**1965**

Andy finally learns to walk. His temper is a topic. Mom finally tires of the endless meetings? The rivers rise, but the dikes hold. The tornadoes stay in the summer sky. The garden gives us cherries, raspberries, peas, and beans. Traditions are born. Change is on the horizon. Mom learns to knit.

**1-8-65 – Fri AM -** Dear Mother and Aunt Clara, You probably won’t get this till Mon. I just didn’t get it off earlier. I’m enclosing some of the Christmas pictures and those of Alan’s and Andy’s birthdays. There are some more pictures that I’ll send at another time. Its been real warm here for several days but is due to get colder tonight. Its rainy today. We’ve sure had a mild winter so far. Hardly any snow at all. Ruth went to a meeting yesterday morning and we both went to choir practice Wed night but not much else this week. Stayed in most of New Years vacation also. Had church, of course, on Sun.

Ruth had some neighborhood ladies in for coffee on Mon morning, and Wed morning Alan had his birthday party with 2 other 4 year old boys and their Mothers in. His party was postponed a week because he had an eye infection and one of the other boys was sick also. His eye cleared up OK. Andy had it first, and Lisa did too.

Had a letter from the Laidigs, and Mr. Laidig will have prostate surgery in Denver on Jan 20th. Ruth is knitting me a scarf. Its her first attempt at knitting and it looks real nice. Andy is doing better about “walking” when we hold him. He might have been practically walking by now if we hadn’t carried him around so much. We’re using some of yours and Aunt Clara’s Christmas gifts to buy a good Early American wastebasket for the living room, and some Eagle hangers for the bathroom door. Hope all are OK.

**1-20-65 –** Glad you got the pictures and everything. Yes, we got your picture and like it fine. I simply forgot about it in my last letter. I’ll enclose another batch of pictures for you to take your time. Some of these were Christmas, and the one of the 3 kids with the funny faces was after we had been over to the Mound School Fair last fall.

That certainly is a surprise that Bill and M.J. will be coming to Hutchinson. That sounds like a pretty good salary. I’m sure a comparable job would be higher here since we’re closer to Chicago; etc. where salaries would run higher but living costs and housing would probably run higher here than in Kansas. I may have mentioned that my raise was the usual 5%.

Last night was Community Concert – a lady violinist. Tonight is choir practice, but Ruth has a slight fever and may not feel like going. Lesle has missed some school. Andy is pretty clear now, but I believe it’s been our worst winter for colds etc. I still have some more clippings to return. You can consider Aunt Clara’s thank you letter as part of yours for the week. I think she mentioned some of the things the kids got for Christmas. I got a new billfold, and Ruth is now knitting me a scarf (about 2/3 done) think I mentioned.

Ruth says “thanks” for the check. She will buy a recorder instrument with it. Our early American wastebasket came which we got with part of your gift, and is real nice. I got Ruth a record HMS Pinafore (light opera) for her birthday, but it hasn’t come yet. Each of the kids is giving her some material from her new fabric of the month club. Her folks sent her the subscription. Every month you get samples of fabrics from different countries. It costs a few dollars just to join and get the samples, and that was the Laidig gift. The kids gifts will be for her to actually buy some for sewing. She says she is knitting me a sweater when she finishes the scarf. I’m at work so must stop. Glad you’re all OK there. Haven’t done much unusual since I wrote last. Mr. Laidig’s operation is today.

**1-28-65 –** Glad to have your letter and to hear about everything. We had some snow overnight and it is much colder today. That big snow we had was all melted. We had some rain which helped. We haven’t done much since I wrote last except try to recover from quite a round of heavy colds, coughs and maybe some flu. Ruth and I both had it the worst – mine was about a day later than hers. Ruth stayed down a week ago yesterday, and I went to work. A week ago today I came to work since it was my turn to drive. I went home then thinking I could help as Ruth was still down. I begin to feel worse by then and so I stayed home most of Thurs and Fri. Fri was payday so I did come in for my check. We were down most of the week-end but were feeling better by Sun. I’ve been to work all week, but was weak Mon. We still cough some but will get clear over it soon, I hope. There has been quite an epidemic here, I guess. The girls have both missed some school. Lisa was still running some fever yesterday so we took her to the Dr. Her lungs were clear. One of the fellows I ride with has a girl in the hospital. I guess we’ve been lucky since we’ve never had a child in the hospital.

Andy was real good while Ruth and I were down and couldn’t take care of him so much. He ran a little fever once but has been about the wellest of all of us. Alan had some fever also. Anyway, it was about the worst round of infection since we’ve been married because we all got it at about the same time. I don’t believe Ruth and I have had coughs like this since we’ve been married.

Hope you all have escaped (and M.J. and Bill) getting clear down. I guess there was 15-20% absentees over at Mound School one day. We missed choir and church Sun of course and a dinner that evening with the Mariners group. Ruth went to creative writing Tues night, and we missed choir practice last night. I’ll go to the men’s group at church this evening.

A recorder is a small wind instrument you play and it costs under $10. I’ve been working on our income tax. We should get a nice refund since we haven’t claimed Andy as an exemption. Ruth called her dad one evening and I guess his growth wasn’t malignant. He was still pretty weak. Ruth watched the inauguration Wed as she was lying down. Hope all are well. If Aunt Clara goes South why don’t you come here awhile.

**2-4-65 – Thurs AM –** We may have a letter from you today. Our mail doesn’t come until afternoon. We did receive your card. I sent a birthday card to M.J. I mailed it last Sat so you probably didn’t see it. We’re still having 0 weather. We had 6 days in a row with temperatures dropping below 0 at night. It’s supposed to warm up slightly now. We’re pretty well over the colds and all now. The girls have been at school all week. We still have some runny noses and I cough some. I hope we don’t have any more this winter. We went to choir practice last night and there were several people out and in bed with something. At work there were 4 or 5 of the fellows where the whole family got down like we had.

Ruth has a meeting this morning and one this evening. She says she’s going to cut down on some of her outside work when some of her terms are up so she can catch up on things around the house. I’m wearing my new scarf which she finished kniting. She’s now working on a red, white and blue pillow for the couch. She seems to really like knitting. She had never done it.

Andy is almost standing alone, but is in no hurry. We’re leaving his bed out in the living room so he can stand more. We haven’t encouraged him much on the standing. The kids are all busy making valentines for everyone. The girls had their school pictures taken recently so we’ll probably send you copies.

Haven’t heard from the Laidigs for several days, but expect he’s going home to Oberlin (from Denver) about now. Eldon (the school principal my age) is there so it makes it nice for them to have a place to stay. Your new superintendent is from the same school system (Arvada, Colo) where Eldon is.

Hope you had a good trip to Newton. M.J. must be really liking her organ work. We still have snow on the ground as it’s been too cold to melt. Next Mon Ruth and I are driving to St. Louis. We’ll take that lady who went to Chicago with us, and while Ruth shops we’ll visit a lab to observe a technique. We all made it to church last Sun. Didn’t have an anthem, just a solo. Hope you’re all OK.

**2-11-65 – Thurs AM -** I guess another week has passed by. Glad to receive your letter this week. Yes, the cat returned that time or two he stayed out in the cold. He was in the garage last night but usually goes in the basement at night. Once in awhile a neighbor cat comes around. We don’t let Spotty out when he comes around since they usually fight.

Andy wants to stand a lot, but still can’t really stand for any length of time without falling. He can reach the floor now in his little jumper chair (the one we put him in to feed him) so he wants to stand while he eats. We’re having a hard time getting him to eat the canned baby meat which he was eating fine. Now all he wants is bread and butter and other more tasty things that he has been exposed to.

Mr. Laidig is getting along OK but is still weak. The last we heard they were still in Denver but could be home. Both of those uncles of Ruth’s that were sick have died in the last two months. They were the two that lived in Danbury. The wives don’t get along too well, which is unfortunate since they just live a few blocks apart. We always visited both places when we went over to Danbury. One was the dentist brother of Mr. L.

Last night was choir practice and tonight is a play but I’m not sure we’re going since we’re having company tomorrow night and we need to clean the house. Next Wed night there will be no choir practice because the Concordia College (Minn) Choir will be here. That is where the Hofflands went to college.

Last Sun night was the first of 4 family nights at church. We all went and ate there. Took Andy’s chair, but he was so excited with all the people that he didn’t eat much. The program was given by a Korean missionary. Ruth had a luncheon yesterday noon and a meeting this morning. She will be glad when some of these meetings stop. We did not go to St. Louis Mon since our babysitter was sick. Sorry to hear about Mrs. Harbaugh. We had a warm spell with some rain but it is colder today. Went to church as usual last Sun. Ruth had a meeting and did some shopping on Sat. Can’t think of anything else. Hope Aunt Clara has a good trip.

