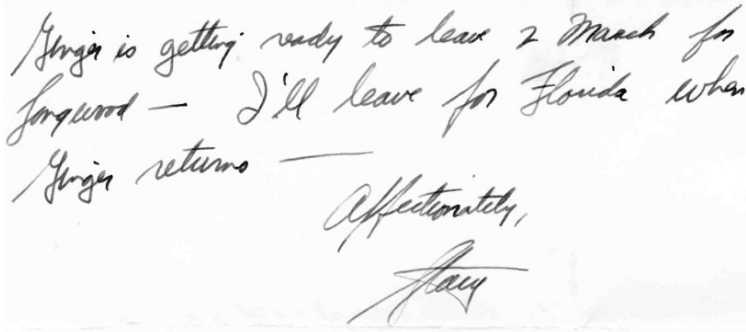


## Letters From Stacy

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As Daniel Webster said, "The farmers are quiet in the fields and the women are crying in their kitchens; the legislature is in session and we know not what will happen".

This is getting long, and I know that you are getting tired of hearing that in every letter. Just remember to relax, have fun, enjoy life and remember that we love you.



*Georgia is getting ready to leave 2 March for  
Longwood — I'll leave for Florida when  
Georgia returns —*

*Affectionately,  
Stacy*

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**3 March 1991**

Dear Mary Lee,

**GOOD NEWS/JINX:** By the time you receive this, all of the girls will have a new cousin.

Friday evening at about 2200 (10 PM) Jinx called and said that she was having contractions about seven (7) minutes apart. She wanted to know when Ginger was leaving for Longwood. We had guests and Ginger had just commented that as I had done the entire meal including the hors d'oeuvre, she would do the dishes and clean up. That telephone call changed everything as Ginger immediately started packing and putting things in the suitcases she had me get down from the attic.

Miki and Reg understood the urgency and took their departure. (More on this later in this letter). We went to bed with the alarm set for 0600. I awakened at 0400 and couldn't go back to sleep and then at 0500, Jinx called and said that she had gone to the hospital at 1200 and then at 0300, they sent her home.

After that call, we decided to get up. I packed the car, checked all the items, i.e., windshield washer fluid, brake fluid, power steering fluid, and I then took the car to the filling station and topped off the gas tank (gas has now gone down to \$1.03-9 for the 89 octane) and checked the air in the tires .

Upon returning home, I found Ginger was almost ready and I fixed her a ham sandwich on the homemade bread, and put together a few "goodies"

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like a hard boiled egg, dried apricots, bananas, and ice chest for cokes, usw. This was put into her car with the road maps and Ginger left at 0729 for Longwood. I am writing the letter and getting ready for: cleaning the house, watering the plants, doing the clothes and "stuff" like that.

Charline and Roy called while I was on the Navy nets and I passed the word regarding Jinx and Ginger.

**NEW PROGRAM:** (This was the first paragraph until the call from Jinx). The program *Word for Windows* arrived Wednesday and I have been hacking away at it, trying to learn how to use it. The fact that I have been using *Word Perfect* for numerous years, is not helping as I automatically do what I would do with *Word Perfect* and

99.9% of the time, it is WtOllg! As you can tell.

The nice thing about this program is the ease with which I can change fonts (printing types). It is taking a bit of "getting used to," but I am confident that I'll become familiar with it (eventually). if anyone would like to have a copy, let me know and I'll do the necessary .

**LUibINL:** I have been growing some bean sprouts from Mung beans and they finally were well developed, so Ginger asked what I was going to do with them and when. As she had planned dinner for that evening, she suggested that I do the "necessary" for the next evening. As we owe Miki and Reg dinner, I called and invited them for drinks and dinner. I planned on having; bacon-wrapped water chestnuts for hors d'oeuvre, eggs fu yung (to use the bean sprouts,) plus hot and sour soup with rice and an unusual Chinese dessert, i.e., Mandarin oranges in a clear tapioca based "soup".

To make this "soup", I simmer tapioca about fifteen minutes in an excess of water and the tapioca dissolves. I add sugar, Mandarin oranges, (plus juice)

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and a bit of lemon juice to pick it up. I broke out the Oolong tea which I had purchased in San Francisco and the Chinese cups, bowls, usw.

While I was doing this, I baked bread in the AUTOBAKERY which had arrived Tuesday! (More on this later). I had already made a loaf of bread and I thought it was absolutely delicious. Ginger's comment was that it was good but chewy. As you know, I love European bread which is chewy as all get out. I promised to use less flour/more water/or something to reduce the "chewiness". That is what I baked during the Chinese episode. The loaf fell! There might be a message there.

Jinx tells me that they made some raisin/cinnamon bread and it was delicious. They added more raisins and cinnamon than the receipt called for so I'll do the same.

**bUtjlb\*** Tuesday, Ann and Jim James flew in from San Francisco on their way to Hanover, NH. We picked them up Tuesday at about noon and spent the day talking and getting current on their children. We took them to see Ethel. Ginger had just arranged for Ethel to have a permanent and her hair fixed and it looked good.

Ethel certainly doesn't look like she is ninety five [95] (almost ninety six [96]) She was glad to see the James and when they asked her how she like it there, she said that she was there because we did not want to take care of her!

As you know, I have recovered from my back problems caused by lifting Ethel up off of the floor, but Ginger still has problems from the same lifting. She has gone to the Orthopedists for X-rays and checking out, as her back is certainly bothering her. It has not gone away as mine has and I (we) are concerned about it. Anyway, we spent time there until it was time for Ethel to go to supper.

## Letters From Stacy

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Ann and Jim, both said that this is the best place for Ethel and that she is getting more and better attention/care than what we could give her. As usual, Ginger prepared an excellent meal: baked Petit Jean ham, fresh white corn on the cob, home-canned string green beans, and a freshly baked pound cake with ice cream. It was definitely a low cal meal. We stayed up to about 2300 (11 PM) talking then went to bed as we had to get up at 0600 to take them at 0715 to their flight which was leaving at 0830. It was most enjoyable to have them here and to hear about all of the children,

uv Kiru/ "nniMPC".

**MY IMt.W IJUIMU:)** . On Sunday, 24 February, I was elected to be an Elder for the class of 1994. I told Ginger that it completed the cycle as I have been a Deacon in Jacksonville and Towson, and then Trustee in Towson and now an Elder in Little Rock. That is all of the elected positions in the Presbyterian church. And to think that it hadn't been for Ginger, I wouldn't have been a Presbyterian.

As a result of this election, I am going to terminate my position on the Bi-Racial committee as it meets on the first Tuesday evening of each month and that is also when the Session meets. I was thinking about resigning when my term ended in May 1991, in spite of the School Board telling me that I was going to be reappointed to another three (3) year term. I need that like I need another hole in my head. I have closed out my services at the Stewpot (after about six, or so, years). Little by little I am closing out my various activities and spending more time with the home projects, i.e., gardening, taking care of my fruit trees, shooting, reloading, tending the bees, playing with my computer, and working in Navy MARS.



**HAI/K YAKU]** Ginger used part of the gift certificate I gave her to buy two patented roses. *Mr. Lincoln* and *Queen Elizabeth*. I was then "volunteered()?" to dig two new holes for the rose bushes. Ginger transplanted two rose bushes into the bed on the north side of the yard. It involved digging them up and replanting and then planting the two (2) new rose bushes in the rose garden. The roses in the rose bed are now nicely aligned (one of the transplanted ones was out of line/position).

Ginger has not tried the new underground irrigation system I installed in the rose bed. Maybe she will one of these days. As an aside comment, I hit ROCK about six (6) inches down when I was digging in the north border bed. (For the non-esoteric, the house is oriented N/S, E/W with the front facing due west. Our bedroom is on the north side. and the den is on the south side.

That reminds me, Ann said that our dining room is larger than the one they have in Hanover in the SEVEN [7] bedroom house. As you know, their home was a former FRATERNITY HOUSE at Dartmouth.

I was going to dig horseradish and have some good fresh grated horseradish. I dug what I thought was an old root and it was one which I had dug previously and was re-growing. I tried four more places with the same results, so it appears that I have dug, grated and disposed of all of the available horseradish, so I'll have to either wait until it grows again, buy some horseradish root, or (UGH) use some of the inferior store bought stuff.

Ginger planted herbs (basil, usw). in the "hot bed box" which I had made for the back yard garden. The perennial herbs are doing well (sage, rosemary, oregano thyme, chives, plus the garlic and leeks).

I am, impatiently, awaiting the time for me to start the "farm" garden at the old prison farm. Due to

## Letters From Stacy

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the weather (rain, cold, usw). the plots are not harrowed or marked. They have been disced and turned. But then it got wet(er)? Charlie Calkins and I planned to turn his plot and mine on 15 or 16 February, but they were not ready. One of these days, maybe, they'll be ready.

The red chili pepper seeds I planted in pots have sprouted. I thought I planted sixteen (16) seeds, but I have seventeen (17) shoots. If anyone wants some of these seeds, let me know as I have plenty and they are GOOD (and hot) peppers.

The fruit trees are budding and will be flowering soon. That means that I'll need to spray some of the terramycin on the pear and apple trees to ward off fire blight. I promised myself that I will adhere to the spray schedule this year, come rain or shine (especially rain!)

You can understand why I am wrapping this up early?. Take care, relax, have fun, and enjoy life. We love you.

*I miss Gigi already!  
I'll be coming to Florida when  
Gigi returns - I hope to see  
you then  
Affectionately,  
Stacy*

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**9 March 1991**

Dear Mary Lee,

**ROBIN ANNE:** By now, all of the family (and some of you) have heard about the new addition, Robin Anne. She arrived 2 March, 1230 EST, and weighed in at 7 pounds 2 ounces, and a height of 21 inches. (For the esoteric, that is 3.2 kilogram and 53.5 centimeters).

Just for the record, isn't the metric system MUCH easier? I wish the U.S. of A. would get off their (your know what) and get on the metric system like the rest of the world (except for Liberia).

Back to Robin Anne, she has brown hair (naturally) and blue eyes. According to Ginger, who should know, she is the most beautiful baby in the world. I am looking forward to introducing myself to her in the near future.

**SOCIAL:** As Ginger does not like German food, I decided to catch up on it. As most of my preparations are too much for one person, I decided to invite some of my friends over for dinner. I first decided on the menu and then wondered who it would fit. The menu is: marinated cucumbers and onions in sour cream with vinegar; bratwurst cooked in REAL sauerkraut (not canned) with wine, caraway seeds and grated potato; zweibelkucken (onion quiche); homemade pumpernickel bread; hisse kartoffel und speck salat (hot potato and bacon salad); plus home made wine and/or beer; with German dessert pancakes coated



## Letters From Stacy

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with cinnamon/sugar, sprinkled with kirchwasser (cherry brandy) and filled with preisselbeeren jam.

I have not found any preisselbeeren jam as yet, so I might have to use the alternatives which are cooked apples, chocolate sauce or lingonberry jam.

I then asked myself, "Who would like this?" (besides me!). I decided on two couples and was wondering which of the two I should invite, when I decided, what the hell, why not both? I then called Terry Hain and she was very receptive to the idea and said that she might even bring Jim, if he was good the balance of the week. I called Milki and Reg and they were delighted. (I had mentioned German food at church and Reg's eyes lit up) so that was an easy selection.

It is now Tuesday and I have the bratwurst and sauerkraut from Aletter's. I have one point one kilo (2.5 pounds) of sauerkraut and one (1) kilo of bratwurst (2.2 pounds). This sauerkraut came out of a barrel and is LOVELY! I have the cucumbers (very thinly sliced) and the onions (also thinly sliced) soaking in salt water, getting ready for the sour cream, usw. There will also be a green salad using the leaf lettuce Ginger has in the refrigerator. In any event, it should be interesting. I'll let you know how it came out.

**GINGER:** I talked with Ginger Thursday morning (6:45 CST-which was 7:45 EST) and awaken Jinx, for which I apologize. I was checking on a few items with Ginger and she asked me how good the masseur was at the Club. I told her that he was excellent and why? She told me that her back, which she had injured when she tried to pick up Ethel (immediately prior to us taking her to the hospital), was still most painful. As you know, I messed up my back also at that time, but mine eased off; maybe I am too mean for my back to bother me.



Anyway, Ginger told me that she could not bend to pick up something and it was very painful to try to bend over or to twist her back. She was wondering about a chiropractor or a masseur. (She had seen an orthopedist prior to leaving Little Rock and the X-rays showed nothing). It is obvious (to me, anyway) that she has pulled a muscle(s) in her back when she tried to pick up Ethel and it/they have not healed. I suggested the masseur, followed by a hot (emphasis on HOT) sauna to loosen up her back and then tender loving care. I hope she is MUCH better by the time she reads this.

**ONUS:** I don't know why I classify the Bi-Racial Committee position as an onus, but I do/did. I finally took the bull by the horns and resigned from the committee 5 March. It meets on the first Tuesday of every month and special meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month. The Session meets on the first and third Tuesdays, so there was a conflict. As my term was expiring May, 1991, even though they had told me that I was being re-appointed for another three (3) years, I decided that enough was enough and I had done my duty, usw.

My resignation is effective this date. I feel as if I had a thirty pound pack taken off my shoulders.

**PROBLEMS:** It seems they come in bunches like bananas.

I've mentioned that the catch holding my watch to the chain had broken and was being repaired. Sunday afternoon I took out my watch and it slipped out of my hand (numb fingers and all that) and fell onto the rug. It did not damage the watch other than the crystal bezel popped off and the crystal fell out of the bezel.

Monday, Wirt was closed and he does all of my watch repair since Doc Stewart died, so I took it to him Tuesday. He immediately put it back in. Cecil

## Letters From Stacy

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called and said that the chain was ready and I got it and attached it to the watch and life was normal and beautiful again.

Remember when Ginger and I were entering Washington from Oregon, or Oregon from California, and we stopped at the Welcome Station and then the car wouldn't start due to the timing belt breaking? Well, these belts are good for about 30,000 miles and it broke at about 30,000+. I have put another 30,000+ on the odometer and GUESS WHAT?

You are 100% correct.

I called Wayne at West End Garage, who did the wonderful and relatively inexpensive job on the wrung-off spark plug. He has a wrecker and a timing belt and handled it for me. (There was no wrecker charge). He also replaced the defunct windshield wiper washer pump which had stopped on me. He told me that the entire job would be done in about two and half hours and it was! Fun and games will never cease.

**ODDS AND ENDS:** A wonderful letter arrived from Jim and Ann James. One of his comments was that he didn't understand what *uzw.* was. Obviously, he does not speak/read German. I thought everyone knew it stood for *und zu wieder* (and so forth). Anyway, he said how much they enjoyed the visit, viewing the house and yard, and seeing Ethel. They hoped to return some time when everything was flowering/blooming/bearing. I certainly hope so -- \$.00n. As you can tell, I am enjoying using this new program and switching fonts around.

Since writing this letter, a letter arrived from Ann James and it was most welcome. She was telling us (Ginger) what she was planning on doing: sewing, cleaning woodwork and stuff like that. The trip back was good and uneventful. They are glad to be home.



Bill Dennis came out Monday and gave me a "items needed" list for the rear deck roof. He says that when he returns from Chicago, St. Louis, usw., he will give me a call and, if the weather is good, start working on the roof. In the meantime, I am to: remove the roof gutter, remove the old roof plating board (2x4) which is attached to the house's brickwork and remove everything from the deck. Whee!

He is having fun telling me what to do after my being his boss for about ten (10) years.

**MIKE:** Wednesday morning at 0715, I received a call from Mike. It was wonderful talking with him again. We chatted for twenty minutes and he brought me up to date on things. He is currently talking with several airlines about a pilot's job. Alaska Air Lines offered him a job previously, which he declined but now is reconsidering. Seattle is a long way from Pensacola and his old stomping grounds. I hope to see Mike and Ann while I am in Longwood. I passed the word about Robin Anne/Jinx and Chris. When Mike drives to Jupiter, he may them a call and pop in for a cup of coffee and a chat.

**MASTER GARDENERS:** Janet just called and said that Hocott's wanted a Master Gardener, or two for their forthcoming flower/vegetable sale. She asked if I would go and do the necessary (answering questions on the vegetables). I told her that I would. It is 1000-1200 this Saturday (the one just past, when you receive this). Janet said that Hocott would probably give me a gift certificate (which I will pass on to Ginger).

On Thursday, I had the telephone duty from 0800-1200 as the Master Gardener "on tap" for questions. It was not too bad as there were only eleven (11) calls and most of them were relatively simple (last year, I would have been stumped by most of them).

## Letters From Stacy

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They had gotten more seeds in for distribution to those who wanted them, so I picked up a quantity of: Jubilee watermelon, Hales jumbo cantaloupe, Clemson spineless okra, bush Lima beans, Kentucky wonder pole beans, purple topped white turnips, and iceberg lettuce. If I am going to use all of these seeds, I'll need to get another plot. (I plan on sharing with my gardening friends).

While at the Extension Office, Mrs. McKinney told me that they had not posted any time for the Master Gardeners since I wrote the program in January. It seems that Anne Borg was supposed to but she left, and the folder has just lain there and gotten "fatter". She asked if I would consider foregoing my telephone duty next Thursday and just handle the computer and enter the pending time records. I told her that if she would get someone to hold down, I would be glad to. She snickered and said that "someone" would do it and she would see to it as Janet was looking at her regarding entering the time records. I'm confident that I know what I'll be doing next Thursday.

The plum trees are in full bloom and a solid mass of white blooms. The pear tree and the apple trees are swelling and will be blooming soon -- that means terramycin spraying shortly. I have checked the blueberries and they have leafed out. The raspberries are beginning to swell,, so they will be leafing shortly. The fig tree is just starting to show tips of green on the end sprouts. The Nelson's apricot tree (across the street) has bloomed and the blooms are almost gone with green apricots forming. (Just in time for the annual Frozen Daffodil and Snowtire Festival).

Nothing as yet on the grape vines. They are usually the last to leaf out. I am checking almost daily the new patented grape vines; Venus, Mars, Saturn and Celebrity, and the red seedless table grapes. They should be the last one out as they have been

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transplanted, which slows them down. I shall advise the progress.

**ETHEL:** I realize that this is late, but her birthday is 11 March and she will be ninety six (96). ... She has been asking for a box of Whitman's Sampler ever since Valentine's Day. The stores here have been sold out, but I am checking daily and when they re-stock, she will get a box.

Since writing this, I checked and bought her a box of Whitman's and took it to her on Wednesday. She has been having a lot of visitors; Park and Bettyjean brought her a vase of spirea and jonquils, George and Joanne took her a package of Crunch. She had given one of the nurses money for three (3) boxes of Fiddle Faddle, I had brought some mint patties and the box of Whitman Sampler. No wonder she is gaining weight. According to the nurses, she has the best appetite in Briarwood (and that doesn't include the candy).

**DR. BOWLUS:** Chuck called and we are going to bottle beer Friday. He says that he has ten (10) carboys of beer working. Gad, but he has certainly been carried away with the program. I showed him how to brew beer in January and now look -- I've created a monster. That is rather like me and the autobakery. I am trying all sorts of receipts with it. Cinnamon rolls are on the pending list.

**BARBERRY LANE:** I miss Ginger. I am cooking and trying to utilize the items she had in the refrigerator when she left, i.e. strawberries, asparagus, leaf lettuce, baked ham, usw. I have used the strawberries on my noon-time yogurt and I had some of the asparagus, steamed and buttered, Wednesday evening. I have put a good dent in my supply of Italian sausage (which Ginger does not care for too much) and gnawed quite bit of the cinnamon/raisin bread which I made. I finished the left over batter/vegetables (eggs fu yung) from the

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Chinese dinner. The refrigerator is getting back to normal.

**GNOMES:** I have been vacuuming the steps and the floor. I don't know who is tracking the dirt as I clean my shoes before coming in. I happened to be doing some yard work near the grape vines when I saw Knute, brother of Kris and husband of Ingeborg.

He asked why I was so down cast (the Gnomes are very perceptive regarding moods) and I mentioned the mysterious tracked in dirt. He motioned to me to come close, looked around when I did, and then quietly told me the following:

It seems that the Nordic males (men/boys of Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, German and Dutch heritage) had a curse put on them by a disgruntled troll who was a friend of the Nibelungen dwarfs. As you know, the Nibelungen have magical powers (remember Wagner's Ring of the Nibelungen with the magical curses in every one of the series)? Anyway, back to the curse. He told me to go into the house with him and he followed me in -- which is a very positive demonstration of his friendship for me, as Gnomes almost never go into houses. After we were in and standing in the foyer, he said to look and see if there was any dirt/mud/debris anywhere on the steps or floors. I looked and there was none. He then told me to close my eyes and think about going out into a muddy part of the yard and then coming into the garage, cleaning my shoes (per Ginger's instructions) and then walking into the house and climbing up the steps to the foyer.

I did and then Knute told me to open my eyes. I did. He then instructed me to look at the clean steps and downstairs floor. THEY WERE MUDDY!

Knute explained that the curse entailed thoughts. What the thoughts were, regardless of who created them, if they involved dirt, etc., they would be true in

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spite of anything that the male Nordic could do. I asked if this meant that in spite of my shoe cleaning and even swapping shoes and not wearing outside shoes in the house, it would still happen. Knute sadly nodded his head and said that he was most sympathetic as male Gnomes had the same curse and there wasn't a thing we could do about it except suffer the comments from our outraged wives for tracking in dirt.

Needless to say this certainly shot down my day, but it explained why the dirt appeared. It was comforting to know that I didn't do it, in spite of appearances. I realize that this fact will not be believed by anyone except the gnome males and possibly some Nordic males. Oh well, you can't win them all.

I had best close on this and get with my chores. Yes, I am making the bed every day (last one out of it makes it) and sweeping/vacuuming in the house, upstairs and down. This is addition to my classes, Elder training/readings, Master Gardener, and other items. Maybe I should not have retired. I worked less then, than I do now, or so it seems.

Take care, relax, have fun and remember that we love you.

*It is rather hectic here —  
See you soon —  
Shary*



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**15 March 1991**

Dear Mary Lee:

**CHIP:** I talked with Chip Monday and he told me wonderful news: he is a grandfather and Big Jinks is a great grandmother. This is their first.

