

Mon. AM - Oct 12

Oct 12 1970

Dear Mom + Dad -

I sure enjoyed talking to you the other day. Its kind of hard to write because it seems impossible to remember what happened when.

Yesterday was sort of interesting - I had dinner out at St. Thomas More Convent - where Sister Marie lives. It was really nice - when they found out I was from Balto - they mentioned that several of them had taught there - at a school next to St. Chas. Seminary - when I told them that I lived on Maiden Choice Lane for a while - they got a real charge out of it.

The rest of the wk. is pretty much of a jumble. Oh - I learned how to figure welfare allotments + is it ever maddening. I'll tell you one thing: Nobody that I've seen is cheating the system - the blind can get welfare - totally disabled can get it (+ I do mean totally) + children along with the mother. But then the

real clincher comes - the maximum allowed for rent is \$40/mo. (irregardless of # of persons in the household). And most of the rents in this neighborhood are \$80/mo. (When they built the stadium some 1500 dwellings were torn down - + the nearby expressways displaced others - yet no new housing was put up - So rents are fantastic).

Something that is quite common - + I'll use Emmaus House as an example. There used to be 5 families living in the main house + 5 in the house next door. And families do not run small.

A lot of the damn landlords around here are tricky - They fix up the outside a little while the inside is terrible. The housing code is sort of a farce - because the

buildings are too worthless to be fixed
but if they're condemned - well it's
just that much more crowding.

I'm learning to play chess & finding
it enjoyable - one of the neighborhood
guys is teaching me.

I'm getting real handy with the
Econoline - & I think I'm starting
to get the hang of finding my
way around Atlanta. - it's the
damndest town to get around in.

I don't know whether I'm getting a
cold or what - but I hope not. It
really looks like my October chest
cold. Oh - I can get free medical
care. I'm in a low enough income
bracket to go to the neighborhood
clinic - which isn't really bad.
Well so much for now

love
Sue

Sunday - Sept 27

Sept 27, 1970

Dear Mom + Dad -

Things have been fairly busy since I got down here. Wed was the Democratic run off election - so I spent most of the day taking people to vote. Fr. Ford + I are the only ones who drive - so I'll be running a lot of errands. (I'm parked behind the wheel of the econoline). Wed P.M there was a Welfare Rts meeting which was interesting. The meetings are designed to give the people a little confidence. After that we went around to some of the candidate's election headquarters. That ran late.

Thurs. we spent most of the day getting ready for a going away party for Dennis Goldstein - the Co that left last night. We had several hundred here +

The crowd put away nearly 200 lbs.
of barbecue. It was a great party.

We just ran errands most of the day
P.M.-we took older teenagers horseback
riding + picnicked at Stone Mt. That
was a nice trip.

I'm co-ordinating a program on Sun.
afternoon for younger teenagers - (12-14)
I'll have three or four volunteers and about
25 kids. It'll be mostly recreation
+ field trips. Should be an interesting
group to work with.

This A.M. Sister said it's hard to
believe I've only been here since Thurs.
I opened a checking acct. the other
day + also got a drivers license. This
weekend things have been rather slow -
but I've been busy trying to get the teen ages
program started. The work is really

interesting + there is such a need for it. I have to be sort of careful about what I get involved in because the object is to get the volunteers + neighborhood people to do as much as they can - So the problem is letting go of something once it gets started.

Its amazing how much a place of this kind accomplishes in this neighborhood. It takes a lot of money to do it but we have two people that are excellent at putting the bite on people - Sister Marie + a lady named Mrs Tuttle, a doctor's wife from N. Atlanta. Evidently the house has no regular major source of income to support all of its programs - but people just come through at the right time

Be sure and write often, I'm anxious to hear news from home. Love, Dave

Sat. Am.

Spring 1971

Dear Mom & Dad -

Seems like it's been a busy wk - yet nothing really earthshaking happening. Mr Smith - who drives the Galloway kids had the week off - so we've been taking turns at that. A lot of planning for the summer program - We're taking the teenagers to Washington in August. Oh - guess what - we're making tentative plans to take a group of the older teenagers to Africa (would you believe) next summer. We think it can be made feasible.