**2-17-65** – We were slow getting the kids Valentines off, also. Our greetings will just have to be verbal also. Everything is OK. This is a pretty busy week. No snow here. Hope Aunt Clara has a good trip. I’m at work.

**2-25-65 – Thurs AM -** Well I guess its been 2 weeks since I last wrote. We had a real blizzard yesterday and last night, and it’s still blowing and is very cold today. We drove to choir practice last night without any trouble, but I had trouble getting the baby sitter home. This morning it was my turn to drive and our regular driveway was drifted shut so we all parked in front of the building on the grass where it wasn’t drifted.

Tonight is the men’s meeting where the scouts are invited. Our speaker is Dr. Martin’s (our interim pastor) son from Indianapolis, so I hope he makes it OK. I guess Kansas got some of the last storm when we missed out, and we got this one which parts of Kansas missed.

Glad to have your letter yesterday. Hope you got Aunt Clara off OK and I suppose you’re in Newton now. Hope M.J. and Bill can find the house they want. At least they’ll have plenty of time to look. When we moved here we only spent about 2 days looking, but have not regretted our choice. Being close to school has been nice this winter in the bad weather.

Ruth had a meeting Tues morning and AAUW in the evening and had a group in during the afternoon. Yesterday morning she had another group to attend. She had another meeting this morning but didn’t go because of the weather. I drove home this noon for lunch and didn’t have any trouble. We’ve all been free of colds and everything since that last bout so hope we don’t have any more this winter.

Our big news here at work this week is that we have been purchased by Union Carbide one of the giant chemical companies. The enclosed clippings explain it all. It should be an opportunity for expansion and growth and there is no indication that the labs and plant here will be moved from Decatur. It was just announced Mon so it will probably be several months before we know exactly what will happen. I hope that I can assume more responsibility etc.

Our speaker for tonight can’t come from Indianapolis so we’re having to find some substitutes. Everything else has been just about the same the last two weeks. Our cat was gone for a whole week during some of the coldest weather. Another cat (kitten) came around and I told the kids they could keep it if it stayed and Spotty didn’t return. Hope you’re all OK.

**3-4-65 – Thurs AM -** Well another week has gone by. Sorry you didn’t get to make your trip now, but the weather is uncertain in the winter. We had another snow last night of 4-6 inches. When we left for choir practice about 7:30 it was clear, but when we came out of the church about 10:00 1 to 2 inches had already fallen and we were quite surprised. It was my morning to drive and it was slick. It was a week ago this morning that we had that last big snow and it was also my turn to drive in that one ha! The last one was bad because of the drifting etc. Since the last one it had warmed up some and it had all melted. Maybe you folks will miss this one.

The selling of our company was not a complete surprise but to whom it would be sold was a well kept secret here in Decatur. Some had heard on the outside that it would be Union Carbide. We are one the last small drug companies to be bought by a larger corporation. As I said it’s almost certain that the company will remain here. Union Carbide has no other pharmaceutical facilities anywhere else so it would be impractical to move us from here. We have enough land around the labs out here to build all that is necessary for a good sized company. As you may remember our bottleing and manufacturing are in another building downtown. We, of course, will switch over to Union Carbide benefit plans etc. Neisler will still have its own Credit Union (like savings and loan). The major reason for selling was that our sales had been pretty much the same for a number of years and for the company to grow like it should would require expenditures for growth that would cause us to operate in the red for several years. They felt that would be too big a risk to take for a company of our size. Mrs. Kirkland (the owner of Neisler) is somewhere in her 70’s I guess, and reminds me of you in having been left with a business to carry on as best she could. She will stay on the Board of Directors, but Union Carbide men will have the biggest say.

Hope you’re over your flu. We were free of colds all of Feb but Andy now has a runny nose and cough and Alan has had some cold. Went to the last dinner (family) at church last Sun night. A week ago today we had the preacher talk at the men’s meeting in place of his son who couldn’t make it. Tonight I go with Ruth to an AAUW dinner meeting. Lesle’s birthday party is Sat and she’ll take refreshments to school tomorrow.

**3-18-65 -** This week hasn’t been quite as busy for me as the last one was. I had a couple of reports to write and just didn’t get around to your letter. Glad to have your letter and the clippings. The local high school team is also going to the state tournament. Our babysitter on Wed nights couldn’t come a week ago because she was going to the game. Hope your entertaining went OK, and glad Aunt Clara is feeling better.

Ruth finished my sweater (sleeveless – gold) and I wore it to choir practice last evening since it was colder. It is quite a bit colder today and windy so I’m wearing it again. Her next project is another pillow cover for the living room. Ruth had an AAUW meeting Tues night and is going to Women’s Association at the church this morning. She went to the eye doctor yesterday and so will be getting new glasses. That headache she had one day may have been partly due to eyes. I’ll need to go too as my eyes have gone down since I last had glasses – about 5 years ago. Our kids, you know, will probably be nearsighted and may need glasses before too many years. They had a check-up some time ago and he thought Lisa would be the first one to need glasses. I was indeed the first one to get glasses. I got my first pair when I was not quite 7. Nearsightedness is to a great extent inherited and Ruth and I are, of course, both nearsighted.

Everything at work is about the same. The Union Carbide men haven’t been out yet to explain the employee benefit programs, etc. We’re advertising now for another pharmacologist and will probably need more than that in the future. This Sat we’re taking the kids to a Millikin University play. The choir is starting to practice the Easter music.

The local hospital (there are 2 and this is the independent one – the other is the Catholic) is having a $2,000,000 fund raising drive for expansion. They hope to borrow the remaining $2,500,000 they need. It’s the hospital where Andy was born and where Ruth was that time she hit her head. Church has been as usual the last two Sundays.

Andy is getting around better but doesn’t walk yet. We let him crawl all over the house except into the bathroom. When he sees the bathroom door open he hurries to try and get in. He is a real “pill” and a lot of fun when he’s good. He’s eating better again after some fussyness over teeth, I guess. The kids wore green to school yesterday. Tell M.J. and Bill hello and hope you’re all OK.

**3-25-65 -** Everything is fine here except we’re still having some real winter. We’ve had more cold and it has snowed some more. Hope you folks didn’t get as much cold as we’ve had. As soon as it warms up a bit I’ll get some fertilizer and crab-grass killer for the lawn. We haven’t put any fertilizer on since we’ve been here and it needs it badly. We’ll have to buy a fence to make a play area (not the entire yard) for Andy as he goes everywhere now and is getting into everything. Ruth had a conference with Lesle’s teacher (they have one conference a year in place of report cards) and Lesle is doing fine. Lisa does fine also. Glad to have your letter on Tues and to hear about everything.

Haven’t had many changes at work yet but there undoubtedly will be some. Several of the Union Carbide men will be out at various times during April. Had a Presbyterian Men’s breakfast meeting this morning at the YMCA. Several reported on the national meeting held at Chicago. Maybe I can go next year.

Ruth missed a meeting today because she couldn’t get a babysitter. She had creative writing Tues night and we went to choir practice last night. Tonight a fellow (bricklayer) is coming out to look at our fireplace and see how much work it will take to finish it. As you may remember, the outside is all finished, but the fire bricks on the inside were never all put together with cement.

Last Sun night was a meeting of Mariners and on Sat afternoon we took the 3 older kids to see the play “Once Upon A Mattress.” Its that play based on the fairy tale about the princess that slept on the mattresses under which a pea had been placed. The kids were thrilled since it was the first time they had all been to a live play. We left Andy at a babysitter’s house nearby. He gets along better now when he is left with someone new although he naturally doesn’t like it. I can’t think of anything else right now. Come up sometime when the weather is warmer. We’re starting to practice our Easter music at church. We had a long rehersal last night. Hope you’re all OK.

**4-2-65 –** We were glad to have your letter and enclosures yesterday. Today is our warmest day (in the 60’s) after the third coldest March in history. As I left at noon Ruth said she would take the kids out this afternoon and work in the yard awhile. Ruth finished a new dress for Lisa and she wore it to school for the first time today. Lesle missed last Fri, and Mon-Wed of school this week with a virus of some type in her neck (?) etc. and she had fever until yesterday. She seems OK now. She went to the Dr. on Fri I believe.

Ruth is starting to make the red slip-cover for that old green chair that belonged to her grandmother. She had a League meeting Tues night and we both went to choir practice last night. I stayed home Sun morning with Lesle and Andy (he wasn’t sick). Ruth and I have both had some sore throat. Ruth has an AAUW branch meeting tonight but she may not go. She got her new glasses yesterday and says her eyes feel much better.