Karen and Pete had their first child, a boy -- nine (9) pounds twelve (12) ounces, and twenty one and half (21 1/2) inches. Normally, this would be converted to metric (as I believe in it) but I won't in this case. In my excitement, I forgot to ask Chip what his grandson's name is. I am confident that he or Big Jinks will advise shortly, if she hasn't told Ginger or Jinx by now.

I know Karen and Pete are glad that the Navy shipped Pete back to Mayport in February for the trial where Pete was the investigating and arresting officer of the sailor off of the *USS Stark* who raped and murdered a woman and then killed her daughter who witnessed the murder. Otherwise, Pete would still be on the *USS Saratoga* (CV-60) in the Red Sea.

Pete is lucky that way: he met Karen and they were married and then he drew duty in Mayport and made a name for himself with his investigations in Naval Intelligence. I hope to see them when I get to Florida and run to Jacksonville for the check up on the house, usw.

**SOCIAL:** The "soul" food supper went well. Everyone praised the German food and the home made beer. Reg commented that he thought it was

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some of the best beer that he had ever drunk. I mentally, agreed with him!

The item which went over the best was the German dessert pancakes. They measure twelve (12) inches in diameter and are similar in texture to French crepes. They are made with a thin batter which is basically six (6) eggs, a pint of milk, and about one and half (1 1/2) cups of flour, plus sugar, salt, usw. After the pancakes are cooked, fresh lemon juice is squeezed on them, and then they are dusted with sugar and cinnamon, smeared with preisselen berren (lingonberry) jam and then rolled up and stuck with toothpicks. They are then again dusted with sugar and cinnamon. The final touch is splashing with Kirschwasser (cherry brandy) which is then ignited and the plates served. That is dessert for ONE (1) person.

I cooked the pancakes, Miki (due to borderline diabetes of Reg) dusted the sugar/cinnamon and smeared the jam. Terry squeezed the lemon and splashed the Kirschwasser. Schnapps followed this dessert and we all relaxed in the den. We started at 1800 (6 PM) with drinks, supper at 1900 (7 Ph). Miki and Reg, regretfully departed at 2230 (10:30 PM,) and Terry and Jim left a little after 2300 (11 PM).

I started the dishwasher, stacked the remaining dishes in hot soapy water and went to bed. You won't believe this, but I arose at 0600, unloaded the dishwasher and reloaded it with the remaining dishes, ran two (2) loads of wash, and started the dryer. These were clothes, napkins, jzw. Yes, Ginger, I separated the whites from the colored and dark clothes. While the dryer was going, I visited Ethel, taking her the *TV Guide* and the presents/cards which had arrived for her birthday. At 1000, I left to change my clothes for church and to eat breakfast (which I had not gotten around to).

## Letters From Stacy

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Tuesday was Prayer Breakfast and my usual crew cooked and all went well. Gaston was unable to make it because a construction crew came in to work in his office. He had to be there when they arrived. The menu was: orange juice, soft scrambled eggs, yellow grits, toast, jam, bacon and coffee. We are being relieved next Tuesday by Bruce Campbell, Frank Hamlin, and some volunteers I do not know.

Wednesday, I had supper with Bettyjean and Park. Michael and ???, the grand daughter, were there visiting. Bettyjean fixed a lovely supper: Kentucky ham sautéed just right, red eye gravy on biscuits, carrots, salad and potatoes. Later, I'll advise what else occurred on Wednesday.

Park fixed me two (2) lovely Martinis and all was right with the world.

**GEOLOGY:** Saturday was the field trip for beginning Geology students. Dr. Thurmond had asked us to help him on the trip. I left home at 0715 with my field bag (rock hammer, magnifying glass, boots, coffee thermos, brown bag of sausage sandwiches and a peanut butter/jam sandwich, plus an apple, and a Geology booklet on the North Arkansas Ordovician, Mississippian and Pennsylvanian areas.

We left at 0800 and as we drove off the campus, one of the students hollered and sure enough there were two (2) late students running after us. We left with forty two (42) which was four (4) short of the "signed up" students. We made Blanchard Caverns by 1100 and spent one and half (1 1/2) hours touring it.

It is spectacular, a "living" cavern. The stalactites and stalagmites are still growing as the cavern is kept closed by air tight doors and the humidity remains constant (100%,) as does the temperature (56 F/ 12 C). Yes, I was comfortable. Contrary to weather predictions, it did not rain, but was a beautiful day (16 C/60 F).



**THE FARM:** Wednesday, I went out to the "farm" and met Charlie Calkins who was having problems with his rota-tiller. It seems he left it last Fall with gasoline in the tank and it gummed up the carburetor. I got it running, but poorly. Charlie turned his plot and I then did mine in one direction and then scattered fertilizer on the turned soil and then turned it again, but at right angles.

I gave Charlie quite a few seeds and I still have quite a few seeds for: Persian melons, cantaloupe, crenshaw melons, honeydew, a French crenshaw/honeydew hybrid, and watermelon. This is not counting the seeds for acorn squash, okra, crowder peas, purple hulled peas, silver Queen corn, Bok Choy, cabbage, onions, tomatoes, green bell peppers and chill peppers.

Charlie learned the plot next to him was not being renewed, so we decided to jointly lease it. I turned this plot in two directions for a total of the equal of turning a plot 100' x 100'.

Frankly, I was vibrating from bucking that tiller in unturned soil.

When I got home and took a shower, I was aching in both arms, legs and most of my back. Whee! I now have the half (50" x 13') next to the chain link fence, so I decided to use the fence as a basis for Kentucky Wonder pole beans, Lima beans and cucumbers. I shall use this partial plot for the melons as it will be protected by the fence and other plots from pilferage, which plagued us last year.

Breck Campbell said that he had so many tomatoes that his neighbors hated to see him coming. I told Breck that I would be glad to purchase any surplus tomatoes this year for use in picante sauce, canning, tomato sauce, usw. He agreed to pass them on to me in exchange for some of the melons and a chili pepper plant. I agreed.

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The Farmers' Association called. They have their herbs, but no French tarragon, nor Travellers 76 tomatoes. They said they would call when either came in.

Friday, Charlie and I worked on the rota-tiller. Charlie was pressed for time and I checked the needle valve, idle valve and spark plug (it was well carboned up, so I cleaned it). The tiller ran a trifle better, but is still sick. I told Charlie that the carburetor needs a major overhaul. We are planning on doing it Monday. Shall advise results.

**COMPUTERS AND COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE:** Busy day Thursday. At the Extension office at 0745 and I brought the computer up to run the Master Gardener time record program. It came up but when I entered a command, it showed, ABORT-DISK ERROR!

I checked with Mrs. McKinney and she said that it had been doing that for a week. It seems someone had taken *Word Perfect 5.1* and entered it in the computer; in doing so, they wiped out several programs. She said that they had "recovered" the programs and told her that all was OK, but she has been unable to run the time record program. That is why she asked me to do it.

I tried various ways to get the program up, but, it always came up with the ABORT DISK ERROR! I finally decided to go home and get my copy of the program and update the time records, return with the up dated record, then correct the computer, if I had time.

This was discussed with Janet and she made some suggestions as to revising the program and commented that Anne had been removed from the computer activity and placed on the Old Mill project. (This should have alerted me).

I had an appointment at 1300 to give blood for the American Red Cross (which as you know, is NOT my



favorite charity). They needed my type blood and I figured that it was for the public good, so I gave. I didn't get out of the blood bank until 1515 (3:15 PM) as the nurse refused to allow me to give blood until I ate. She did not consider my lunch of yogurt and buttermilk as "lunch," so I had to eat two (2) doughnuts (ugh!) and drink two containers of juice. I donated and in spite of the aggravation and "stuff like that" my blood pressure was a horrible 130/74 with a pulse rate of 72.

It is hell to be old and decrepit.

I went to class and called the extension office and told them that I'd be in Friday AM.

Friday at 0745, as I entered the program in the computer -- LO! IT CRASHED! As it had run beautifully on mine, I checked the computer and found that the configure .system file was "files 10, buffers 10" (about 12 bytes). That was all. I noted that the date of change was the preceding week and the replaced configure. system file was about 100 bytes. I then checked the autoexec.bat file and it was about 20 bytes and the replaced file was about 120 bytes. This change was also the preceding week.

It dawned on me that someone who did not know what they were doing had really loused up the computer system.

About that time Anne called asking for me. She had been in charge (among other things) of entering the time records which had stacked up (and they had asked me to update). She is the one that I had originally written the program for. Anne started off that she had decided that the program I had written was too complicated and that as she was not familiar with it, she thought that it would be best if WE (Lindberg)? would transfer it to Microsoft "The Works" which she has and was familiar with. When could I do it?

## Letters From Stacy


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I told Anne that I was not familiar with "The Works" and I had just spent about four hours straightening out the records and getting the program for re-entering into the office computer when I noticed that the computer was all fouled up (beyond all recognition...Navy expression "FUBAR"). Anne then said she didn't know why that was as she had set everything right after she had entered *Word Perfect 5.1* and recovered the files which had been accidentally deleted.

I realized that I was talking to the "goofer up of the computer". I told Anne that due to my other activities, I didn't have time to comply with her wishes. She said that she would think about it and hung up.

I mentioned this to Janet. Her comment was to proceed with our discussion and forget about changing the program as Anne was on the Old Mill project and this was my project in conjunction with Ann Ward -- How to lose friends and alienate people- - I'll wager that Anne Borg will be rather distant from now on. I wish Mrs. McKinney had told me who had "worked" on the computer. Oh well, win some, lose some.

**CUISINE/COOKING:** After the Thursday hassle (Computer, Red Cross, Class) I came home at 1830 (6:30PM) as Dr. Thurmond wanted to chat about odds and ends after class was over and I was tired! Anyway, upon arriving home I had no idea what I wanted, so I threw together a meal: cream of asparagus soup made from the left over stems from the asparagus Ginger bought and a steak with a dash of Kikkoman on it, served with sautéed mushrooms in butter, green peas, the last of the pumpernickel, and a small salad. I figured that my figure wouldn't stand a dessert after the German "soul" food supper and the supper at Park and Bettyjean's. It was tasty. I am



going to have to bake another loaf of pumpernickel. It is GOOD!

My apologies for the delay in this letter. I started it early last week, planning to finish it Friday and mail it prior to the geology field trip. Some how I loused up the letter and in lieu of printing on separate pages (3), it was on a continuous page and "messed" up. I tried to correct it, but being new with this *Microsoft Word for Windows*, I was unable to correct it and so I retyped the letter (with changes) and here it is, late. Sorry about that.

I called Ginger after getting in Saturday at 1930 (7:30 PM) from the field trip and she advised that she would arrive Little Rock about 28 March. She told me that Mike McKenzie called and she had confused him with Mike McKennis, who lived next to us years ago!

Yes, I goof, too (deliberately once in awhile, just to prove that I am not 100% perfect). It will be nice to have Ginger back home. That means I'll have to clean up the house, clean the yard, cut the grass and stuff like that before she gets here so she will know that I am a good house sitter.

Ginger says she still can't bend over or twist as her back pains her. She takes Advil, or something similar, to cut the pain. This is the pulled muscle(s) in her lower back when she tried to pick up Ethel after Ethel had fallen. Remember those four (4) falls? I picked her up once pulling my back a second time, Ginger pulled her's on the first attempt. Then we jointly lifted Ethel the fourth time. Fortunately, my back problem left in a few days. I am sorry Ginger's hasn't.

She's been to the Orthopedist for x-rays (showed nothing) and he told her it was muscles; she went to a masseur several times. Ginger says that the massages do not help. Her only relief comes from lying on a hard surface, heat and aspirin.



## Letters From Stacy

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I had best close, remember to relax, enjoy life, have fun and that we love you.

*Looks like I won't get to Florida until about  
early May — See you then —*

*Affectionately,*

*Stacy*

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**23 March 1991**

Dear Mary Lee,

**THE FARM:** I started the Spring "farming" and you can call me "Bulldozer" due to all of the dirt I have moved.. I had forgotten how much labor is involved in making rows, hills, usw. I realize it is too early to plant some items I plan on planting, but it is not too early to make rows, beds, and hills for them. I have two rows ready for okra, in the same place as last year. I have eight rows set for Silver Queen corn. I plan on planting it at four (4) different times, so it will be staggered in ripening.

I bulldozed a hill (mountain)? set for the acorn squash. It is seven (7) feet wide and twenty five (25) feet long. Yes, I will stagger the planting there also. I planted twenty (20) feet of cabbage, about ten (10) feet of leaf lettuce, twenty (20) feet of turnips, ten (10) feet of shallots and one hundred thirty five (135) Texas sweet onions (our version of Vidalia onions and you can't tell them apart).

Charlie decided he was going to have an "expert" look at his tiller, so he took it to one of the shops for an overhaul. He will be getting it back Friday. When it arrives, I shall finish turning the joint plot Charlie and I have, then plant the Kentucky wonder beans, cucumbers and melons in that plot.

Oh, I forgot, I have a row set for tomatoes and I figure that about twelve (12) well-spaced tomatoes will fit in it. I have room for a few more rows to plant the green bell peppers, eggplant (standard and

## Letters From Stacy

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Japanese), and one or two chili pepper plants, spinach, carrots, and Ginger's favorite lady finger cream peas. Needless to say, I am getting my exercise. .

**PRAYER BREAKFAST:** Tuesday, I did not fix it and it was excellent, so we voted to have them do it again! Orange juice., sliced cantaloupe, fresh pineapple, fresh home-made raisin/cinnamon bread, and a casserole of grits, eggs and sausage. There was strawberry jam and butter for the bread, plus good coffee. Roy delivered an excellent talk about how writing developed: pictures, hieroglyphics, Sumerian, Greek, Arabic and Roman. Most interesting. I came home, changed my clothes and went out to the farm.

**JINX:** It seems that every time I call, I wake her up due to her disrupted sleeping. Anyway, I wanted to wish her Happy Birthday. She said she had gotten my card and the enclosure from Ethel. I wished her many more of the same.


Speaking of telephone calling, Mary Lee called me Monday evening and we chatted. She told me about the people now living in the house in Avondale and how nice they are, plus how well they take care of the house. Mary Lee had her house painted (externally) and is talking about having the inside done.

**MASTER GARDENERS:** The newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month, or so it says. I received the bulk of the information on 18 March, but no biographies -- which are the lead articles for the front page. They arrived 20 March.

Janet was sorta hopping as she had wanted it done and ready for printing before she left on a trip on the 20th. I keyboarded in (seven [7] hours worth) and gave it to Mrs. McKinney just AFTER Janet left. I did my best with what I had.

It appears that Janet is going to reorganize the entire newsletter effective NOW after this fiasco.

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Cecelia Buck, who was editor is now doing other things and I told Janet when she asked regarding my taking over the editor's job, "No"!! The Navy quarterly publication is ENOUGH editing for me!

**THE FARM, AGAIN:** The Farmers' Asso. called and the French Tarragon is in and the Travellers 76 tomatoes. I went out and got the French Tarragon. I also picked up the tomato plants (12), sweet pepper plants, and some "Zipper" cream peas. The Tarragon is in a large pot (eight [8] inches) and has over twelve (12) plants growing in it. Dr. Bowlus wants several, as do several of my other friends so they will not be wasted.

I have planted (in pots) okra seed after soaking it. I decided to get a head start on the season by having okra PLANTS when it is time to plant okra seed. We are down to our LAST jar of picante sauce, so that is a priority for this year's tomato crop. Yes, I'll thicken it up a bit this year as it was a tad too runny. I plan to fertilize the onion plants and cabbage plants that were planted a few days ago. This will be a dissolved fertilizer solution used to water the plants to give them a good start,

**CUISINE:** Sunday, just before Officers Training, I started some Challah (Jewish egg bread). When I returned, it was READY! Lovely! I have used it for toast and as a platform for poached eggs. It is good, but I like the pumpernickel best. I gave the baked ham, which Ginger left, a fit on the pumpernickel.

To reciprocate, I bought a leg of lamb for Ginger's return. She loves it and you know how I feel about it, i.e. good in curry, kibbe and so-so with mint sauce as sliced leg of lamb. As you know, this is the result of my being on "Limey" rations for a few months and the daily serving of (ugh) MUTTON!! That spoiled my taste for lamb; however lately, I have been able to eat it without gagging and am beginning to like it. It's funny(?) what old age will do to your tastes..

## Letters From Stacy

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Tuesday, after class, I bought Chinese "take out" (pepper beef, egg roll, and fried rice). I brewed a pot of Oolong tea and enjoyed!. Yes, there was none left.

Wednesday, Joann and George called wanting to know if I wanted to eat fish. I agreed and they said they would pick me up for the American Legion fish fry. I told them that we'd have drinks and hors d'oeuvre here before going. We had a very nice evening. The fish was very good. It's still catfish fillets, nicely fried with french fries, cole slaw, hush puppies, and two (2) soups, i.e. the usual bean soup and an okra/beef soup which is surprisingly good.

Sunday, I cooked pancakes and bacon and maple syrup. Unfortunately, I had batter left over so I saved it and cooked the same on Wednesday morning. For some reason I can't figure out, my weight is not going down too rapidly. At least it is NOT going UP!


We are about out of coffee, so I intend to go out to Sam's Wholesale and pick up a few items. Ginger does not care too much for this as the items are (usually) in large packages. Oh well, we'll see what is available in the smaller sizes.

They do have GOOD Columbian coffee which I like. I freeze the beans and grind them in the Brun coffee grinder. Ginger prefers her's already ground. Oh well, we all march to different drum beats.

Later: I bought some croissants. Lovely!

**GINGER:** According to my calendar, Ginger will be leaving Longwood Saturday and spending the night with Charline; then heading to Charlotte for a visit with Joan/Norm/Allison?Woody, plus Big Jinks and Chip.

Incidentally, Chip called saying the new grandson is named Bradley Robert. It seems that Karen and Pete liked the name, so that is what their son was named.



Chip received the S&W 9mm model 5906 semiautomatic I had shipped him via UPS. He loves it. He also commented that the Round the World trip in his twin engine plane that he has been working on is now back on the front burner set for Spring of 1992. I am envious of him for that trip. It will be a wonderful experience.

Back to Ginger: I miss her and am getting things ready for her arrival. Yes, I have cut the grass, neated up in the yard, sprayed the fruit trees (several times), removed the black plastic cover from the garden, and done other odds and ends. Yes, the bed is still being made daily and changed regularly, plus there are NO dirty clothes.

Gad, but I amaze me!

The larder is fairly well stocked. The bills are paid and that reminds me, I was opening mail Wednesday and there was an envelope from Lynwood Roberts, Tax Collector (Jacksonville). I casually opened it and it was a notice of delinquent taxes on the house in Avondale, and a notice, effective 1 April, they would be put up for sale as a tax certificate at (ugh) 18% interest!

Yes, I paid it immediately and then wrote them asking that all tax notices be sent to me. It appears that when the tax notice arrived in the Spring of 1990, Ethel did not send it to me as she usually does for payment, so it wasn't paid. Ugh, the original taxes, plus charges. Fun and games!

It was somewhat offset by a tax refund from the IRS. We had slightly overpaid (my goof) for the 1990 taxes and had the quarterly IRS payment deducted and there was still a tad left over. It was better than a due notice.

Ginger just called and she is coming home either Monday or Tuesday. Translated into correct English, I shall look for her about 1600 Monday. I have cleaned

## Letters From Stacy


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the house, vacuumed upstairs and down. Straightened up the place, sorted out my work area in the den (tossing some of my accumulated papers), and checked the oven on the stove. There were some black spots on the oven walls, so I scoured the oven and it is CLEAN. I don't know if I did the black spots in my quiche making, usw., or if Ginger did it. Just, to be safe, I cleaned it.

Bettyjean called and I asked her to come over and do a white glove inspection so I would know where I was deficient in my cleaning. She agreed. The bed is changed, all linens washed and put away, no dirty clothes anywhere, plants watered, tables, usw. dusted and the place (meiner Meinung nach) is CLEAN! Time will tell.

Ginger commented that her back is not any better and she wanted to see the Orthopedist (Dr. Pearce) again. I called and made two (2) appointments, one Tuesday (in the event I am right and she comes in Monday) and the other is at the next opening which is 1 April. I hope he is able to give her some relief with her back, as she has been taking Advil like it was going out of style.

**SOCIAL:** Friday, Bettyjean called asking if I would be interested in a steak that evening. Naturally, I said, "Yes". After doing my chores (more on that later) I went to Economy Liquors and perused the wines. As you know from previous letters, I have given you the "World's best kept secret" regarding wines -- Well, the second best kept secret is Chilean wines. They are made by Germans in lands similar to the ones which produce the best European wines and the prices are LOW, LOW, LOW. I bought a bottle of Merlot, as we were having steak, and it was DELICIOUS. Bettyjean who normally drinks only Chardonnay commented that it was very good. I suggest you look at some Chilean wines. Conchas y Toros is a good brand and their wines are excellent.



The steak was excellent, as was the salad, peas with mushrooms, usw.

**CHORES:** I tied up loose ends Friday. I cleaned the workshop and got the reloading equipment set for 9 x 19 mm (parabellum Luger) for Chip when he flies in.

I'm in the process of checking the length of the cases: the ones under the minimum length for pistols. I'm putting in the machine gun cans for reloading And the ones which are at the minimum length, or greater, I'm trimming to proper length for the P-38 and P-4 pistols.

I stripped the bed, washed the linens, then re-made the bed with clean linens.. All towels in the Master bath room were washed and replaced. I vacuumed (again), removed the spots which had appeared in the carpet in the den, and generally "neated up". I will cut the yard (again) Saturday then check with a critical eye for defects.

I made some yogurt as I had eaten my last jar at noon. I checked and LO! there was some ground lamb at the grocery store, so I bought it for Kibbe to make Saturday. I ground some of the coffee beans and replenished the coffee supply in the refrigerator. Yes, I have been a busy little bee.

Speaking of bees, I talked with Jim and we're moving the colony at Beth's (which she has given to me) Saturday. Sometime this week, we'll move two colonies from Tredways to the beeyard. That brings us up to six (6) active and strong colonies. We'll split them to make more and I hope we will be able to process some honey this Fall.

