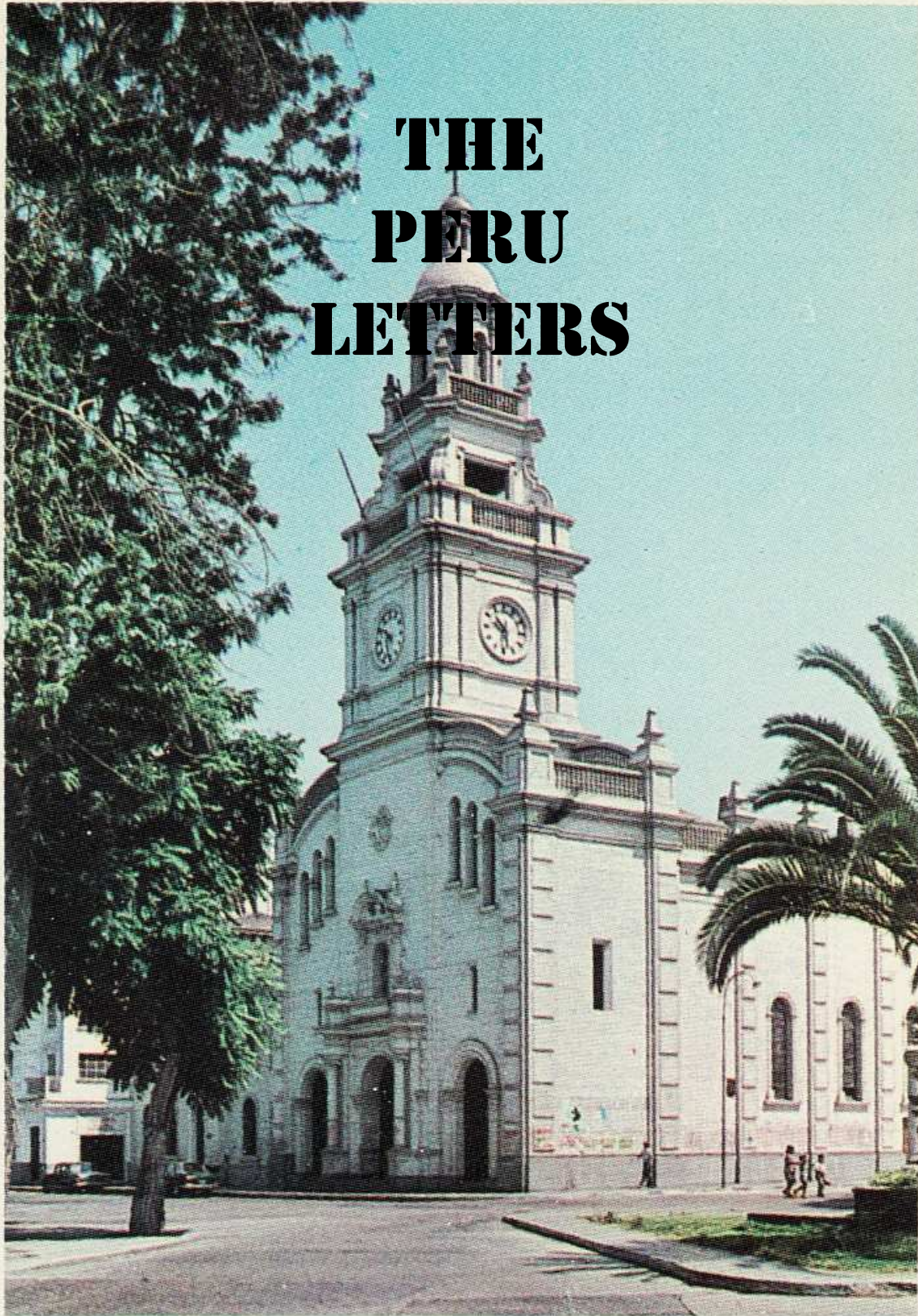


THE PERU LETTERS



**BY BORDEN AND ELIZABETH MEISENHEIMER
EDITED BY JOEL MEISENHEIMER**

1951



Sept. 14, 1951
5:00 PM—EST
Lima, Peru



Dear Mom & Pop:

Arrived in Lima at 7:15 AM—EST, this morning. I left Miami at 4:00 PM—EST

Thursday afternoon. We made three stops on the way to Lima, the principal one being at Panama City, Panama. We arrived in Panama at 10:00 PM—EST, I have never been in a hotter, more humid, miserable place in my life. The flight to Lima was very tedious, for being night there is nothing to see, and the noise of the engines, and the cramped quarters (for my long frame, anyhow) makes sleep next to impossible. If you are lucky enough to fall asleep, as I was for 2 1/2 hours, just when you are really sawing wood the plane makes another landing, and that is the end of your nap. Lima was fogged in to a 500 foot ceiling, and our plane came in a little too high on the first landing attempt. So we went upstairs, flew in circles for about 15 minutes, and came in again. This time we made it. (Don't mention this to Eliz.)

I have an excellent room here in Lima, and prices do not seem as high as I would have believed. As I am writing this letter I am drinking a Quart of Excellent Peruvian beer which cost me 5 Rios (Sol de Rios—called Rios) which is the equivalent to 35 cents American money. Now that I have gotten over my reticence of using my high school Spanish, I am getting along quite well, although most of the natives speak a little English.

Here in Lima, the natives must have learned to drive from French cab drivers. They have the horn button where the brake peddle should be, and you never heard such bedlam in your life.

Had an excellent lunch of shrimp with sauce, roast pork, potatoes, and vegetables, and two bottles of beer for \$2.06.

The population down here varies in appearance for Mexican & Puerto Ricans, to people

Who you can hardly the difference from those you see at home.

Love, Borden

P.S. Leave for Oroya at 8:00 AM tomorrow—by car.



Monday Nov. 12, 1951
1:00 AM - EST

Dear Mom and Pop:

Thanks a lot for your letter, Pop. Always appreciate your advice even if I don't follow it. I had written to Eliz. before I received your letter, telling her I intended to stay, unless she asked me to come home. I figured the same as you, she is no fool and therefore should make out alright. She is certainly smarter and more level headed than some of the American women I have seen down here.

Wish Eliz. wasn't inclined to be such a "worry wort". It is unfortunate that she always conjures up a lot of imaginary troubles, that never actually occur. Of course if she must be one extreme or the other I am glad she is on the serious side, rather than flighty.

As soon as we get the help, I will be transferred out of the Silver pilot plant, into straight research work.

Received one new helper two days ago. The kid is supposed to be 18, but 14 would be closer to it. He probably weighs all of 100 Lbs. soaking wet.- some helper for a plant where one just handle stuff as heavy as Silver. My other helper took one look at the new kid and said,

"Senor Pagel (my boss) Crazy". The poor kid is a willing worker, and this is obviously his first job, but he just isn't big enough to do the work. Pagel is a nice enough fellow to transfer the kid to a job more his size, rather than fire him, as soon as we get more help.

As for myself, I have been going in high gear. Put in 9 hours today, and will put in 8 more tonight. (7 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon, and 12 midnight until 8 tomorrow morning.) So far everyone seems to be satisfied with my work.



Thursday Nov. 22, 1951
9:00 PM—EST

Dear Mom and Pop:

Thank you for your birthday card, and thanks Mom, for your letter.

Haven't any news for you, you get what little I have I imagine, from my letters to Elizabeth.

I have two helpers now, Mayta and Perez, so I don't have to knock myself out with work like I did when I first came here. We are supposed to be out of the Silver pilot plant, definitely by Dec. 15th. We shall see.

I hope Eliz. isn't as lonesome for me as I am for her and the children, but I imagine she is. It is possible she could ship her luggage ahead, then fly down, but as much as I miss her, it would be best if she waits until Feb. 15th and sails down. That trip down was hard enough on me, so I know flying would be very hard for her with Judy and Jeff.

Due to the rapid expansion of the company, housing is in a mess, god only knows when I will get one. They are building 35 new houses in Chilic, but if they don't finish them any faster than most of their construction projects, I will complete my three year contract before one is available. Maybe that's exaggerating a bit, but fellows have waited over a year and one half for a house, recently.

Love, your son, Borden

1952



Saturday Feb. 9, 1952



Dear Mom and Pop:

Well by how my family should be quite aways out on the ocean. I shall call Lima a day or so ahead of time, and if I am informed that their boat will arrive on time (Feb 20th), I will go to Lima on the 19th, meet them upon their arrival and stay with them until the 27th. Then back up the hill and to work again, for me. I am so busy up here, (even work part of Sunday) that I will seldom be able to get to Lima, but Eliz. and the children can always come up and spend several days at the hotel, where ever she feels like it. She can also, always phone me from Lima when she gets lonesome.

I wish to thank you both, for being so good to Eliz. and the children. Eliz. enjoyed staying with you and I know you both helped in making her less lonely while we were apart.

Life up here is the same. I am still boss of the Cadmium plant, and right now I am setting up the equipment in the research lab. to run the ultimate analysis on coal a \$2,000.000 project is supposed to hinge on the results of my analysis, so I have some more, additional responsibilities.

One of the natives was crushed to death in the roasting plant next to the Cadmium plant. Seems like one or two of them get killed almost every day.

I, myself am in the best of health and hope that you are the same. Eliz. tells me in her letters that you get quite a bit of enjoyment from television. I used to enjoy it very much myself, even though 90% of the stuff they present is crap.

Since I haven't heard different I suppose mother is still working at Allis Chalmers. Hope she likes work better than she did, and I hope mother doesn't have to put in the hours I do. At least she doesn't have to get out of bed in the middle of the night, like I do when there is trouble at the plant.

Is trouble at the plant. The weather down here remains the same, cool nights, & warm days except when it rains.

Enclosed is my income tax statement. This is all I got, I understand the company forwards the original to Washington.

Love, your son, Borden



8:00 P.M.
Sat. 2/9/52

Dear Folks,

Well, here we are on the sea & we are all going to bed as soon as I finish writing this letter 'cause my stomach & head are squirming from the motion of the boat. The boat doesn't rock violently - - just a gentle swaying which you feel subconsciously; you can't even see the boat sway but it does.

The ship is a beautiful one - - much larger than I expected. The front and rear decks to which we haven't access are piled high with huge crates, trunks, and other cargo. There must be a lot of crew men, workers, on board but we haven't seen any yet — just waiters & room stewarts. Our room steward is a Chinaman who speaks hardly any English but make himself understood by motions. The waiter assigned to our table is a Spaniard who married a Brooklyn girl — imagine. Judy & I sit alone at a table. All meals are served in two shifts — like we ate at 6:30 P.M.. & the next shift eats at 7:30 P.M. We are to eat breakfast at 8:30 A.M.; dinner at 12:00 noon & supper at 6:30 P.M.

Everyone, including our Chinese room steward, loves Jeff. They sneak in & look at him whenever the steward or stewardess come in our room. The Purser has been in here a dozen times to pick him up & play with him. They all ask how come he never cries. Judy is driving the men crazy going where she is not supposed to be but that will soon end when they see she can take care of herself. We have a nice room which has 2 single beds in it separated by a large dresser — two closets & a bathroom. A very nice room — with a large window to see all the water slipping by. You can't drink any of the water in the bathroom. They have a large silver jug full of drinking water. Right now the room is creaking & swaying.

