

Dear Grandfather,

Thank you very much for the Christmas check. I will use it to treat Bella & myself to a nice dinner out. Bella is partial to sushi, which tends to be expensive,

Dad tells me you're not feeling too well, and that you're not having an easy time taking pictures. I think I know how upsetting that can be. I caught my left index finger in a machine several summers ago, and there was a strong possibility that I would lose it. Fortunately, it healed, and I can play, with only some

discomfort, but it was very depressing at the time. I think the only thing to do is to be as optimistic as possible; hope for the best. I know it's easy to say, but I think it's good advice.

Bella & I went to Caroline's in Sherborn for Granny's ^{slightly} belated 80th birthday party, which was sort of odd, and made Bella very uncomfortable.

We are trying to encourage Dad to sell the house in St. Louis & move east, without much success.

I helped Dad, Caroline, Barbara, & Arthur a little in their project to clean up Granny's house in Belmont. She's become a sort of bag lady, except that she has a house and doesn't sleep under bridges. Caroline tells me that her house reverted almost immediately to its' former, messy state.

Granny's eccentricity is particularly bothersome to Dad, who, I think, worries that he will turn out the same way. That's one reason to get him out of St. Louis anyway,

Bella has been working for a theater for a little over a year now, and is getting frustrated with her job even though she's had four substantial raises since she started. She is sort of girl Friday to the managing director, & is over-worked. She's thinking of going to business school, and would like a job in which she could use her languages, especially Japanese.

I'm still freelancing, & trying to get a "real", i.e. salaried, orchestra job.

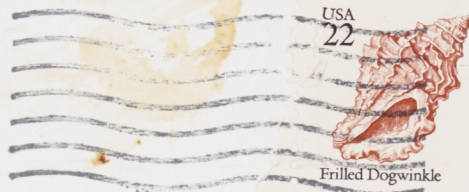
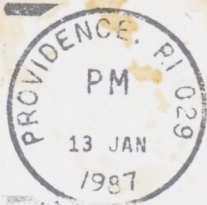
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Please remember me to Aline.

Love,
E.F.

P.S. Thank you for the wonderful
Maine book. It's nice to look at it
in the winter and be reminded
of the island in the summer.

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