Did I tell you that we got another CO. since you were down - His from Conn. + his wife is from

Chambersburg - They've been staying here
but are going into an apartment on
Tuesday -

It's looking like it will be a
fantastically busy summer. This is
sort of the calm before the storm.

I've been having my "daughter" tested
for the deafness - Bertha can see &
hear ok - Next Mon - a week we go
to the neurologist - the daughter business
is funny - Since she's of mixed percentage
some people at the school asked her
I was her father - She told 'em "it's
none of your business". Touché -
Six year olds shall rule the world -
it might just be a better place -

Oh - I'm a voter registrar now - Well
be conducting a campaign in June -

Hope all is well with you -

Any news yet from [REDACTED]?

Loul

Dave

Late Oct 70

Emmaus house
Sun

Dear Mom & Dad -

A relatively quiet week. I've not been as busy it seems. My chest cold has really been hanging on. Thurs. I went over to the Comprehensive Health Center - a few blocks from here + saw a doctor. I got some cough syrup, an antibiotic, + some stuff to dry my head up. I can get dental + eye care + all sorts of other stuff for free — I live in the target area + our staff is classified as indigent. At least the cold is clearing up.

The National Welfare Pts Organization is having a big meeting of the nat'l staff + officers, etc. here in town - so that's been keeping me busy. I've really enjoyed getting to know Mrs. Matthews, the pres. of the local chapter, who lives down the street. She's the mother of ten (5 of whom are living) in her mid 40's. She's recurring disability and AFDC. She's got a great spirit + from ~~one~~ what I've seen one hell of a temper if she's crossed. Wed. she's going to speak to a white church group (mostly retired people) + she's invited me along. It appears that she likes for someone to go with her when she enters the white middle class world.

Apparently Mrs. Matthews has quite a reputation for riding roughshod over people who turn up their noses at poor people & welfare recipients. This connects her in minds of some people with various racist black people. Mrs. Matthews may be many things, but she is not a racist. Therefore, if she brings a white friend with her, she feels it dispels notions of racism. I'm in agreement with a lot the lady says - so if she wants me to go - I do if time allows. Besides its great fun to watch her go to work on a group. The woman is a genius - & when you think of what she might have been if she'd been getting an education when she was young - instead of chopping cotton.

It's sometimes depressing when you think of the wealth of talent present in areas like this - that just never is able to blossom.

The weather has been very cool & fallish here. Nights have been only in the '60's. I've been wearing my CPO jacket. We'll had next to no rain since I've been here - a few showers - but that's it. As far as mild winters go I'm highly suspicious - I bet in reality that it's going to get damn cold.

Happy birthday - mom

Love
Dave

Mon Am.

Nov 1970

Dear Mom + Dad -

I'm on duty at the desk this A.M so I'll dash off a letter before things are off and rolling. It is really cold down here - got into the low 30's yesterday. I think this "mild winter" stuff is a pipedream - although it hasn't stayed real cold for long periods of time.

Earlier this week we went on a 24 hr. "sleep-in" at the Model Cities headquarters. The Model Cities program has been in Atlanta for 4 years. - Its job is to improve the neighbor + specifically to build low income housing. They have gotten millions of dollars - + haven't build one house in 4 yrs. The idea of the sleep in was that the Model Cities headquarters is a lot more comfortable than many (or shall I say most) of the

homes in this neighborhood. At any rate, we got signed commitments from the Model Cities director + the mayor. Time will tell. At least a lot of white suburban types were awakened to the facts.

Wed, I worked on the school lunch program + have gotten a lot of the red tape cleared up. It used to be that parents had to go to the various schools to apply. Also there's been some hanky-panky about consistent application of policy. Now people can sign all of their kids up here at the house - by phone or in person + we can monitor the system. So I feel good about that.

Can't think of any other news.

~~Well - so much for now.~~

Love

Dave.

Mon A.M

Dear Mom + Dad —

Dec 1970

Well I don't really have too much to say
since I just talked to you.

It looks like I may be coming home on
the 18th or 19th of December if everything
works out ok. If I do come home then
I'll probably stay until the Sun. after Christmas.

My wk end was fairly quiet. Business
around here was nil. on Thurs + Fri. We
had parties there on Thurs. + Sat.