There were 5 in the dining room tonight. Met a couple in the dining room returning to Columbia, where he manages a factory. They have 2 children one 4 and one 2. Also there are 6 nuns going to Lima, Peru, to the school I tried to get Judy in. Well will close for now.

Elizabeth



2:00 P.M.
Monday 2/11/52

Didn't write yesterday as we were too sick. This time you really could see the boat sway. In fact it rocked so bad that Judy's chair with Judy in it fell over. Judy had a glass of Pineapple juice in her hand & we had juice all over Judy and me. Silver kept sliding off the tables and as I said before the swaying is worse in the dining room. Maybe they located the dining room there on purpose to save on food. Judy and I ate dinner and immediately went to our room and threw up. Stayed in bed all day. Quite a few others were sick and turning green. The reason it was rough yesterday is because we were rounding Cape Hatteras in the Carolina's and when you go round that Cape, regardless of the seasons, it is always rough. Today at noon we were 75 miles south of Jacksonville, Florida. There is a large map in the lobby of the ship and everyday at noon they put a flag on a pin and pin it on the map showing where we are. The food is very good except we haven't been eating much. Oh yes, the ocean is very calm today and should remain so all the rest of the way so now we can start to eat.

The stewardess on board brings me 3 cans of evaporate milk each day, baby food when I need it and sterilizes the bottles. There is no laundry on board ship so you must wash your clothes and diapers in your room. I wish now I had bought more disposable diapers. The stewardess is going ashore at Panama and said she will try to buy some. So far only the people with children have mixed together. This Columbian couple has 2 — a girl 2-1/2 and a boy 4. Another woman on board from Rhode Island has a baby boy— 6 months and another boy 9. So there are two baby boys on ship. This woman is going to join her husband in Chile. Then there is a diplomat and his wife who have 2 children, one a girl of 3 and the other a boy of 8. We don't see anything of the parents as the children are taken care of by a governess, a Mrs. Mitchell of Winnipeg Canada. She is very nice. So the ones with children have to stick

Together sharing comic books, crayons, coloring books, etc. As I said before there are quite a few elderly men and their wives aboard. No lovely young chicks or handsome men — except the officers. Most of the men working in the kitchen and cleaning rooms are Chinese. The waiters are Spanish and Italian. Also met a very nice man from Chile, a Mr. Gonzales Palacio, a civil engineer working for the Chilean government. He is returning from a trip through the U.S. He is a very sad man as his wife was killed 8 months ago in Chile leaving him with 3 small children.

The ocean is very beautiful today, a deep blue, but yesterday you should have seen the waves. Great big ones that washed over the bottom deck and splashed on the windows of the second deck.

Elizabeth



6:00 PM
Tues. 2/12/52

When I came back to our room from dinner yesterday there was an invitation to cocktails with the captain and officers at 6:00 PM. So I went and had a very good time. Today when I got up at 7:00 A.M. the ocean was like glass and a pale silvery blue. Was a wonderful day today—very calm, blue sky and blue water. We have seen many ships all day long, about 4:00 PM we could see Cuba far away — just an outline so vague it almost looked like part of the clouds. Saw some flying fish at 7:00 AM but not again. They were in and out of the water so quickly I cannot describe them — just dots jumping in and out. Everyone is very happy today partly because of the party last night which broke the ice and partly because it was such a beautiful day. They filled the pool yesterday and today the kids went swimming. The pool is 7 foot deep all around — no shallow place for the children so they put on life preservers and float on the top of the pool and have a wonderful time. Judy is so proud 'cause she thinks she can swim not knowing it is the life preserver that keeps her up. I am beginning to enjoy the trip since we hit smooth water. We passed several islands today but they were in the distance. We have tea or I should say refreshments, today it was Papaya juice, at 11:00 A.M. and at 4:00 PM. Everyday we have tea and cookies. What a life! And the South Americans I have met are lovely, warm hearted people. I am sending you a copy of the passenger list which was on our table at supper last night. Last night I stayed up to see the moon on the water and it was beautiful — so romantic and me without a man. The sunsets are something to see — the sun is a big fireball and it slips very quickly into the ocean. The sunset lasts about 5 minutes. Well it is now 6:25 and supper is at 6:30 so will close now. There is a movie tonight but I had seen it already so I watched the moon on the water. It's really something.

2:00 PM
Wednesday 2/13/52

Judy and Jeff are asleep as will write a few lines. We are in the Caribbean Sea, 1,488 miles from N.Y. And 468 miles from Cristobal. Tomorrow we reach the Panama Canal. Thermometer only registers up to 80 and it's much hotter than that and sticky too. Judy spent most of the morning swimming so I spent all morning on the lower deck. Not much chance to see what is going on. The people with children spend most of their time near the pool. The sea is very calm and very blue. Our rooms are air conditioned so we don't worry about the heat. A very popular place on the boat is the Veranda on the second deck, overlooking the pool. It is open to one side and always out of the sun. It is furnished with yellow wicker chairs, and tables anchored to the deck, and row of potted plants against the walls. I am there right now writing this letter. A Mr. and Mrs. Morisette and her two children, Mr. and Mrs. Sharp, their 2 children and the Governess and the 8 nuns and Judy and I always eat at the first sitting on account of the children. The captain and the doctor and the purser and all the other passengers eat at the second shift. The elderly people are all very nice. We have had fun swimming every day.

2:00 PM
Thursday 2/14/52

Judy and I are developing sea legs. The ship is rocking back and forth and it doesn't bother us at all. It is very hot and sticky. We arrive in Panama at 5 PM tonight. Early tomorrow morning we start through the locks and it takes 8 hours to get through. Lots of the passengers are getting off tonight and meeting the ship tomorrow night when we get through the locks, but Judy and I will stay on board.

The food is wonderful, there are 2 Chinese bakers with 2 assistants who bake the most heavenly cakes, pies, fancy pastries, etc. and you can have steak every day and loads of fancy dishes. The cooks are all Chinese. Every day the stewardess brings me baby food, milk, anything you want so all in all we are having a fine time. Will hate to cook when I get off.

I'll close now and give this letter to the Purser to mail. I want to thank Lilly and Grandpa for Judy's valentines. She is very happy about it.

Elizabeth



7:30 P.M.
2-15-52

Dear Folks - Cristobal, Panama

We arrived at 6:00 P.M. Last night. It was a thrilling experience to enter my first foreign harbor. Big planes were roaring overhead and small motor boats encircled our boat. Other big liners were pulling in and going out. A very busy place. We passed through the submarine nets which are closed at night. Judy and Mr. Palacio and I went out to look at Cristobel. What a change of scenery—tall palm trees, short bushy trees covered with flowers and fruit. Warm and humid air. Cristobal is a quaint place, full of black people, barefoot black children in torn clothes, loads of dogs, streets filled with black people sitting on steps, gutters, singing and groups dancing. Cristobal is very seamy. Our sixth ward only more shops, bars, stores. We went into several night spots—dives— all full of negroes. There are many beautiful things to buy — everything imaginable. Took Judy for a ride in a small carriage pulled by a pony. Went through the better residential section with its beautiful Spanish type homes, lots of fancy grillwork and windows.

This morning at 7:00 P.M. we left Cristobal & entered the first lock at 8:30. To describe the Panama Canal I would use every adjective Hollywood used in advertising movies. It is magnificent, awe—inspiring, the most wonderful man-made piece of construction work. I would never have believed that a canal could be so breath-taking. All the huge complicate machinery working so simply & easily. I took quite a few pictures of the canal. There were boats ahead of us in the locks, boats behind us and on the side of us. We went through 3 sets of locks each, one separated by several miles of water. The shores are lined with palms and other tropical vegetation, all in the most luscious shades of green. The shores look like ads for Hawaii. We passed through the last lock at 5:00 P.M.

I recommend this trip most highly. I know mom and pop would love it. Nice air conditioned cabins, wonderful food, warm beautiful days with nothing to do but sit in a deck chair and watch the scenery. (I never get to sit down incidentally-running after Judy) and then the trip through the Canal. Pop would love it - nothing exciting or strenuous. I know he would never forget it & mom would not want to come home and cook again after eating all those wonderful meals. Tomorrow we arrive at Buenaventura where the Eders and Mrs. Lubow leave us.

Well enough for now. Will add some more to this before mailing it in Buenaventura.



Sunday 2/17/52

Did not write yesterday as I did not get to bed until 2:00 A.M. this morning. Last night at 5:00 we docked at Buenaventura, Columbia. What a place. Black long decks swarming with big, husky negroes black as coal, in just pants and sometimes shorts, standing, lying on the piers, sitting, loafing, the din of small cars picking up cargo, winches carrying huge loads of cargo in rope nets, negro foremen shouting orders, such excitement, plus hot sticky weather.

The stewardess and I went off the ship at 8:30 P.M. and walked to the only hotel in town. It isn't safe for a white woman to walk alone in the town. As we walked along the pier and the streets men would come up & mumble something & follow us but we paid no attention. There are at least two killings a night in this town. Outside of the hotel there were crowds of black people standing & looking in as they may not enter this place. You push your way through and can feel people staring especially the women, looking at your clothes. Inside the bar were all kinds of men, sailors with beards, Columbian soldiers and we were the only women so we really were stared at. The streets are lined with huge palm trees & bushes have lovely Pink flowers like lilies & the air is sweet with the smell of flowers. What a contrast with Wis.

We met the ship doctor in the bar & went to the very best joint in town, very exclusive, only the lighter skinned negroes are allowed. What a place. Never have I seen such a dirty women's room. It was indescribable - and the music - all that loud, noisy music and people shaking their shoulders, hips and anything else they could find to shake.

Where they get all that energy from I don't know. We drank Columbian Beer & it was very good. Didn't even have a headache. I danced, but not any Mambos, or Sambas, or

The confusion & excitement of unloading & there was peace and quiet. The Pacific Ocean since we entered has been smooth as glass. The only way you can tell you are moving is by the faint vibration of the motors. We saw a school of porpoises (I don't know about that spelling) Today leaping in and out of the water.

Must mail letter now,

Liz



Wednesday
2-20-52

Dear Folks:

Haven't written since Sunday so I had better get busy. Monday at 5:00 P.M. we arrived at Puna, Ecuador. Puna is an island off the coast of Ecuador. A Grace Line launch took the Sharp family up to Quayagile, a three hour journey up the river. I did not go as it is 3 hrs. up and 3hrs. back with an hour in QuayaQuil. Am glad I did not go as those who went said it was a very trying trip with nothing to see as it was pitch dark. At Puna barges come out to the boat and cargo was unloaded right out in the ocean. There also were barges filled with bananas & Pineapple — very picturesque. Tuesday we sailed all day. Had beautiful weather. Saw sharks in bunches follow the boat. They didn't get too close. Could only see their fins cutting the water. No place to fall in.