Imagine, we went from nineteen colonies in April 1990, to three colonies in March 1991! That is what a flood and alternating hot/cold winter will do to you. Pfui!



## Letters From Stacy

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I talked to Ginger Friday evening and told her about the appointment I had made with Dr. Pearce regarding her back. It is at 1430 (2:30 PM) Tuesday, and the next one I could get was 1 April at 1430 (2:30 PM). Her back wouldn't let her wait that long. She will be arriving in Little Rock Monday afternoon. I will be glad to see her and I know she will be glad to be home.

Had best close. Just have fun, relax and enjoy life. We love you.

*Enjoyed talking w/ you -  
Affectionately,  
Stacy*

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**7 April 1991**

Dear Mary Lee

**ROBIN ANNE:** Jinx called. Robin Anne is growing like a weed. She is a month and a week old and is now 23 3/4" long and weighs almost nine pounds. Ginger says that she has rather large feet, hands and fingers. I told Ginger that she would probably be like Duke and grow into them.. Duke had HUGE paws when he was a pup and when he was full grown the paws looked almost dainty. It appears that Robin Anne will be a tall Nordic type as Jinx has commented that she has a long neck with long arms and legs. Her eyes are becoming a lighter blue. I'm anxious to see her.

**THE FARM:** Monday, I was a busy little bee, arriving at 0815 and working until 1245 before coming home. A few things were accomplished, i.e., tilling the plot I share with Charlie. This was a double tilling -- N-S and E-W. I also tilled the area reserved for the Silver Queen corn. After that was nicely tilled and raked, I planted four rows of corn, then garlic, Bok Choy, and lettuce in another row.

The tomatoes and bell peppers survived the freeze well, so I removed the paper plugs I had put in the cans and then watered them with water in which I dissolved fertilizer just to give them a boost. I lost a few of the cabbage plants Charlie gave me as they had been out of the ground too long. I have a few more cabbage plants to replace them. The turnips are up as are the lettuce and shallots. The Texas sweet

## Letters From Stacy

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onions (Vidalia type) are doing well, as it's warming up (almost hot and sweaty weather now (20 C [62 F])).


The plants I am raising from seed (okra and chill pepper-plants) will be set out soon. If the weather holds, the cream peas and crowder peas will be going out soon. I plan on planting cantaloupe, Persian melon, honeydew and watermelon this weekend. After much deliberation, I decided to use the black 4 mil plastic I have to cover the hills where I plant melons and acorn squash. This will cut down on weeding considerably. After all that weeding last year, I am trying to avoid it as much as possible. Time will tell if my ploy works.

Anyway, Friday at 0800, I was at the farm. It was so foggy. I could hardly see 100 feet, but I started in on the melon patch. I cut, a "ditch" about thirty (30) inches wide and threw the dirt onto the projected bed and then cut another "ditch" seven (7) feet away and threw dirt on the other thrown dirt. This went on until I had two ditches fifty (50) feet long and the bed raised about six (6) or more inches high. Just in case you haven't figured it out, there is a hellava lot of shovels full of dirt in a bed fifty (50) feet long, seven (7) feet wide and six (6) inches high!

After raking it smooth, I can now cover it with plastic and plant seeds. Yes, I ache in my shoulders, arms and, ugh, back, but I am not mentioning it to Ginger for obvious reasons. One bad back is enough in a family!

I also planted two (2) New Mexico chill pepper plants, four (4) egg plant, and some more garlic buds. If all this garlic grows, I '11 be the Southwest distributor for garlic.

I also sprayed the edges of the plot with Roundup to kill the weeds, Bermuda grass, and other stuff. According to the label, it will be seven (7) days before I can plant; according to Janet Carson, the County



Agent, it will be fourteen (14) days). I'll do it in about ten (10). While I was out there resting (?), Breck Campbell was putting a roof up adjacent to the utility house for equipment storage. I asked if he needed help and wound up on the roof helping him!

Once the roof was on I went back to the garden and rested.

**PRAYER BREAKFAST:** Tuesday we had: orange juice, creamed chipped beef with mushrooms on toast. The speaker was the former Vice President of Liberia. In 1980, he was visiting here in the U.S. when the military coup took place and ALL of the government officials were shot except him!

He gave an interesting talk about the beginning and formation of Liberia in 1816 as an American colony for freed slaves. It become independent in 1846. Reg arranged this talk. Incidentally, while I was at the "farm", a black came up and asked me a few questions and LO! it was the speaker from Liberia who also has a garden plot about a half (1/2) mile from mine.

**GEOLOGY 4323:** Would you believe we are now working on earthquakes and the failed Mississippi rift which causes New Madrid Fault earthquakes. We discussed the 1811-1812 earthquake on the New Madrid Fault which rang church bells in Boston, caused damage in Charleston, SC, and removed the falls in the Ohio river at Louisville, KY. It was most interesting, to say the least. Tuesday, we go on a Field Trip on the UALR campus inspecting the local geology, terrain and exposed rock formations. I am looking forward to it.

**FLORIDA TRIP:** Looks as if I will be flying down to Orlando soon. Ginger found an advertisement for a round trip (Delta) to Florida which saves me (us) about two hundred (\$200.00) dollars. She arranged for my reservations to leave Little Rock on 29 April

## Letters From Stacy

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and to return on 10 May. Oh well, it is only money. More on the trip later after I clear the arrival and departure times with Jinx and Chris.

ODDS AND ENDS: I was cleaning out one of my desk drawers and found some notes, both new and old -- VERY OLD (dating from my youth and the 1946-47 era) -- items. I thought I might be too pusillanimous to print them, but here goes (the first item is good advice):

Live every day as if would be your last, but plan ahead as if you were going to live forever.

*The following is typically Weltschmerz (pessimistic/down in the mouth, usw. as there is no direct translation of this German word). Possibly, it would be weariness of life, or even romantic discontent, per the German dictionary.*

My life closed twice before its close,  
It yet remains to see  
if Immortality unveil  
A third event for me.

So huge, so hopeless to conceive,  
As these that twice befell.  
Parting is all we know of Heaven  
And all we need of Hell.

Yes, there were times when I was down in the dumps. This was when I was sailing out of New York and was rather frustrated with life in general, but I survived.

Then, of course, there is the following:

Are I a chicken?  
No, you are a people.  
Do chickens come from people?  
No, chickens come from eggs.  
Are eggs born?  
No, eggs are laid.

Are people laid?  
Some are -- others are chicken.

I'll change the subject on that one.

**SOCIAL:** Today, Susie Hain was married. The marriage was in St. Andrew Cathedral and Father Malone officiated. This is where Lisa Hain was also married and Susie is the elder of Jim's daughters and the last one to be married. None of the boys, Buddy or Mike is married, or tending that way.

The reception was at Gabriel, very nice, but I told Ginger after it was over, "We have better weddings and receptions". I couldn't understand half of what Father Malone said. I couldn't understand one (1) word of his Homily. They say that you are getting old when you go to more funerals than weddings. We are still breaking even. Preston, Emily Means son from her first marriage, was married today in Tulsa. Park and Bettyjean went to Tulsa. We opted for the Hain wedding as it was closer. Plus I had a Navy MARS meeting Saturday from 1100 to 1200. I had to get a new Navy ID card.

You never know how you're gonna look until you have your pitcher took. I saw mine and U\*G\*H!!!! And in color too! I signed it, (reluctantly) and mailed it to D.C. for the authorizing signature and lamination. That means I will have to live with it until 1993. Pfui! (This a strong reason for not living that long!)

Ginger just gave me the word, that by going to Florida 29 April-10 May, I will miss the annual Derby Day Party given by Bettyjean and Park. They do make wonderful mint juleps and the hors d'oeuvre are out of this world. Oh well, Jinx and Chris are worth it. And I want to see Robin Anne.

**GUESS WHAT?** Out of a clear blue sky, Ginger asked me to make some cinnamon/raisin bread. As you can guess, she really had to talk me into that chore. It is baking now!

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**GINGER:** Her back is slowly getting better, I am encouraged every day that she is better. Hopefully, she will be in tip top condition when I leave for Florida. She took the gift certificate I received from Hocotts and bought a beautiful white azalea. And she still has about twenty (\$20.00) dollars credit left on the gift certificate. She also still has the gift certificate I bought for her at Green Thumb for some prize roses. It seems they do not have the ones she wants. That is typical of my selections. They fall into two categories; poor and lousy!

The rear deck was used for the plant sale Friday. There were twenty six (26) horticulture members in the living room for the meeting. Then they exited to the rear deck. Now you know why I built that deck to military specifications! In my opinion, the old deck would not have handled that many people/plants, usw. -- I have just gotten explicit instructions on how to plant the new azalea. That includes replacing an ailing azalea in the Trent yard bed.

**ELDER TRAINING:** Sunday is the last session. All that remains is the examination by the Session and ordination. It will be interesting to see which ministry I'll be selected for. I have given them my first, second and third choices. Yes, it will definitely be interesting to see which, if any of those, I'll get,

**TRIVIA:** Are you aware that Americans fall into one of three basic groups? Those who wet their toothbrush and then apply toothpaste, those who apply toothpaste .and then wet the toothbrush and those who don't consistently follow either pattern. Now that you have read this, I'll bet you change your toothbrush/toothpaste pattern, for a little while anyway.

I'll close on that one. Take care, have fun, relax and enjoy life to the fullest. Remember that we love you..



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**7 April 1991**

*(Dated same as previous letter)*

Dear Mary Lee,

**WEATHER/FARM:** For the non-FARM interested readers, go to the next section. The week before this one was a doozey! We had almost nine (9) inches of rain in seven (7) days. The farm was rather wet, to say the least. My daily walk went from daily to zilch as it is not very comfortable walking in a driving rain. Monday, 14 April, was sunny, so I went out to see what the farm was like. The furrows were full of water and the onions, garlic, usw, were all beaten down. I straightened things out and weeded enough of two (2) rows to plant twelve (12) okra plants.

My boots disappeared in the mud and when I tried to pull them out, I pulled my feet out of my boots!!

Tuesday was drier and I planted a few more okra plants and planted twenty (20) feet of cucumbers along the chain link fence, and another twenty (20) feet of Kentucky Wonder string beans.

While I was there, Guy Beard discovered that his tiller had been stolen. Someone with bolt cutters, snipped the padlock securing the tiller to an eye ring sunk in concrete and then cut the padlock securing his tool box stealing some tools also. Further checking reflected that a total of five (5) tillers and one (1) Kaboda tractor (about \$6,000.00 worth) had been stolen, plus miscellaneous tools.

Charlie's new tiller had not been stolen. It was a wonder. It wasn't due to the lock, it being a bicycle



lock that you could cut with a hack saw or snip with a bolt cutter. As I use Charlie's tiller, I told him I would get him a good lock. I found a padlock that Wells Fargo uses for securing their strong boxes; it's supposed to be almost (repeat, almost) bolt cutter proof and pick proof. I bought it, or should I say Ginger bought it as I did not have my wallet or check book with me, and she gave me her wallet with cash and checks in it. Can you imagine a padlock costing approximately twenty (\$20.00) dollars? This was discounted too! Whee!

Charlie was most pleased. After all, I use his tiller at my convenience and tillers rent for nine (\$9.00) dollar an hour. Yes, I buy gas for it also.

Friday morning, I did my "thing" at the farm. Every row was weeded. If we had all the Bermuda grass I have removed in our back yard, it would be lush and thick! Anyway, after the weeding, I planted fennel, okra, a cherry tomato and a few other items.

At the risk of boring you, I will enumerate what is in the farm: 8 feet of cabbage, 8 feet of fennel, 16 feet of lettuce, 8 feet of turnips, 8 feet of garlic, 8 feet of shallots, 40 feet of sweet onions, 6 green bell peppers, 4 egg plant, 8 feet of bok choy, 10 acorn squash plants, 14 tomato plants, and 32 okra plants (Ginger just told me that okra doesn't freeze well, so I might give away a few of these plants). I also have 50 feet of Silver Queen corn, 20 feet of cucumbers and 20 feet of Kentucky wonder string beans. Still left to plant are lima beans, lady finger cream peas, purple hulled peas, cantaloupe, watermelon, crenshaw, honeydew and Persian melons.

Yes, I have planted about two thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ 's) of my plots.

**JINKS:** She flew in Tuesday for a short visit, too short. Since she arrived, Jenks and Ginger have been talking about everything under the sun and really

## Letters From Stacy

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enjoying it. Jinks will be flying back to Charlotte on 25 April. They went to see Ethel and had a very nice visit. I was at the farm working when they visited.


**AUTO BAKERY:** Disaster struck! While making an oat bran loaf, it shut off and did not bake.

I figured it was some electrical glitch so I took the pan out and put it in the oven to bake. Next day I decided to make some cinnamon raisin rolls and put everything together and pushed start -- N\*O\*T\*H\*I\*N\*G happened.

I kneaded the dough and made the rolls by hand and they turned out so-so. I boxed up the auto bakery in its original shipping box (as you know, I hoard things like that) and sent it back to the seller as it was still in warranty. Yes, I miss it. You don't know how much you will miss something until it is gone. I hope it doesn't take as long to repair as it took to get it after it was ordered. I appreciate and enjoy this gift from the children and their spouses more than any other gift they/you have given me. Thanks again. I have been making bread as if it was going out of style. Ginger hasn't bought bread for some time.

**GEOLOGY:** Next Saturday the geology class takes our last field trip. We're going to the Lake Millwood area, near the junction of Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. These are Mississippian, Pennsylvanian and Cretaceous formations loaded with fossils. If I am lucky I might bring back a few. Would any one like a Brontosaurus skeleton for their living room? (I should be so fortunate!)

**HOUSEHOLD DISASTER:** During the rains, per first paragraph, we started getting water in the den by the TV/Stereo/CD consoles. It was coming in as fast as we mopped it up. I finally figured that it was due to the roof on the deck being off and the rain coming from the east (driving west) onto the double sliding doors to the dining room from the deck.



This was a hard, driving rain and, evidently, it was being trapped by the metal channels then draining through a loose screw hole, or something into the inner wall and then down into the den.

I moved the wooden console (and almost herniated myself doing so) and we mopped up. The carpet is still damp and Ginger has been putting Arm and Hammer Baking Soda deodorant on it to curb the musty odor. All of my old 78 classic record albums got wet, including my prize recordings of Caruso. Ginger called reporting it to the insurance company but as yet no adjuster. Pfui! It will be interesting to see what they do.

**BACKYARD:** The roses are blooming like mad. Briarwood, where Ethel is, has just been repainted, re-done, re-wallpapered, and the dining room has new furniture.

Ginger brought some of her roses to the dining room and spread them around. She has a pitcher full of the most beautiful red roses you have ever seen in the refrigerator ready for taking to Briarwood.

These came off of two (2) rose bushes!

That rose bed is about to "bust out all over" with roses. The cotton seed meal, bone meal, underground irrigation, and tender loving care is what is doing it. Ginger just came by with the roses on her way to Briarwood.

As she left, Dr. Bowlus (Chuck) came in and we chatted over one of my good Deutschen Bieren. This was the first beer we made in January 1991 and the age does it credit. It is G\*0\*0\*D! After the beer, we went out into the backyard and I gave him some horseradish volunteers and the purple fig I had rooted for him. He was supposed to root a green fig for me.

Promises. Promises.

## Letters From Stacy

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I also gave him the French tarragon I had secured and he told me that the DME (DME = Dried Malt Extract) I had asked him to order had arrived, but he had forgotten to bring it. I told him to apply the cost of the French Tarragon to the DME.

He oh'ed and aw'ed over the pear tree, the plum trees and the apple trees. He asked if I had semi dwarf fruit trees, and (trying to keep from smirking) I told him, "no, they were full bodied trees, but I pruned them rather severely and judiciously each year". He then asked how I pruned them, usw.

Gad, I felt knowledgeable explaining how to a Ph.D and tenured Professor at a University. Whee! We then discussed various aspects of beer making. I wondered, *if I am so damned smart, how come I am not rich?* Ugh!

**INSURANCE:** An Adjuster, (female) just called regarding the water damage claim Ginger had called in and we made an appointment for Tuesday at 1100 (11 AM) for her to inspect the damage, usw.

The adjuster apologized in advance as she was new and was having a Claim Supervisor accompany her to tell her what to do. Fun and games! Just what we need, a new, inexperienced adjuster. Shall advise the results in the next letter.

**BOOKS:** I just finished a good book by Dick Francis. He is a good author and an English former jockey, so his books have a flavoring of horses, racing, jockeys, usw. I suggest and recommend you try reading some of his works. I have not found a bad one yet. *Flying Finish, Danger, Odds Against, Nerve*, are some of the ones he had written. There are about twenty of his books in print.

Isaac Asimov is world renown as a science fiction author, but an excellent mystery writer too. He writes about the Black Widowers, members of a gourmet club who indulge in solving mysteries. This

— ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ —

catches me from all angles, i.e. food, cooking and mysteries. These stories are also very good. Try them; you will like them.

**RELOADING:** I have re-loaded so many 9 mm. cases that I ran out of bullets. I turned on the electric furnace and started casting my 9 mm. P-38 Patronengeschloss, an excellent bullet. I cast quite a few then started resizing and lubricating them. Eventually, I'll replenish the box (500 capacity) that I emptied. Yes, it takes a heap of casting and resizing to fill a box that holds 500 bullets. (But it is FUN)! I just remembered that I have another empty 9 mm. bullet box which needs filling, so there will be LOTS of casting and resizing in my future.

**CUISINE:** Ginger just gave me the word that she is making the ice cream as my cold (double pneumonia) is contagious and she wants no part of it. We are going to have some recycled food (left overs) , i.e. the tamales Jim and I made a few months ago. Dessert will be the French vanilla custard ice cream. I'm confident it will all be good.

**STATE OF (I am) SHOCK:** Just in case you have not figured that out, I am in a state of shock! As you probably remember, I have been giving friends snifters full of my favorite cognac, Martell's Cordon Bleu, at the drop of a hat.

Ginger even says that I push it.

Well, getting low on Cordon Bleu, as I haven't bought any lately, I went by my favorite liquor store to pick up a bottle of Martell Cordon Bleu. I looked at the price and almost had heart seizure.

It is now (sit down please) seventy four dollars and fifteen cents (\$74.15) for a 750 ml bottle!

I damned near dropped the bottle and THAT would have been a bloody disaster. Believe me, what little cognac I have left will be put under lock and key and

## Letters From Stacy

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cherished! I don't think I can afford another bottle, let alone a case. UGH!

**JINX/CHRIS:** They just called and we had a delightful chat. Robin Anne is holding her head up and still growing like a weed.

Jinx told me that she had written me a four (4) page letter which I should get soon. They wanted to know when I would arrive and, as usual, I was in the den at the computer and the ticket was upstairs in the bedroom. It is Delta, Flight 35, arriving Monday, 29 April at 1505 (3:05 p.m)..

She also told me that she is catching up on her overdue letters.

I had best close with the usual. Take care, relax, have fun, enjoy life and remember that we love you.

*I'm in the throes of a bad cold.  
See you soon -  
Affectionately,  
Stacy*

---

**13 April 1991**

Dear Mary Lee,

**WEATHER:** Typical of Arkansas, days alternate between sunny and warm and rain with cool (10 C - 50F) weather. I'm getting things squared away in the yard, i.e. cutting the grass, spraying fruit trees, pruning grape vines, etc. But it has been rather soggy.

Geology 4323 scheduled our field trip this weekend; it will be a toss up whether we make it or not. I am hoping it is not cancelled as it is a trip to the Ouachita (Washatah) mountains. They are MOST interesting, geologically speaking. It will be the five of us and Dr. Thurmond in the Geology Dept van (complete with mud tires, shovels and stuff like that). I'll tell about it in my next letter.

**ETHEL:** She is getting along well and her room mate, Pearl, was named Resident of the Month. She is a nice person and Ethel is fortunate to have her...

**RELOADING:** Ginger says she never reads this section but here it is anyway for the select few who do read it:

Due to the rain, I have been in the workshop "playing" with the reloading equipment. A fast summary is that I have five hundred (500) 9 mm. Parabellum, lead 125 gr. bullet cartridges and one hundred (100) full metal jacketed (FMJ), 115 gr. cartridges loaded.



## Letters From Stacy

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I ran out of lead bullets, so I moulded about five hundred (500) , then sized and lubricated them. John gave me a bag of "cruddy" 9 mm. cases which I cleaned up, de-primed, measured, and sorted. The .751 inch and over are for the pistol cartridges. The under .751 inch ones are for machine gun ammo. After sorting, I set up the cartridge case trimmer and trimmed the pistol cases to an even .751 inch. They are now ready for reloading. Believe it or not, I enjoy doing this.

Wednesday, I picked up John at 0830 and we went to the range and shot our Garands (.30'06). I shot the German Wehrmacht Mauser that I restocked and modified with the German sniper scope mounted. This is an eight millimeter caliber (8 x 57 mm).

As the .30 caliber is 7.62 mm, it is slightly larger than the Garands bullets. The last time I shot the Mauser, it "walked" all over the target. When I got home after that disaster, I found that I had lost an attaching screw for the scope. I repaired it by drilling out the stripped threads, then re-tapping it a size larger to replace the screw. It worked! I shot up all of the ammo that I had, (twenty (20) rounds) and it stayed in relatively small groups. I'm now out of 8 x 57 ammo, so I will have to reload some of the several hundred empty cases on hand. Ditto 30'06 ammo. All I have is military ammo and zero reloaded. My reloads are more accurate than the military, so that is another reloading chore. Fortunately, I have lots of powder (about eight (8) pounds) and about two thousand (2,000) primers for these rifle loads.

**THE FARM:** I went out Wednesday after shooting with John ---

Which reminds me, he was singing the blues. The radiologist he substituted for twice a week while the radiologist was in the Persian Gulf is back. Poor John no longer gets eight hundred (\$800.00) a day for the



substitution. I feel so sorry for these poor, under-paid doctors.

Anyway, back to the Farm; it was wet! I took Charlie's tiller and turned the furrows between the rows in spite of some standing water and then turned the bed I had set for the acorn squash and melons.