We have some Union Carbide men here today and tomorrow. Tomorrow they will discuss the employee benefit programs etc. Plan on coming up whenever you want to. How old was Dr. Thorn and what was his trouble – I remember you mentioning it. I assume he had taken a church in Texas. We are still looking for a minister at church, I guess. I was in that band program in 1943 since my name was listed. I sorta remember it. A lot of the names were familiar. My high school class is having a reunion in July. I assume you sent them my address.

This is grocery shopping weekend and I’m getting the fertilizer. They need the student center for the Baptists at KU. The Presbyterians have had a new one for some time now. I remember Norman Godbey and the name Mrs. Cordingly. I remember Mr. Lewis Hamilton and his son the minister. Your blood pressure doesn’t sound too bad for your age and everything. Andy is the same – not walking yet but there is no hurry. One article said children sometimes develop eye coordination etc. better when they crawl and creep a lot. Give to Aunt Clara and hope she and M.J. and Bill are OK.

**4-8-65 – Thurs PM -** It’s finally warmed up the last two days and it really feels like spring. I spaded a little in the garden last Sun and Ruth has worked a little outside. We’ve had some rain also. Glad to have your letter yesterday. Lesle got along OK. Ruth and I still have a slight touch of something in our throats, and we’re a little more tired than usual. I guess we have spring fever.

Andy is fine. I fixed one of the old high chairs and he’s using it to eat in. He was about to tip the little jumper chair over. As I said he goes everywhere and we really have to watch now that the weather is warmer and the doors open more. The kids are careless about leaving doors unlatched and the basement stairs gate unlocked.

I took a guinea pig in a cage home from work yesterday so Lisa could take it to school today for her show & tell. Lesle wants to take it next Tues. Tonight is PTA but I don’t know whether we’re going or not. Last night was choir practice as usual. The choir sings at the Good Friday service but not at the Mundy ? Thursday one. We, of course, sing Easter Sun morning.

Last Fri the Carbide man was here to explain the benefits, etc. They have some cheap life insurance and a savings plan that is pretty good but some are disappointed because the Neisler Profit Sharing Plan stops. They had put 15% of our salary into that every year. We can get it back at 10 yearly payments if we quit but it won’t be increased from now on. It was sorta a pension plan. Carbide, of course, has their own retirement and pension plans, but they don’t mean to much to me right now.

Last Sat Ruth did the grocery shopping and I bought some fertilizer and crab grass killer in the morning. We made it to church as usual on Sun. I believe we were home both Mon and Tues nights. Ruth is finishing knitting that second pillow for the living room, and working on sewing that red chair cover. Everything else is the same. I have a dentist check-up in the morning. Hope you’re all OK.

**4-15-65 – Thurs PM -** Well another week has slipped by. Glad to have your letter yesterday. We also had a letter from the Laidigs yesterday and they plan to come here a week from Sun - April 25. I suppose they will stay a few days. Why don’t you come after they are here. With the Mississippi River rising I don’t know whether they will have any trouble going through Hannibal Missouri, or not. Even the trains might be delayed with the high water. The floods and tornadoes have sure been terrible. I wonder if Richard Searl has been affected there in Minn. We missed all the storms that produced the tornadoes, but have had a lot of rain. It rained and was cold last Sat and then was a lot warmer and windy on Sun. Towards evening I noticed that it had cooled down considerably. Ideal conditions for tornadoes, I guess.

Ruth and I worked in the garden awhile Sun afternoon and we planted a few vegetables. I washed the car later. Tues evening was Frank Guerrera (baritone) at the Community Concert. He is from the Metropolitan Opera and was very good. Last night was choir practice and it was extra long because of the Easter music. Tonight is communion service at church and tomorrow night the choir sings at the Good Friday service.

Its too bad about Mrs. Harbough, I suppose she’ll gradually get worse but maybe they can arrest it. Sun morning we sing at both services so we’ll have to get up earlier. This noon Ruth has Women’s Association at church. She’s singing in a little chorus. Next Tues night is the big meeting at our house. It’s the contemporary living group of AAUW. I’ve gotten over my throat but Ruth still has her sinus trouble. It seems to have developed after she had been here about 2 yrs. This is a bad place for sinus and respiratory trouble. The kids are all OK and the same. Andy gets around, but still doesn’t walk. Hope you’re all OK. I’m off work tomorrow, but I don’t know whether we’ll go anywhere or not. Tell all hello.

**4-22-65** – Well another week has passed. The last few days have been very nice and spring like. Glad to have your letter yesterday. Your plans for coming sound fine. I guess the river is still flooding but I guess there is no problem with the trains getting through, as far as I know. You would go through St. Louis, I guess and I don’t think it gets so bad there.

We have a mens meeting at church tonight. Its the meeting that honors the graduates. Dr. Martin’s (our interim minister) son will be the speaker. He is the one who couldn’t come in Feb because of the snowstorm. Tomorrow I’m riding to St. Louis with some of the people here to visit another laboratory and to see how they set up certain things. I’ve never been to St. Louis since we’ve been here.

Last night was regular choir practice. Ruth’s folks should be here sometime Sun. They will probably go on over to Indiana for a day or so and visit relatives. Mon night we worked around the house and Tues night Ruth had her big meeting (Contemporary living group of AAUW). I guess there were 26 - 28 ladies. Thats about maximum capacity for our living room. She had red geraniums for the big mortar on the floor. I’m not sure I told you that we bought a new lamp (apocathary type) for the end table. Its looks real nice.

Ruth worked in the yard some yesterday and I got the fertilizer and crab grass killer on last weekend. This morning Ruth took Andy, Lisa and Alan to have gamma-globulin shots. They were exposed to the measles at church so if they get them it will be a milder case. Easter Sun went OK. We made it to the early service in time. Sat we went to the art museum to see some of the grade school childrens work. Fri was off so I worked in the yard some.

Thanks to both you and Aunt Clara for the Easter cards and notes. Hope you had a good trip to Ottawa. Nice to hear about Mrs. Thorn. Our kids really liked “Mary Poppins.” Whats Norman Perrill getting his degree in – dramatics etc? Hope you’re all feeling OK.

**4-?-65 – Fri AM –** Didn’t get your letter written yesterday. Everything is fine here. Have had a good visit with the Laidigs. They got in about supper time Sun. They went to Indiana on Wed. Andy wasn’t too sure of them at first but then got along fine. They are leaving this morning. It has been very cool but warmed up yesterday. Ruth went to the dentist Mon but didn’t have to have her tooth pulled. The Laidigs brought some plants for the yard. Glad you had a good trip to Ottawa. Hope you get this before you leave. We’ll be looking for you. Hope you’re all OK.

**6-3-65 – Thurs AM -** Well, I guess its been about 2 weeks now since I wrote last. We had a big 5 inch rain night before last, and with some additional rain a week ago, our drought has been broken. We’ve had a lot of flowers and had some peas from the garden last night. We should have some cherries and raspberries, also. Ruth’s Uncle Edgar and Aunt Dova, from Norton, Kans (East of Oberlin) are supposed to stop through here on their way to a family reunion in Ohio. He is a farmer, partially retired, and often goes to Hutchinson for the State Fair, and he has been on the Kansas State Agricultural Board.

Would you please send me poems and clippings to help on a 10 min devotional for Father’s Day. Our mens breakfast meeting at church is on Fathers Day I believe and I have the devotional. It wouldn’t have to be about Fathers Day, I guess. It will be out of doors so maybe something related to nature?

Glad to hear about Aunt Clara’s driving test. As I said over the phone, I think the results were very good for her age. There are very few people who even try to drive when they are past 80. Mom and Dad are part of this elite group. Too bad about Aunt Nellie. Mr. Hoffland has gone to Utah to be with his father who at 82 is having a cancer operation.

Ruth has about finished her quilt for the baby. She stayed in for about 3 days with a slight fever and virus, I guess. She was never clear down so it didn’t make it too bad for me. She stayed home from choir practice last night while I went. She seems about over it today. She has a meeting tonight that she may miss.

We all went to church as usual last Sun. Last Mon was vacation and we worked in the yard. I reworked the rock border on that flower bed on the West. Andy is walking more by himself now, and has been happier since he got a tooth through. He still has some real temper, however. School will be out this week. Bible School starts in a week or so, I guess. I’ll have to mow this weekend after all the rain. I suppose M.J. and Bill are about to move by now. Glad they sold their house. Everything at work is about the same. Our regular vacation period is July 12-25, so I suppose we’ll come to Kansas for part of that. We may take the rest of it around the time of the fall meetings in Philadelphia, Aug 16-20. Hope you’re all OK.