Today, Wednesday at 10:00 A.M. we arrived at Salaverry, Peru. The boat was also unloaded out in the ocean. The coast line of Peru is bleak, barren, mountainous & covered with sand, but it looks beautiful to me even though it is ugly. We leave at 2:30 P.M. from Salaverry & arrive in Callao tomorrow morning. This has been a wonderful trip & have enjoyed every minute. Judy is as brown as a nut, & I am brown also even though I have avoided the sun.

Well a lot has happened since I wrote weds. 2/20. We arrived at Callao at about 11:00 A.M. Borden was there & needless to say I was very happy to see him. He looks very well - in fact has gained weight. This friend of mine whom I met through the Spanish teachers at vocational was there with her husband, a major in the Peruvian army. He and a man from C de P whisked me through customs in 5 minutes. This major had more influence than the man from C de P. We went straight to Bozas's house which is not what I expected. The house itself is very nice but not kept clean - - in fact it is very dirty. Also the water pressure in Lima is so

Low that the water just trickles out of the faucets. All hot water must be heated on a stinky smelly kerosene stove. In the morning the kitchen sink is alive with millions of bugs. Bozas's wife is very nice but she works & is tired when she comes home so she lets things slide. There is no refrigerator so you just hope that Jeff's food doesn't spoil. There is no washing machine so you wash everything by hand after waiting to get water & then heating it. So I am going up to Oroya & live in the hotel with Borden Weds. Morning instead of staying with Boaz. I am getting along fine all things considered. Judy drank some tap water & got fever and dysentery. She is better today, thank heaven. Kept her in bed all day. We eat out all the time for with no refrigeration there is not much to eat. Just bread and bananas. What a life. Don't worry about us. It is some experience.

Liz

Dear Grandpa & Grandma:

Hope you haven't sent in Borden's income tax as here is an amended copy. Well we are now living in Borden's room and it is much better than at Boza's. At least it is clean & there is hot and cold running water & the food is passable. During the train ride, when we reached around 9,000 feet Jeff vomited all his food but seemed to feel much better & slept & dozed all the rest of the way even at 15,600 feet. We arrived Wed. night at 4:30 & Jeff continued to vomit all his feedings until yesterday at noon. That was due to the altitude. We have had to take it very easy until we got used to the altitude so haven't even unpacked - just wash diapers & take care of Jeff. Can't tell you anything about Oroya as I have not been outside yet, but that Railroad is some feat. Compared with this railroad the Panama Canal is peanuts. It is an unbelievable feat of engineering — 60 tunnels right through solid mountains & what mountains, giants of solid rock.

Must close now as I must get this mailed. Perhaps Milt could pass this excuse of a letter on to Gilles & my sister. We'll write more later.

Liz.

Sunday March 9, 1952
1:30 P.M. E.S.T.

Dear Mom and Milt:

Well as your know by now we are altogether up here in beautiful (?) Oroya. I am sorry I would not mail that correct income tax statement to pop earlier. In fact, I didn't even know that the company was going to give me another statement.

Most of Liz. Household things are still down in customs, and probably will be there for some time.

We are pretty crowded up here in the hotel, but we have two beds plus a crib for Jeff so we will be able to manage.

Liz. won't be able to send any money home to be banked until she gets a better idea what out expenses will be. There is also the slight matter of the duty on our things to be taken care of, and I haven't any idea what it will amount to.

We are all in good health, and Judy has already started school up here. This afternoon we are going to the Cowboy matinee. Yesterday I bought Judy a cap pistol with caps, and she is having a lot of fun shooting everyone in town.

We haven't any idea when we will get a house, but we hope to get a larger hotel room soon. Except for being crowded it is perhaps best that we are in a hotel for awhile, for Liz. Doesn't have to worry about shopping or cooking, and this gives her a chance to get acquainted with the town, and the people up here.

I have a new boss now, Mr. Shellinger, who took Gates' place. He seems to be a very nice fellow. Fellows are still leaving C. de P. In droves, but as fast as they leave, new faces take their place. Well that's just about all the news for now.

Love, Borden



Monday, July 7, 1952
5:30 EST

Dear Mom and Pop:

Hope you enjoyed your vacation. Liz, the kids and I finished our 15 day vacation in Lima about three weeks ago, and we all had a very enjoyable time. Judy has no school during the month of July so she has four times the chance to get dirty. Liz & I celebrated the fourth by attending a dance in honor of the day and Judy had a good time shooting off "Lady Crackers", and watching the two overgrown kids, (Liz & Myself) shoot off the larger ones.

While you folks are now enjoying the middle of summer, we have winter down here. I went to Tarma last Sunday and rode through a terrific snow storm on the way back. Up here in Oroya the nights are quite cold, (a little below freezing) and even during the day it is necessary to wear at least a light jacket.

We managed to pick up a few cards for Ann. The card that pictures the Peruvian Madonna most accurately is the one printed in the USA.

The churches in Lima are very elaborate with gold, silver, and intricately carved wood, but they are very dirty, and a little ornate for my taste.

Jeff and I had the diarrhea for about four days, and now that we are over it, Liz has got it. I suppose Judy will be next.

Work is going smoothly, but no house in sight for us as yet. We are all in good health. Hope you are the same.

Love Borden.



July 15, 1952

Dear Lilly:

We received a company notice that the box of toys sailed on the a Grace ship leaving New York May 30th. It then arrived in Callao June 10th & has been sitting down there ever since, waiting to go through customs. The company has a man in Lima whose principal job is to get things through customs. He is a Peruvian and naturally doesn't care when things go through unless it is some big shots luggage.

Some of the other boxes sent down on the same boat have come up already. But ours is still missing. Hope it gets here for Jeff's birthday. He has 4 upper teeth and 1 lower. I am sure he would walk but I can't put him on this dirty rug in our room so he runs around all day in his walker. We have so much fun with him especially Judy. She plays with him all the time and doesn't seem jealous at all.

Lilly could you buy me 3 pair of these socks called "peds". (size 10). I am enclosing one worn out one. I bought some in the dime store basement on the southwest corner of 3rd & Wisconsin. I think that dime store is Woolworths. If you take a pair out of their box, I think you could send one more pair at a time in Gilles' letters. Will you ask pop to keep track of how much these small items cost and when it amounts to a sizeable figure, Milt can make out a check.

We have all had the dysentery, first Borden, the Jeff, then me & last of all Judy. By the time Judy got it, I had pills & medicine so she was sick the least. This dysentery is terrific - you get such terrible stomach cramps, and it leaves you very weak. Well will close for now.

All our love, Liz.



Wednesday July 30, 1952
11:30 AM EST.



Dear Mom and Pop:

I have been on vacation the last four days because the Peruvians are celebrating their independence (July 28th is the exact day), so I thought I would catch up on a little letter writing. I suppose mother's vacation is over by now and you both are back in the same old routine. Thanks for sending the book to Judy. Liz reads a few pages of it to Judy every night, and they are just about finished with the book now.

Things down here are just the same. We are still in the hotel and we are all in the best of health. Judy just finished a months vacation and starts back to school Monday.

Pat and Gin Kelly sent us an announcement that they had twins, a boy and a girl, but I suppose you know about that.

I would appreciate it if pop would cash this enclosed pay check for \$240.00, and the enclosed travelers checks for Liz for \$80.00.

We received the box of toys, puzzles, etc. that you and the rest sent about a week ago.

Thank you very much.

Well this isn't much of a letter, but we haven't been anywhere, or done anything to write about. About the only thing one has to write about us what is happening to other people down here, but since you do not know any of the these people, that wouldn't be of any interest to you.

Love, Borden

August 18, 1952
5:30 P.M.



Dear Grandfather and Grandmother:

So you bought a house. Congratulations. I can imagine all the packing and sorting to be done, finally. Grandfather always said he wondered what would happen if you ever had to move. The end on July we sent you a letter with Borden's check and 4 travelers checks. Did you get that letter? We are kind of worried as the travelers checks were all signed. Should have sent the letter registered mail. We know you are busy but would you drop a postcard letting us know whether you rec'd the check, etc.

Yesterday we went out to the Company's farm which is an hour's train ride from Oroya to attend a rodeo. Judy had wonderful time riding donkeys & horses. In the afternoon, Peruvian cowboys gave an exhibition of roping steers, riding steers, etc. Also had a delicious lunch and were home at 4:45 PM. Did not take Jeff. Left him with another woman's maid.

Last weekend Borden & 4 other men went to a place called Chanchamayo. He said it was the most hair raising ride he ever took. A narrow dirt road, hair pin turns and no guard rails and if you went off the road, you went in one direction only, about 2000 feet straight down. They did not let the cab driver have anything stronger than Coca-Cola to drink. Borden said a trip to the edge of the Jungle is OK or one day but he wouldn't want to live down there for it is hotter than Hades.

We saw baby Llamas at the Company's farm and they are the cutest things you ever saw.

Love Liz & Borden

Friday, September 5, 1952
5:30 P.M. EST

Dear Mom and Pop:



Glad to hear from you, and relieved to hear you received the checks O.K. I know you were busy moving so didn't have time to write, but every time we send a check through this damn Peruvian mail, we hold our breaths until we hear that it arrived. One may complain about our government, but when one lives under such "slipshod" government as this, where one can't even trust the mail service, you learn to appreciate things that we take for granted back home.

I imagine you two are on top of the world, now that you have your own home. I know a home of her own, was a long standing ambition of mother. You are living in a nice neighborhood also. No more dirt from St. Matthews, the noise of the kids, and no more landlord trouble. I suppose you are both a bit queasy about the debt you now owe, as every new home owner is, but you both know the value of a dollar and should make out, without much difficulty. Naturally if you should run into a financial pinch due to unforeseen circumstances, I will always be glad to help out with the little I have.

Well, the rainy or summer season is starting here in Oroya again. One of the nice things about Oroya is its uniform climate. No extreme hot or cold. We are finally getting a house. I guess if it was up to top management we would never get out of this hotel, for I don't rate very good with some of the top brass, and I don't know why, but fortunately my immediate bosses like me or at least my work, so they exerted pressure and we are finally getting a home. Even my own bosses are "at a loss" to explain the animosity of one member of the top management in particular, for I have never met the man, and as far as I know he knows nothing about me, the school I attended, or my family.

Judy is doing her usual excellent work in school, and has been jumped a half of a grade even though we said that we didn't want her pushed too rapidly in school.

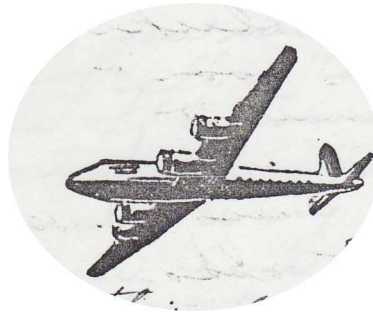
We are undergoing an expansion program in research, and are spending money like drunken sailors on new equipment. Needless to say, there is plenty of work.

I and the family are in the best of health, and Jeff should start walking one of these days, when he has a little more opportunity to try his legs.

No more news of real interest, must go eat supper now.

Love Borden

Saturday, November 1, 1952
4:15 PM—EST



Dear Pop & Lilly:

I have been meaning to write this letter all week, but just felt too damn lousy to do so after work. I have had one hell of a bad cold for a week and have a headache all week.