I spent kind of a wild few hours
Sat P.M. Had to take one of the

neighborhood women to Brady Hosp. Emergency Room at 11 Pm. Her injury was minor - But you should have seen what was being hauled in by ambulance — I saw one man who had been shot 5 times + another stabbing case who died on the way into the admitting room

You wouldn't believe the perils of my Sun. P.M. program. I took the kids to an escape picture + it was partially subtitled - & half the kids can't read! So much for that.

Tues AM

We're (meaning Mrs. Mathews + I) are going out to the Methodist Church in Emory again — we're going to talk about hunger.

I found out that Dennis will arrive on 12/22 — so will see about my plans.

Love,
Doris

Sat

1970-1971

Dear Mom + Dad

Well - I was going to write after you called. That shows what good intentions are worth I guess. This week has been such jumble of things - that its hard really to decide what happened when. Things have been sort of confused this wk. NBC is doing a 1 hr show on hopeful projects going on around the country. + they spent two days here doing a 10 min. segment on Emmaus House activities. According to the producer its supposed to be released in Feb on a Sun. afternoon. The people doing it had good intentions - but they expected everything to revolve around them + were very nasty when things didn't work out that way.

Life here really has its ups + downs.
Everything runs smooth + then boom
something happens - for ex. the night
before you called the Key ring with all
the house keys nearly got stolen because
of my stupidity. But generally the work
is really rewarding. It has been
great fun getting to know the people
who work here. Gene Ferguson - the
black guy that lives here is an
amazing person. We've been seeing
some of the night spots in Atlanta
+ meeting all sorts of interesting people
along the way. He's really involved
in the black movement - but he
can enjoy chewing the fat with a South
Ga. redneck just as much + he usually
winds up getting them to see his side of
things.

Sat.

Dear Mom + Dad -

I had sort of a depressing experience on Tues. There is a 14 yr old kid who spends a lot of time here named [REDACTED]. He reads at a low 1st grade level - because he's only been in school for about 2 yrs. At any rate the school has decided that he is mentally retarded (his IQ tested at 53). The thing is that anyone who knows him can see that he is not retarded - so I'm working to see what I can do. I don't know if remedial work after school is the answer or if I'll have to look into the possibility of getting him into a private or parochial school. It's a real problem. - We'd probably have to transport him + that's an impossibility right now. It's sad to think of the number of kids the school system is throwing away. I'd be discouraged if I weren't so determined that [REDACTED] can read, + will read.

We got word today that one of

2

the girls in my teen program that was pregnant had her baby 2 months early. The mother is only 14 & the baby weighs 3 1/2 lbs. I wonder what will become of them.

My cold seems to be breaking - knock on wood. We're having some lovely fall weather. It had turned real cold earlier this wk.

I hope you're able to pull off a trip to Illinois at Thanksgiving. I sounded Sister out on the possibility of coming home at Christmas & she was hopeful - so I'll be sprunging it on Father Ford soon.

Sun.

Hope you didn't get too depressed by Part I. All is not bad. All in all this has been a pretty good weekend. The spaghetti supper we had ^{Fri} was a flop in helping up the finances of our community store (which are in dire need of helping up) but it was a real good time. We had a girl folksinger as entertainment & after supper everyone sat around singing in the candlelight & everything was perfect.

Sat (yesterday) I really wondered if I was going crazy or if it was everyone else. (it turned out to be everyone else.)

3

The morning started off on the wrong foot. I got up at 7:30 + shuffled off to the bathroom with the intention of getting a shower. Lo + behold, I found my tub full of spaghetti sauce, spaghetti, ground beef, + tracked up water. — not to mention a posse of roaches dancing around. Needless to say I did not find this terribly amusing since I had to fish out the gunk, clean the tub, + kill off the roaches that didn't run away and then dash over to the office to go on duty — unscrubbed. — at 8 AM.

To make matters worse I knew who washed out the spaghetti pot in my tub. — and it was someone who I dislike immensely but had resolved to be more charitable toward (on Fri. Pm.) The lady in question is a volunteer who combines the worst features of a South Carolina cracker + the senior league matron. She puts in a lot of time, works very hard — despite the fact that she's pregnant, but she just hasn't caught the spirit of the place. To sum up she reminds me of [REDACTED] in too many ways. At any rate I could understand why she didn't personally clean out the tub — but she could have at least seen that someone did it.