**6-10-65 – Thurs AM -** Well, it’s Thursday again. We’ve had quite a bit of rain and it looks like it might rain again right now. Glad to have your letter and the clippings. I’m sure I’ll use some of them. There probably won’t be too many there at the breakfast. The men’s group at the church is largely older men. I’m about as young as any of them.

The news this morning said there was flooding at Sedgwick, Kansas. The farmers like the rain here since its needed for the corn. We don’t know yet when we’ll come to Kansas, since we haven’t heard when the Laidigs will be gone. I’m enclosing some clippings about a gift Mrs. Kirkland gave to the University. There has been a real need for a new fine arts building. There present auditorium is not very satisfactory.

We didn’t have any choir practice yesterday evening so I softened the water for the first time since we bought the new softener. I think I’ll buy a big fan this weekend. I’ll get one thats up on a stand so Andy won’t get into it. Andy is walking real distances now, when he has his shoes on, and is pleased about it. His “temper” has improved some I guess although he still pretty particular about what he thinks he wants to eat.

Hope the folks moved OK. Was home for lunch when the astronots came down. Ruth has been taking the kids to Bible School every morning this week. Looks like they will get wet this morning. We have a party at a choir member’s house tomorrow night, and then Sat is the Fun Fair – rides etc. to raise money for the Hospital Auxillaries.

Glad Aunt Nellie is OK. Hope Aunt Claras trip is OK. I suppose she’s on the way now. The new drug is dimethyl sulfoxide it is still in the experimental stage, and is not on the market. It is supposedly good for arthritis and many other things. The girls had good report cards. Of course they did ☺ Hope you’re all OK. Ruth is sewing a lot. Of course she is ☺

**6-?-65 – Thurs PM –** I didn’t get this written earlier today. We were glad to have your letter today and to hear about the flood and everything. Hope the folks get moved OK. Glad Aunt Clara had a good trip. They’re working down at the intersection of the highway and Pershing Road (where I turn for work) and its all torn up and only one lane traffic. We go another way on the way to work.

We had our last choir practice last night. We sing the next two Sundays and are then off the rest of the summer. Last Tues night was the Neisler picnic and the kids were quite excited since they got free rides at Joyland. Last Sat was the Fun Fair and the kids had rides there also (that’s the benefit for the hospitals). We all rode the ferris wheel, except Andy. We ate lunch there. We all went to church as usual Sun. Next Sun morning is that men’s breakfast. Ruth has taught Bible School this week and I think they about wore her out. She didn’t teach last week but took over for a teacher who had to quit.

Things should pick up some at work before long as we’ll be receiving a lot of chemicals from other Union Carbide Laboratories to test. We heard that report about Oberlin having a heavy rain and flood so Ruth called home. I guess they had about 5 inches and the Laidigs had about 6 inches in the yard but only a little in the basement. When Ruth was little they had a flood and water went through the house.

Thanks for the gifts. Did your painter start yet, or is that to be in July. (Dad almost never writes question marks for some reason.) I think we went in that Dillons Store with M.J. once. I’m not sure yet of our vacation times. Hope you’re all OK. Andy walks quite a bit now and is talking more. Ruth has Lesle in her Bible School class.

**6-24-65 – Thurs PM -** Dear Aunt Clara and Mother, This will have to be a belated birthday greeting to you Aunt Clara. We certainly thought of you but just didn’t get a card off. We were glad to have Mother’s letter yesterday and to hear that the dikes will probably hold. We, of course, hear about the floods on the news. Today they said they thought the dikes would hold at Great Bend and the newspaper clippings from Hutchinson sounded as if they expected no trouble there. That was too bad about the flood at Newton but as the clippings said not all cities have dikes as yet.

I suppose M.J. and Bill will be moved before too long. I imagine the church at Newton will miss M.J.’s organ playing. We have to sing in choir this Sun, and then we’ll be through for the summer. We may leave here about July 10 (Sat) and go to Oberlin by Sun. Stay there 2 days and on to Hutchinson from about Wed-Fri - and then stop in Kansas City on the way back. We’re not planning to take the full 2 weeks in Kansas since the pharmacology meetings are in Philadelphia in Aug and we plan to go there and take the rest of the vacation then. We’ll try to visit Ruth’s brother John in NJ.

Glad you had a good trip to Ness City. I guess they don’t flood much there, do they? I’ll enclose the letter from Charles and Cooly that Mother sent. Aunt Nellie seems to have done real well. Maybe we can drive up there sometime. I’m getting new glasses tomorrow. My eyes are still going down some; from all the reading, I guess. My devotional went OK at the men’s breakfast last Sun morning. I used the topic of nature rather than Father’s Day.

We took the kids to see the movie Cinderella after work yesterday. Andy got tired and hungry and I had to walk with him about half the time. We’ve been home the other nights this week and have worked in the yard some. We’ve had raspberries, cherries and some beans and peas from the garden. Hope your birthday dinner was nice. I got 2 shirts, one pant, and one pair of socks and one short pants for Father’s Day. Hope you’re all OK.

**7-2-65 – Fri AM –** I didn’t get this written yesterday so you probably won’t get this until Monday. Our traveling plans are still the same, we’ll try to leave here a week from tomorrow and go to Oberlin first. I suppose M.J. and Bill are moved by now.

I helped my technician move some last night and we gave him our old air conditioner. That’s the one we bought used in Kansas City from some friends. I think we used it two summers – once in Kansas City and once in Chicago. Pete Luna, my technician, has two small children and they have lived for three years in a noisy apartment. He wanted to own his own home so they bought a real nice little house. We’ll give him our old clothesline poles, also.

Its been cool here again and rained some last night. Had a flat tire on the car yesterday and had it fixed in the afternoon. I may soon have another technician under me and some increased work to do. It’s something I asked for earlier. Our new pharmacologist starts Tues – he’s supposed to move in today.

Ruth had a coffee yesterday morning for some of the neighborhood ladies – partly because one of the neighbor ladies sister is here for her usual summer visit. We have a pharmacologist (not a ph.D.) coming today for a visit. He has been testing some of the Carbide chemicals in Pittsburgh.

Last Sun was the last choir for the summer. Mon night we took a picnic to the park. I pulled weeds in the garden Tues night after we’d had some rain. We’ve had quite a few raspberries. Andy hasn’t eaten much for a couple of days, and has been fussy at mealtimes. I suppose he’s cutting some more teeth. He walkes pretty well now and doesn’t like to be left inside his fenced (wire fence in sections we bought) in play area in the yard. He want to explore everything.

Ruth has been sewing some and knitting. She made matching dresses for the girls and is working on matching shirts for the family. I’ve had my new glasses for a week now and I can sure see better, especially at night. I guess I’d gone 6 years without a change. Ruth ordered some tinted prescription glasses for driving. Hope you’re all OK.

**7-9-65 – Fri AM -** This will be the last letter before we leave. We’ll try to get away in the morning as soon as we can. I guess Ruth has everything about ready to go. She has just finished matching shirts for the entire family, and is making a new car seat cover for Andy today.

It rained some this morning and looks like its going to rain again right now. We had a good 4th of July weekend. I had Mon off, of course. Last Fri night we ate at a drive-in and then took a ride in the country. We spent most of the 3 days working around home doing odd jobs, etc.

Sun we all went to church and s.s. (no choir) and then we had Don Pettit over for dinner. He used to be a student at Millikin, and was the assistant choir director for awhile. The kids love him (he’s 27 years old – not married) so were thrilled to have him over. I remember playing with him outside in the backyard. He would get down on the ground, and let all of us jump and climb all over him. We would laugh and laugh. He’s leaving the middle of Aug to take a teaching position in Missouri. Mon evening I cooked on the grill.

Ruth took the kids in for a measles shot this week; they have to have two more to complete the series. Ruth ordered her tinted glasses, but they hadn’t come in by yesterday. She hoped to have them for the trip. She took the girls down for haircuts yesterday.

We plan to stay in Seneca tomorrow night at the Starlight Motel, I believe. We have a reservation. Sun morning we’ll go on to Manhatten and visit Deloris Musgrave Berland and family. We’ll probably eat lunch with them. We drove by there last year but they were not at home. We’ll drive on to Oberlin Sun night. We’ll probably leave for Hutchinson Wed, and try to leave for Kansas City on Sat. We may try to attend our old church on Sun in Kansas City. We’ll come on back here on Mon. Sorry we can’t stay any longer, but we wanted to do the trip East, also, this year. Hope you’re all OK. And so begins the standard summer vacation pattern – one week in Kansas, divided equally between Hutchinson and Oberlin, and one week somewhere else.