Must have an infection in my sinus.

Well today is a holiday, so I can enjoy the luxury of staying in bed late, two days in a row. They are having a costume dance at the club tonight, unless there is a sudden change in plans, Liz and I do not expect to go.

Liz ordered a purse made for Lill, don't know how many months it will be before it will be ready, but it will be worth the wait, and she will get it eventually. When Lill does get it however, have her herself, so she doesn't start taking orders for half of Milwaukee. For some damn reason they don't have real Italian tooled purses here in Lima and you have to locate an Indian craftsman way up here in the hills. The one we located came from Huanquanchico, and he only comes to Oroya when he has been informed that several people wish to order purses. I didn't see his work, but Liz says it is beautiful, and she ordered a purse for herself.

Sunday, November 2, 1952
3:00 P.M.

Have just put Jeff to sleep. Have to do what I used to do with Judy. Lie down and put his legs between mine and hold him tight. Then he goes to sleep. Otherwise by 5:30 he is so tired. I have put him to bed and then at 6:00 AM he starts crawling, a fact none of us, least of all Judy, appreciates. He wants to walk so badly but he simply will not crawl. He walks all around the couch and along a row of chairs, and will not let go your hand when you lead him around.

Boy do you need a car out here. I don't dare forget anything when I go shopping. It is such a hassle. First you walk to the golf club, about 3 blocks away, call a taxi, hope one is available soon and then off to town. Here are some of the prices on vegetables. 16 Lbs. potatoes - 68 cents. 6 Lbs. carrots— 14 cents. 2 bunches of celery - .065. 1 cauliflower 8 cents. 1 pineapple— 10 cents. 2 lbs. Green beans - 10 cents. 4 Lbs. Squash - 11 cents. Meat also is cheap due to the company raising its own cattle, selling the meat to us, and "Wonder of Wonders" not trying to make a fortune. Lamb or tenderloin, the most expensive cut is 5 Soles. Of course its not as tender as your meat but with a pressure cooker I can get the meat tender, but some cuts are particularly dry so I make lots of gravy. Oh happy day when I get back to civilization & the corner store only 1 block away & English clerks. But of course we do like it much better being in a house of our own. If only we could have had one right away, Jeff would never have gotten so spoiled.

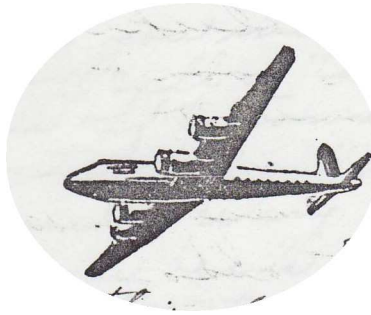
As for hired help, I pay this woman 115 soles a month or about \$7:50 plus her food. In two weeks she ate 25 Lbs. of potatoes. It seems impossible, but she did. They, meaning the women up here, the maids eat like hogs the first few months until they get filled up, then they taper off. However her diet consists of rice, oatmeal, carrots, and potatoes and soup meat and Bread — all of which is cheap, so it really doesn't cost too much. You don't give them what you eat or you would soon go broke. But they are so damned slow. Honest I shall have to because she

Bread — all of which is cheap, so it really doesn't cost too much. You don't give them what you eat or you would soon go broke. But they are so damned slow. Honest I shall have to because she wont. It takes her 2 hours to do dishes I can do in 1/2 hour. Summer is coming & the weather is wonderful — clear blue sky all day and in the 70's. I know Lil will love the purses I ordered, when she finally gets it. They are supposed to be finished by Xmas but that doesn't mean they will be — then we must find someone going to the states. The hand tooling on the purse I saw is the most beautiful I have ever seen. However I could not get a black purse as they just don't make black purses. Thanks for the Halloween cards for Judy. We have them on the mantelpiece. She had a fine Halloween. She went trick or treating all by herself, dressed as a ghost, as she said she received more that way and has her loot all neatly laid out in her room. She is getting so tall. She has grown several inches since we left home. How has the new rent control law affected Milwaukee? We read where rent control was put back into effect in Milw. Bet our old landlord is raving. We pay \$10.00 rent a month which includes all the coal and wood we need for the fireplace, all the electricity we can possible use and free water. Everything up here is electric — electric stove, hot water heater and electric heaters in every room.

I want to ask Lill another favor. Would you buy Jeff two cotton shirts, slip on over the head style, size 18 months, open it up flat and wrap it in the Sunday papers and send it down. Send one shirt a week and the other the next week would you. They have cotton shirts down here but they are cut so skimpy that it is a real battle to get one on and off and they are so long you could use them for night-gowns.

7:25 I better finish this letter as Borden is sound asleep on the couch. He has had a very bad sinus infection, we think, and had a severe headache all week and still will not go to the hospital as

Sunday November 9, 1952
10:45 AM - EST



Dear Mom and Pop:

Well, here I sit on the front steps, taking in a little fresh air. It is a beautiful warm day, Judy is skating in the road, and Liz is sitting on the lawn talking to a neighbor woman. Across the river, I can see a bunch of fellows playing golf. All in all it is a typical Sunday in Chulic.

Speaking of Chulic, although we have moved from the hotel, our address has not changed. When you write, address your letters just as you always have.

Pop, I received your last letter with your statement of our finances. Thank you for your time and trouble. We also received the box, sent by our families. Nothing was missing, and everything arrived intact. Again thank you for your gifts. Judy should have a nice Christmas, even though she is far from home.

Seems as if I finally voted for a winner, now let's see what the Republicans can do. Wisconsin turned out to be a flop, guess our hopes were too high.

Suppose you are starting to get a taste of Winter by now. Wisconsin's winter is one of the few things of home that I do not miss.

Kept very busy at work, there is always plenty to do, but if I am left alone, I enjoy my work, and the time goes fast.

Judy is growing fast, but she is not getting any thinner and is in the best of health. She is doing wonderfully in school, and guess she has plenty of fun here in S.A.

Jeff is trying hard to walk, and is also trying to talk. He is a little devil, always up to something.

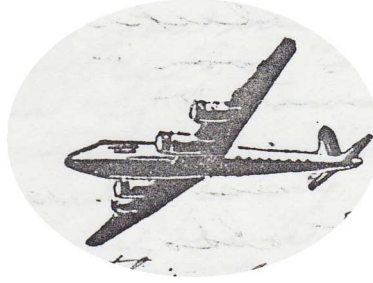
Hope you are feeling better pop, and hope mom is in good health. Thanks mother for

At Xmas.

There is not really very much to write about. One day is pretty much like the next.

Haven't had any real excitement in months.

Love, Borden



November 12, 1952
3:30 P.M.

Dear Grandmother and Grandfather:

Have been meaning to write and give you some information about our house etc. and today is a good day. Jeff is sleeping and the woman I have helping me is de-frosting the refrigerator. These people are alright to have for help but you must be awfully patient as they cannot absorb more than one step at a time in doing things such as defrosting a refig. Things eventually get done. You have to have one for only one reason — not the altitude - but in order to go to town, especially when you have a small child, as you can't drag a child to town. Also many of the women up here are not as fortunate as I am. They have no electrical appliances and to wash all your sheets by hand would be very hard work, so for those women they are a necessity. I pay this woman, Aurelia, 110 soles a month (or \$7.15) plus her food. A maid's diet—they prepare their own food, consists of potatoes, carrots, onions, soup meat, rice, oatmeal, bread and coffee, all of which are cheap. I told you how cheap meat was. Here are some of the prices of vegetables, I paid today: 6 ears of corn — 23 cents. 4 lbs. of carrots—9 cents. 4 lbs. onions— 16 cents.; 1 bunch celery—3 cents.; 4 lbs beans 21 cents. 1 Pineapple— 12 cents. 6 lbs tomatoes 26 cents. Oranges are 3 cents apiece - that is juice oranges, so we use plenty.

It's the canned imported goods that is expensive - like Hormels canned bacon which I buy for Borden. Paid 11 soles or 72 cents for 10 oz. can. The hotel bacon, good 1lb. For 78 cents, is all right for cooking but not especially for bacon and eggs or melted cheese sandwiches.

There is no need to tell you how happy we are to be out of the hotel. You can see Judy

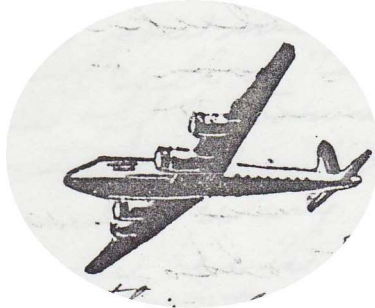
Hand when ever you are close and once he gets it, will not let go. He also says two words distinctly "Oh Jeff" but prattles continuously. He did not do well in the hotel and weighs only 20 lbs, but is starting to pick up now.

I like our house, since it has been remodeled, very much. We have a large living room with fireplace, which is no decoration but a necessity during the winter months as these homes have no basements or central heating systems - just a fireplace and an electrical heater in each room. Then we have the dining room, a nice efficient Kitchen, two bedrooms with connecting bath, a maids room with her own bathroom, and a laundry room. We pay 10 dollars a month rent which includes all the coal and wood needed for the fireplace, and all the electricity we can use. Have an electric stove and hot water heater that the company supplies, plus all my own appliances so in that respect it is just like home.

We also like the weather here, no extreme changes in temp. But it certainly is odd weather. When I take down clothes, the top of my head is burning but my arms and legs are cool. Borden says you feel the sun's rays more because the air is so thin. Borden and Judy, who are blond and who should burn, don't have mark on their faces, while I who seldom go in the sun, have brown patches on my forehead. The suns really powerful up here.

I want to thank Grandmother for the xmas cards for the kids. The only kind of a xmas tree you can get down here, I hope, is an artificial tree. In fact you won't find a single tree in this whole area. If there were one, the dogs up here would go mad for joy, I imagine.

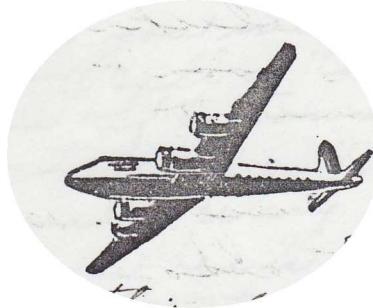
Am sending along 2 checks. The \$60 is to pay for all my sheets, pillowcases, towels, blanket covers that were stolen from the warehouse. You can't buy a ready made sheet here or in Lima so head to sit down and make sheets from yard goods material. Sent another order to Sears the end of Sept. Have You heard anything from them? Love, Borden, Liz and Kids.



November 19, 1952

Judy and Jeffrey Meisenheimer are happy to announce the arrival of a brand new baby brother,
Joel Michael, born on November 18, 1952 at 3:20 PM at the Chulic Hospital, Oroya, Peru.

Weight 4 lbs, 12 oz.



Wednesday Dec. 10, 1952
1:00 PM

Dear Mom and Pop:

I have been on vacation since Monday the first of December. Go back to work Tuesday the sixteenth. I am spending my time just reading and loafing in general.