At any rate she came down Sat Am to finish putting everything to rights & I walked back over here & found cole slaw & hacked up water in the tub. I was really paranoid by this time. All I said to her about the whole deal was that I hoped she'd get the cole slaw cleaned up or as much as the spaghetti drew roaches. Her reply was "You all already have roaches around here!"

At this point I was almost a gibbering idiot. At any rate the cole slaw was gone when I came back over. Maybe the roaches polished it off. Seriously we had something of a problem with bugs when I came down in Sept but with weekly visits from the exterminator things were under control. Apparently because of the climate - everyone has to have them in. You can see the frame of mind I was in.

Today 10 of us took 76 children to Stone Mt. It was a glorious fall day & the leaves were pretty & even the little bitty kids made it to the top. It was a pretty day to climb the mt. and a good time was had by all. 76 kids in one bus was bedlam - but fun in a curious way. We didn't even lose anyone.

5

I approached Father Ford about getting some time off at Christmas. He said we could arrange something, and if Dennis Goldstein, the CO who left in Sept comes back at Christmas on his break there will be no problems at all. So I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

Oh - we have another CO working here 3 days a wk. His ~~affiliation~~ affiliated with the mennonite organization similar to the Brethren Service deal. He + his ~~wife~~ wife are from Illinois - Northbrook + Peoria - respectively.

I hope you can make sense out of this. I'm tired + I'm going to bed as it's 1145 pm.

Love,
Dave

P.S. - If we never got it cleared up -
Dad is welcome to my suede jacket

D.

Sunday

Dear Mom + Dad -

Today certainly was a wild one. I went out to St. Philips Cathedral (Epis) to talk about bussing to a crowd of 200. It should be noted that the school districts were integrated coincides pretty much with the Cathedral parish. I was going to talk along one of the black mothers + she was going to ask one of the other mothers involved to come along + lo + behold - who was the second mother but a Mexican lady whose kid had slipped in. Problem - how to explain? Mexicans + Cubans are classified as white tho they identify strongly with the black community. It occurred to me during our drive out to the Cathedral that none of the white people to would be so blunt as to ask the Mexican lady if she were white or black + appear to be stupid. Fortunately Mrs. Turner

has sort of heavy Indian features - so no guess asked. Dr. Ford said that if it should come up again to say "She could pass for white, but prefers to remain with her own people."

The black lady Mrs. Colquitt lives in one of the more isolated housing projects - surrounded by lower-middle class whites. The only church nearby is a white one & transportation decided to go to church ^(white) & take her children & they were turned away. I guess the people white Ha. Baptist figure that God is a

I've been diverted, I guess. The reception she got was no worse than I anticipated - No better either. It was really sort of depressing. There were a lot of "phony liberals" with a fair sprinkling of ~~liberals~~. big All of the Epis. churches across the country (as well as Lutheran & Catholic) are on a schedule

called the lectionary. The same portions of the gospel & epistles are read in all the churches. I don't get the impression that the cathedral folks got much out of the few weeks that the readings dealt with the Pharisees - the proper churchgoing Hebrews - pious but without depth. Nancy feels that ~~I~~ I made a dent somewhere. I'm to return next week - Our session today was one of the longest & largest they've had. I don't know - a segment ~~filled~~^{LARGEST} me out immediately. the mothers were great though. It's a challenge. I must say I got a little satisfaction from the fact that the man that sneered the most has children at Birney School. AND next week - voilà - its going to be integrated - complements of Emmaus House - AND he didn't know it & I did! Small satisfaction tho.

This afternoon we took the young teenagers to a neat place - a Cistercian monastery about 30 miles from here. - at Congers, N.Y. Its a big farm they produce all of there own stuff - food & clothes & such & have entirely built

the chapel + monastery alone. Sort of a self sufficient rural community. They have community involvement in unusual ways. When several black churches were bombed in S. Georgia + Alabama some years back they helped rebuild + produced some of their famous stained glass for the new structures. They have a fairly strict rule of silence - which is becoming a little relaxed. + are heavily cloistered. It was educational + interesting - Didn't send the kids wild. At least it made a pretty full ride through the country. Our leaves are really pretty now. - this late would you believe.