**7-23-65 – Fri AM -** Dear Mother, Aunt Clara and M.J., We made it back OK Mon evening and feel like we had a real fine trip and vacation. It was cool and cloudy when we got back but yesterday and today have been extremely hot and humid.

Aunt Lenore (Mrs. L sister in Miami, Fla) stopped by some yesterday evening. Ruth and I are going to a movie this evening. Andy was glad to be home, and doesn’t mind so much when I leave now.

Ruth has done some more sewing. We saw Lee Murray a few minutes in Columbia, Missouri at the med center eye clinic where he is a resident in ophthalmology. It rained on the way to St. Louis. We stopped for about 3 hours in St. Louis and visited the zoo. Didn’t grandpa go to the St. Louis worlds fair – it was held on the present zoo grounds, I guess. We had planned to go sometime but didn’t know we would this trip. Home about 9:00 PM. Glad we saw you all.

**7-30-65 – Fri AM -** As usual I didn’t get this off when I expected to. Everything is fine here. The weather has been cool the last few days after that hot streak but certainly the summer hasn’t been bad so far. I always say we’ll get central air conditioning next year but that’s not a certainty. It’s only when it gets above 90 that you could really use it. Of course I’m not in the house all day but at work where its air conditioned. We finally got the screens for the car windows, so we should be cool on the trip East.



A good picture of the screens. This picture was taken in 1968 in Hutchinson.

We’ll probably leave 2 weeks from Sun and take two days going back. After the meetings, and before John and his family return from there vacation, (Judy Laidig Moats – their married older daughter - had her baby – thats the one that Ruth knit a blanket for) we may take a side trip such as up to Boston. We’ll probably spend at least a day with John’s at the fair. I guess the’re really having a drought in the East.

Glad to have your letter this week. Hope M.J. and Bill have a good trip. I think maybe we went by Stephens College in Columbia. The kids enjoyed the St. Louis Zoo. We were there in time to see the lion show which has a 76 year old lion tamer. If John went to Indiana from Kansas he might have gone through Decatur. I read in the KU newsletter where Dr. Barne’s (the one at Seneca) son was killed in an auto accident. I think the kids did real well traveling. They were really fussy only a few times. They have really been full of life since we got home. Yesterday Andy really showed his temper about everything. He’s really Daddy’s boy right now.

I have some more responsibility at work. I’m in charge of all the cardiovascular testing. I was doing a lot of it but I now have the initial testing to do which was being done by that lady. She now works under our new pharmacologist (Dr. Moffitt he’s 41-42 yrs old and just finished his PhD from the University of Louisville, Ky, but he’s had 11 yrs of previous experience at another drug company) and they are in charge of the areas of testing other than mine. I should eventually have a second technician, and we should grow beyond that eventually as more of the Union Carbide chemicals (from 3 of their labs) come into here for testing. We receive chemicals from their labs in Belgium, Charleston, W. Virginia and Tarrytown, NY. In addition, we have the chemicals to test that are made here. Hope you’re all OK and not to hot. Sorry we couldn’t stay longer in Kansas.

**8-6-65 – Fri -** Dear Aunt Clara and Mother, I’ll send this letter to you since I don’t believe I’ve sent one to you since we got back. We were glad to have Mother’s letter this week. Hope you’re all feeling OK and are not too hot. Yesterday and today have been real hot here (in the 90’s) after a cooler spell. I use the air conditioner in the car even on short trips – it cools it down in just a few minutes. I think I wrote that we got the aluminum screens for the car windows. We’ve used them already and the’re a big help.

Everything at work is about the same. I’ve done quite a bit of writing at the desk the past two weeks so I guess I’ll be ready for another vacation break. We’ll leave here the morning of Sun the 15th and go straight East of US 36 to Indianapolis. We may stop a few minutes in Rockville, Ind to visit some of Ruths relatives. I guess all of my distant relatives were more in the Southern part of the state. We’ll stay Sun night in Ohio, probably near Gainsville. Mon we’ll go straight on to Philadelphia and will stay Mon-Thurs nights in the University Dormitories. I can be reached at the Fall Pharmacology Meeting, Department of Pharmacology, University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pa.

The meetings are over on Fri and we may or may not stay in the dormitories that night. Ruth’s older brother John and his family hope to be back Sun night from their vacation. They said we could stay at their house until they got back and sent us a key but we might take a side trip rather than going on in their house. Their address is John F Laidig 178 Meyerville Road, Chatham, New Jersey. We’ll have Mon and Tues with them and will drive back on Wed and Thurs. I hope to be back to work on Fri.

We all went shopping last Fri evening and while in Carson’s (department store) shoe department – Ruth was looking for shoes – Alan hit a table and had about a half inch cut on his head which we later had fixed at the hospital. Very vivid memories of this night. There was blood. The Dr. used 3 stitches. That’s the first time with any of our children that we’ve had an accident where stitches had to be taken or where we took anyone to the hospital. I guess we’ve been lucky.

We all went to church as usual last Sun. Our new minister has been chosen but he won’t be able to come until Oct. He’s 38 yrs old and is at a church in a Chicago suburb. Ruth had a luncheon yesterday at a neighbors. Andy has showed his temper several times this week – and the way the girls have been minding I think it’s time they went back to school.

**8-13-65 – Fri PM –** Its warmed up again today but we’ve had nice cooler weather recently. I guess I’ll mow the yard before we leave although it hasn’t grown much. Glad to have your letter this week and hope you’re feeling OK. Glad M.J. and Bill got back OK. I wrote our schedule in the last letter. We won’t stop in Rockville, Ind on the way but on the way back. Thanks for the post cards. The meeting should be more relaxing this year since I won’t have a paper to give. I think I wrote that I’ll miss the meeting the’re having here to orient some of the top Carbide chemists in regard to drug development. I would have given a talk to them about my work.

Ruth has been doing a lot of sewing and knitting recently. Andy has added several new words to his vocabulary but still has quite a temper, especially at meals, when he doesn’t get his way. We let him play alone some in front of the house when we’re near enough to keep an eye on him. He’s been pretty good about staying close. We didn’t get but about a month and a half use out of the little fenced in area we made.

We haven’t done much unusual this week. We received the pillow OK. Thanks. We noticed it missing soon after we’d gone. Had a letter from Lee Murray asking about some card magic books. I guess he does a lot of card tricks when they play bridge. Hope M.J. and Jimmy feel OK now. I guess Philadelphia and New York are having quite a water shortage. I remember reading about the new Cheney Reservoir. Ruth sure enjoys her dark glasses with the correction. Went to church as usual last Sun. Guess that’s about it. We leave Sun morning.

**8-15-65 – Wed AM -** Dear Hutch Folks, Made it OK. Stopped in Zanesville, Ohio on the way. It turned hot and humid as we left so the air conditioner and screens were a big help. A lot of cars overheated on the Penn. Turnpike where it goes up in altitude but we made it OK. Has been hot and humid here also. The former JoAnn Stokes (M.J. knows her, I believe) married an MD who became a pharmacologist at KU Med Center. They are here with their children also. Had a piano recital last night which was very good. It was for the meeting. Will go on to John Laidigs (Chatham NJ 178 Meyerville Rd) Fri.

**8-20-65 – Fri 5:00 -** Dear Hutch Folks, We just arrived OK here at Chatham, NJ. We’ve forgotten how to find Johns house so we’ll have to ask directions. Philadelphia was very hot and humid until today. Saw Independence Hall this AM. Visited colonial homes yesterday. Yes, I did go to some of the sessions. We’ll probably stay here through Tues and drive back on Wed and Thurs. John’s expect to be back Sun night. Hope you’re OK.

**8-27-65 – Fri PM -** Dear Hutch Folks, I thought I’d mail this card after we got back. As you can see I carried it around in my pocket for the whole trip. We got back OK last night as we had planned. About 9:45 by our time here, or 10:45 by the time in New Jersey. Everything went OK. Followed the plan I gave. We rested Sat and Sun at John’s and they came in about supper time Sun night. Had a good visit with them and they kept Andy and Alan (he said at the time he didn’t want to go) while we went to the fair on Tues. Didn’t leave their house till 2:00 PM Wed, so it hurried us so I could work today.

**9-2-65 – Thurs -** Dear Mother, Aunt Clara, M.J. and Bill, I guess I should write a letter this time (the last few were postcards). Haven’t received one from Hutchinson yet but suppose that we might today. The last few mornings have been cool and you can tell that fall is almost here. Rainfall for Aug set a record here so when we got back the grass was all green and had really grown, partially because I’d put some fertilizer on before we left. The cat got along OK while we were gone. It stayed in the garage and Laura Brenneman (former baby sitter home from college) fed it.