We managed to get an artificial Christmas tree and some ropes of silver tinsel, and Liz brought the tree lights with her. So, with the cards you sent, we should be able to make a nice tree for the kids. With toys you folks sent from the states, and with what we have been able to get down here, none of the kids, certainly not Judy, should be disappointed X-mas day.

Joel was not a premature baby. He was born right on schedule, but for some reason, (altitude perhaps), the foreign women just don't seem to have very big babies up here. Joel is making very satisfactory, if not spectacular, progress. He has been gaining a little over an ounce, consistently, every day. Liz is feeling fine and is back to her usual routine of house work. I took Liz to the Hospital at 1 O'Clock in the afternoon of November 18th and at 3:20 PM the baby was born. So this birth was easier than the birth of Judy or Jeff, for Liz.

Was rather surprised to learn that Wisconsin was picked for the Rose Bowl. I will have to listen to that game over "Armed Forces Radio Service", New Years Day. We don't use the short-wave set very much for we are not too fond of S.A. music, but it sure is nice to have, to get the latest news from San Francisco. Listened to the Las Angeles Rams, "Ye Old Rams Bouquet" last night. They had Bob Hope on the program, since he is a Rams stockholder, and he was really funny, although I would be surprised from the cracks he was making, if the program was carried on long wave channels.

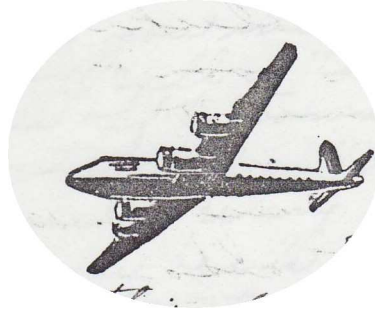
We are all in the best of health, and look forward to the day when we will see you again

Love Borden

1953



Wednesday February 11, 1953
8:15 PM EST



Dear Mom and Pop:

Well here I am once more. Xmas is past and I have only one more to look forward to down here. At least on this contract. We all have an enjoyable Xmas considering the circumstances, being away from home and all that. Received Xmas cards from Ethyl, Linus, Ann and Lawrence, Elinore, and of course yourselves.

Understand Pop hasn't been feeling too well, hope you are feeling better now, Pop. We are all in the best of health, I am happy to say.

Still have a steady parade of new faces down here. The English and other foreigners stick, but the Americans just come and go. I was fortunate enough to receive another \$50 raise, this raise period, (i.e. raise periods July and February) so don't think I will be fired for a while.

Joel now weighs 9lbs 5oz. And is doing fine. Judy just finished a months vacation from school (kids have a months vacation in January and July, down here).

Thanks for your financial summary in your last letter pop. I guess Sears sent you the right bills, but sent us the wrong ones.

Enclosed you will find a check for \$301.50. Please deposit it to my account, and let me know if and when you receive it.

Received a letter from Kelly - seems he is doing very well for himself in his present job. He is lucky in getting in on the ground floor of a small, progressive concern.

You can tell Ann that the \$10 check she sent was used to give a good Xmas to some Indian kids, who are in the Chulic hospital with incurable T.B. Seems a shame that these Indians down here earn on an average of 360 soles a month and I earn, by compari-

son, 6200 soles a month. I don't see how they manage to exist.

Well will listen to the Kid Gavilan, Chuck Davey Championship fight tonight. Received a card with a long note from Kate and Chris Granaim.

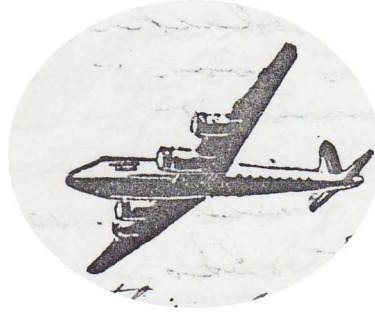
The political and labor situation in quite tranquil at present, and C. de P. seems to be getting along alright although there is some anxiety in higher circles because of the drop in metal prices.

All for now.

Love Borden



Friday Feb. 20, 1953
6:30 PM EST



Dear Mom and Pop:

Glad to hear you got the check, and also glad to hear you are behaving yourself, mom. Can't say I left home with any bad feelings perhaps other than feeling sorry for a person who can't handle drink, and would ruin their life with the stuff.

So you both really enjoy television. We did too, and miss it a lot down here.

Have had a terrific amount of rain the last few weeks, and it is coming down in buckets right now.

Started league bowling up here again and I bowled last night. Worked until 6 last night so was pretty tired and didn't do too well—a 137 average for my three games.

Looking forward to about 20 days in Lima starting March 21st.

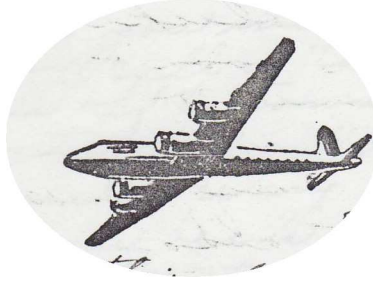
Our maid is in the hospital with typhoid, but the rest of us are fine.

Say hello to Dr. O'hara when you see him pop.

About all the news for now.

Love Borden

Saturday 2/21/53



Dear Grandmother and Grandfather:

Well we are finally having a beautiful day. We have had rain, rain and more rain. The river, which is right in front of our house, is very high and swift. It is unusual to have so much rain but the company had rain makers seeding the clouds up here to keep the water up for the hydro electric installations & they did their job too well.

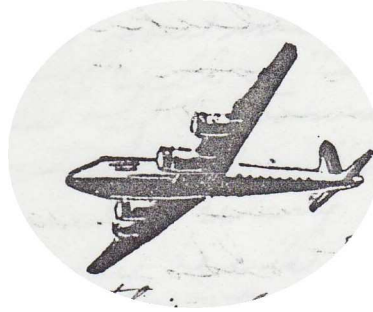
Joel weighs 9#13oz. As of last Sunday. Right after he was born, he had cradle cap and lost all of his hair. The hair that came in is black & stands up straight so that he looks like an American Indian and Borden calls him the "Last of the Mohicans". He smiles all the time and should have been named "Smiley" He is beginning to laugh too. Is much more contented on the bottle.

Jeff is getting so husky. He is such a little devil. He loves to such Oranges. So yesterday I gave him a half of an orange. About a half hour later he comes up to me with a big grin on his face & the orange in his hand. He had smeared the orange all over his hair until his hair was plastered with juice. Then the rest he had smeared all over his clothes. When you give him a slap on his fanny, he doesn't cry. His face gets red & he stands and talks indignantly and waves his arms at you. If he could speak, he would really be telling you off.

Must close as Borden is going into town & will mail this letter.

Love Liz

P.S. Is Jeff jealous of Borden. If Borden kisses me, he tries to push Borden's face away and slaps him. If Borden hits me, in fun, Jeff yells his head off. What a boy.



Thursday Feb 26, 1953

Dear Mom and Pop:

Very sorry to hear of Pops illness and sincerely hope it is not as serious as it sounds. I have thought for some time, after hearing Pop's trouble with his arm that he should have changed doctors in an effort to get at the exact cause of his trouble. My father writes that this doctor Milt is going to now, did him a lot of good so perhaps he can find the trouble and get Pop on his feet again also.

No bad news from here. My boss, Shellinger, seems very pleased with my work, and Liz and the kids and I are all in the best of health.

We have been having exceedingly much rain for several weeks. Last week a little creek up at Casaraca (10 minute drive from here) went on a rampage and dug a channel about 50 feet wide and about 50 feet deep. Also due to the rains the road and railroad to Lima has been blocked on and off by numerous land slides.

Please keep us informed about Milt, and let us know how Uncle Lawrence is getting along, once in a while.

No more news for the present.

Love, your son, Borden

Tuesday, March 31st, 1952
11:30 AM EST



Dear Mom and Pop:

Well the days of our vacation are drawing to a close, and all too soon. The Weather has been perfect. Warm days and cool nights. The kids have had a fine time, and Joel seems to be putting on quite a bit of weight. Liz and Judy have had their hair fixed and their teeth checked. We haven't done very much running around this vacation. Have spent most of our time sleeping late and loafing.

Was pleased to learn that Milwaukee has finally got a major league ball team again.



Milwaukee Braves 1953-1957 Milwaukee Braves 1957-1965 Milwaukee Brewers 1970-
Should make T.V. even more interesting for Pop.

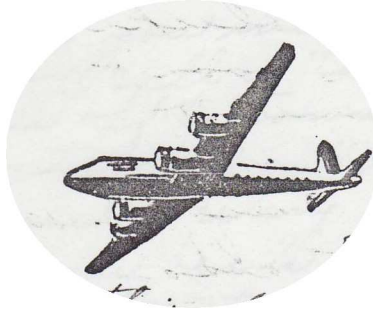
People seem to be resigning from C de P. faster than ever, if that is possible, and prices in Lima are even higher than they were nine months ago, when we were down here last.

Am no longer an "Assistant Research Metallurgist." Am now "Research Chemist"
Only three research chemists in the place. Myself, wadia who is head of the spectrographic lab,
And my partner in crime in the research analytical lab, Manrique.

Hope Pop is feeling better, and excuse the writing. Am using a magazine for a desk.

Love, Borden

Monday April 20, 1953
10:00 AM EST



Dear Mom and Pop:

I have a head cold, that has infected my sinuses, so since I had a few days off coming I decided to take off and try to get rid of this cold. It is nothing serious, but it makes me pretty miserable because I have a head ache all the time.

Liz, the kids, and our great Dane pup "Hilda" are all in the best of health.

Hope Pop is feeling better. Spring and baseball should give him some pep.

Seventeen more months to go, but we are thinking of our return already. Don't think I will come back here. Liz wants to go back to Milwaukee, and stay there the rest of her life. The Company, however, will not know I do not intend to return until I fail to show up.

The weather has been nice. Finally got out of that rainy period we have been having.

Enclosed is a picture of me drinking a Martini in the Hotel Bolivar in Lima, on my last vacation. By the way Pop, who won the return match between Rocky and Jersey Joe.

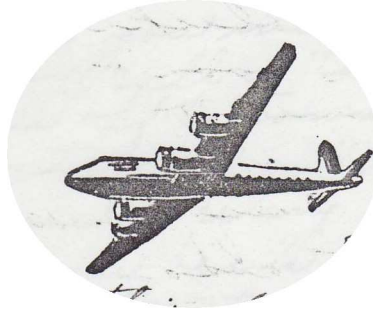
All for now, will write again soon.

Love Borden

P.S.: Received the "booties" for Joel before we went to Lima. Thank you very much.

Jersey Joe Walcott and Rocky Marciano

Sunday, May 10, 1953
11:30 AM EST



Dear Mom and Pop:

Sorry to hear that you were sick Mom, hope you are alright now, and hope Pop is feeling better.

Had a bunch of the Scotch boys over last night for supper and a few drinks. They had a fine time reading funny papers and playing with Judy's steam engine. A group of Swiss fellows are coming over Monday and are going to prepare a Swiss cheese dish called "Fondue"

Our dog Hilda is growing by leaps and bounds and we all get quite a kick out of her.