I was set to plant cucumbers, string beans and lima beans in the area where I had sprayed "Roundup" but it was much too wet. Oh well, another day will come for planting.

The corn is not up yet, but the tomato plants (12) are getting along well as are the green bell peppers --- That reminds me, Ginger told me about Martha Anne buying yellow peppers and adding slices of them to sandwiches. It seems that they do not taste like bell pepper but have a different taste. Ginger started to buy one to eat (and for seed for me) and the grocery had the peppers at ONE DOLLAR NINETY FIVE CENTS EACH!

Ginger refused to buy one at that price.

I stopped at Krogers on Cantrell and checked the produce market. I bought one for considerably less than a dollar! I caught them at a marked down price and the pepper was in good condition. Ginger cut it open, saved the seeds (which I am drying) and used the pepper for salad and a sandwich. It was good. If this is not a hybrid. I should have several good pepper plants soon (according to Janet). If it is hybrid, no telling what I'll get.

The turnips, cabbage, egg plant, garlic, shallots, bok choy and onions are doing well. NOTHING on the lettuce. Why? I have no idea but I'll replant. It still hasn't gotten warm enough to plant the okra plants and they are getting tall and "leggy" in my "seed" box. I guess they are about eight (8) inches tall and need to be planted. The old black 4 mil plastic sheet

## Letters From Stacy

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is in the trunk of the Sunbird awaiting dry weather for laying on the acorn squash and melon beds.

**ACRONYMS:** While cleaning out my desk, I found some computer type acronyms I had jotted down and you might like reading them.

ALARM = A Language Affording Risk Minimization  
As in, "Dishonest programmers made us react with ALARM".

TIPSY = Theoretically Impossible System - "A little TIPSY best describes his program. "

CRAP = CRASH Proof - "Our systems are CRAP".

MIRACLE = Minor Repair And Cleaning -- "Only a MIRACLE can bring your system back up". (This is the favorite acronym used by computer repairers. )

Yes, I enjoy playing with computers (and acronyms).

**SOCIAL:** We invited Bruce, Martha and their two (2) children over for supper. Ginger decided to fix hamburgers and eat on the rear deck. Thursday it rained and that morning, at breakfast, Ginger commented, "As I am a woman, I am privileged to change my mind. And as it is raining, why don't you fix some of your good spaghetti?"

Once you know what the wife wants, you have no trouble making up your mind.

I fixed the "famous" vegetable sauce (but added ground round steak, keeping the seasoning the same) and decided that as I had made pasta (vermicelli) a few days before we could have it. Then I decided to make French bread and French vanilla custard ice cream. This I did while Ginger was at a quilting meeting. She decided that we would NOT have the home-made vermicelli, but would use the store bought stuff we had accumulated.



I made my Geology 4323 class and arrived home at 1730 (5:30 PM) changed clothes, and opened the wine. Bruce and Martha arrived at 1600 (6 PM) with their two (2) darling children, i.e. Michael and Carrie Jo, (who wants to be called CJ, so I did). We got along famously. I had known them from the FARM. This was the first time that I had met Martha (36 years old) and she is a doll! (Intelligent and sharp also!)

Bruce and I touched base on the last ten (10) questions of the twenty (20) we have at the examination by the Session. In this deal, I had researched and documented the first ten (10) and Bruce did the last ten (10) per our agreement. We have been working together since the first meeting and it paid off. I know you will like Bruce when you meet him. He's from Iowa and Martha is from Illinois (near Springfield). They moved to Little Rock about five (5) years ago from the Chicago area. We are working together at the "Farm" as well at the officer' training classes. Incidentally, Bruce requested the same (first and second choice) ministries that I did and like me, he has not heard what he (we) got. It seems everyone except us has been advised. Bruce says that leads him (us) to one of two conclusions, i.e, either the moderator is out of town, or nobody wants us.

Just to be different, Ginger Invited Park and Bettyjean over for supper tonight (Friday, the next day). The excuse she used was that we did not finish off the wines and we should have Park and Bettyjean over to consume them and eat the chicken. Fun and games. I hope I have time to finish this letter before they arrive, so I can mail it Friday evening. Otherwise, it will be in the 0500 Monday mail as I leave (? depending on the weather) at 0730 Saturday on the Geology field trip.

This had best wrap it up. Take care, have fun, enjoy life and remember that we love you.

## Letters From Stacy

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Hope to see you soon

Affectionately

Stacy

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**27 April 1991**

Dear Mary Lee,

**THIS IS THE WEEK THAT WAS:** Some weeks are full, some are FULLER! This is one of the latter.

Monday, Park, Bettyjean, Jinks, Ginger and I went to Memphis to take the 1891 graduation picture of the South West Presbyterian University (It is now Rhodes University).

Ginger also had the picture of the faculty which included President (to be) Wilson's father and her great-grandfather, Rev, Bardwell. The alumni office was most glad to have the loan of these pictures so they could have them copied, usw.

We ate lunch at the North End Restaurant and they do have good food. Jinks and I had Reubens, Ginger had a cheeseburger on an English muffin.

From there we went to see the Catherine the Great exhibit. Our tickets were for 1400 (2 PM) and it was wonderful. These were items from the Hermitage in Leningrad including the coronation carriage of Catherine. The jewels, ornaments, paintings, furniture, usw. were exquisite! I learned quite a few things about Catherine which I did not know (and I thought I was familiar with her life history). I knew she had quite a few lovers, but I did not know that she had formal "Gentlemen of the Bedchamber". This exhibit will be in Memphis until 3 September and I understand that this will be the only place where it can be seen in the U.S. Come see it, as it is worth it

## Letters From Stacy

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and then come visit (for a few weeks) us in Little Rock.

After leaving Memphis, I suggested we forgo cooking upon our arrival in Little Rock and eat at a Chinese restaurant. We arrived L.R. at about 1845 (6:45 PM) and went to our house for a few drinks. We wound up at the Hunan and, frankly, it was not that good. We brought a BIG sack of left-overs home, which Jinks and I had for lunch the next day and then tossed.

Wednesday I certainly exercised. At 0815 I was at the "Farm" and started weeding both plots. I then tilled the furrows and unplanted areas, and thinned the lettuce and Bok Choy. I planted another four (4) half rows of Silver Queen corn. There are eighteen (18) stalks to a half row (a total of seventy two (72) to a planting). This was an additional seventy two (72) stalks, so there will be one hundred forty four (144) stalks coming up. As there are usually about two (2) ears to a stalk, I am wondering if I need to plant any more corn.

After this, I made rows and planted fifty (50) feet of Zipper cream peas and then fifty (50) feet of Mississippi Silver cream peas. These are similar to the lady finger peas; however, if you let them grow to maturity, you have a crowder type pea. We enjoy both, so I may plant more, or possibly some purple hulled peas. Tomatoes are pruned of suckers; garlic and shallots are growing like gang busters.

I don't remember if I mentioned that Stewart gave me two (2) banana plants. One has a growth stalk of about four (4) inches, but the other one has not started sprouting as yet.

The Sheriff advised that his department has located the two men who stole the tillers and they are watching them to find out where they hid the tillers and the tractor. When they locate the tillers/tractor,



they will arrest the men. He said that they will be in custody within a week. This is good news for Guy, Breck, the Judge and others.

Guy commented that due to my tilling, usw. that the garden should be in good shape with a minimum of weeds when I return. I hope he is correct.

Upon arriving home after all of this, I had the cutting of the yard to face, so I broke out the lawn mower and cut the front, sides and back. I was all set to do my cooking for the Sunday supper party (lasagna, usw). but Ginger told me to hold off. I needed no further urging as I was rather tired. I also was facing a Men's Council meeting that evening. So in lieu of cooking, I went to the liquor store securing wine for Sunday evening.

I believe that I told you another of the world's best kept secrets is the Chilean wine, Conchas y Toro. The Merlot is superb, so I purchased a magnum of the Merlot and a magnum of the dry Semillon. That should handle the supper party. There will be seven (7) of us, but I am guessing that the distaff side of the families will opt for the white wine in lieu of the Merlot (all the more for the men!)

Ginger pointed out that the birdfeeder was "messing" up her flower bed and the squirrels were getting more sunflower seeds than the birds and she wanted it M\*0\*V\*E\*D! I took some of my piano type wire (about .020 inch diameter) and ran a length from a pine tree on the south side of the house by the den window to another pine tree about twenty (20) feet away, then suspended the bird feeder from it. Now the squirrels can't get at it. I saw a bird (yellow finch) trying to sit on the thin wire and failing miserably. I also saw a squirrel try to walk it and immediately fall (no damage to the squirrel except his/her dignity). Now that there are no squirrels, the feeder is popular with Cardinals, Chickadees, Finches, Wrens and the usual Bluejays, Sparrows, usw. It is so popular I have



## Letters From Stacy

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to fill it about every third day. I am glad that I bought the sunflower seed in a twenty five (25) pound lot. I hope Ginger fills it while I am gone.

Later comment: while I was on the Geology field trip, Ginger watched a squirrel ponder the birdfeeder and finally go up the tree to where I had put the piano wire. She said that he/she gnawed on it for quite some time and finally cut it two! The squirrel then pounced on the birdfeeder and gouged him/her self with sunflower seeds. THAT is a chore I will have to do before I leave for Orlando. I'll use a heavier gage wire at the trees to prevent gnawing and then the thin wire beyond the squirrel's reach.

Friday, Ginger made water aerobics for the first time in ages. Her back is well enough now. Her cold (which she claims to have gotten from me) is better also. I spent the day writing letters, tying up loose ends, and making lasagna for Sunday evening when Rodney, his new bride, Terri, Park, Bettyjean and Eileen come over for supper.

While I was at it, I made two (2) lasagnas, so Ginger could have one for future reference. This is the one I make with ricotta, mozzarella, parsley, mushrooms, meat sauce, eggs, and lots of lasagna noodles. This goes with the Chilean wine. Ginger is going to make salad and dessert. I will be sorta busy that day (Sunday) as it is the day I get ordained. I just happened to wonder what Father McEuen would think if he knew of it. He'd probably suggest that we have a drink (Scotch, naturally). I often wonder what happened to him. The last I heard, he was a Monsignor and Secretary to the Archbishop of the Miami diocese (about 1950!)

Saturday was quite a day! The Geology field trip! We left at 0300 in pouring rain and a horrendous thunderstorm and headed south to Ben Lomond which is just off the NW corner of Lake Millwood



where we dug for fossils. The sky was almost clear in that area. This area is Marlboro Marl (lower Cretaceous) and was wet. When you stepped in it, about five (5) pounds of clay struck to your foot. The next step, it became ten (10) pounds and when it was the size of a basketball, you stopped and scraped it off. This was not fun. The fossils were sparse. I kept none. Dr., Thurmond found an excellent shark tooth from an ancestor of the hiako shark.

From there we went to the White Cliff area, about five (5) miles from Oklahoma and ten (10) from Texas.(Yes, as in Dover and chalk like Dover). There were lots of shells of oyster forerunners and sea urchin types. (Yes, I am using common names that you are familiar with). The sea urchins, being almost jellylike, are difficult to preserve and only fragments are found.

I was "tapping" on a piece of chalk (about one cubic foot!) and it split along a seam as I wanted it too. THERE WAS AN ALMOST ENTIRE SEA URCHIN! I called Dr. Thurmond (John) and showed it to him. He was ecstatic and said that it was the best he had ever seen and would I let him use it in the Paleontology class. I agreed and then Greg Fowler called me to help him with a large piece of chalk to extract a nautilus type shell and we spilt the rock and he saw a small discoloration on one side and borrowed my hammer and I went back to Dr. Thurmond and the sea urchin. Shortly, Greg came up and said, "Look!" He had a complete, perfect, undamaged SEA URCHIN. It made mine look ragged. Dr. Thurmond almost dropped his teeth. He oh'ed and aw'ed over it for minutes.

Again, I was "tapping" on a piece of chalk. When it split I saw several fossil markings/imprints/remains. I could only identify one (1) the forerunner of the oyster. I called Dr. Thurmond and he looked and said that he had never seen a fossil of this type before.

## Letters From Stacy

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One looked like a flattened four (4) inch bag with fish scales inside of it and other almost microscopic fossils nearby. John asked if he could take it to the Geology lab to identify it. I agreed. It was a GOOD day!

Incidentally, everywhere except the Marlboro Marl, the ground was decent to walk on. This was a FUN day.

F.Y.I. The Cretaceous was about three hundred million (300,000,000) years ago. This was just before I was born!

**HEALTH:** As you know, I have had a bodacious cold and it seems that I "gave" it to Ginger. She is now all stopped up. Due to the cold, I haven't been to see Ethel, except on Sunday when I took her the TV guide. Ginger and Jinks visited her but now that Ginger has my cold, she is also staying away. Ethel does not need this cold. Ginger's back is getting better by the day. She went to see the Chiropractor Thursday and he said she could stay away until 9 May. That is certainly an improvement as she was seeing him daily for a while and then it was every other day. Yes, I have been doing the heavy lifting, moving, usw and that helped HER back.

**THE HOUSE:** The Insurance Adjuster (female) arrived with a supervisor from Oklahoma City, Yes, we have a one hundred (\$100.00) deductible. They checked out the leak and made arrangements for the den carpet to be cleaned and deodorized plus the hallway to the stairs. The den is twenty (20) by twenty (20) and the hallway is eight (8) by four (4). That is a lot of area to clean, deodorize and move furniture. I also reported the leak in the shower and it was decided that the shower pan is leaking.

Since writing this, we had a heavy thunderstorm which caused it to turn like night at 1630 (4:30 PM). Then the lights went out due to a lightening strike in the area. Then we had hail the size of ping pong balls



and the front yard was almost white. Ginger had me open up the attic as she was positive that it was coming into the attic. It wasn't. It will be interesting as to what happened to the roof with all this hail. Remember about ten years ago, we had to have the roof replaced due to hail. It is always something.

**ETHEL:** Some time soon, Norm, Jinx and Bard will be getting an envelope from Ashland Oil Inc. Ethel had decided to leave the grandchildren something from her estate and after some discussion, she decided to do it now while she's still alive. It is highly recommended that the dividends be reinvested into stock in lieu of receiving a dividend check. Ginger and I just received a 100 share certificate from Pennsylvania Power and Light as a result of dividend reinvestment and Ginger is just before getting a 100 share certificate from Baltimore Power and Light also from dividend reinvestment. Try it, you'll like it.

**LONGWOOD:** Ginger has been getting my clothes ready for- the trip. We decided that the weather there would be warmer than here, so she was getting out my summer clothes, ironing them and packing. I don't know what I would do without her. I checked with Delta and this is going on my frequent flyer account. I need to check to see what I have accumulated. I realize that it is nothing like Norm's with his frequent flying but it is adding up.

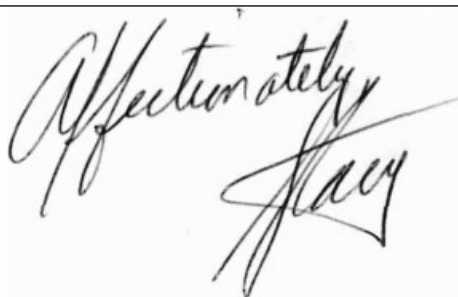
It is getting late and I need to dress for church and get this mailed.

There will be no letters for the next week, maybe two, due to me being out of pocket.

Relax, have fun, enjoy life and remember that we love you.

## Letters From Stacy

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Affectionately  
Stacy

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**11 May 1991**

Dear Mary Lee

**ROBIN ANNE, JINX, CHRIS, Et AL:** I am now back from Longwood, having had a wonderful visit with Jinx, Chris, Robin Anne, Jaxon und die Katze. I arrived on 29 April and was met by Jinx and Robin Anne, I had forgotten how warm it was in Florida in April-May and I was wearing a coat, tie, usw. and sweating! While I was there, the temperature hit the mid 90's and one day I saw 103 F on the electronic time/temperature sign near where the Nielsen's live.

I met Robin Anne for the first time. She is a very happy, beautiful baby. She smiles frequently and I only heard her cry once while I was there and that was a very short cry.. It took a while for her to become accustomed to my face. After I became familiar, she would grasp my finger and hold on. Frankly, I have never seen an eight week baby as active and large as Robin Anne. There is no question but what she will be a tall girl. Her eyes are a lovely blue and her hair is beginning to take on a slight reddish cast in the brown. The doctor told Jinx that Robin Anne is at the top of the chart regarding health, development, usw. and she need not bring her back for another two months.

To keep me from being restless, Jinx had listed a few items for me to do. It was fun doing chores: weather-stripping the new front, leveling the refrigerator so the doors would swing shut when released. I installed a ceiling fan in Chris's home office, adjustable shelves in Robin Anne's room, adjustable shelves in the downstairs bath room

## Letters From Stacy

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closet, lights in three closets, a potting/ work bench outside on the rear deck for Jinx. I also sharpened knives and stuff like that.


I brought two cook books (German, natürlich, and one by the Frugal Gourmet so I did some cooking. Yes, I hire out, if you want to pay my charges!

In my spare time, I played with Robin Anne and Jax. Jax spends more time in the pool than the rest of the family combined. Die Katze was there and I wonder why cats allowed themselves to be domesticated as they are so damned independent. It was a fun vacation.

**McKENZIES:** I drove to Jupiter to visit with Ann and it was wonderful. This was the first time that I had seen Ann in over a year. We chatted about everything and everyone to catch up on all the family. Ann was cleaning out the booze locker and presented me with two cases of miscellaneous liqueurs, whiskey, cognac, gin, rum and wines. I hesitated to take it, but Ann reassured me that all she drank was Scotch and Blair drank Margaritas, so we took the Triple Sec from the boxes and I promised to send her a receipt for Margaritas.

Ann took me to a lovely place on the water (Charley's Crab House) for lunch. We had a stupendous meal. As I was getting ready to go back to Longwood, she brought out several items of Bob's and I, frankly, cried. She gave me two of his shirts which had never been taken out of the packages, two sleeveless sweaters, several books and the item I bawled over, i.e. the clock and barometer, on a presentation board, which had come from the wardroom of the *Cacapori* (AO-52).

The *Cacapon* was Bob's first major ship command. She is an oiler with the Pacific fleet. The officers presented this clock/barometer set to Bob when he left the *Cacapon*. I carefully brought the barometer



and clock back to Little Rock in my briefcase (the board was in the package with the booze) as the cargo space is not pressurized and the lack of pressure might have damaged the barometer. I watched the barometer cycle down to 25 inches when we were at 30,000 feet and then back to 29.5 when we landed at Atlanta.

Next day, Mike arrived with a friend, Sherry, for supper; we had a fine time. They were headed to Jupiter to spend time with Ann. Jinx cooked a fine meal and I had made some marinated cucumbers and onions in sour cream. Chris hates cucumbers so we had them all to ourselves. Supper was grilled chicken, mashed potatoes, croissants, and a delicious salad, as only Jinx can make, plus sliced strawberries on pound cake. For some reason, I did not lose any weight while I was there. I gave Mike the receipt for the Margaritas to pass on to Ann. We were sorry to see them leave.

**JACKSONVILLE:** I think that I am snake bitten. Most of the people I tried to contact were not home. Mary Lee had her house painted and it looks good, but she was not there. I found out later that she had left for Orlando about two hours before I arrived.

I called Rose Marie to update her regarding Ethel and there was no answer.

I called Ted Moise who was leaving to take Barbara to the Doctor for an appointment. She had a heart attack about six (6) weeks ago and is getting along fine. Ted said that he would be back about 1600 (4PM) but when I called from 1600-1700 (4 -5 PM) from Charline and Roy's home, there was no answer.

Charline was out too but as I was leaving at 1645 (4:45 PM) she arrived, so I stayed for a few more minutes. I enjoyed a chat with Dessa and Don. I met Damon Yerkes and we squared away everything



## Letters From Stacy

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regarding 1526. We went out to see Mr. Billy and he was out (so what else is new)? I finally reached him by phone. He agreed to repair the water damage to the ceiling in the master bed room the next day and repaint the area when the plaster dried.

I contacted the Tax Collector, a typical bureaucracy. They shuffled me through five (5) clerks before I could verify: the taxes were paid and that the mailing address had been changed to Little Rock. The first said that she couldn't give me the information unless she had the assessment number, so I had to go through two more clerks to get that. When I returned to the initial office, I got still another person who told me that the assessment number was not needed as she could get it from the computer by way of the address, contrary to what the first idiot told me. Whee!

I arrived back in Longwood at 1915 (7:15 PM).

**GNOMEN:** While in the Nielsen's side yard, fertilizing the horseradish and avocado, I heard a voice call, "Senor!"

I looked around, saw nothing, and continued tossing the 13-13-13 and again I heard, "Senor!"

Nothing visible, but as I turned on the water hose, I heard a peculiar accent say, " Herr Norman, sehen sie unter die Palmetto auf".

I looked under the palmetto leaves and there was a disgusted looking Gnome. It seems that in this area, they speak a bastard language which could be termed Spanglish.

As my Spanish is very rusty (circa 1942-43), we spoke in German. It seems that he, Carlos, was a relative of Knute and Hans in Little Rock. Relatively close kin, Gnome-wise, Carlos is the second cousin of Ingeborg's brother-in-law's Uncle. Ingeborg is engaged to a cousin of my friend Hans.



For your information, Gnomes are very family conscious and claim third cousins as close kin.

Back to Carlos: he said he heard via the grapevine that I was coming to Wekiwa (We-keye-wah) Springs, so he thought he would chat with me, not knowing that my Spanglish was so poor. He explained that his ancestors came over with Ponce de Leon and settled in Florida. The majority of the Florida gnomes live in, or near fern farms and citrus groves. He gave me a receipt for broiling fish with lemon juice and basil.

When I get some good fresh fish, I'll try it out. You wipe the inside of the cleaned fish with lemon juice, followed by garlic seasoned olive oil, then put lots of crushed basil leaves and chopped tomatoes in the cavity. Rub the outside with lemon juice and olive oil. Then grill or broil. Carlos said that it is excellent. You can tell by the receipt that there is a definite Spanish influence on Teutonic Gnomen.

