

341 Westgate
St. Louis, 63130

May 9 - 80

Dear Pa --

Sorry to be so late in answering. I'm not living at home and I only pick up my mail now and then which really isn't much of an excuse. The other is I've had trouble reaching an agreement with the paper on when to take a vacation.

Thanks very much for the check which has come in handy for things like Alex's tuition (he's in a private day school which is really much too expensive for what it provides him) and for Jack's (which is a bargain).

A young man named Kemp who has a little gallery here had a show of our pictures last month, as I guess you know. He said he met you in Chicago and tried to lure you to St. Louis for the opening. Boxie, Anne and Alex and I went but, as Alex said, there were too many people and it was hard to see the pictures. Alex is interested in photography.

I'm surprised Jack was so difficult to find. His address is Apt. 3-B, 5529 North Kenmore, 60640. It's only a couple of blocks from the lake, but pretty far up his phone number is 275-7358; I think he's in the book.

Jack is graduating on the 18th inst. and Jane and I are planning to drive ~~xxx~~ up to see him finish. He's planning to stay in Chicago and get a job, just enough of a job to support himself and his ~~xx~~ habit, which is painting. It's nice to have one kid who knows exactly what he wants to do.

E. F. is still in Boston, living with the Pettits (Norman and Bici) but is going to graduate school at Brown in the fall.

Some sort of good news: The tangled litigation, or rather threatened litigation, involving Marian's affairs and Tony's misdemeanors has been settled in a way that provides Marian enough to live on, ungrandly, for the rest of her life. The possibility of prosecution of Tony, accordingly, has receded. What is to become of Tony remains unsettled, however. I never hear from him and efforts to communicate are unavailing. ~~xx~~ I talk to Kent fairly often, however, and from her I understand he has a job, driving a cab and perhaps another job, too. I gather that he still considers himself in debt to the people who got him into trouble in the first place, though the details are still unclear. Kent, for some reason, also not clear, does not exercise much curiosity about it. Her want of rational curiosity is, in fact, exceeded only by her irrational loyalty to Tony.

two

Alex was, of course, a little disappointed that there was no room for him on the China expedition, though he really didn't expect that there would be. He was, on the other hand, delighted with your letter, Pa, and is looking forward to another expedition.

I'm terribly sorry to hear Aline's back isn't better. It must be miserable for her, and frustrating, too. I felt so sorry for her in New York last fall and wished I could do something. What causes osteoporosis, anyway, and can it be arrested? I looked it up in the Merck Manual, the cat's paw medical textbook found in every newspaper office, and it sounded just dreadful. Please give her my love.

Best,

B.

PS -- I've written to Steph & Marcie, and to John, that I'd like the house of some house, ~~any~~ any house, on the Island the last three weeks in Aug.

b

PPS -- I envy you your trip to China and like Alex, I wish I were going, too.