Although the trip was tiring part of the time, we were glad we all went. We did more sightseeing than we’ve usually done on trips and, of course, we were near places to see more so than on other trips. The crowd was good the day we were at the fair, and it wasn’t too hot. Vivid memories of the “It’s A Small World” exhibit and ride at the fair. I guess the crowds have been disappointing part of the time. I guess Chicago had plans for a fair, but they have decided not to go ahead because of the New York difficulties. We missed our turn after leaving the fair so it took us awhile longer to get across Manhatten. It was at night so the lack of traffic helped. It was my first time, of course, to drive in New York City. We went through the Holland Tunnel going over to Manhatten and then crossed one of the big bridges over to Brooklyn and Queens. The fair is in Flushing park, I believe, which is in the Queens. John’s, of course, drive all over the New York area so he gave us the best route from their house. After driving in metropolitan areas for awhile I’m glad we live in a smaller place.

In Philadelphia we stayed in the dormitory and were near several other families with children. The wives took turns baby sitting so they could get away some during the day. We took that colonial home tour on Thurs morning. I was the only man but it was interesting. I went to sessions Tues Wed and Thurs afternoon. Wed PM I visited a man in the veterinary school who does some things that I’m interested in. Tues night was the piano recital, and Wed night Ruth and I drove to downtown Phil and ate there rather than at the regular banquet which they said wasn’t air conditioned. It was still hot then and on Thurs.

Thurs night we drove around some with the kids and ate at a drive-in. It rained then and by Fri the smog had cleared and it was cooler. Fri morning we saw Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell and went through the Wax Museum (figures in American History). Ate downtown Phil and drove on to Johns. Rested Sat and Sun. Tried to go to church Sun, but were too late so took a ride.

Mon Esther tried to take us to a childrens museum but it was closed. She took Alan and Andy back when we went to the fair. Mon PM she drove Ruth and me to the area where they will be moving. John is being transferred to new labs about 40-50 mi away. Tues was the fair. Wed AM we visited the pottery shop, and then ate lunch there before leaving about 2:00. Stopped in Rockville Ind Thurs night. The storms that night were to the north of us. Went to work on time Fri. Received your card at Johns. We’ll go over to the covered bridge festival at Rockville in Oct. Hope you’re all OK.

**9-9-65 –** Glad to have your letter this week and to know that everything is OK. I don’t have the letter here so I can’t remember any questions you may have asked. Yesterday and today have been warmer and humid but I suppose it will turn cool one of these days.

Lisa was real pleased to receive your birthday card and, of course, was excited this morning when she got up, about her being six yrs old. I think Ruth has made her a new dress and she bought her a new doll buggy, and some other presents. As usual, we’ll have the presents this evening.

The girls are real pleased with school. Mound School has the largest enrollment in the city and, as you may remember, they are building two new grade schools to take its place. They should be ready by next year and then Mound will become a junior high. I think the junior highs, at the present, are just two years but might go to three yrs if the high schools become crowded. Next year, if the new schools are completed, Lesle and Lisa will have to take Alan with them and walk several blocks. They say that one of the kindergarten classes is being transported to another school this year. One of the reasons we bought our present house was, of course, because of the proximity to the grade school. We can’t complain, however, because we will have had 5 total school years in the early grades when it would have been harder for them to walk. Decatur is growing quite a bit in our direction, so the number of children has gone up quite a bit.

We had a real fireplace man look at our fireplace, and he said it would take $700 to put it in order so it would work properly. When we bought the house apparently the former owners had not made it clear (on purpose) to the real estate man the degree of work needed to make it a safe good fireplace. He had an estimate of $200 and they came down in price by $200, apparently knowing all the time it was actually a much bigger job to fix it right. Anyway, we won’t fix it now, since a fire in the fireplace is pretty much just luxury. We do plan, however, to build bookcases and storage on the side of the living room where the fireplace is. We’ll do that before long. I started painting the kitchen walls (not ceiling) a turquoise, which just matches the refrigerator. We have a new copper tone sink ordered, and that will fix up the kitchen for now. We may change it later if we stay in the house and make the garage into a family room. Our old sink is about worn out from our water.

I’m sure you did the right thing by having the apartment painted. We had the first choir practice last night. The kids came home with some colds but are over them now. Andy is OK, but we can’t let him out when the people drive up for school. Stayed home over the labor day weekend and worked around the house etc. Took kids to the park a couple of times. Hope you’re all OK.

**9-16-65** – Dear Aunt Clara, Mother, M.J. and Bill, I guess it’s about your turn to have a letter. We were glad to have Mother’s long letter this week. We had a lot of rain last night and this morning and two nights ago we had quite a storm. I guess they had a tornado at Peoria with a lot of damage. We saw a few little tornadoes up in the clouds one day last summer, but they didn’t touch the ground. We haven’t had to water since we came back from the East, since we’ve had so much rain.

Lesle and Lisa are still enjoying school. Ruth shortened Lisa’s dress (birthday from Mother) some and she has worn it to school. Ruth has made her a new dress, also, and is doing some more school and personal sewing at the present. We were sorry to hear about Paul Wheaton. I remember him very well. Was he a congregational minister? Lisa’s birthday went fine. She got a Tammy Doll (less ‘sexy’ than a Barbie doll ☺) suitcase with clothes a new doll buggy and I’ve forgotten what else. Sat morning we took all the kids and one neighbor girl to the park to celebrate her birthday. I finished painting the kitchen walls Sat PM.

I suppose the State Fair is on now. We watched part of the Miss America contest last Sat night when Miss Kansas won. They said she had gone to Christian College at Columbia, Mo, which, I guess, is a private girls Jr. College, like Stephens College where Ola went. We drove by it when we were in Columbia.

The Laidigs are taking a trip north on Highway 83 (one going through Oberlin). Mr. L works on Highway 83 Association business. They are supposed to come through here on the way to Florida this fall sometime. I can’t recall the years I worked with the Erector Set. We tried to talk Lesle into a French class (a girl her age at church takes it and they have an opening) but she didn’t seem interested. Ruth says the only way to really speak another language is to start at an early age.

Choir sang for the first time last Sun. Last night was choir practice. Hope you’re all OK. Everything at work seems to be improving some. We are getting ready for some of our expansion in terms of new equipment, personnel, etc. The integration with Union Carbide is taking time, and its not completely clear yet how it will all end up.

Alan raking leaves in September, and looking for a plane in the sky.

**9-30-65 – Thurs PM -** I guess its been two weeks now since I wrote last. We haven’t had anything happen or I would have written sooner. Today is rainy. I picked up my new all-weather coat, with a zip-in lining, yesterday when I was downtown for a dental check-up. The coat will look a lot better than the old plastic raincoat that I’ve had for many years. I must have got it while I was still in college, or before. With the zip-in lining it will be warm enough for cold weather, also. You can figure your gift as applying on it ($24), or on a new pair of pants I’ll get shortly. I think I told you that Ruth got me a new attache case with her stamps from Krogers. It is grey and is like a small suitcase. I’ve carried the old briefcase (I think you got it for me in about 1953) almost continuously for 12 years, and it was all worn out and didn’t look very good. She finished a summer sport shirt to match the shirts she had made for the rest of the family and she also finished a red vest she had started earlier. The other things I got were some underwear, and a pair of pajamas she made.

I didn’t have any cavities so I’ve gone for a year without any trouble. You may remember I had some work about 2 yrs ago after I hadn’t been to a dentist for about 5 yrs. The kids all had their eye check-ups. Lisa is to wait another year before possibly doing anything but will most likely be near-sighted. Lesle most likely will be but is OK for now. There is no indication, as yet, that Alan will. They can’t tell for sure at an early age. Last Sat we went to the Mound School PTA round-up (to raise money). In the afternoon we all went to a magic show which the kids enjoyed. After their naps we went back and saw the rest of it and ate supper. It was nice talking to you on the phone and glad to hear about everything. Come up a few days if you want to. If you would go to St. Louis or to Galesburg (I think the Santa Fe goes through there) we could all drive and meet you, especially on a weekend.

If the weather is good Sat we drive out to Allerton Park (about 20 miles). It is owned by the University and was a millionaires former house. Has gardens, etc. The same man, Robert Allerton, had an estate on Kauai known as Allerton Garden. When he died, his estate became part of the National Tropical Botanical Garden, which many of you have visited. “It’s a Small World.” That was where the men’s retreat was to have been held last Sat PM and Sun AM. There were not enough reservations and they had to call it off. Had 45 at choir practice last night. Choir has been real good this fall. Ruth made refreshments for last night. Andy talks a lot now and goes everywhere. Hope you’re all OK.