**CUISINE:** While in Longwood, I introduced Jinx and Chris to my version of the Syrian-Iraqi version of pita/lamb sandwiches:

Mix ground lamb with ground beef; add garlic, cumin and some mint (not enough was available). Grill in elongated/flattened strips.

I made a sauce of grated fresh cucumber, garlic, lemon juice, salt, and black pepper in fresh yogurt. The grilled meat was sliced and put in the pita pocket with sliced onion, sliced grilled tomato and the yogurt sauce. (Unfortunately, I forgot to put in lettuce when I did them). The sandwiches were good but lacked something (lettuce). Chris was out of town when I made these, but he returned and nibbled on some of the meat, which he liked.

I also made some kibbe, using lots (and I do mean LOTS) of pine nuts. Jinx and I enjoyed this for two (2) meals. Try the yogurt sauce on kibbe -- it adds to it.

## Letters From Stacy

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**CHIP:** When I returned to Little Rock, there was a package from Chip. He had tried the S&W stainless steel semi-automatic pistol and liked it. The empty brass (9 mm. and a few .38 spl). were in the package for reloading. After the dust clears, I'll get to it. I am glad he likes the pistol.

**LYDIA:** Today is her second birthday. We called her this AM but there was no reply and then the answering machine kicked in and Lauren gave the message. At first, Ginger thought it was Terry. She certainly did a good job leaving the message. We are sorry we were not able to be there for the festivities. We plan a short visit to Houston on Memorial Day weekend. We'll see Lydia and the rest of the family then. This includes Maxie, the blue-eyed chow/husky. She is the latest addition to the family,

**GINGER:** Ginger has been reading John Starr's column in the *Democrat* . He just vacationed in Spain, and she's interested in going there too. As you know, we had planned on going to Spain a few years ago but various thing came up and we didn't. I had written regarding Eurorail passes to various places in Spain and had thing lined up rather well. I found that many of the people speak and understand German better than they do English. According to my sources, we should do OK. My Spanish is so rusty it would probably insult the Castilians because it's a Caribbean/South American patois -- and I do mean the local vernacular!

I am up to my ears in stuff to do, letter's to write, usw. so I had best close and get with it. I dread going out to the farm and seeing how high the weeds have grown.