Well, paid up my vacation debts and have a back-log of soles so expect to be able to send a check home next pay-day. Living down here isn't cheap and Liz says it is harder to save money here than back home.

I see that the Milwaukee Braves are doing pretty well up in 4th place, but I hope they don't win any pennants till I am back home and can see a series game.

Work is about the same, but C de P is very unhappy because of the low price of metals.

Thank you very much for the books you sent to all of us. Judy was particularly pleased with her "Wizard of Oz" book.

All for now, remember me to my friends.

Love Borden

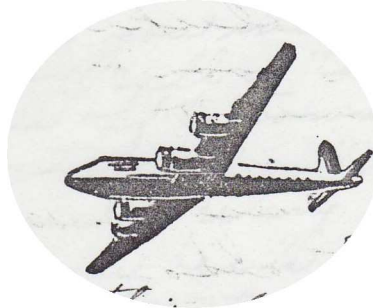
Tuesday 8/4/53

Dear Grandmother and Grandfather:

Thanks awfully much for the beautiful clothes for the children. Judy's dresses are beautiful. The clothes for Joel were too small, he is so fat. Weighed 15 lbs. Today those darling red shoes are too small also. Jeff's clothes are just right. The maid I had for 8 months left to get married so am having maid trouble. Am on my second new one & she wont be here for long either I hope.

We are all fine. Hope you are too.

Love, Liz



August 10, 1953

Dear Mom and Pop:

Well the latest news from down here is that the company has offered us a bigger house for the second time, and this time Liz is going to take it. The new house is as big as a barn, but we will have three bedrooms and two baths, and with me in a bedroom at one end of the house, and the kids in a bedroom at the other end. I hope to get more sleep at night. Liz will have to have two maids now so the bills will pile up faster than ever.

The Company is trying to cut its staff by 25%, but I don't think yours truly will be lucky enough to get bumped, so I am looking forward to another 13 months down here.

Judy is going to start taking Spanish lessons this Monday. She has picked up a little Spanish from the maids, and we hope she will get interested and learn the language well. Her mother and father are hopeless, we are always using the wrong tense of the verbs.

We have been pretty much on the go, since I wrote last. We have survived the 4th of July dance, the Peruvian dance, and "Pauchamica" at the assistant general managers house. ("Pauchamica? Drinks and a barbeque.)

We are in the middle of winter down here now, and it is freezing at night, and the days are mild and clear. Quite a contrast to the weather you are having back home.

Enclosed is a snap of your hero playing baseball on the 4th of July. This snap will be published in the company newspaper. I made three hits out of five trips to the plate, and in general played pretty good ball for an old man, but running around bases at 12,000 feet is a killer. I was so damn stiff the next day I could barely move.

The kids, Liz, and myself are all in the best of health, hope you folks are feeling better.

Pop, have you been out to see the Braves yet. I understand my Grandfather has become

So enthused that he has gone out and seen a game!!

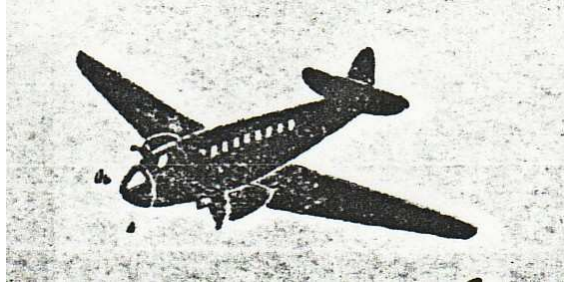
Enclosed is a subscription blank of my "Model Railroader" magazine, would you please renew it for another year. Well its another Sunday again and I will probably spend the afternoon talking shop and b.s. ing at the golf club, there isn't much else to do. Glad I am kept busy at work, it makes the days pass quickly.

About all for now, Love to you all.

Love, your son, Borden



August 30, 1953



Dear Grandmother and Grandfather:

Have just returned from a party at the golf club. The team from Cerro played our team today as we always have a lunch for the visiting team. Means I don't have to cook today.

Yes in twelve months we shall be returning, which is the specific reason I am writing. Time is running out. As you know Peru is noted for beautiful leather work. Up here everyone buys a leather coffee table. Up here in the mountains is an old Indian who makes carved leather tables. He does all the work himself and it takes at least 3 months to make a table. Because we are up so high, it is very dry & unless wood is aged it warps and splits. All his wood used in the tables is seasoned wood. I have bought a lovely table for 960 soles or \$62. It is a lot of money for a table but they are really beautiful and will last forever. You can buy coffee tables in Lima starting at \$20 but they do not compare with the tables made by this Indian as the Lima tables are factory made. If you would like us to bring back one of these tables for you, would you please let me know as soon as possible.

Love, Elizabeth



October 6, 1953

Office of the President:

Dear Borden:

I am going to ask a favor of you.

The Inter-American Jesuit Alumni Congress will be held in Lima, October 25th to the 29th, and we have been asked to send a representative to the Congress. Since it would be impossible to send anyone from here, I am wondering if you could do me the favor of acting as my delegate and perhaps attending one or two days of the Congress. It may be that you would find it very inconvenient to do this, and, if so, do not hesitate to tell me. If however, you could attend, we would be delighted to send in your name. And we shall also be happy to defray any expenses that you might incur in the function.

Kindly let me know as soon as possible whether or not you could do this favor for us. I am enclosing a copy of the program of the Congress.

I hope that everything is going well with you down in Peru. Things at Marquette are running along much as usual. We have the highest freshman enrollment in the history of the school, and the total enrollment is close to 8,000. Our football team lost a heartbreaker to Wisconsin last Saturday, 13-11. There was an unexpected cloudburst toward the end of the first half which, I think, worked more to our disadvantage than to that of Wisconsin since our fast backs just couldn't do a thing the second half. Incidentally the rain drenched the 5000 who attended the game. It was completely unexpected. In fact the sun was shining brightly before the game started. If either of you get back to Milwaukee, stop in for a visit. I was as far south as our mission in Belize and I would be interested in what you are doing down in Peru.

Yours very sincerely:

E.J. O'Donnell, S.J.

Friday 10/16/53

Dear Grandpop:

Sent you a birthday card Sunday but today I find out that the person who mailed it sent it by boat so in about 5 weeks you should receive it. Well anyway, Happy Birthday and we hope your health improves this year. We have been fortunate in that we are all well. Borden is the only one who gets sick up here and it is always dysentery. Every time he leaves the hill, he immediately gets it which is a sign of amoebic dysentery. Am de-worming Jeff. Found a worm in his pants. His fanny is so sore from a laxative the doctor prescribed.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I know you will find interesting. Borden is going to Lima on 10/25 and will attend the Sunday and Monday conference, returning to Oroya on Tuesday.

On our last vacation to Tarma and Huancayo I took two rolls of colored film. When they are processed, they will be sent to Gilles, so when you see him or talk to him, ask him to show them to you. It is the first time I have used colored film so hope they turn out alright. Judy and I went to Lima on Oct 6th and came back on the 9th. Had to get glasses for Judy. Her eyes are not very bad but to avoid eyestrain, the doctor said she should wear them. Had a good time in Lima. Went to a pottery factory in Calloa & bought ash trays, beer mugs and vases with Peruvian motifs on them. Also bought some silver jewelry. Came home broke. When I told Grandmother about the coffee tables, I should have told her that you can also get long narrow tables measuring about 5" x 20". That is the kind I ordered Margaret as the round ones take up so much room. The long narrow tables cost 900 soles or \$58.50, in case grandmother is interested. The Sole has gone up in the last two months. We now get 17 soles 25 centavos for a dollar. Were getting 15 ever since Borden got here, but now naturally prices have gone up, not here, but in Lima. Joel is such a dear. He is very short but very chubby and is happy all day Long. Has a wonderful disposition. You can't help loving him even if you didn't want to. But

Jeff, he is the exact opposite. If things don't go just exactly the way he wants them, off he goes screaming and yelling etc. When he wants to be nice, he is so sweet and loveable, only he seldom wants to be nice. He is 2 years and 2 months and hasn't the slightest inclination to be toilet trained. He yells bloody murder if you even bring him close to the toilet. Typical Meisenheimer. Pat and Gin are expecting another baby in February. All Gin hopes is that it is only one. Certainly sorry to hear about Luell. Judy has saved her mother from being run over several times in Lima.

Also enclosed is a check. Would you deposit it for us and also leave us know if you received it.

Love Liz

Monday November 2, 1953

Dear Mom and Pop:

Glad to hear you have a car. It sure was nice of Ann to share her good fortune with you

We received word that the Xmas box left New York Oct. 23rd., so we should receive it in plenty of time for Christmas.

I attended the Congress for Marquette, and had a fine time. Met fellows from the U.S., Brazil, Mexico, Cuba, Uruguay, and Argentina as well as the mayor of Lima and the rector of the Jesuit College in Lima. I went to Lima and returned Wednesday.

I heard the results of the "World Series" on the radio and listened to the game that was played on Sunday. The Yanks are just too good when the chips are down. Hope the Braves and the White Sox make the series next year, the New York teams have been on top for too long.

In one more month I will have 3 years service time, so when I leave I will receive a check of at least \$1200 which will help the old bank account. Since I am here two years the Co. No longer deducts \$40 a month for the passage down, so I will send that \$40 home each month. The first check is enclosed with this letter.

The Peruvian Gov. Has put a 50% tax on all imported liquor, so I am a real "Serrano" Now, drink Peruvian beer, gin, vermouth, and smoke Peruvian cigarillos.

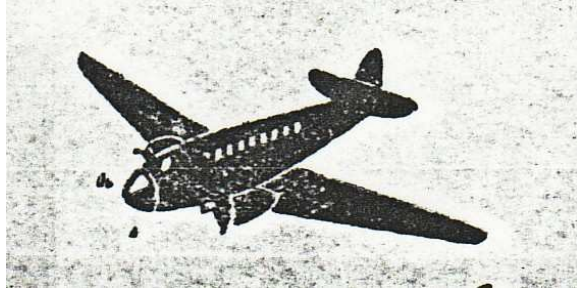
Love Borden

1954



Sunday February 7, 1954

Dear Mom and Pop:



Even though it's been some time since I wrote last, there isn't much news from here. We all have been in good health except for minor complaints here and there. The kids had a good Christmas as usual and we all have become quite used to life here in Oroya.

We had \$120 dollars in checks we were going to send home, but Liz decided to splurge on Silver when we went on vacation this March. I received another raise this month, and that German (Engelmann) who was my boss and gave me lots of grief was fired two months ago.

There exists a good chance that I will not be home next September. If I am asked, I will probably stay over 4 months, until Mr. Manrique, the head of the analytical lab gets back from a Long vacation. Four months will give me another years service time, which means I will have over \$1700 coming to me when I leave.

One hears a lot of talk about an optional two year contract and if this should be put into effect I probably will sign another contract. Also Manrique may not come back so there would be a good chance that I would become head of the research analytical lab. However one can't be sure of what the situation will be 7 months from now, when my contract is finished.