**10-10-65 – Sun PM 8:30 –** I’m really late with the letter this week so I’ll take it down to the P.O. after a bit and you should have it by Tues. Glad to have your letter this past week. We also had a long letter from the Laidigs. They are back in Oberlin now from their trip into Canada on Highway 83 business. They still plan to come through here sometime in Nov on the way to John’s for Thanksgiving, and then to Florida for Aunt Lenore’s and Uncle Carl’s 50th wedding anniversary.

We all went to church as usual this morning. Had a good choir again – 39 present. Lesle had her first youth choir meeting. Mrs. Hoffland is not leading any of our youth choirs this year. They are Lutherans and she has one choir over at one of the Lutheran churches this year. I missed choir practice Wed night and went with some of the others in the men’s group to here a man at Shelbyville (about 30 miles away) talk about United Presbyterian Men’s work. Ruth went to choir. Ruth stayed home from AAUW Thurs night.

Sat (yesterday) we drove over to Rockville, Ind (100 miles) to visit the covered bridge festival. We got there at noon and had dinner at Laura and Jim Hudson’s house. Mrs. Hudson is Mrs. Laidig’s 1st cousin. Jim was gone working but his two sisters were visiting from Iowa for the festival. After dinner we all went downtown to the displays etc. and then drove into the country to visit Laura’s Mother who is 84. After that we drove everyone (there were 10 in the car) back to the Hudson’s, and we left for home. We bought a $25 painting for the living room. We ate at a drive-in on the way home and got here about 9:30. This afternoon I softened the water and we then rearranged the living room. We put the piano on the South wall where the bookshelves were, and moved the bookshelves on the east. The new picture will go on the east. Last Sun night I layed one of these wall to wall carpets (inexpensive) in the bathroom. They can be taken up and washed, of course. Our next project is to have a plumber install the copper tone kitchen sink we got and then have a shower put in before the bathroom is painted

Ruth goes to that math class on Tues evenings. Its a class for adults to learn about the new math that they teach in grade school. The kids are all OK and school is fine. Andy is most enjoyable when he’s good, which is most of the time. He thinks he can do everything and go everywhere the big kids go. I remember all the Crebs relics. I didn’t watch the Pope except as I saw it on the news. Hope you’re all OK. Ruth is still knitting a lot.

**10-14-65 – Fri AM -** I meant to write the Hutchinson letter yesterday, but, as usual, just didn’t get it off. I am earlier than last week when I didn’t mail it until Sun night. I suppose we may have a letter from Mother today. You would have enjoyed the covered bridge festival where we went last Sat. I guess I wrote about it in that last letter. They have a lot of covered bridges in the county where the town of Rockville is. I guess they have some of the bridges in other parts of the state but I don’t know whether they have any in the South where our relatives come from. Our weather has been warmer again and the kids had a big time playing out in the yard yesterday. They had vacation yesterday and today because of the Teachers’ Meeting. They found a toad out in the garden yesterday and were quite thrilled. Lesle really rides her bicycle now although she still has the training wheels on. We have trouble with Andy wanting to go into the street when Lesle is out there riding or one of the other kids gets out. As you remember we’re on a dead end street so its not too bad although we’re teaching him not to go out. Andy tries to do everything the older kids do and usually just about succeeds.

I may have mentioned that I am to get a second technician shortly. This will give me two and its possible I might have a third sometime in the coming year if we expand any. We will be testing the chemicals made by the chemists here plus a regular load of chemicals from some of the other Union Carbide laboratories back East. Neisler is a separate subsidiary so there is no indication that we will ever be moved from Decatur although you never know with a big corporation. I guess the sales of Union Carbide will go over 2 billion this year. It is the second largest (DuPont is first) chemical corporation. At the present I’m quite content with my work.

Tonight is Community Concert – a pianist. Wed night we went to choir practice. Last Tues night Ruth had her math class and I went to the Council of Churches class on finding out about small discussion groups. Tomorrow AM we may watch a parade of old cars. Sun night is the Mariners group at the church and Mon Pete (my technician) and I are driving to St. Louis to see a man and also deliver a dog for someone else here. Hope everyone in Hutch is fine.

**10-23-65 – Sat -** I’m writing just after lunch. We went downtown this morning and saw the Millikin U Homecoming Parade. We then went shopping and all the “men” in the family bought new trousers. Mine was supposed to be part of my birthday. I sure enjoy my all-weather coat. I guess they’re selling a lot of them for women too. Today is windy and cooler although it cleared off for the parade. It had been cloudy and rainy yesterday. Yesterday morning our friend Ted Jensen ran into Don Heitmeiers car about two blocks from here. It dented his side about $200 worth. It was slick and both cars skidded on the wet pavement. They probably wouldn’t have hit on a dry pavement. Harold White and I were in Don’s car and we were on the way to get Lowell Miller – the other carpool member. I walked home and got our car and drove everybody the rest of the day. The fan motor gave out yesterday on the furnace but we got it fixed quickly so the furnace is in good shape for the rest of the winter. We had never had it checked since we had moved in so it needed a check-up anyway.

Our trip (Pete Luna my technician went along) to St. Louis last Mon went OK. We went to see how a pharmacologist down there does something. We delivered a dog to him and also brought back a big wooden stand for conscious dogs to stand on while we test them. Everything at work is fine. I should have my second technician in a week or so. Tues night Ruth had a PTA board meeting and her math class over at Mound and I went to the School of Christian Living. Wed night the choir had a picnic supper at one of the choir member’s house and then we had rehersal afterwards. Thurs night Ruth went to PTA and I babysat. Last night we stayed home and had a soft drink and popcorn treat. The beginnings of a Friday night tradition in the Smith household. Andy really loves to eat his popcorn out of a bowl like the big kids. Andy fell down the basement stairs Wed, but it didn’t seem to hurt him. Tomorrow night I sing in the choir at a United Church Service. Ruth won’t try to go. Last Sun afternoon I went to practice for it, and then we had Mariners at the church in the evening. It will be exciting watching M.J. and Bill’s new house be built. Glad to have your letter. Last Fri night (wk ago) was community concert with Claud Frank the pianist. Glad to hear all the Hutch new. Tell all hello.

**10-30-65 – Sat AM –** Its about time for the mailman so I’ll try to get this out for him. Ruth is finishing up Alan’s Halloween costume – a spider. The girls are both black cats. They wore them yesterday at school for the regular Halloween parade. Andy’s will be a bunny. They should be good for another year.



The familiar painting on the wall behind us is the one they bought in Indiana for $25.

Their old costumes were clowns and they all outgrew them. I suppose some kids will be around tonight as well as tomorrow night.

Last weekend I cleaned the basement, so it looks a lot better. Last Sun evening was that church service. I sang in the big choir. I’ll enclose the bulletin. We were home Mon night. Tues night Ruth had her math class and I went to the next to the last School of Christian Living. I think I mentioned that I’m attending the class about small discussion groups. Thurs night was a church dinner with a speaker. Last evening we stayed home and had a popcorn treat. We’ve done that on several Fri nights letting the kids stay up late and watch TV.

This morning I went and got some wood to make a wooden planter box for Esther in NJ. (!) I’ll try to have it done when the Laidigs come so they can take it with them when they go back there for Thanksgiving. Today is warmer after being pretty chilly all week. The kids are all fine but we’ve all had touches of our first colds. Andy’s nose has been running. As soon as the kids start to school they start bringing home viruses from the other kids.

Mrs. Kirkland gave another big gift, this time to the hospital, so I’ll enclose the clipping. I think I sent the clipping about her giving $500,000 to Millikin U for a new fine arts building. She is the former owner of Neisler, as you may remember.

Glad to have your letter this week. What kind of a heart operation did Mrs. Fotopoulis have? Glad to hear all the other news. Sounds like you’re as busy as ever. I guess KU and K State play each other today in football. I guess neither team has done very well this year. We’re going to work on the antique clock before long. Will probably finish it first. Andy talks more all the time but I’ve had no luck with my Sat morning “training” sessions ha! Hope you’re all OK

**11-6-65 – Sat AM -** I guess I’ve gotten in the habit of writing on Sat mornings any more. I used to write some of the letters just after I got to work in the morning and was alert ? but I’ve been pretty busy there. We’re shampooing the carpet this morning. We hadn’t really planned to do it today but the kids spilled some of the red grease paint they used for Halloween on the carpet and it looks pretty bad. We had never done it since we’ve lived here so it needed it. We had planned to hire it done but that’s pretty expensive, although, of course, it would be a better job.

The Laidigs will be here next week-end. They may stay 3-4 days. I guess the last time they were here was just before you were here last spring. Last weekend I made the planter box for Esther so they can take it with them when they go back east.