Take care of yourself, relax, enjoy life, be kind to yourself and your friends. Remember that we love you.

~~~~~

I enjoyed our chat - sorry I
missed you in Jan -
Affectionately
Patty

8 June 1991

Dear Mary Lee

MISCELLANEOUS: While visiting Terry and Bard, I introduced bagels to Lauren and she is now a confirmed bagel lover. I was not aware that they were. habit forming from the first bite in spite of my craving for bagels -- especially with cream cheese at lunch.

ARKANSAS GEOLOGIC COMMISSION RULINGS: The Commission has just published their new regulations for rock hunting by Rock Hounds, Geology Students and Professional Geologists. The new rules are:

1. Immature rocks must not be removed from nests.
2. An attempt should be made to take only male rocks; however, captured females can be removed from the habitat, except lactating female rocks must be released immediately to prevent starvation of nursing stones.
3. No migratory rocks may be taken.
4. No threatened or endangered rocks may be taken.
5. For purposes of scientific collections only, all usual restrictions regarding rock decoys and rock baiting shall be 'waived. Electronic rock calls, which enhance success -- especially after dark when rocks are most active -- may be used in this case only.



6. Due to its controversial nature, using dogs to hunt rocks shall not be permitted in mountainous areas.

7. An official rock hunting permit must be obtained before removal of any rocks. Severe penalties, plus fines, will be levied on all non-permit carrying collectors.

8. These regulations apply to the Ouachita; Boston, and Ozark mountains.

DIE GNOMEN: While I worked in the back yard, Knute whistled attracting my attention. He motioned for me to come over to the area in the raspberry patch where he was hidden.

I looked around and no one was around so I ambled over and said, "Wie gehts es Ihnen, Knute?" (How are you, Knute,)?. I did this because Knute had a deep frown on his face and Gnomes, as you know, are normally very friendly and helpful to their friends but can be spiteful and vindictive if irked.

Knute paused, a trace of a grin momentarily crossed his face, and he said, in English which was most unusual for Knute, "I was damned mad at you but your lousy accent always cracks me up. Did you know that you flooded our wine cellar, the pantry where Ingeborg stores her jams and jellies, and my partially completed workshop when you watered this Gott verfluchter himbeerischen Garten?"

In his anger he dropped back into German for his cursing. It translates into "damned raspberry garden".

(Do you realize that you always do three things in your mother tongue: pray, count and curse)?

A few days ago I watered the raspberry patch using the underground irrigation system I installed and forgot that I left it on. When I remembered, the

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entire area was flooded and the raspberry patch was almost a swamp.

I apologized to Knute and told him that it wouldn't happen again.

Knute nodded and muttered something about having installed a sump pump with a discharge line into MY workshop!

After this exchange, Knute brightened up and was his normal jovial self. One of the items he brought up was the weekly blurb which I write to family and friends. He asked if everyone knew about gnomes, size, appearance, usw.

I told Knute that I had taken it for granted that they were familiar with die Gnomen (the Gnomes), but maybe they were not. Knute suggested that I might consider putting in a few tidbits about Gnomes from time to time. As he was still sorta irked, I readily agreed as I definitely did not want him and his kin (99.4%) of the Gnomes irked at me. So, here goes.

Die Gnomen sind einen kleinen Volk mit einem Hohe des ein Meter. OOPS! Sorry about that, I was describing them auf Deutsch (in German) as a force of habit.

Gnomes are a small people, one (1) meter in height. The men have long beards and wrinkled features upon maturity. The lady Gnomes are slightly smaller and usually are wrinkle-free until extreme old age (160+ years). They normally live about 150 years and are very healthy. They have the magical power of being able to become invisible whenever they desire.

I have noticed this when I get into a discussion (argument)? with some of my Gnome male friends (the ladies do not argue with men -- that is one reason I like Gnomes). If a Gnome is losing a discussion (argument) with me, they tend to



disappear and will not reappear until I realize that humans do not win arguments with Gnomes.

Gob, King of the Gnomes (Konig des Gnomen), rules with a magic sword which allows him (like a 900 pound gorilla) to do anything he wants to do.

According to the Swiss doctor, Paracelsus, who wrote in the 1500s, Gnomes tunnel through the earth as easily as fish swim through water. Knute, Harts, and a few other of my Gnome friends have debunked this. It seems that Gob with his sword can easily cut a tunnel through rock, earth, usw. and that is how the story got started. Ordinary Gnomes can not.

The Gnomes are basically miners and have accumulated huge amounts of gold, precious stones, usw. That is the reason there are few Gnomes in Florida -- no minerals.

The Gnomes in Florida are there to sell trinkets, souvenirs, usw to the visiting Gnomes who come to Florida on vacation. Yes, anything for a buck. These Gnomes are the unskilled miners who resorted to this to get hard cash.

Enough of the Gnomes.

COMMUNION: on 2 June I felt like an over-age Altar boy as I was holding the chalice during the 0830 (8:30 AM) service. Then at the 1100 (11 AM) service, I was back again since the person who was supposed to be there had to be elsewhere. Oh well, I survived and I was of service. What more is needed?

Alien confirmed that 14 July is the day set for Robin Anne to be baptized, complete with the century plus baptismal gown with all the lace, usw,

JINX. CHRIS AND ROBIN ANNE: Jinx called saying they were arriving 12 July and Chris would return 21 July. Jinx will be around until about 1 August. We are looking forward to this visit.

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Martha Anne and Ned Nielsen are also coming from Richmond.

Sadly, Joan, Norm and Allison will not be able to make it.

Terry, Bard, Lauren and Lydia are coming in 13 July and Bard is flying back on the 14th, returning (via airline) on 17th. Terry's niece is being married in Jackson, Tennessee on 20 July and that is why they will be here for that time frame.

Jinx also advised that Robin Anne is growing like a weed: at twelve (12) weeks, she is twenty five (25) inches long. Obviously, she will be a tall girl. Ginger and I are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the Nielsen clan. I am confident that we'll do something extraordinary. Time will tell.

FARM: I have been out there every day this week except one (1) and that was due to it being too wet. I normally get there about 0830 and leave about 1230 or 1300. Little by little, it is getting into shape.

I brought in sweet onions and red topped turnips. The tomatoes are blooming and have tomatoes the size of tennis balls. I pulled green peppers to allow the pepper plants to get larger. The Bok Choy has bolted due to hot weather, so I pulled it.

The silver queen sweet corn has tasseled and has put out silk. Normally, it is twenty one (21) days from the first sign of silk to mature corn. That means that we will be having fresh corn in a few weeks. I hope I have staggered the corn planting enough that we will have fresh corn when we have visitors.

The banana plants are shoulder high and I am fertilizing them frequently as they normally grow in very rich soil.

The melons are putting out runners and I hope we will have some early melons, i.e. watermelon,



cantaloupe, persian melon, crenshaw, honeydew, or some of the hybrids.

The cucumbers are climbing the fence and the Kentucky wonder beans are also climbing. The southern peas are just before flowering, to set seed pods. I have purple-hulled, crowder and cream peas planted. Now that the weather has warmed, the okra is growing. Ditto Lima beans. The shallots are doing their "thing" and I should be able to pull them soon.

In the backyard, the blueberries are getting large, so they have to be covered with the netting. Ginger has given me the word and I have been cleaning out the area behind the grapevines, garden fence, usw., all one hundred ninety nine (199) feet of it!

I moved a cross-tie with the idea of taking it out for more room and then when I had it on end (after much straining, cursing and sweating) I changed my mind and left it there on top of another cross- tie. Ginger wanted room to pick beans which are growing on the fence at the rear of the garden.

I also made a few more little rocks out of big rocks which I had removed from behind the garden. She also had me on the ladder pruning the ivy (English and variegated) on the north side of the house. She wanted it removed to an area about seven feet from ground level. It had gotten to almost the attic level, so I had fun hacking, pulling and cleaning. This was followed by the weekly grass cutting.

Yes, I did not go to the farm that day. The next day I went out at 0815 and worked until 1245 and the "Farm" is looking good. I cultivated, weeded, sprayed the corn silk for corn borer worms and planted some fennel where the Bok Choy was pulled.

Turnips have been pulled and I will be planting something? in that area. I accidentally knocked off a tomato while cultivating and as it was pink and almost ripe. I took it home. Ginger was glad as she

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said tomatoes were about \$1.98/lb. in the stores. UGH!

I also planted more Honeyshaw melons (hybrid of crenshaw and honeydews). After getting home, I got the job of putting compost on the raspberry patch, transplanting volunteer bushes and hauling compost for Ginger. That work day was from 0815 to 1600 with a break for lunch. I was pooped and somewhat muscle sore.

MASTER GARDENERS: Last week, I got a distress call from the County Cooperative office. It seems that Ann was trying to enter Master Gardener time into the program I had written and she had problems with it. She is the one who wiped it out previously and I had to redo EVERYTHING!!!

After redoing it, I kept a copy, JUST IN CASE!

I went to the office to check. Yes, the first disc was wiped clean and the second disc was full of glitches.

She'd done it again!

I put my backup disc in the A drive and booted it. The computer went to drive B and gave me a "disk error" reading on the monitor.

I started checking with the B drive but it would not read or copy any disk I placed in it. After doing it several times, I noticed that the disk felt peculiar when I entered it. After much playing around and "fiddling", the B drive would not accept the disc. Further manipulation and probing produced a template card which SOMEONE had put in the drive.

After I removed it, everything worked. Karen and I then entered the pending time records and backed them up. They have decided to keep all hands off of that computer except for authorized personnel. I am glad I had a copy of the program (once burned, twice shy!)



For a computer illiterate, I get lucky at times.

SOAPBOX COMMENTS: It just occurred to me, as the American public is so anti-metric and so in favor of English measurements, why don't we use their weight system?

The English have dropped their (meiner Meinung nach) stupid measurement systems including weights and have gone to the metric.

According to Ginger, she weighs eight (8) stone, eight (8) pounds. My desired weight is eleven (11) stone, eleven (11) pounds.

This measurement system is just as logical as their former 5280 feet to a mile, 12 inches to a foot, and 16.5 feet to a rod.

As you know, the metric system is multiples of ten (10) and that is EASY to remember. It is exactly the same as the number of fingers. That's how I remember it!

In case you have forgotten, an inch is the length of some English king's thumb's first joint and the foot was the length of his foot in a boot. Now that is logical.

Oh yes, just in case you are wondering, Ginger's weight is 120 pounds and my desired weight is 165 pounds. A stone, the standard former English weight measurement is fourteen (14) pounds.

THAT IS LOGICAL ALSO AS IT HAPPENED TO BE THE WEIGHT OF A STONE THAT WAS USED TO WEIGH PRODUCE FOR TAXATION PURPOSES.

(It is just as logical as for me to use Greek symbols for writing $\gamma\eta\epsilon\ \beta\alpha\lambda\alpha\nu\chi\epsilon\ \omicron\phi\ \gamma\eta\sigma\ \lambda\epsilon\tau\tau\rho$. (the balance of this letter).

Off your soapbox, Stacy!

Ginger just came in saying she smells gas and for me to locate it. I checked the clothes dryer line with

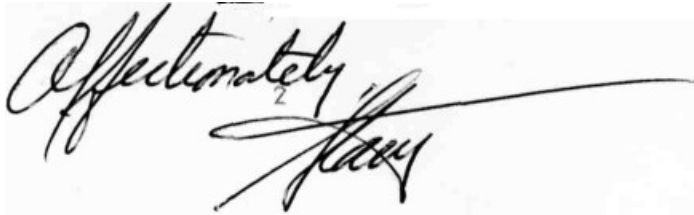
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soapy water: no bubbles/no leak. I checked the gas hot water heater; zilch. The gas has been turned off in the furnaces. I told her I couldn't smell it or locate a leak. She did not care for that reply and asked if she should call the Gas Company. I told her to do whatever she thought was best.

Kirk Furr called and he has finished overhauling the clock of the clock/barometer set from the *USS Cacapon (AO-52)*. This is the set that Ann gave me and it is LOVELY! Ginger hasn't decided where I will put it. Kirk said he will have Bard's Westminster Chimes wall clock ready when he arrives in July. Kirk does good, fast work.

I planned for this to be a short letter, but I got carried away. Sorry about that! Ginger will be happy as there are no comments regarding reloading, shooting, or guns. I'll close with that comment.

Take care, relax, have fun, enjoy life and remember that we love you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script. The word "Affectionately" is written in a large, flowing script. Below it, the name "Stacy" is written in a similar script, followed by a long, horizontal, sweeping flourish that extends to the right.

20 July 1991

Dear Mary Lee,

ROBIN ANNE: On 14 July, Robin Anne was baptized. Allen did the service and I held the font. Ned was with me at the altar, and Jinx and Chris presented Robin Anne to Allen. Robin Anne had gone to sleep in Jinx' arms and throughout the service until Allen's wet hand was put on her head. Her eyes opened wide with a "what is going on?" expression on her face. When Allen took her to address the congregation, she snuggled up in his arms and then played with his face. She looked very good in the 150+ year old baptismal gown.

After the service Ginger fixed an superb luncheon. It was attended by Allen and Lois Smith, Park and Bettyjean Moore, Linda and Howard and the family. We had smoked turkey, smoked ham, potato salad, salad, squash casserole, Chardonnay, pound cake, and heavenly hash. In other words, all went well. (And I gained weight!)

FAMILY: This has been a wonderful week. Two of the three children, three of the four grandchildren, plus Martha Anne and Ned Nielsen were here and we all had a ball. Ned is a wonderful cook and demonstrated it. He bought a brisket and cooked it with herbs, onions, carrots, celery, usw, then made a horseradish sauce (I dug the horseradish from the garden). Everyone raved over it. Ginger fried eggplant (from the farm) and we had a wonderful dinner. Just as a sample, we had: boiled shrimp, beef

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with horseradish sauce, vegetable spaghetti sauce, fried chicken, bar-be-que ribs, etc.. It was excellent. Martha Anne and Ned left Tuesday. Bard, Terry, Lauren and Lydia left Friday. The house is almost empty. Robin Anne loved Lauren and Lydia. They played with her and she followed them all over the room with her eyes. She gurgled, smiled, laughed with them -- lots of fun.

CHRIS: Thursday was his birthday and we helped him celebrate. Ginger located a good masseur with steam room and sauna and we checked it out. After much steaming, sweating in the sauna and getting massaged, we were hungry and I introduced Chris to Sims. We had a few beers, bar-be-que sandwiches and side orders of baked beans and cole slaw. Then we went home and napped. That is the first nap I have had in ages. It was fun!

Oh yes, on the way home, we went by a Computer store (Hard Warehouse) and picked up programs for *Harpoon (Battleset #3)* and *After Dark* which is a screen saver. It makes the computer monitor look like an aquarium with lots of brightly colored salt water fish swimming. It can be changed to show: flying toasters with toast, a can of crawling worms, clocks, earth seen from space, various shapes, plus about forty more scenarios. It is fun. It comes on one (1) minute after the last key stroke and stays on until you hit a key.

Chris received loads of humorous cards, a bird book, a cook book, etc. He had a good day. The previous day, I Introduced Chris to Fu Lin, a good Chinese restaurant, and he enjoyed the hot and sour soup, hot and spicy chicken, usw. Yes, we naturally used chopsticks! Chris will be leaving for Longwood in a few days. We shall miss him.

BARD: Bard came in Saturday (last week) then he flew to Houston Monday morning (0700). He flew



back here Wednesday and spent Thursday with us and then left for Jackson, TN on Friday AM. While he was here, we had fun re-introducing him to reloading and he left with four hundred (400) rounds of 9 mm. parabellum cartridges. He enjoyed reloading them.

NIELSEN (Sr).: Ginger and I were very fortunate to be able to become more acquainted with Martha Anne and Ned. Ginger and Martha Anne did a lot of baby sitting and Ned I did some cooking (lots of eating) and consumed a few drinks. Ned is an Absolut Vodka (ice cold) drinker to which he adds a .little orange juice and then sips it. As you know, I am an "on the rocks" Scotch or Irish drinker and we chatted, compared notes, and just enjoyed life in general. He is an expert meatloaf maker so I am still eating my favorite sandwich!

Ned and I made a few trips to the "farm" and did some harvesting. I just returned from the "farm" and brought back about a dozen ears of Silver Queen corn, acorn squash, cucumbers, okra, large, ripe tomatoes, watermelon and cantaloupes. Ginger gave Terry a large grocery sack of crowder peas. (She also loaded George Asbury with acorn squash, tomatoes, cantaloupe, peas, sweet corn, usw. from the "farm"). Ned was interested in the "farm" as he is growing vegetables and is planning on expanding his "farm".

Martha Anne paid us m a compliment by listing some of my (and Ginger's) CD's. Some were my choices and some were 100% Ginger. Martha Anne forgot her list, so I shall mail it to her.

From what Ned and Martha Anne told me, I am anxious to see their restaurant in Richmond. Maybe, one of these days.

Ned got me off dead center on my coins. I dug out the box (about 14"x 24"x 12") and pulled out the loose coins. This is the box I have "hidden" in stack of other military boxes in my workshop. Ned looked at

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the silver coins, then at the copper. He talked me into putting them into coin cases and discussing some with a dealer.

I have pennies dating back to 1831, two (2) cent pieces, and three (3) cent pieces. They are copper, however, one three-cent coin is silver and smaller than a dime . There are a bunch of half dollars (1870-99) and some paper fractional currency, i.e. ten (10) cent, twenty five (25) cent, and fifty (50) cent bills. I found out that the wad of uncirculated two (2) dollar bills are worth \$2.50 to \$3.00 each. UGH! Anyway, we had fun looking at coins and talking. Ned is a serious coin collector and has a beautiful collection of U.S. trade silver dollars, plus a complete set of Morgan silver dollars. I would like to see them.

COMPUTER: Bard brought me a program (QDOS) and installed it for me. It is whiz. We then, on Chris' suggestion, swapped the programs on the "C" drive with the programs on the "D" drive because the "D" drive is much faster. Bard did the swapping of programs using the QDOS and it went very smoothly and MUCH. MUCH faster than what I could have done without QDOS. That program plus the *After Dark* from Chris have added lots of fun to my life. The *Harpoon Battleset* has expanded my *Harpoon* to cover warfare in the Mediterranean and Persian Gulf. I am itching to try it out. After the changes, this computer is much easier to use, thanks to Chris.

WEATHER: Would you believe that the temperature at 0700 is 68-70; highs have been 80+. Today it was 90 -- not too bad for July.

We had a long dry spell, so when Chris went with me to the "farm," he worked like a slave. He weeded, trimmed and harvested. We then irrigated the two (2) plots and went home and showered. The next day it rained very hard and I was glad, but when I checked

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at the "farm," it had only rained 1/10 inch! I am glad we watered.

The other plots looked wilted and dry. Mine was nice and fresh (damp) looking and I had lots of ripened vegetables. For what it is worth, I now have two (2) banana plants about a foot taller than I am. It will be interesting to see what happens.

Some Sweet Old Boy, or initials there of (S.O.B.), backed his truck or car across my plot and his wheels dug up about ten feet of my lima beans that I have had so much trouble getting started. He/she? bent four (4) wire frames and crushed some chili pepper and green bell pepper plants.

Guy offered me two (2) concrete highway marker posts and a post hole digger. I'll plant these concrete post when he brings them. The damage occurred while I was away one evening and Guy repaired the damage before I came the following day. I appreciate him.

This had better be closed, so I can get it in the mail.

Take care, relax, have lots of fun and enjoy life as we only go this way once. Remember that we love you.

*It was a fun week -*  


*Affectionately,*  


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**27 July 1991**

Dear Mary Lee,

**FARM:** It is beginning to really produce the produce.

I couldn't resist that comment!!!

Friday I started harvesting. This is what I brought home:

Approx. 3/4 pound of okra (it is beginning to come in now); three pounds of tomatoes; a large grocery sack of southern peas (crowder); egg plant; cucumbers; two sugar baby watermelons; a cantaloupe; and two .large Gallicum melons. The gallicum melon is a French hybrid with green flesh; they average about three (3) pounds.

I have every thing in the refrigerator (except for two watermelons as I have one in there already). Ginger is talking about my making pickled okra. So it looks like I will be pickling shortly.

If we accumulate enough tomatoes, I want to make some ketchup from a receipt I've been hoarding. One of these days????

I started to get up on my soapbox regarding the metric system, but decided against it as you have heard it too frequently from me. Maybe I'll start a movement: PANTS (.Please Abolish Now The English System).

Enough of that.



In checking the big melon patch, I find that there are quite a few melons developing. These are: French Charantais, *a salmon colored three and a half pound melon with a delicious flavor. (I have only had them in France. Lovely!)*; Persian melons, *which are large, round heavily-netted, orange-fleshed with a weight of about seven pounds*; and the Honeyshaw *which is a crenshaw with salmon-pink flesh and a delicious flavor*. Yes, I have some Hale cantaloupes also, plus the Sugar baby watermelons -- when they start ripening, I'll have a ball with them. Just think -- Melons, breakfast, lunch and supper, plus mid-day snacks.

Mildew and wilt set in on the Hale cantaloupes, so I've been spraying with zineb; it certainly stops the wilt/ mildew immediately.

Since writing the above, Ginger called me to lunch and we cut a Gallicum melon after eating our bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwiches. It was absolutely delicious. Green fleshed and similar to a honeydew, but much, much, MUCH better. There is no question in my mind as to whether or not to plant it again next year!

I have been talking with Breck Campbell who is on the board of directors of the County Garden Center (where the "farm" is). They have been discing the area in November and again in January of each year. I told Breck that I would like to grow things like; asparagus, horseradish, etc., but can't due to the discing. He said that he was also thinking about the discing and he feels that it should be stopped as it is actually doing no good and costs mucho \$\$\$\$\$. He is going to bring it up at the next board meeting and try to halt it. If so, I shall put in permanent items including a blackberry patch out there!

**ROBIN ANNE:** She is four and half months old and is growing almost visually. Jinx says she weighs about sixteen-seventeen (16-17) pounds, but after

## Letters From Stacy

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holding her for awhile it feels more like thirty-six or seven (36-37) pounds! When I call her, whistle, or speak to her, she grins like a Cheshire cat. Jinx is the one she laughs at/with. Jinx has decided she likes baby food, so there are now two sizes: large for Jinx and small for Robin Anne. Jinx took Robin Anne to the library (with me) and displayed her to Judy -- who raved over her (naturally).

Ginger and I will miss her when Jinx and Robin Anne leave 31 July. I have gotten accustomed to having them around and it will be lonely without them.

**COMPUTER:** For the past few days, I have been glued to the computer. Monday, I did *Master Minutes* (the Master Gardener newsletter) and started getting my two (2) hard disks organized. As a result, I have two (2) megabytes (2,000,000 bytes) open on the C drive and eighteen megabytes (18,000,000 bytes) open on the D drive.

Then I started on the two hundred plus (200+) 3 1/2 inch disks I have programs, data, usw. listed on. I used the *NTD (Name That Disk)* program, and made 3 1/2 inch disk labels for about half of them.

I transferred programs, usw. off of the 720K (720,000) byte disks onto one point forty four megabyte (1,440,000 byte) disks. This reduced the space I was using to store the disks and gave me lots of spare disks for giving programs, usw., to others. I enjoy the *After Dark* screen saver Chris gave me and the *QDOS 3* which Bard brought me. Both are handy programs. *QDOS3* has saved me much time and effort. It is one of the best utility programs I have encountered. Many thanks to both Bard and Chris.

**THINGS TO DO:** All that chocolate-covered toffee which I made a few weeks ago is gone. People tell me how good it is and I'll share the receipt for you to try.



It is strictly low cal! If you believe that, I would like to sell you a bridge or some Florida swamp land.

The Schmeisser still hasn't been repaired. I still haven't touched the reloading and I have LOTS of empty 9 mm. and .30'06 cases to reload. Ditto .38 special and .45 ACP. One of these days!

The *I Love Me* wall is still un-adjusted. Jinx said she was ready and I was blocking her by using the computer for DAYS. I just found another Letter of Commendation. I am arguing with myself about framing it, or ignoring it, or filing it away. I think the latter will win.

One item accomplished is the 40-20-15 meter antenna which was down. It was repaired via replacement of the nylon line which had broken due to deterioration by ultra violet, usw. After all, it was overage surplus when I got it from the USN and it has only been up in open air and weather for ten years -- rather good for overage stuff.

I have my Morse key out on my desk. I have been practicing on it trying to get my Morse code back to respectable levels. Ugh!

The guitar is in its case and I am losing the calluses I had developed on my left finger tips. If you don't use 'em, you lose 'em.

I updated my computer German. I have phrases, idioms, verb declension and vocabulary on disks and am not using them. Pfui. Again, if you don't use it, you lose it.

I want to get my FAX back on line, plus being able to operate on *Packet* and *AMTOR* as well as FAX. That means some re-wiring, adjusting, pruning, and grunting. I should live so long as to get all of this done!

**BOOKS:** In my spare time I read! Have you read anything by Tony Gibbs? He wrote *Dead Run*. I am

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reading *Running Fix*. Excellent books. He is a sailor (charter yachts) and knows his sailing. For the non-navigators: a fix is a location of the vessel on a chart, using bearing, or a sight using a sextant. A running fix is a location using loran which is constantly changing with the vessels progress. Anyway, try him, you'll like his works.

Incidentally, Tom Clancy is coming out with a new book in October. I have already reserved a copy.

The library just called and told me that my reserved copy of *The Firm* is being held for me and to come pick it up. I need to finish reading *Running Fix*.

**MASTER GARDENERS:** Tuesday was the yard tour. We were number four on the list. Breck Campbell was #1; Ann Ward was #3; and Ellen Kane, #5. How we got into the act, I don't know.

Two of the yards are on the river and palatial, to say the least. Ellen Kane has five acres with two horses, usw. Anyway, it is over and we survived. Breck has a showcase in his backyard: no grass, it is all landscaping, ornamentals, usw. He came by after it was over and got some of Ginger's plants for his garden plus some of my wintergreen mint. He was especially taken with Ginger's impatiens (sp)?

I need to get in the last of my "owed" time: 3 1/2 hours on the telephone answering questions at the extension office. I think I still need three hours of re-certification and then I'll be all set for 1991.

Janet is "hacked" at the Editor of the *Master Minutes* and for the third time asked me if I wanted the position.

For the third time, I said, "Not no. But hell, no!"

Which reminds me., Jinx commented that I have gotten back into my bad habit of using profanity in my speaking. She said she still remembered the cassette tapes Howard and I used to exchange and

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commented, "We used to listen to CDR. Danner and count the curse words in his comments". Her latest comment is that I was getting close to Howard in curse word ratio. It looks like I'll need to watch that... Maybe I'll use German and no one will know I am swearing.

NED NIELSEN: I had mentioned to Ned that my sharpening steels had gotten rather well worn down and I was looking for a good one. As he owned a restaurant, could he give me an idea of where to write? He sent me a wonderful Solingen steel. It is so much better than what I had (Cavel Hall and TruEdge). I can give a knife a few strokes and I'll have a good razor edge where I would almost work up a sweat with the other steels and only get a mediocre edge. I certainly appreciate it and I have sharpened a few of the knives and have already gotten comments about the improvement, I appreciate him and his thoughtfulness. We certainly enjoyed the Nielsen's much too short stay, maybe the next time they will stay longer.

I just check the length and it is getting long, again! Three pages! I had best close.

Relax, have fun, enjoy life and remember that we love you

*Affectionately
Stan*

3 August 1991

Dear Mary Lee,

ROBIN ANNE: Jinx and Robin Anne left for Longwood Wednesday at 1800 (6 p.m).

Ginger and I then went to the American Legion for their Wednesday fish fry. For once it was only the two (2) of us and we felt lonely. The fish was ok, but it didn't seem the same with only us and no other friends. When we arrived home, it was still light and Ginger commented that the house still smelled pleasantly of Robin Anne.

It was a very quiet house, a bit lonely now that everyone has gone. There is a lot of difference between a house with eleven (11) people in it and a home with only two (.2).

We talked with Chris Thursday morning. The trip from Little Rock to Memphis was good, but the plane they changed to going to Orlando was packed and the trip to Orlando was not good. Chris said that Jinx had commented, "It was the last time she'd fly alone with Robin Anne". (Or words to that effect). Ginger has been picking up blankets, pads, toys and things that Robin Anne played with.

We miss Robin Anne and Jinx.

FARM: Thursday morning at 0800, Ginger and I went to the farm and harvested melons, okra, tomatoes, peppers, egg plant and crowder peas. I need to spend some time and pull weeds, chop down



the old corn, replant and generally work the place over.

The Gallicum melons are very good. They are a hybrid of honeydews and cantaloupe. You can taste both in the combination. There is no question that I will plant more next year. The Persian melons are getting large (soccer ball size) and will ripen soon. The Hale cantaloupe are slowly coming in. The honeyshaws are still growing and are green as grass. I am confident that after tasting them, I will be better able to make up my mind as to what to plant next year.

Friday, I went out at 0815 and returned at 1200, pooped, hot and sweaty. I accomplished a bit -- a patch of corn cut down, stalks hauled off, and the area turned twice with the tiller. I cleared five rows between the various crops and weeded. I dug three post holes two (2) feet deep and planted three six by six inch (6" x 6") posts. on the side bordering the road where they have been backing over my plants.

The tomatoes, melons, and Hale cantaloupe were harvested and the cucumber plants tied up. The big melon patch was weeded and cultivated. I plan on planting (greater love hath no man than he who plants despised items for his wife) yellow goose necked squash.