I and other high ranking supervisors have been going to school for 4 hours once a week for learning "Principals of Management".

The company is making a strong effort to cut down the turnover of its dollar employees, which has been 25% of it's 400 dollar employees or 100 a year. There has been a turnover of over 10 dollar employees in the research dept. alone, since I have been here. This effort of the company to cut down turn over has given all of us more "say so" in setting up company policies.

Jeff is starting to talk and his first word was “Mira” the Spanish word for “look”

Joel is at the stage where he should start walking and day now, and Judy is quite proficient in Spanish now, a lot better than her mother and father.

Well, if I stay over an extra 4 months I will miss another x-mas at home, but I will also miss most of another lousy Wisconsin winter. It never gets real hot or very cold here in Oroya, so I don't know how I will take to the extremes of temperature when I get home. Liz has a nice big house, two servants, and the movies and two clubs to go to for recreation; I have an adequate salary, an interesting job, a good home and my family, and the kids have everything here except Grandparents, the they would have at home, so none of us are very homesick. The altitude is the only thing that makes me flatly reject the idea of making my career down here.

No more news for now, and since the social whirl of the holidays is over, I will write a little more often.

Love, Borden



Monday March 22, 1954

Dear Mom and Pop:

Was very surprised to hear recently that Pop was very sick. I hope he is feeling better now. Pop sure has had a long run of tough luck.

Liz and I were to Lima for 2 days last week. Liz bought a set of table silver and I bought a cigarette case. We were going to Huancayo this week, but a landslide has knocked out the railroad.

This Saturday we will attend the European dance, which is one of the best of the year, and features wonderful cooking.

Joel stands by himself now and should start walking any day now. Jeff is starting to talk but is slow because he doesn't know if he should talk Spanish or English. Right now he speaks about half and half. Judy is a great comic book fan, just like the kids her age back home, but she enjoys reading almost anything very much. Joel has a slight infection in one eye which is nothing serious and doesn't seem to bother him any. Outside of that we are all in very good health.

This is the middle of the rainy season which accounts for numerous landslides up and down the hill, and makes travel very uncertain.

We went to the American Embassy in Lima, to review our passports and get Joel included on Liz's passport. We also have to get Joel a Peruvian passport as he has dual nationality.

About all for now, again, we hope Milt is feeling better and hope you are in good health.

Love Borden

Friday, April 23, 1954

Dear Mom and Pop:

Hope pop is home from the hospital by now, and is feeling much better. Trouble has sure come in bunches back home, just like grapes.

Happy to say we are all in good health, and your youngest grandson, Joel is walking about.

Will enclose a check for about \$390 in my next letter. As usual let me know if you receive it. I will write about the 3rd of next month enclosing the check.

My father writes that my grandfather wishes to offer me a business proposition, where by I would become a stock-holder and member of the Meisenheimer Printing Co. when I return home. In view of this fact, could you give me a short resume of my financial position at present? Don't mention the above to my father or grandfather unless they bring up the subject first.

I have not heard from my grandfather as yet, so can give you no details as to what the proposal will be.

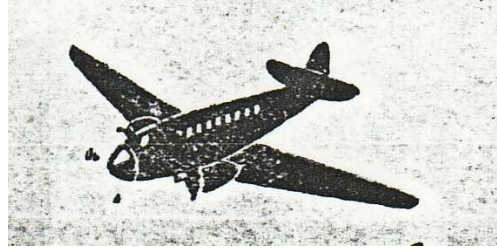
Seems that my fathers general health has improved considerably, but the reports on his eyesight are not encouraging.

Received the papers etc, that you sent, thank you very much.

No real news from here.

Love Borden

Saturday May 8, 1954



Dear Mom and Pop:

Not much news from down here. The weather has been very poor for this time of year, damp and cold. I had accumulated quite a bit of overtime so I decided to take off this Saturday. Liz and I are going to a house party at our next door neighbors tonight, and we should have a good time.

Haven't heard anything from my grandfather as yet, and probably won't until it is time to renew, or rather sign a new contract with C de P. The company opens discussion on new contracts exactly three months before the old contract is finished. In my case this will be June 17th. The rumors of two year contracts have died out, and a new contract will be the same old three year routine. I expect to get a good offer to come back, but the same old three year contract business makes me much more reluctant to do so.

Liz has bought a 152 piece silver table ware set and expects to buy more silver objects before we go home, so that is the reason I haven't been sending money home for some time. However, enclosed is a check for \$397.25, which I said I would send about now, in my last letter. Please deposit it in my account and write telling me you have received it.

Liz, the kids and myself are all in good health, hope pop is coming along alright.

Well it won't be too long until we will be seeing you folks again.

All for now.

Love, Borden

Tuesday August 4, 1954

Dear Mom and Pop:

Elizabeth came home this Saturday and while she does not feel her old self as yet, she looks very good considering what she has been through. Her eye isn't normal either, but has greatly improved. I don't write as often as I should, but I understand you get the important news from here from my father.

Seems you don't know I wont be home in Oct. for I expect to work at least 4 months over my contract, which will give me a total of 4 years service time or approx. \$1700 in one lump sum.

Received the books you sent for the kids, and also the papers you send now and then, thanks very much.

Enclosed are renewal slips for "Consumers digest" and the "Model Railroader".

Will you renew them please.

Myself and the kids are fine, and are returning to normal home life once more.

This winter has been quite cold in this place.

Not much in the line of news to write about, so all for now.

Love Borden

Monday Aug 30, 1954

Dear Mom and Pop:

Thank you for your nice letter to Elizabeth. We were very sorry to hear Mr. Rinke's death, but Elizabeth took the sad news very well

Elizabeth is feeling better every day and her eye continues to improve slowly. The rest of us are fine.

We spent most of yesterday at the Golf club, then drove down to Tarma with a friend, and had supper at the Hotel Turista. I'm not working today so we will go to the Inca Club and spend the afternoon reading newspapers.

The last papers I received show that the Braves are having a red-hot streak, I hope they keep it up.

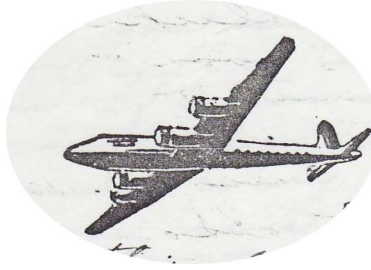
The dry season is ending and in another month we will be having lots of rain.

Hope Pop is feeling pretty good and that he has a chance to see more Braves ball games.

No real news so will close.

Love Borden

Monday Aug 30, 1954



Dear Mom and Pop:

Thank you for your nice letter to Elizabeth. We were very sorry to hear Mr. Rinke's death, but Elizabeth took the sad news very well

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Hope Pop is feeling pretty good and that he has a chance to see more Braves ball games.

No real news so will close.

Love Borden

Monday October 18, 1954



Dear Grandmother and Grandfather:

Thanks very much for buying my the playsuit. I didn't want you to but I guess there isn't much I can do about it. We received the batch of Catholic Herald Citizens. Thanks again. I have just written my mother a letter urging her to come down for a visit. I wish she would come. A change of scenery would do her good.

Jeff is standing alongside of me eating an orange. He is getting tall. Joel is sleeping. We have an epidemic of measles and I hope Jeff and Joel get them, the sooner the better. Joel is so happy and good natured. Jeff doesn't have the same disposition. Jeff has a nice personality but its not as obvious as Joel's. Jeff also sucks his thumb and people are looking at that and forming a wrong impression. Jeff speaks good Spanish, and Joel is beginning to. Joel is trained and tells when he has to go but not Jeff. He simply wont train. Judy is anxious to go home. I don't know why but she is. Right now she is very much interested in baseball. This term they have let her play and that's all we hear, "I hit the ball today", "I didn't hit the ball", "I got to first base", etc. My only trouble with Judy is getting her to hang up her clothes.

Please send that play suit to this address: Mrs B.G. Saunders, 551 Center Street, Bauxite, Arkansas. They are sailing from N.Y. the 1st of Nov. and said they would bring the suit with them.

Love Elizabeth



Thursday November 18, 1954

Dear Grandmother and Grandfather:

Thank you for the pedal pushers and sweater. They are very lovely. The pedal pushers fit fine except they were to long waisted. Took them to the dressmaker yesterday to have them altered. Jeff and Joel like your birthday cards very much. I wish Joel had waited eight hours and been born on Borden's birthday. I made an angel food cake for Joel. Cake or cookies don't last any time with us. Tomorrow I must bake another cake. I wonder if you would do me a favor. Will you ask Margaret to buy me a swimming cap and give it to Lil & Gilles to send down in the papers. Any size that fits Margaret will fit me. Also please send the cap in the papers as if you try to send it in a large envelope, it will be stolen. Lil sent Jeff two pair of socks in an envelope and I never received them. Today was a beautiful day. It didn't rain all day. It has been raining every afternoon for weeks. I am enclosing a roll of film. Perhaps you could ask Gilles and Lil if they want a set. We have finished our Xmas shopping last month. There's no last minute rush up here. In fact we never think of Christmas until a few days before. The Xmas cards are all out. They have to be mailed 6 weeks ahead of time if you want to send them by boat. Have sold some of our things, the Refrigerator, and washing machine. Will sell the other things the 1st of December. Wish we were all packed and ready.

Love Liz.

P.S. Please ask Margaret to buy the cap right away & give it to Lil and Gilles, as it takes over a month to get here.

1955



Thursday, January 20, 1955

Dear Mom and Pop:

Elizabeth's mother arrived without a hitch. She had a nice trip down and is enjoying our way of life up here. We are just about packed and will send our things down the hill this Monday. I probably will not come directly home from New York, for at company expense I expect to visit the American Smelting & Refining research laboratory at Plainsfield, New Jersey, a mint and customs laboratory in the New York area, the Apex Smelting laboratory in the Chicago area, and the Reynolds aluminum spectrographic laboratory in the same area. I also hope to spend a few days in New York on my own time.

All the kids are just getting over chicken pox. They were not very sick although they had quite a few pox.

Elizabeth is feeling good and her eye is just about normal.

Glad to hear Pop is feeling a little better and hope you are ok these days.

Well it wont be long now until we will be seeing one another.

Love, Borden

P.S. Eliz received the bathing cap.

1956

Jan 1, 1956

Dear Mother:

Well we made it to California. We had the usual minor problems, but all in all we had a very nice trip. I picked up a beautiful head cold on the way out, but the weather out here is wonderful. It get's cold a night, but I haven't worn anything heavier than a suit coat since we got here. Pat had us out showing us the town, the beach, Hollywood, etc, but right now he and Virginia are out in Las Vegas for the weekend. We have looked at a few houses since we got here, but we can not get around much until my car gets here. I hope I can get my car this coming Tuesday. We saw one house, 4 bedrooms and 2 baths that would be fine for us. It sells for \$18,500, with a down payment of \$3,400, and monthly payments of \$112.00 for twenty years. Interest rate run 12% for the first 7 years and 7% thereafter, so if your offer still stands, to lend me money, I may take you up on it. When you have time let me know how much you could lend on long term payments at 5% interest. I would not wish you to sell stocks or anything that pays over 5%, for if necessary I can finance this deal without help. However, if you have some money in the bank that is drawing only 2-2 1/2 % interest I would like to borrow from you at 5%, rather than pay 7-12 % to these fellows out here. If my job works out, my starting salary will be \$575.00 per month, and I have about \$6000 of my own to play with so I will be able to make the down payments of \$112.00/month if the home I am referring to is the one I buy. We intend to look further when my car arrives, and I will have a better idea of the whole situation when I sign-in for work. Los Angeles is an odd town, it has grown so fast that public transportation has not keep pace with the towns growth, and one can not do anything without a car. Staying here with pat we have six little devils to put up with, in stead of the usual three, and we will all be ready for straight-jackets before long. Elizabeth became very fond of South America While she was there, and the climate and vegetation is similar out here, I know she will love it.