Today is quite warm so the kids are playing outside. We’re all free of colds right now. I may wash and clean the car this afternoon since this may be just about our last warm week-end. Glad to have your letter. We don’t get as many trick-or-treaters out here as you do since we’re kinda off the “beaten track.” It was warm here last Sat night (they all went out on Sat PM, rather than Sun.), unlike the last Halloweens which were quite cold. Like the kids there, our kids had a big time. We only went to houses where they knew the people.

Sun we all went to church as usual. We’re to have a new minister here to preach later this month and I guess he will be voted on at that time. We were home Mon night. Tues night I had my last class. I went to 4 of the 5 classes so I got credit for the course. Ruth has 2 more of her Tues night math classes. Wed was choir practice as usual. Thurs night we went to a local high school auditorium to see the local Theatre 7 Group present “Born Yesterday.” It was very funny.

Last night we all ate at the Redwood Restaurant. Thats where we ate with you once, I believe, or at least when M.J., Aunt Clara and Bill were here. It’s a good place for the kids. Afterwards we picked up new bathtub and shower fixtures at Sears. We need a plumber now to install them and the kitchen sink.

I recall playing in a lot of trumpet trios at various places. Our accident was not in the paper. Only about $200 damage to the car I was in but the parts haven’t arrived yet, so he rides with us every day. I sorta knew Jack Davis. Hazel Crutchfield must be in her fifties now I suppose?

**11-26-65 – Sat AM -** It was nice talking to everyone on Thanksgiving. We didn’t do much the rest of the day. We rested in the afternoon and then cleaned the boys’ room. The kids stayed up later since they didn’t have school on Fri.

Yesterday was warmer and cloudy. In the afternoon Ruth took the girls for haircuts and then she had her first Drs. appointment to get at the bottom of what she’s allergic to. He is not our family Dr., but is about the only one in town who does allergy work. He thought she definitely has an allergy. It was so late when they got through that they didn’t have time to go out to Kemmerer Home to get Dennis Harding before I got home. As soon as I got home we all started for Assumption (25 miles south) where the home is located. It rained quite hard on the way so I was glad Ruth hadn’t gone alone. Dennis had eaten supper but we planned to eat at the Redwood. Andy got carsick on the way back and vomited on Ruth’s coat so we came on home and I went to the drive-in for supper.

Afterwards, we had our usual Fri night popcorn treat. Dennis slept in Alan’s bed, Alan slept in Andy’s and Andy slept in the crib which we still have up in our bedroom for his naps. This morning we all went to the parade downtown. (It is colder and clear today). Santa Claus and those big balloon characters. We stopped at the store on the way home. Tomorrow we’ll all go to church and then take Dennis back out in the afternoon before the Advent Sing at church. Dennis would have been here for Thanksgiving but went to his home in Springfield. We don’t know what the reason is for his being in the home. He’s 10 years old.

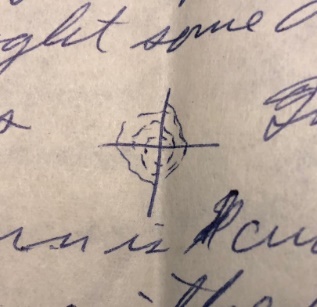
I can’t think of whats on this coming week. Advent Sing and we’ll be in the adult choir, of course. Last Sat afternoon we went to the reception at church for the new minister. He preached at both of the services Sunday and then accepted the call at a congregational meeting afterwards. He will come Feb 1st. I’ll enclose the newspaper article about him.

Last Sat night we had company (2 couples) in for dessert. They had both eaten out before. I picked up drive-in food on the way home from the reception at church. Sun night was Mariners at church. Just dessert and Dr. Martin (interim minister) spoke. I may have mentioned that Ruth and I are in charge of Mariners for the coming year. Ruth went to creative writing on Mon night and that was it for last week except for choir on Wed night. Hope you’re all OK.

**12-11-65 – Sat 12:00 Noon –** Hope everything is OK in Hutchinson. Today is rainy and warmer. We’re having a mild spell, which is fine with me. I don’t mind the rain at this time of the year if its warm.

I just got home from downtown where I did some shopping. I gave Ruth one of her Christmas presents in advance – a large colonial style bucket for her knitting. I don’t know whether she’ll get all her Christmas knitting done or not but I guess she’ll try. I bought a new winter suit. The suit I’ve been wearing in the winter has a Gus Meschke label so I guess I haven’t had one since. I think it was about 5 years ago. I’ve had a new summer suit more recently.

Last Sat AM I took Andy and we went to the post office to mail Dennis Harding’s belt back to him out at the Kemmerer Children’s Home. He was the one that stayed here two days two weeks ago. He forgot the belt. After leaving the post office we bought some dowels for Ruth to make Mexican Ojos.



Dad draws a Mexican Ojos.

The dowels are crossed and brightly colored yarn is circled around to make designs. She put one on the front door and the kids all made some too. After I got home I stayed down all afternoon and had a fever later in the afternoon. I felt like reading some in the evening. I was pretty much OK Sun and we all went to church as usual.

I bought Ruth another early Christmas today – a book telling how to make Christmas decorations. We didn’t do anything special last Sun. Mon night was Community Concert – the St. Louis Symphony. Their relatively new conductor is a Brazilian. Afterwards we stopped at the Heitmeier’s (in car pool) and met some of their friends. We had all been at the concert although we didn’t go with the Heitmeiers.

Ruth went for more skin tests last week. She has a lot of food sensitivities. Wed night was choir practice. Thurs night we were home. Thurs noon was the annual Christmas program at Women’s Association which Ruth and Mrs. Hoffland always have charge of. Ruth played her recorder again this year. You may remember she bought the recorder with your gift money. Andy has been in a real good mood the last two days after a fussy spell.

Last night Ruth had AAUW. We may go out and buy the Christmas tree later. We go out to some friends this evening. Next Thurs is the Neisler Christmas party. Wed night after choir we may go caroling. Thurs night after the party we’ve invited some of the Neisler people over. Glad to have your letter. I still have some more clippings to go through. I’ve been reading and working a little more at night recently (on job related things). That picture on the church folder was of the choir before we were in it so that’s why you couldn’t find us. Hope you’re all OK.

**12-18-65 – Sat -** Dear Mary Janet, Bill, Mother and Aunt Clara, As I told Ruth I guess I should address at least one of the Hutchinson letters that I write every year to my sister. We just got back from shopping. I took the girls down to their choir rehersal. They sing tomorrow at church. I came back home and then got Ruth and the boys and we went downtown. I left Ruth picked up the girls and then drove around and around waiting for Ruth. The weather is good today so I’m sure it was the biggest crowd of the year. We got the Texas package off (Judy Laidig Moats and Delbert Musgrave – he’s in Vietnam – wife and child). The Laidigs took most of the New Jersey things, so we still have a small package for there, the Hutchinson things, and the Colorado (Eldon Laidig) things.

Ruth called Oberlin this morning for the Texas address so we know that Mr. and Mrs. Laidig got home OK from their long trip. They came here (you may remember they had their accident when they were leaving Decatur), went to New Jersey, then to Florida (Mrs. L’s sisters 50th wedding anniversary in Miami) on to the Texas folks and were back home by Wed.

Ruth said Mother’s letter came yesterday but I don’t believe I read it. I suppose it will turn up. We’re always glad to hear about the Collins doing via Mother’s letters. Its 7:00 PM now. Ruth took the girls out for new red shoes this afternoon. This evening we go to some friends house for a tree trimming party. Ruth is working on the Christmas cards. She made them again this year. I believe she made more of the gifts this year, also. She’s done quite a bit of knitting the past year, with a lot of it for Christmas.

Tomorrow afternoon we go to one of our neighbors open house and then everyone goes to a Christmas party at church for the kids. Wed night we’ll go caroling after choir practice. I am off work both Thurs PM and Fri before both Christmas and New Years.

Last Sat night we went out to some friends. They are fairly new here, and he teaches at Millikin. They live in an appartment. Last Sun morning Ruth stayed home with Lisa and Andy. Lisa had some intestinal flu. In fact we all had a touch at one time or another in the past week or so. I stayed home in the afternoon while Ruth took Lesle and Alan to the Christmas vespers at Millikin. We were home Mon and Tues nights. Wed night was choir practice. Thurs night was the Neisler Christmas party. We had about 20 Neisler people in after the party. Last night I went to church to help in some decorating sponsered by Mariners – the couples group.

I suppose you’re all busy this holiday season, also. Ruth will be writing Christmas cards to everyone soon, show this to the others. Love, Carroll & all

Christmas Eve 1965 – More dresses sewed by Mom, and our new red shoes.



Andy – December 30, 1965.

The green chair is the one that belonged to Great Grandmother Ruth.