Charlie promised to leave some for me in our transfer place, but he forgot! Ginger said, when I got home, not to buy any seed as she had plenty. Ugh and I thought that I had been reprieved.

After I got home, I cut the grass in the front and side yards and then took a shower. For some reason, I didn't feel my usual chipper self. A few days prior to this, Jinx had commented (after I came in for the farm, hot and sweaty) that I had lots of stamina -- or it could be spelled s*t*u*p*i*d*i*t*y to work as long as

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I did in the heat and sun. Friday, I concurred with her latter comment.

Speaking of comments from Jinx, she came out with what I think is a great one. We had been talking about "in-laws" and she said, "If I had been shopping in a Mother-in-law store, I could not have picked out a better one". That is in deed high praise from Jinx.

COMPUTER: For the past few days, I have been sitting glued to the computer. I received twelve (12) disks Wednesday from NAS Dallas and a request for several programs which filled the disks. I received them at 1230 and put them in the mail when we returned from the airport after dropping off Jinx and Robin Anne. I have the computer better organized now due to programs from Bard and Chris (plus hints and pointers from both). Over half my disks have been reviewed, edited and labeled. That is about one hundred (100) disks! The place is getting "neated up".

I LOVE ME WALL: Now that Jinx has it organized and better looking, I appreciate it more! The clock and barometer are now directly in front of the computer above the diploma from Emory. I frequently look at it for the correct time and it stays right on the Naval Observatory time check. A wonderful clock! Jinx did a wonderful job of reorganizing the wall. It is neater and has about six (6) or so more items on it. A few more and it will be like wallpaper! Jinx told me to stop getting those letters of commendation as the wall was too full! I'll try to comply.

CHORES: Ginger gave me the word Thursday, "You better get with the tomatoes, as I am throwing them out as they get over ripe". That jarred me. So I got with the program and did the necessary to convert about four plus quarts of tomatoes into tomato juice. Ginger had already told me not to make picante sauce or salsa, as we had too much already.



In my opinion, too much is strictly in the eye of the beholder. I didn't think that we had enough.

Once you know what the wife wants, you have no problem in making up your mind.

Jinx made a sketch of what she thought Ginger would like to have on the rear deck, i.e. a work bench type shelf. That is to get rid of the cabinet that has been on the deck for years. This project will take two (2) 1x6 boards with a 1X2 as a "lip" around the outer edge. See, you will have something to look at the next time you are here. I still think that screening/storm windows would be nice for the deck, plus a door to the descending steps. Oh well, time will tell.

While Jinx was here, we checked the safe deposit box and I brought out some of the silver coins I had in it. I need to get some coin holders to mount them. Some are Morgan silver dollars in uncirculated condition; a few Stone Mountain half dollars; and some "walking Liberty" half dollars -- which reminds me, there are rolls and rolls of silver dimes and quarters awaiting mounting in the box under the work bench in the workshop, plus lots of Indian head pennies, usw. Yes, I have some work cut out for me when the weather is nasty and I can't go out (hot, that is; it never gets too cold!)

BOOKS: I have finished *The Firm* by Girshom? and it is excellent. I started it on Saturday afternoon and could hardly put it down. I finished it Sunday afternoon. I highly recommend it! It is about number two or three on the best seller list. Read it, you'll like it!

I finished *Running Fix* by Tony Gibbs. It is another excellent book and I have just gotten his first (fiction) book, *Dead Run* and am looking forward to reading it.

COMPUTER, AGAIN: I started *Harpoon* again. I'm currently about two hundred nautical miles SSW of

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Narvik, Norway, with two (2) Frigates and two (2) merchantmen with a war going on (the USSR having invaded western Europe). Some Russian men of war are about fifty miles north headed toward me and are unidentified as yet.


This is the most realistic simulation I have ever run into. It has twelve battlesets; the NROTC uses the first three and the Navy War College uses four (4) through twelve (12) as course material.

The nice thing is that it has a random factor built in. You can do the same scenario several times and it is NEVER the same even though you may give the same commands. The opponents are varied and do different things. A command that may be a stroke of genius in one situation may be a disaster in another using the same scenario. You just have to make the best judgment you can using the information that you have.

Bob McKenzie would have loved this as it goes from a command of a small four (4) ship group (like I am doing) to a fleet command in level twelve, as used in the Navy War College. I am eager to get back with it and see what my strategy produces. I am going to use the new Battleset that Chris gave me, *Mediterranean Conflict*, which also includes the Persian Gulf and Desert Storm action. Yes, that is one reason why my "spare" time is so scarce.

KITCHEN: Since the steel that Ned Nielsen sent arrived the knives in the kitchen have been like razors. Ginger can accuse me of a lot of things but the kitchen is not one of them. I pride myself in leaving it as clean, or cleaner than it was when I entered it.

BIRD FEEDERS: The bird feeder on the south side of the house which I view from the den uses about one filling/week. The bird feeder on the east side which is visible from the breakfast room holds



four times as much as the other feeder and needs filling every third day! I think that I shall change it for a feeder similar to the one on the south side. I watched a sparrow stand there on the feeder and kick sun flower seeds off for about three-four (3-4) minutes. I'll bet he/she tossed over a cup full of seed onto the ground under the feeder. The other feeder will not allow this as the seeds have to be picked out of a slot. The east side feeder is a gravity feed onto a platform and as such can be emptied fast.

JINX & ROBIN ANNE: we just finished talking with Jinx and Chris. Robin Anne was taken to the doctor for her shots, examination, usw. She passed with flying colors. She is now 16 pounds and has grown from 22 1/2" to 27 1/2" and she is five (5) months old. The doctor said that she is going to be tall and slender. She has been started on vegetables and fruit plus her formula, usw. All is going well with her.

Jinx will be starting her second grade class in a few weeks (19 Aug.) but knowing Jinx, she will be doing her room over beginning almost immediately. She always has the most attractive class room in the school. This was true at Romine, Mitchell and Gibbs here in Little Rock and was true in her first grade class in Seminole county.

BARD: I had a very nice chat with Bard Friday. We chatted about odds and ends and he told me that the company audit is winding up and he and his department are smelling roses. Naturally! I am very glad that Bard is getting a good audit as it helps!

I had best close this out as I have chores up to my eyeballs. Take care, relax, have fun and enjoy life. We love you.

Letters From Stacy

It is mighty quiet around
here now & I miss the
crowd!

Affectionately,
Stacy

24 August 1991

Dear Mary Lee,

TV AND THINGS LIKE THAT: The *Weekend Gardener* segment aired Saturday. For Ginger and me -- it rattled our cage.

Bob Bray announced the *Weekend Gardener* section with the comment that here was a bit of paradise in a backyard and then he showed the backyard. It was rather good and we taped it, if anyone wants to view it. The cameraman had gotten shots of Ginger's roses, phlox, plus some herbs, the pears, usw.

Janet Carson (head of the Master Gardeners) called and wanted to know if I had taped it because: 1.. She had missed it and had heard that it was good. And 2. She wants to start a video tape of ALL Master Gardeners who appear on TV shows for her files.

Then a Jane Piazza called. She wanted to buy some of the pears that she had seen on the show. I told her that they were not ripe yet but I'd give her some when they ripened. Such is fame! Ugh!

SOCIAL: Sunday evening, what was initially called Gourmet I, and is now called something like Samplers? met Ginger fixed a fresh fruit salad using melons from the garden plus items she had purchased, i.e. pineapple, seedless grapes, usw. I commented the group had changed considerably from its inception, (Meiner Meinung nach, and not for the better, either!) Sunday it was all typical cold salads, crackers, rolls, cookies and similar items.

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Initially we had excellent food and a good punch (alcoholic) and wine (red, white and blush); this degenerated to salads, etc. and Pepsi-cola, iced tea and an (U*G*H!) wine-lime punch. Oh well, you can't win them all.


CUISINE: The *Frugal Gourmet* had a program on Cuban cooking which triggered my memories so I just might get with it and whip up a good Cuban supper. How does the following grab you? Moros y Christianos (black beans and rice), yellow rice and chicken, fried plantains (bananas) Ropa Vieja (shredded beef with spices and herbs) and Flan.

Yes, I would NOT have all of this at one time, Oh yes, a good Cuban sandwich would also be good at another time with a bowl of garbanzo bean soup. Yes, I'm still on my diet and losing weight (SLOWLY!).

BOOKS: The sequel to *Gone with the Wind* is coming out in a month. The name is *Scarlet* and I have no idea who the author is. I am on the list for it. Shall advise when I read it. Ditto the new Tom Clancy book. I finally got copies of two (2) books that I have been searching for: Dick Francis' *Enquiry* (EXCELLENT, suggest reading it) and *Early Autumn* by Parker. (This one of the early "Spenser" books) and it is very, very good. I have been "touted" onto an author, Faye Kellerman, who has written *The Ritual Bath* and *Sacred and Profane*. I have the first, but have read neither. They are murder mysteries with a Jewish religion background.

COMPUTER: As you know, I have one (1) megabyte of RAM and sixty plus (60+) megabytes on my hard drives in my IBM PS/2 model 30-286. Unfortunately, with memory resident programs, *Windows*, usw., I am now coming up with the message, "Memory insufficient for ...".

I am arguing with myself about getting a full RAM of two (2) megabytes. This would help in quite a few



situations and eliminate the "insufficient memory message". I have written several advertisers in computer magazines requesting information.

Stewart Long, who has the same system that I have, has the same problem. He says to let him know what I find out. There is a new DOS (disk operating system) out, *Microsoft DOS 5.0* and I hear that it is good. I have DOS 4.01, the upgrade from 4.0 and it is interesting. Chris says that *Dr. DOS*, another program,. is better. I'll consult with Chris to see what is going on.

HUNTING: The score is now: US 7, Mice 0. For awhile I was getting one (1) or two (2) mice nightly. I now get one (1) occasionally. It looks like I am putting a dent in the mice population, Ginger says that when she squirted the hole in the cross lie in the backyard, only one (1) mouse ran. Before it was three (3) so that area has been depleted. Ginger wanted to buy more traps, but I talked her out of it, I think. Two (2) traps are doing nicely.

CHORES AND THINGS LIKE THAT: The brass pull on the desk in the bedroom lost its ring and Ginger pulls the drawer out with the brass plate which had bowed outward when the ring pull came loose. She removed the brass plate and I took it to the workshop and did the necessary. ALL three (3) nail holes had tears to the edge of the plate. I lined them up and reinforced the metal with a silver solder and replaced the ring pull reinforcing it also. It is now back on the desk drawer working and looking good.

Ginger even polished it.

As an aside comment, Ginger said that she was thinking about moving the chest freezer in her workshop from the east wall to the north wall so it would give her more room. I felt energetic Monday AM after doing the brass plate/pull, so I cleared out the corner and the area next to the four (4) drawer

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file cabinet on the north wall and moved (UGH!) the F*U*L*L chest freezer.

Oh, my aching back!

It looks better and definitely gives the area more room. We'll see how long it takes Ginger to notice the move. (About two (2) hours).

GLOATING DEPT: It is lovely, this Arkansas weather. The high this week has been 89 and the lows have been running in the high 50s or low 60s. It is superb awaking to weather that is 59-60 F. I am afraid that this is going to spoil me for future Augusts. As you know, we are about 200-250 feet higher than the area where the weather bureau is located and our temperatures run a few degrees lower than theirs, so when you check our temperatures, as per the weather report, subtract a few degrees.

BILL CLINTON: "My" newspaper ran a poll and I quote: "Do you think Bill Clinton should run for president"?

There were four (4) listed answers and you were supposed to call in and tell them which answer you preferred. The answers are:

A: Yes, because I think he would make a good president.

B: Yes, because that is one way to get him out of the governor's office.

C: No, because he promised he would serve four years as governor.

D: No, because I think he would make a lousy president.

The response was:

A: 12.2%

B: 25.7%

C: 13.0%

— ❦ —

D: 49.1%

Ginger asked me how often I called in.

I called in once and voted B.

This gives you an idea of how well Clinton is thought of by some people. I realize that most of his supporters do not have telephones, or don't know how to use them, hence the anti-Clinton result.

Ginger seems to think that I am prejudiced against Clinton. I am just as open minded as most of these bleeding heart liberals who love Clinton. End of soapbox spiel.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Don't hate your enemies, the chances are that you made them.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: Why is it that when you think of an excellent idea at night while you are in bed almost asleep, you can never think of it the next day?

The comment ahead of this paragraph occurred to me Wednesday night and another thought which was MUCH, MUCH better. The problem is that I can't remember what it was! I have tried putting a paper pad and pencil/ball point by the bed, but it/they always disappear when the chest of drawers is dusted/rearranged or generally "neated up". Maybe, one of these days, I'll remember.

VARIOUS CHORES/DUTIES: Tuesday, the Navy newsletter came back edited with corrections, deletions, additions, usw. It arrived Express Mail with \$ 15.00 in postage on it (needing only \$13.95, but it is just money). This is the newsletter that I submitted 19 M*A*Y! for publication in June. It seems that someone goofed, lost it, usw. However the excuse was that the computer crashed shortly after it arrived and they could do nothing.

The fact that they had a paper copy and it was not repeat NOT on their computer, only mine, had

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nothing to do with it, nor the fact that I sent a duplicate copy and a follow up request for status in July.

The "computer crashed" excuse was still the word. To sum it. up, I received it Tuesday via Express Mail -- and a telephone call to expedite the corrections, usw. and return same via Express Mail, so it could be published ASAP (as soon as possible).

I had it in the post office Tuesday afternoon ready for lithographing and publication. That evening, I received the *Master Gardener* newsletter for typing and readying for publication. It was finished Wednesday and mailed. (The USN newsletter is 19 pages and the Master Gardener newsletter is 6 pages). Yes, I get a munificent sum of \$00..00 for doing both. Whee! And I furnish the equipment. That is known as devotion (stupidity)?.

Ginger gave me word that I had promised to record some of her CD's onto cassette tape for use in HER car but nothing had been done. She also pointed out that I had bought a tape player/recorder unit so I could do it, but hadn't AND? Once you Know what the wife wants..... .

So I started recording..Debussy..***(The rest of this section is illegible).***

Park and I have been talking about furniture; I'll be starting on the antique furniture when things cool off enough for me not to go to the "farm".

I am thinking about redoing the drawers and slides in the solid cherry chest of drawers, the warped door on the breakfront in the living room, and the old "kitchen safe" in the dining room

Ginger-wants me to replace the broken top piece on the four poster bed. The one made on Blount Myers family plantation in 1836.



In my "junk/junque" I think I have a piece of matching wood which I could shape and glue to the broken piece and then refinish it so that it would not be noticeable. (Who notices a small break on the top of a four poster post, anyway)? I need to disassemble the four poster and tighten it up as the head board squeaks when I/she/we turn over. It is on my list of "things to do eventually".

Also on my list is a project to design, construct, and mount an antenna coupler on the roof, attaching the antennas to it. This will be like the USN does on it's ships. All of the antennas go an antenna coupler on the masts. Then the antenna coupler is connected to the radio gear via coaxial cable. It is MUCH more efficient that way. I have the equipment and am lacking only time. So what else is new?

Chuck (Dr). Bowlus and I agreed to start in on our beer manufacture when the weather never exceeds eighteen (18) Celsius (65 F). I talked with Barbara and Chuck right after they returned from their summer stay in Austria and Hungary. Barbara said that she had decided (like Chuck) never to drink American beer again as it is so poor and our beer is so good. She is having Chuck clean out their garage and turn it into a home brewery. She will help. For a Swiss national and beer connoisseur to make a strong statement like that is a compliment to our beer (contrary to some of the comments from my immediate family).

This is getting long again, so.....

I just went through one of my desk drawers and found all sorts of "stuff" I have noted and saved, so stand by for this in the next letter. Some has been written before but years have passed since the writing, so you might (hopefully) have forgotten it-

Take care, relax, have fun and ENJOY LIFE! We love you.

Letters From Stacy

Affectionately,
Stacy

7 September 1991

Dear Mary Lee,

DIE GNOMEN: You have probably noticed that there have been no comments about the Gnomes/Trolls, usw. lately. The reason for that is that I had not seen any for several months and I've been wondering why.

Monday, an overcast day, when I went out to refill the south birdfeeder, I saw Knute, Hans, Eric, Wolfgang and Wilhelm, plus several more whom I did not recognize. It was the largest collection of Gnomes that I've ever seen and I was glad to see them again.

Knute said, "Seiner Finger verletzt"? (Your finger hurts)? I was pleased that he was inquiring about my cut finger and I said, "Ja".

"Das ist sehr gut," he replied and I was astounded at that. He was very glad that it hurt!

Gnomes are usually most sympathetic. It suddenly dawned on me that he was using formal German instead of the usual informal German used by friends. I then realized that none of them were smiling. They actually appeared hostile.

I asked, "Was ist los, meiner Freund?" (what is wrong, my friend?)

At that, I thought Knute was about to become apoplectic. His face turned red. His cheeks twitched. He snarled at me, "Ich bin nicht seinen Freund! (I am not your friend). Seiner Messer ist jetzt eine zauberische Klinge und sie wirt Ihnen schneiden wenn

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verletzen Sie unsen Freunden"! (Your knife is now a magic blade and it will injure you when you hurt our friends!).

I was dumbfounded and realized that I was at the nadir of my friendship with the Gnomes. I asked Knute what I had done to provoke such a curse and hostility. He seemed to simmer down a bit and told me that I had been killing the friends of their children and the children were sad and disconsolate.

"What friends?" I asked.

"Twolf Mais," he replied. (Twelve mice).

I was shocked as I did not know that Gnome children played with mice. I told him that I had trapped (killed) only eight. He sadly shook his head and said that four baby mice also died due to drowning, exposure, and hunger. He then went into a tirade and told me off. It seems that I lured the mice into the garage by leaving tempting scraps of food lying around (fallen out of the garbage can)? and then when they found the sunflower seeds I had for the birds, the mice decided that it was a free handout, so they started to move in from their home in the cross tie in the back yard. When Ginger hosed down the cross tie and the mouse ran, some of the babies drown.

I apologized and told them that I had no idea of what was happening, nor that the mice were their friends, usw. They went into a huddle and told me that they would reconsider and put me on probation, but the curse on the knife would remain pending removal of the probation.

Yes, the traps have been removed and the garage cleaned of all food attractions. Time will tell. I do not want to be an object of Gnome vengeance They can be a very vindictive group. Oh well, maybe the next encounter with the Gnomes will be better.



RELOADING: Several weeks ago, I wrote how I had been casting 9 mm. bullets and had filled two boxes of over five hundred (500) bullets in each box. I have been reloading 9 mm. machine gun ammo and am out of bullets! I shall have to do some more casting to have enough bullets to reload the remaining empty 9 mm. Schmeisser cases. About three hundred 9 mm. pistol cartridges were also reloaded, so the count is about seven hundred (700) loaded Schmeisser cartridges. Anyone for a little shooting?

The electric furnace I have for melting lead alloy and casting bullets started leaking at the spout (the spout is on the bottom with a pull valve on a handle). I disassembled it and reground the valve with my valve grinding compound and it is like new!

Just to practice, I cast another four hundred bullets and resized/lubricated about two hundred. In other words, I'm having fun in the workshop.

TROLLS: I was walking Wednesday morning admiring the creek under Old Forge near Grist Mill. The water was running swift and clear (we have had over seven (7) inches of rain in the past ten days!)

Suddenly Olaf, poked his head out from under the bridge and grinned (grimaced)? at me. Olaf is the friendly Troll (that is like calling a warthog the prettiest of the herd) as Trolls are VERY unfriendly. With his "friendly" leer, he said he had heard some gossip about me and the Gnomes and he would like to hear my version of it.

I told him, pausing when people approached as I didn't want them to think I had lost some of my marbles talking to apparently no one over the edge of the bridge. After I had finished. Olaf said with a sneer that any one who has problems with Gnomes is a ... and then he almost strangled saying that obscene (to him) word ... "friend" of mine. His last comment

before he disappeared was that he hoped my finger didn't bother me too much. (It isn't). At least I have some sympathy (such as it is) in the shadow world

GINGER WILL HATE ME FOR THIS: She asked me to lay off Clinton and to give him a chance. I agreed. But, I saw an article in the Wednesday paper which I can't resist passing on to you:

An aide to former president Jimmy Carter came in to him and said, "I have some good news and some bad news".

Jimmy Carter said, "Let's have the bad news first".

"Well, the newspapers have taken a poll of the American people and they have stated that they consider you the worst president in the history of the United States".


Jimmy Carter said, "That's bad. What is the good news?"

"We understand that Bill Clinton is going to run for president".

You can take that anyway you want!

SEDIMENTOLOGY: We are learning what the previous students meant by sweating blood. Tuesday, Dr. Kehler had a meeting and told us that there would be no lecture. We could work on our lab. assignment. Class starts at 1500 (3 p.m). and I arrived at 1330 (1:30 p.m). and went to work with two others (Jay and Michelle, who have been in previous Geology classes with me).

Lab is supposed to be from 1630 (4:30 p.m). to 1755 (5:55 p.m). ,A total of one hour and twenty five minutes. We worked from 1330 to 1730 (four bloody hours) and barely finished. The poor souls who came in "early" at 1430 (2:30 p.m). were still there when we left and were barely half finished. We had no crowd or distractions the first hour after we started and that HELPED!



It is an enjoyable course, very interesting but expensive. (My books, paperbacks, cost almost eighty dollars (\$80.00!) Another recommended book costs \$45.00. I passed on it; I'll get it out of the library when I need it.

Thursday, we had an extra long, but interesting, lecture and then went to lab at 1715 (5:15 p.m). I was current and put my riverbed sample in the oven for drying and cleaned my sieves. They go from six (6) mm. (1/4") to 1/25 mm (damned small in inches!) Tuesday, we shall be sieving our samples and making analyses of them, and stuff like that.

THE FARM: We have had more rain since my earlier comment and the farm is ready for me to raise catfish and/or ducks. The furrows between the rows are full of water and the weeds are rampant! I had not been out there for two days and four cantaloupes which were not ready to pick before, were rotten when I arrived. This is due to excess water, humidity, UZW.

GINGER: She has been working on the quilt and it is GORGEOUS! She is sewing around each of the patterns, figures, or whatever you call them. It is a masterpiece. Maybe that is called quilting, or something like that. Words fail me. Fabulous, exquisite, beautiful are all inadequate.

PEAR TREE: Ginger gave me word that the wasps, bumblebees, and birds were beginning to get on the pears. That is a good sign that the pears are ripe. The insects and birds will not touch an unripe item.

I went out and checked. She was right.

Some of the pears had ripened. Pieces of them were missing. I have to get the pears just before they ripen and then let them ripen in the house. If they are on the deck, the insects get to them and the wasps/ bumblebees put LARGE holes in the pears. I have

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eaten two and they are good, but will be better when they "mellow" and lose the "grit" that un-mellowed pears have. I hope to make some pear chutney this year and also to can some.

MAIL: The mail just arrived and we received letters from Allison (Joan,) Jinx and Terry (Lauren). Joan enclosed an excellent picture of Allison and her Dad standing on the rear deck. Terry enclosed a letter from Lauren (I believe the first handwritten letter we have gotten from her) and pictures taken when they were here. There is one of Lydia which is a scream. We loved them all. Jinx caught us up on things. It was extremely nice getting the word and pictures from all of the "children".

RADIO: Thursday, Ginger pointed out that the northern leg of my 80 meter and 40 meter dipole antenna was down. I checked and the nylon line had given away as it had done on the southern end a few months ago.

I replaced it and had my 16 foot ladder against the pine tree which anchors the northern end of the tension line (about 20 feet above the ground). I replaced everything and restrung the line through the pulley and was on my way down the ladder when I saw a small delegation of Gnomes in the shrubbery near the foot of the ladder.

I first thought, "I hope they don't kick the ladder loose". (I was about 16 feet off the ground then).

I slowly descended the ladder and Knute looked a bit friendlier and said, still in formal German, that the council had met and I was on probation for six (6) months, but they would be allowed to talk with me as the occasion arose. So it looks like I am getting away from the nadir of my Gnome relationship and I am glad.

Have fun, enjoy life, relax and remember that we love you



Affectionately,
Harry

14 September 1991

Dear Mary Lee,

DON'T GET TOO ENVIOUS DEPT: This week, I have been harvesting the vegetables which are left in the wet, weed-ridden garden. By weight, I brought in seven pounds, six ounces (7 lbs- 6 oz). of okra, and a guessimate of two and half (2 1/2) pounds of string beans, plus green and yellow sweet peppers, cucumbers and eight (8) ears of Silver Queen white sweet corn. The butterbeans are beginning to mature and I have picked a few.

Ginger has been preparing meals of the garden produce, i.e. battered eggplant fried in olive oil, string beans, okra and tomatoes, stuffed green peppers and "stuff" like that. Gardening is worth the effort when we have good fresh vegetables like this. The yellow neck squash is now about to bloom, so Ginger will be getting some (ugh) yellow goose neck squash.

The acorn squash, turnips, lettuce, and spinach were washed out by the rains.

There has been no rain for awhile and we are on the edge of having to water and we are still, according to the weather reports, nine (9) inches over normal in rainfall. That is what ruined my late plantings and the later maturing melons. I would go out and check the cantaloupe, Persian melons, usw. and they would be too green to pick, but almost ripe and the next day they would be moldy, or rotten in spots. Damned disgusting. I tried picking them still slightly green and they tasted, per Ginger, like

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uncooked squash and YOU know how I feel about squash (except acorn).

GINGER IS GOING TO HATE ME FOR THIS, DEPT: This is another item I read in MY newspaper, a man wrote:

I am living in San Diego and am going with this wonderful girl who wants to know more about me. My father is an alcoholic and can not hold a job, my mother has AIDS and is unemployable, my two sisters support our parents and are prostitutes, my brother is serving a life sentence for rape/murder. Should I tell my girl friend that I come from a state that has elected Clinton as Governor five times? (Four two-year terms and one four-year term).

Enough of that.

SOCIAL: Ginger is having the former gourmet group, now the "Samplers" (of fast food) to our house this Sunday. From what I hear, fifty (50) signed up. Emily Means is bringing over the wine (and I know it will be better than what we have been having).

Ginger has me doing odds and ends: mowing the yard, cleaning up the den, garage and my workshop, plus "neating" up the deck, birdfeeder, usw. I weeded the raspberry patch and then carefully sprayed the open rows with Roundup to kill weeds and Bermuda grass in the patch and compost pile. Ginger wants me to turn the compost pile -- just in case some one wants to look at it!

Oh well, you know the answer to that. Once you know what the wife wants

Ginger just came by and gave me the word that there are a lot of things I need to do and not to let this letter get long. So, refer to the previous partial sentence. Since I wrote the preceding, Emily arrived with four (4) gallons of Chablis. I told her that the four gallons should be sufficient for us, but what were the other forty eight (48) people going to drink? Emily

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snickered at that and said that WE were going to be drinking single malt Scotch in wine glasses and no one would know the difference. Ginger snickered and said that it should be about the same color anyway.


CUISINE: The pear tree is doing fine and I am looking for my pear chutney receipt with no success. I need it to replenish our chutney supply. The home baked bread is now at zero, so I need to get on the ball and make some more. Am toying with the idea of a good pumpernickel baked in the oven in lieu of the machine. Yes, I'll use the machine to knead and proof it.

Ginger cooked a delicious pot roast Friday evening. She was worried about it not "sticking" tender. But when we cut into it, it almost fell apart. It had a wonderful taste plus an excellent gravy. The rest of the meal came from the garden: okra, string beans, tomatoes, usw. I told Ginger that I should have planted some potatoes, so we could have had mashed potatoes with the good gravy.

Ginger also baked some wonderful pecan pies, but unfortunately, they are all earmarked for the Sunday night "Sampler" meeting/eating.

DOWNSTAIRS: Tony came by Tuesday with the long-missing shower step plate for the new door. He installed it in about thirty (30) minutes and cautioned us not to use it for twenty four (24) hours. When it was useable, Ginger tried it and NO LEAKAGE!

I gave it the acid test by showering and again NO LEAKAGE! We are most happy,. Tony refused to accept payment for the treadle, but agreed to come by with his empty 9 mm. cases and allow me to reload them for him. Cheap at half the price. Speaking of that, I have been reloading the 9 mm. I used with the Schmeisser (one hundred sixty rounds/160) and the sixteen (16) I fired in the P-38 pistol. When I finish, all of the 9 mm. will be reloaded.