Our new store is almost complete + the larger chapel will be done in the next two weeks.

Oh did I tell you that Ruby Falls had a coronary about 1 month ago + is not faring too well.

I'm winding down I guess

More later

Love

Dave

Thurs P.M.

Dear Mom & Dad -

I figure its about time to drop a few lines.

It's been a busy week - Sister has been out of town, so I've had a lot of work

I've been visiting families to get kids between 3 & 6 into a new program that will work with emotionally disturbed kids before their problems become critical - preparing them for school - small group work, etc. It could really be good. Of course nearly any kid in the neighborhood

qualifies!

I've also had another interesting chore. Getting two kids from here transferred to a predominantly white, middle-class public school. I ran into a really racist principal, and to top it off her area superintendent tried to back her up. Little did they know that I'm friendly with the Civil Rts. Compliance Co-ordinator for the LSC. I don't anticipate

We've had some nasty weather - cold + rainy - sleet yesterday. It is bad since no one has snow tires.

Happy New Y

Love

Dave

Saturday

Fall 1970-Winter 1971

Dear Mom + Dad -

I appreciated your last letter. I got a chuckle over my orders. - I'm doing institutional work. I guess they still think this is a home.

This has been a pretty good week. Petie Larson ~~is~~ - a regular volunteer here had a birthday party for Gene. I had duty Sunday P.M. but Father Ford came in at 10 o'clock so I went out for about 2 hrs. - buffet supper + drinks - was real nice.

This wk was sort of routine. I sort of limped along with my cold. I thought I had it licked but it went up into my head. For a while everytime I cleared my throat I got a mouthful of green gunk. Sister has been preaching at me to get to bed early + yesterday she brought me some Contac from the convent.

St's great - Genesays she should be a mother.

I've got a new project I'm working on. '13
under Title I of the Elem. + Sec. Ed Act
certain impacted schools can get federal
money. The schools around here are getting
the money - but they're not spending it wisely.

About $\frac{1}{4}$ goes to administration of federal
programs. I've got to learn all about
the act, its provisions, guidelines, etc.
+ see what can be done to get better
use of the money. I'll be working with
Frances Pauley, a lady in her 50's
who is a good friend of everyone here at
the house + who works as a compliance
officer in the SE region for school
desegregation - this is for HEW. She has
a lot of connections + is a great help.
She's got a wild job - checking on
school desegregation in Mississippi.

At any rate I'll be learning
about all this + boiling it down for
Mrs. Mathews + the ladies.

I don't know if I told you that I've
been tutoring a kid who spends a
lot of time in the house. He is 14 +
is a great kid - but he cannot read.
The school has claimed he's retarded,
etc. etc - which is a lot of crap.

At any rate I wrote Dr. Jean Shanks
about where I could get some
cheap materials to use with him.

I got an answer - + guess what -
she told me of several friends she
~~she~~ has in Atlanta that could help.
Sr. Marie told me she ~~wanted~~ wanted
to have reading programs next
summer - but only if she could
get trained people. And I got
the names of specialists who are
training reading teachers. That
was really terrific.

Did I tell you that I'm
hoping to get in a Master's

program at Georgia State Univ.
in Urban Life. I could swing
1 course/quarter I think.

I met some really fantastic
people today - a Mr. + Mrs. Nichols.
they are surplus food drivers for us.
Also do some work for Economic
Opportunity Atlanta + St. Vincent de
Paul + others. At any rate it
seems that they are running their
own social service agency. They
pick up people's old furniture +
food + supply needy families.
They're also involved in recruiting
volunteer drivers for 100 retarded
children to get to special center.
They want to bring families together
on a one-to-one basis - 1 needy +
1 financially able. It's a great idea.
Both of these people work fulltime

SA

+ they have kids. And they do all this. Its really great. The one thing that they said is that they don't like all this investigation into need. It is such a waste of time + effort to do all of this exhaustive investigation of the poor. (Really that's mostly what these case workers do) when the money could be doing something worthwhile.

Oh. I just remembered - If Dad can have the coat.

I haven't gotten around to writing Mel yet but I will.

I guess I covered everything

Love,
Dave