Bard commented that he and Mitch needed some .38 Spl. ammo. I have plenty, so I told him that I'd send him an ample supply this week. (Bard borrowed my Colt Officer's model .38 spl., so I have nothing to shoot the .38 spl anno in). Which reminds me, I need to exercise the .45 ACP. It has been inactive for over a year.

As a guess, I have about two thousand (2,000) EMPTY .30'06 cases which I need to reload to exercise the Garand and the Springfield '03 A3. Maybe one of these days.

WORKSHOP/GARAGE: The workshop has been cleaned and "neated" up and I am just before doing the same to the garage. Ginger is afraid someone will check out the garage/workshop and see it disorderly. The workshop is ready for a white glove inspection and the garage will be soon.

That reminds me. I have twenty gallons of mead sitting in the workshop which needs bottling and storing in the wine cellar; that would give me a bit more floor space in the workshop.

When I cannibalize the MRC-55 (two large units) for the motor driven inductor, vacuum capacitor and other parts, that will give me more floor space in the garage. This is what I'll use in making the antenna coupler to be mounted on the roof (behind the peak so it can't be seen from the front and difficult to see from the rear as I'll put it between the two ventilators on the roof). Yes, I'll be a busy little bee to get all of this done in the near future. Don't forget my promise to work on the chest of drawers, usw.

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT: Ginger and I made our wills in 1980 and I am in the process of updating them. I have redone mine in pencil and will be typing it before we do any traveling. Ditto, Ginger's will. I'll put the revised wills in the safe deposit box in

Letters From Stacy

place of the old ones. That is where our "living wills" are located also.

TRAVELLING: Ginger wants to go to Eureka Springs and tour the area. If all goes well, we'll leave Monday (16th) for two (2) days. If the weather is bad, it will be a week later (23rd). I have been to AAA and ordered a trip map for our proposed trip to NC & FL. Ginger suggested that we take a short cut home, via Houston from Longwood So I agreed and am getting the map to cover that also. This trip will begin about the first week in October.

If I remember correctly, the Smokies are in beautiful color then. The trees are coloring into the wonderful reds, golds, usw. We'll be looking at the woods on the northern end of the trip.

BARD: Friday evening Bard called and we (Ginger and I) had a very nice chat with him. They had been to the beach and Lauren had caught an eighteen (18) inch sand shark (she always wants to catch the largest fish) and they had a lot of fun.


Bard has been working his *** off, doing twelve and fourteen hours at the office.

He was talking about making "flash" cards for Lauren now that she is going to school and learning to read and write (officially). My suggestion was that Bard take this opportunity to teach her a foreign language. As they live in Houston, I suggested Spanish (German would be nice also) and Bard said that he had thought about it. The "flash" cards would read in both English and Spanish and be a great help for Lauren when she took Spanish formally in school.

As a German asked me years ago:

What do you call a person who speaks three (3) languages? ... Trilingual

What do you call a person who speaks two (2) languages? ... Bilingual;



*What do you call a person who speaks only one
(1) language? ... American!*

And that, unfortunately, is all too true.

At the risk of seeming adamant, I feel that ALL students should be required to take a foreign language and all pre-college students be required to demonstrate a workable knowledge of at least one language. For your information (FYI) all pre-college German students are required to be conversant in TWO (2) foreign languages. I'll get off of my soap box now.

The need to work cleaning up is calling me, so:

Take care, relax, have fun enjoy life and remember that we love you.

*Affectionately,
Gary*


21 September 1991

Dear Mary Lee,

DON'T GET TOO ENVIOUS DEFT: Thursday, Ginger was not feeling too well. For the entire week, she has been suffering from a cold/flu/allergies. (She claims she got the cold from me). To take her mind off of her problems, she decided to utilize some of the produce from the "Farm".

Out of the freezer, she got some of the shrimp I had secured in Texas and then with the okra, tomatoes, green bell peppers, usw. from the garden, she made a wonderful shrimp gumbo. Ginger claimed she couldn't taste, so I added the datil pepper sauce. By accident? it was just the correct amount. It gently warms your throat after a few sips of the gumbo. It is superb. I ate two (2) bowls that evening (more on this later).

Friday, Ginger decided to spend time in bed, so I picked pears, adding to the ones she had picked. I peeled, cored, processed, and canned twelve (12) quarts. I also chopped vegetables until I was almost dead. One chopped quart each of cabbage, cauliflower, green bell peppers, red bell peppers, onions, celery, carrots, usw. I was making *End of the Garden Relish* per the receipt from Ann James (CDR James spouse). It scorches easily so I continuously stirred it for over an hour. The end result is eighteen pints of excellent END OF THE GARDEN RELISH.



Ginger says she is going to throw out the remaining pint that I had made previously, using the food processor (it chopped too finely).

I bottled a pint of the ketchup I had made in a squeeze bottle. It marinated for over a month and is DAMNED GOOD! If you taste this, you will never use Heinz again! This came out of the Farm also.

FRIENDSHIP: Chip called and asked if I could locate some native stone rocks for him. I started Thursday morning at 0900 and checked out the local stone merchants. I wound up in Benton (20 miles south of L.R). where I found the best stone purveyor. I broke off samples. Returning home, I boxed them up with some .38 spl and 9 mm. ammo and shipped it UPS to Chip. This is now 1600 (4 p.m).

At 1630 (4:30 p.m). I went to the airport to pickup Bettyjean and Park. They were returning from their thirty (30) days in Europe. They landed in London, spent some time there, then went to Edinburgh to visit Ron Maxon. They flew to Amsterdam and then toured Germany, Switzerland and France. They left Paris from De Gaulle airport.

Park and Bettyjean agreed that they like Switzerland best. I asked about the Calvinist Park in Geneva and wondered if the hippie drug addicts still infested it. They did not see any as the police had finally decided to do something about it and had cleaned out the area and kept returning to pick up any new ones.

I brought them home after we tried to get their baggage. They arrived in Dallas and cleared Customs with their luggage and in an hour, left for Little Rock. No bags arrived with them! The bags were finally delivered at 2330! After taking them home, I brought over some of Ginger's excellent gumbo with a container of rice. (This was Ginger's idea). They loved it. Then that I ate my gumbo and left at 1900 (7 p.m).

Letters From Stacy

to pick up Joann and George Asbury who were arriving at the airport from their England tour. Yes, Thursday was a full day.

DISASTER DEPT: Wednesday, the microwave I had purchased as a surprise for Ginger in 1968 quit! I checked it out and found that a varistor had blown. I had none, so to check my diagnosis, I installed a fuse. It worked beautifully until the fuse blew. Ginger wanted me to take it to her trusty repairman, so I almost herniated myself moving it from the breakfast room to the deck. The trip down the steps was a PIP! I put it in a wheelbarrow and, with Ginger holding it, I moved it to Ginger's car and loaded it into the trunk.

This is the microwave that Ginger wasn't going to have in her kitchen and fought against until she decided she couldn't live without it. It is a fine unit, being much larger than the current models, plus being a 1600 watt job, having a much larger kylstron than they now put in the current units. Unfortunately, it weighs over sixty (60) pounds and is bulky and difficult to handle. Hopefully, it will be ready in a few days. When I took it in, the lady said that we would hear about it the next day. N*O*T*H*I*N*G HEARD!

THINGS TO DO DEPT: While speaking with Chip, I promised him that I would send him some .38 spl. ammo and some 9 mm. ammo. When I checked, I had NO .38 spl ammo loaded and no 160 grain bullets for the loads. I turned on the furnace and begin casting the 160 gr. bullets. When I talked with Bard the previous Saturday, I promised to ship him some .38 spl ammo also. My apologies, Bard, but it will be shipped SOON! I enclosed ammo for Chip with the rocks.

GINGER: She has not been feeling well for the past week. She claims she caught this cold/flu from me. She commented that when she was a young girl, Ed and Jimmy, her brothers, would bring home colds,

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measles, mumps, chicken pox and it would not bother them, but she would catch the affliction and would S\*U\*F\*F\*E\*R intensely!

I said that is what she gets for being so tender. Her rejoinder was that the cold did not bother me and it devastated her as the result of catching it. There is no question that Ginger has been very definitely sub par and has been resting and staying in bed more than usual. I certainly hope she will have thrown it off by Monday as we have planned on going to Eureka Springs for a few days and the continued cold would certainly louse things up. We probably wouldn't go.

**THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOURSELF:** Several weeks ago, Ginger and I were thinking about insurance. The agent told us that we would have to take physicals before we could apply. We did and found out that we did not have A.I.D.S. The Agent then told us last week that he had gotten a call from the Prudential Southern Home Office in Jacksonville, FL. It seems that we are the first in this area.

First WHAT?

It seems Prudential has three (3) physical categories: sub-standard, standard and preferential. The Agent told us that most couples our age (OLD/ELDERLY/DECREPIT)? were in the sub-standard group, but he had hoped we would be in the standard class, due to a lesser premium. However, we are BOTH in the preferential class! This is the result of Ginger's swimming, exercising, taking care of her weight, not smoking, usw. and my mis-spent youth, notous living (pre-marriage) and boozing it up. It looks as if you children are inheriting some good genes/jeans/levi's, or something. (It won't be money)!

**MARTHA ANNE AND NED:** Ned just called and we had a delightful chat regarding guns, gardening, ammo, camping and interesting things like that.



## Letters From Stacy

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Ginger and Martha Anne then got the phones. It developed that we are graciously invited to spend time with them in Richmond. I believe the way that it was settled is that we will arrive in Richmond, Monday, 1 October. We are to be in Charlotte on 9 October and then a few days later go to Jacksonville to get a few things squared away regarding the house, and then down to Longwood. From Longwood, we'll take the shortcut back to Little Rock, by way of Houston. It will certainly be fun seeing everyone, even if for a short time.

**BOOKS:** Have just finished a book by Michael Crichton. He wrote: *The Andromeda Strain*, *The Terminal Man* and *The Great Train Robbery*- They have made movies out of these and the movies were good. I finished *CONGO*. It is about a young scientist with a young female gorilla who has been taught sign language and has a vocabulary of 620 words. (If it was a male, it would have a vocabulary of 10 words as males don't talk so much).... Try it, you'll like it. I am currently working on *Milk and Honey* by Faye Kellermann (she wrote *Ritual Bath*, which was excellent). Yes, I am also working with the Navy *Module 15, Principles of Synchros, Servos, and Gyros*. The plot in the last one is poor, but interesting.

If I am going to get this off In the last mail, I had best close. Take care, enjoy life, relax and have fun. We love you.

See you soon -  
Affectionately,  
Stacy

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**28 September 1991**

Dear Mary Lee,

**WARNING! I AM GETTING ON MY SOAP BOX:**

Sometimes when I read the newspaper I want to vent my spleen, rave and rant. Last year, the politicians in Washington, D.C. finally agreed to put a cap on spending by agreeing to have a ceiling on the spending for: defense, foreign aid, and domestic programs. Any moneys saved would be applied to reducing the national debt and no moneys saved can be transferred from one category to another.

FINE!

Now that the USSR is no longer a threat, Kennedy and others of his ilk are proposing that this agreement be null and void and that defense savings and foreign aid savings be transferred to, or applied to domestic "give away" programs.

I'm in favor of precluding as candidates for public office any one who is independently wealthy by inheriting from someone else. Unfortunately, most, if not all, these characters do not know the value of money, nor the effort needed to accumulate it, plus the fact that most do not pay taxes due to investments in tax exempt securities.

That leads me to another gripe.

The "dear" politicians increase taxes due to inflation, usw. Well, if a person gets a cost of living increase due to a 5% inflation, then their salary goes up and additional taxes are paid on the increase,

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hence the government gets the benefit of the inflation-caused increase without having to raise taxes. If they raise taxes 5% (from 20% to 21%) then they are getting the inflation increase as well as the increased taxes from the inflation-caused salary increase. The fixed income family is (to use a choice term) "screwed!"

This leads me to another gripe: inflation.

Prior to the national "hero" FDR, the US and the rest of the world was on the gold standard. By law, the currency issued had to be backed by 40% gold (U.S. law) or silver. This led to the US having three different paper currencies, i.e. gold certificates with a gold seal, backed by gold; silver certificates with a silver seal, backed by silver; Federal notes, backed by the national government's credit with a red seal.

In this fashion, inflation was non-existent as the government could only issue 60% of the currency which was not backed by redeemable assets. Good old FDR changed all that by going off of the gold standard and voiding the currency regulatory laws. This was so he could finance his initial "give away" programs. Ever since then, our currency has been devaluing itself.

I'll get off of the soap box and relax now.

**TRIVIA:** Do you know where the term soap box (as used here) came from? London! Radicals/Liberals, usw" would come to Hyde Park and harangue the public. After a crowd gathered, the speaker could not be seen and due to the press of the crowd, nor heard. An enterprising orator got a soap box (made of wood then and not too large or heavy to carry) and stood on it. This put his head above the crowd and his voice carried further. As the boxes were light, the right size and FREE, they became popular for the Hyde Park orators.



**WEATHER:** it is wonderful! When I arise, it is in the low 50's or high 40's and yes, the windows are OPEN! On my walk street lights are still on and then go off during the walk. I see lights come on in the houses that I pass and life is beautiful. The air is clean, crisp and cool. Hopefully, it will continue that way for the next six months.

I note that I am gradually slowing down. A few years ago, I walked this 3+ miles in 45 minutes. It eased off to 46 and is now 47 (most of the time, occasionally it hits 46 again). About the time I start walking toward the east, the sun is above the horizon and I have to put on sunglasses as it shines directly into my face/eyes. Lovely weather! Another added attraction is to sleep under blankets again and awaken warm and comfortable with a cold nose, like a healthy dog.

**CUISINE:** As Ginger was complimentary regarding the pear mincemeat and was talking about giving it away to friends, usw. I decided to make enough so we would have some left. I made another batch which made a total of fourteen (14) pints of mincemeat. I went with Ginger to the grocery Thursday and she bought a Pillsbury pie crust package and mentioned that she was going to make a mincemeat pie. WHEE! I have no idea how she knew I wanted some.

I also made another batch of Spanish bean soup. We had it several times and then Ginger froze the balance for future use. It is enjoyable and I have used up almost all of my chorizo sausage. I'll try to locate some while in Florida, so as to have it when I make paella.

**SOCIAL:** Reg and Miki Specht are due to have the next gourmet dinner. Miki made arrangements with Nancy Boop for a session at the Boop's country home at Greer's Ferry lake. There will be a dinner on a Friday evening and everyone will spend the night there, then we shall have a gourmet breakfast

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Saturday morning. The evening meal will be French, according to Miki. I have no idea what the breakfast will be. Who knows, maybe something delightful like fiddan haddie, lox and bagels, kippered herring, eggs Benedict, or steak and apple pie, (Yes, I was served that one time for breakfast).

**CHORES:** Ginger wanted to re-do our wills before our trip as we made the last ones in 1983. I reviewed mine, made some changes, and then sat down at the computer to keyboard it in. I have no idea what happened, but the stupid thing fought me every inch of the way.

For some reason, I lost the text twice and then I learned to "save" the work periodically. After I started doing that, I didn't lose the program a single time. My will is now all done and looks good, I used the one that our attorney prepared as a model and "had at it". All I have to do now is to get two witnesses and prepare Ginger's. That should be relatively easy by just using my revised will and deleting my name, inserting Ginger's and deleting my specific bequeaths and replace them with Ginger's,

I finished reloading the .38 special ammo for Bard and included some 9 mm. ammo when I shipped it, via UPS.

**GOOD DEED:** Charlie Calkins called Tuesday and said he couldn't get the tiller to run and would I check it. I did and found that it appeared to be not getting gas even though the tank was full. I remembered that I had found the gas tank cap off after a hard rain, I had dumped the tiller on its side and drained out the gas, refilling the tank. I had mentioned it to Charlie and he admitted forgetting to replace the cap. I thought that some of the water did not get out and the carburetor picked it up and filled the float bowl, thus allowing no gas to get into the motor.



Charlie agreed to pick it up and bring it by my place. Thursday AM he showed up and I had at it. It was a beast to work on. When I got the gas tank off and drained it, there was about half cup of water and LOTS of trash. We flushed the tank about five times until it came clear with no water or trash. The carburetor was overhauled and the float bowl was full of water with trash in the Venturi tubes.

Fun and games!

We finally got it together and it RAN! I adjusted the carburetor and turned it over to Charlie, telling him to "Go and sin no more". He grinned and left.

Ginger fixed us lunch and Charlie enjoyed it. From his comments, it appears he has a love in his life. Francis has been dead over a year and Charlie is lonely. Good for him is my comment.

**ROBIN ANNE:** Jinx called and we chatted and the following information developed: Robin Anne has two (2) teeth, enjoys staying on her stomach, and is about to start crawling. She stands unassisted, so it won't be long now until she is scooting all over the house. There is a TV ad regarding Du Pont's Stainproof carpet with the toddler zooming around in a walker, knocking over all sorts of stuff. This reminds both Ginger and me of what Robin Anne is about to do.

**LAUREN AND LYDIA:** Bard tells us that Lauren loves school and is reading and writing. She is in kindergarten and doing well. (Do you know what kindergarten means?

It is German for *Children's yard*. Lauren is computer adept, having used Bard's (formerly my) computer.

This is the Taiwan-built IBM (w/o the logo) computer. It was made of parts made for IBM and assembled without the logo. Technically, it is an IBM AT clone. Anyway, Lauren uses it like an expert. Needless to say, this will be most helpful in school.

## Letters From Stacy

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Lydia also is being exposed to the computer world. I think Bard is smart starting them in early. There are tutorial programs for foreign languages and he might add these to his computer programs now that Lauren is reading and writing.

**ALLISON:** We have nice pictures of Allison. She is growing like a weed. There is no question that she looks like Norm. Some of these pictures are almost identical to his at the same age. I look forward to seeing her as I have not seen her in almost two (2) years.

**BOOKS:** I am reading another book by Faye Kellerman, *Sacred and Profane*. This is the book written after *Ritual Bath* -- Excellent mystery, well written. I have located more of Dick Francis books (3) and have them to read before the trip to Richmond, Charlotte, Jacksonville, Longwood and Houston. I finished the third Faye Kellerman book, *Milk and Honey*. It was very good. It looks like I will be taking my Navy correspondence course with me on the trip. I need to get with it on that course. And having nothing to read, I'll get it squared away fast. There are only two (2) assignments in it, so it shouldn't be too rough or time consuming.

**WEEKLY BLURB:** There will be one (1) more letter before we leave on our trip. The next letter, after the one of 5 October, will be written the early part of November.

**PRAYER BREAKFAST:** 1. October begins the ongoing Prayer Breakfasts. They are the first Tuesday of each month, with a pause for June, July, August and September. While Ginger was grocery shopping, I picked up the necessary for Prayer Breakfast, i.e. orange juice, eggs, corned beef hash, and bread. We shall have poached eggs on corned beef hash, with orange juice, toast, jam & coffee.

Has best close. Take care, relax, have fun and enjoy  
life. We love you.

The Wests at 1526 have <sup>be</sup>  
renewed their lease - Hope to see you  
when I'm in Jax (oneday)  
Affectionately,  
Harry



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**4 October 1991**

Dear Mary Lee,

**WEATHER:** You are probably tired of reading my comments about the weather, but I can't help it. (I have the can't helpitis!) When I start walking, the sun is not up and it is quiet, cool and the air is clean and crisp. The street lights are burning and as I walk, they start turning off. They have light sensors on them. Before, when I was walking toward the east, I would have to put on my sunglasses. Now, the sun is not over the trees on the distant horizon and it is wonderful. Monday, I checked my timing, as it was a nice crisp day and I was feeling energetic and I walked the 3 miles in a flat forty five (45) minutes. It seems that the cooler weather does nice things to me. That is probably one of the reasons why I like it.

**CUISINE:** Last Sunday, the *Frugal Gourmet* talked about Hungarian cooking. That took me back to the days of my youth. I remember going to an excellent ethnic Hungarian restaurant in NY and having wonderful food. The waiters had black "handlebar" mustaches and there was a roving violinist playing Hungarian songs. For the life of me, I can't remember the name of the restaurant, but I remember the food.

As a result, I went out Monday and bought a can of Hungarian paprika. It is not like the "stuff" you get in cans from McCormick, usw. It has a different, delicate flavor. I intend to do some Hungarian cooking and this is a **MUST** for true Hungarian cooking. I knew a Hungarian girl who lived on Long Island; her parents



were from Hungary and they would have me out for meals when my ship would be in NY. Believe it or not, I can't remember her name, but I remember the food and the wine.

They say that when you get old, you lose three things, 1. your memory and 2. -- I forget the rest.

Some of the things I do remember are: Hungarian stuffed RED peppers (not the green bell peppers,) stuffed cabbage rolls, sauerkraut and bean soup (yes, there is sauerkraut in the bean soup and it is delicious), chicken paprika, and, for dessert, (hold on for this one) pancakes with chocolate syrup. These pancakes are actually crepes and the chocolate syrup is milk chocolate with whipping cream folded in, plus a healthy shot of good brandy. Tokay wine was served with this. Strictly low calorie eating. I'll research these receipts and, if as good as I remember, I'll share them with you.

**RELOADING:** As it has been cool, I have had the electric furnace going and have been casting bullets. I currently have a good supply of: .454 ACP, 8 mm. and .30 bullets. But I'm short on the 9 mm. and .38 bullets. These are the ones that I have been casting.

Little by little I am catching up. When I have an ample supply of bullets, I'll start replenishing my stock of loaded cartridges. I am well stocked on 9 mm., both pistol and machine gun, plus the .45 ACP, but I'm low on 8 mm. and almost non-existent on .30'06 ammo and the .38 spl.

**NEW TOY:** I bought a motion sensor which I am going to mount it on the SE corner of the house. Ginger claims she has seen where some one has trampled down her flowers outside the southern window to the den. This motion sensor turns on flood lights and should bring that to a screeching halt. If it shapes up as I think it will, I plan to mount another one on the NE corner of the house and then we will

## Letters From Stacy

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have the back and side yards covered. The street light on the circle illuminates the front of the house, so that is no problem.

**PRAYER BREAKFAST:** Tuesday was the first Tuesday of the month, so it was prayer breakfast day. George Asbury, Bill McClain, Charlie Calkins and I, per usual, did the cooking. We served orange juice, hot toast with some of my peach/pineapple jam (they ate almost the entire pint), poached eggs on corned beef hash, and coffee.

As this was the first prayer breakfast of the season, we figured there would not be too many people, i.e. we had a total of nine (9). Don Hollinsworth was the speaker and he discussed "Living Wills" and distributed copies. As an attorney, he pointed out that the vast majority of people who execute "living Wills" are elderly, yet the majority of the people who are publicized as being on life support systems, usw. are young people. He urged that we contact our children and urge them to have a "Living Will" executed. There is no cost except for writing off for the blank document and it saves a heap of problems.

Consider all of you so urged.

When you are young, (as I remember,) you are immortal and bulletproof, but as you age, you realize that you are not.

**THE FARM:** It is almost shot, I still harvest okra, egg plant, peppers, and green beans, but they are on their last legs. Before we leave on our trip, I shall spray the entire plot with "Roundup" and thus kill all of the weeds and everything else growing on the plots.

When I return, I'll pull the stalks and turn the ground after liming it and tossing out some fertilizer. It will then be ready for next year. The lime will have time to neutralize some of the acid in the soil and the



fertilizer will have time to dissolve and leach into the surrounding soil. The areas by the fence and road will get extra shots to reduce the Bermuda grass problem.

I intend to utilize the fence more next year than I did this year. It shall be planted, all fifty feet of it, in Kentucky Wonder string beans (pole type) and cucumbers.

I am going to pass on Persian melons next year and concentrate on Hale cantaloupe, French cantaloupe and Honey dew/cantaloupe hybrid. No more sugar babe watermelons; I'll try a different type.

There will be more tomato plants, planted farther apart this time. More pepper plants, the yellow and the bell pepper types will be planted. The chili peppers did not do too well. Maybe some banana peppers. I have egg plant, cabbage, turnips, mustard greens, lettuce and beets on my list. Yes, silver queen corn also. I'll probably spend some of my winter time plotting out the Spring garden.

**GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS:** The microwave is repaired and doing well. It was a completely worn out door switch (it is only eighteen years old) and two thermal fuses. The repairman told me (what we knew) that they do not make them like this any more. It is 1600 watts and the ones now are 500 watts. It has a LARGE oven space and is extremely well built. That is the good news.

The bad news is that when I brought it back home and was carrying it up the rear steps to the deck, I mis-stepped on the ninth (last) step and almost dropped it. When I did this, I pulled the muscles in my lower back as it weighs about sixty plus (60-+) pounds and I was off balance. I have been taking muscle relaxers for it and it smarts. This was Tuesday.

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### **CANOEING ON THE LITTLE MAUMELLE:**

Wednesday, Ginger and I went canoeing on the Little Maumelle River with seventeen other Master Gardeners in nine canoes. Ginger was bow paddler and I had the stern. For a rank amateur paddler, she did well. Three canoes overturned and everyone (EXCEPT GINGER AND ME) got wet feet getting out and pushing off of shoals that they encountered. The water is not clear and you can not see the obstructions, i.e. sunken logs, stumps, usw.

It was --I guessed five miles -- and the guide said four and half (4 1/2) miles. Ginger was pooped when we returned. My back protested every inch of the way, but I still enjoyed it. You know how I love canoeing in fast water. This was NOT fast water. When we got home, I took a HOT shower on my back and then lay on the floor with my legs in a chair to straighten out my back. After a half hour of this, I almost couldn't get up. Such is old age! UGH!

**ODDS AND ENDS:** Ginger called the *Gazette* to have the Sunday paper delivered to Ethel so she would have the *TV Guide* and the *Gazette* does not have Sunday only, so I suggested MY paper, the *Democrat* (which I am NOT) and they will deliver it to Ethel on Sundays while we are gone.

Ginger also put in stop orders for the daily papers coming here. I shall do the necessary with the US mail. I have put up a fluorescent light with a timer under the deck for Ginger's ferns. It goes on at 1200 and goes off at 1700 (5 p.m). Little by little, we are getting ready to leave on our trip to VA, NC, FL and TX.

**WEATHER ELSEWHERE:** The TV weather commented several times lately that Jacksonville, FL was getting a lot of rain due to a stalled low pressure area off the coast. They commented that one day, Jax received seven (7) inches of rain. That is a heap! I



hope some of it was pouring on the Everglades, they need the water, ditto Longwood. A few weeks of weather like that and Jax would be having the animals lining up by twos and the Mayor looking for Noah.

**MORE WEATHER: HERE:** There is a front coming in from Canada and the weather prediction is for Little Rock having a high of 60 with the low being 40. Whee. Unfortunately, we are leaving for Richmond and will miss these glorious temperatures.

Ginger had me move the cedar chest from under our four poster bed (yes, the large cedar chest fits nicely beneath it) so she could get our heavier clothing. It will probably be hot and sweaty in Florida when we arrive with Fall clothing packed. Oh well, so what else is new? If we bring summer clothing, it will be unseasonably cold, so..... Pfui!

**BACKYARD:** Ginger has a cantaloupe that does not want to ripen. I have been checking it and telling Ginger that it will be ripe in a day or so and it has been making a liar out of me for a week or two. The volunteer tomato plant (growing by the compost pile) is doing well and producing tomatoes now that all of my other tomato plants have stopped. Ginger is gloating and using them for bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwiches. Speaking of sandwiches, Tuesday evening, I went to Sims for an order of chopped pork barbecue. We ate it on buns that evening and had enough left over for the canoe trip sandwiches. Meiner Meinung nach, Sims is the best barbecue in the world and the price is RIGHT!

**GINGER:** She is up and down the attic stairway like a yoyo getting things ready for the trip. That attic stairway and flooring is one of the smartest things I have done recently. The suitcases are down and Ginger is doing her thing. I have gotten the verbal word as to what I am to do. Never do today what you can put off until tomorrow, so it will probably be

## Letters From Stacy

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Saturday afternoon before I start, i.e. shining shoes and stuff like that.

Remember that this will be the last epistle until the first weekend in November, so remember to enjoy life, relax, have fun and we love you.



*See you soon,  
Stacy*

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