Jeff misses home a bit, but the rest of the family takes quite well to California. Well I guess this gives you all the news for now, will write later.

Love Borden

Sunday January 15, 1956

Dear Mother:

Well after 11 years of wedded bliss, we have finally done it. Today we bought a 4 bedroom house in Gardenia, L.A., for \$15,600. So I would like to take you up on your offer and borrow \$5000.00 from you at 4 % interest, and to start, repay you at the rate of \$50.00 per month or \$600.00 per year including interest. At the above rate it would take about 10 years for me to repay your loan, and I hope that in about a years time, when we are settled, I can repay a good part of your loan, that is, a lump payment of about \$3000.00. I have about \$1000.00 in the bank, and about \$6000.00 in Security Building and Loan but I would like to leave that money where it is, for an emergency and the interest I draw. I also carry \$12,000.00 life insurance, so if anything should happen to me, your loan will still be safe. If for any reason you do not care to lend me the money, please let me know immediately. If you will lend me the money please send \$5000.00 by a bank check, (NOT A PERSONAL CHECK) preferably from Marshall and Daley on First Wisconsin, by REGISTERED AIR MAIL. I would like this money by next Saturday Jan. 20th, but must have it by the first of February!! So again I must ask, if you cannot lend me the money immediately let me know; if you can lend the money, please send it as soon as possible. (AT THIS POINT I MADE MY TELEPHONE CALL TO YOU).

So, a little more about what I have been doing. I have about 23 miles to drive to work at present, through fog and heavy traffic. So I leave for work about 6:30 in the morning and don't get home until 6:00 at night. It takes me an hour and a half at night to get to and from work. This week I hope to apply for my California Drivers License.

My work is interesting, important, and pleasant, and the fellow I work with and for are "nice people".

Our home is new and was built to sell at \$16,500.00 but since it was the last one on the

tract, and is on a small lot, I got it for \$15,600.00. My payments will be \$79.00 per month for 18 years. We have a two car garage, four bedrooms, one bath with shower, tub, wash bowl, and toilet, plus a bath with shower stall, wash bowl and toilet. We have forced air, natural gas heating, a garbage disposal unit in the kitchen sink, and a fireplace in the living room. I believe Elizabeth is very happy with her future home. The climate out here at this time of year is at its worst, but still wonderful compared to Wisconsin. As soon as we are settled and can make you comfortable (in about a month), we would love to have you out here for as long as you would care to stay. Job opportunities out here are wonderful, and Milwaukee seems very dead town by comparison. I work right at the edge of Los Angeles International Airport, and jets, transports, etc., are overhead all the time. While the smog in central L.A. is awful, we very seldom get any of it in the outlying communities.

Since you had to wait so many years for a home of your own, there is no need to me to tell you how happy Elizabeth and I are about the prospects of having a home of our own.

Well, guess this does it for now, thank you for your letter, loan, and love, keep writing and I will do the same.

Love Borden

Saturday January 21, 1956

Dear Mother:

Received your check yesterday and made the down payment, and received the keys for our house. I am happy that \$50.00/month will be sufficient payment on your loan, and 3 1/2% Interest is very lenient. My first payments will not reduce the principal very much but will consist mostly of interest. Please let me know how you would like your payments, every month, every 6 months, or once a year? I suggest every 6 months, for then we can compute interest the same as a bank, and eliminate some book keeping and mailing. On this basis my first payment will be \$300.00, payable on or before July 20th. As I said in a previous letter, in about a year I hope to make a payment of about \$3000.00 in addition to my \$50.00/month.

I am also withdrawing \$1000.00 for Security Savings & Loan to buy a stove \$165.00; A refrigerator \$300.00; A Washing machine \$255.00; bunk beds \$150.00; Mattress \$25.00.

Chairs, lamps, tables, etc. will also have to be purchased, but we will but these items as we go along, out of my earnings. The first year will be a little rough, but in that time we should be pretty well settled without digging into our savings any further.

I have been very busy, but we are getting a lot done fast! I got my California drivers license, got 100% on the written exam and 88% on the drivers test. One sure rolls up the mileage out here, I put in about 800 miles in the last 11 days.

We here you are having very cold weather back home, out here it is wonderful, I still haven't worn anything heavier than a suit coat. Shouldn't be long before we are settled, and then we will look forward to a visit from you.

This company I work for is right on the "ball", and I will investigate the insurance you suggested, it is a good idea. I have already obtained discount cards through the company

I also took out a very good life, sickness and accident insurance policy through the company. They do give you legal council free, plus a Christmas bonus, and have a retirement plan to which I belong.

Tomorrow we are going to Knots Berry Farm, a recreation of an old time western town, Judy should have a good time!!

All for now, will write again soon.

P.S. My future address is

14801 South Raymond ave.

Gardena, Calif.

Love Borden

Saturday February 4, 1956

Dear Mother:

Enclosed is my note for the money you lent to me. You will notice I back dated the note to Jan. 20th, the date I received the money. On or about July 20th, I will pay you \$300.00.

Well we are getting settled in our new home little by little, and I will try to tell you as much as I can about our home. The house is made of smooth stucco or plaster with green trim. It is a ranch style and has a two car garage. The interior is built in what is called "open beam" Style, that is you can see the big beams running across the ceilings. The interior is painted in soft greens and blue. We have 4 bedrooms, a kitchen, 2 baths, (one with a tub, the other with a shower stall), and a combination living dining room. We have a fire place, breakfast bar, and a small space for our Maytag automatic washing machine. The house is heated with central forced air. We have an automatic gas water heater, and a 12 cu. ft. electric refrigerator. The Stove, refrig, and wash machine did not come with the house. The stove is a gas stove and has 4 burners, a grill, broiler and oven. We also have a garbage disposal unit in one side of our double sink in the kitchen. There is no lawn as yet, and the landscaping will be a future project for me. The house has hardwood floors, glass sliding doors in the living room, electric heater in the larger bathroom, and a suction fan in the kitchen. I hope this meager description gives you a general idea of our house. Judy likes the house real well and I think the other two kids are right at home already.

All for now.

Love Borden

Sunday Jan. 29, 1956

Dear Mother:

I suppose you have read of the floods here in southern California. I missed work Thursday, it took me 3 hours to get half way to work so I turned back home. Gardena, where we have our house was flooded, but our home is on high ground, and the water did not get near it. However all the streets near our house were flooded making it almost impossible to get in or out. By Friday the water had receded and the mess was over. We had hoped to move this Saturday, but the floods held us up, so we will move about Tuesday. No more news at the present.

Love Borden

Sunday February 19, 1956

Dear Mother:

Not much to write about. I could list all the ways we are spending money such as \$300 For a brick wall an the front and side of the house, but that would not be very cheerful reading. I also must get at my Federal and State income tax returns. Fortunately Uncle Sam owes us money this year. Haven't heard a word from the Meisenheimers since I left Milwaukee, I suppose I am on their SH__ List. We here you are still having a tough winter in Milwaukee, can't say I miss it. The weather out here continues to be wonderful, a bit cold at night, but beautiful during the day. I am helping Judy with fractions at present, seems the Milwaukee schools are behind schools out here, and since arithmetic is not one of Judy's better subjects, we are having problems. About all for now.

Love Borden

BORDEN G. MEISENHEIMER
C/O CERRO DE PASO CORP.
PERU

February 27, 1956

Dear Grandmother:

I have been meaning to write to for some time but never sit right down and do it. My mother wrote us that you have your house up for sale. Borden and I wanted to tell you we would be most happy, if you decide to come to California, to have you live with us. You could try it and see how it would work. The kids would love it. Grandmothers are good for children or I should say every child needs a Grandmother.

We are settled as we will be until our lawns are all put in. Without grass the kids bring in so much dirt. The front lawn is coming up finally.

We have such nice neighbors. One of them is putting in a swimming pool. Now all we have to do is walk next door to swim. Won't Judy love that.

We have had beautiful weather ever since that flood. It's hard to imagine that Milwaukee is having snow and cold.

Judy goes to St. Anthony of Padua School. Out here all the children in grade school wear uniforms. That reminds me of South America. All the grade school children there wear uniforms too. She wears a dark navy blue skirt, blue socks and a white blouse.

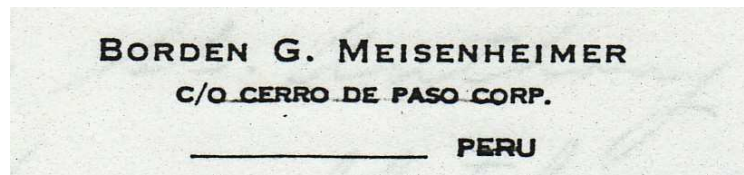
When we stayed at Gini's I used a detergent to wash dishes and I got the worst case of detergent hands. The itching is tremendous. I have an automatic Maytag washing machine & I love it. Never thought I would like an automatic, but have changed my mind.

Must close now and read stories to Jeff and Joel.

Love Elizabeth

P.S. If you should consider selling that other twin bed. If it doesn't cost too much to ship it out we would like to buy it from you.

Wednesday March 17, 1956



Dear Mother:

Judy said you called again today. We were home all day, and had just stepped out to the store. Take your time in selling your house, for it will take time for me to hear Peru. If the answer from Peru is favorable we will have to see what the housing situation is down there. So there is no need to bet in a rush about things. Most likely if the answer is favorable we will have to put up with in-adequate housing for awhile, and it will be necessary for you to wait awhile, and come down later like Mrs. Rinke. So let us wait and see:

First—if I go to Peru.

Second—if the answer is yes (back to Peru), when.

Third—if the answer is no (not very likely, but still possible) where will I go?

Fourth—If the answer is yes (back to Peru) what will the housing situation be.?

The answer to the first and second question will probably take a couple of weeks, and a clear answer to the fourth will take longer, so there is nothing to be done at the moment, but wait!

Please do not say anything to Elizabeth's mother or sister. When we know for sure if we are going back, or what we are going to do, Elizabeth would like the answer to come from herself. So please do not worry or get excited. Things will work out, but it will take a little time.

With all my love,

Borden

March 10, 1956

Dear Mother:

Judy told us you called last night while we were visiting Pat Kelly. She said you asked if we found an apartment for you and the price. Perhaps we did not receive one of your letters for we knew nothing about finding an apartment for you, but be that as it may, I can not do much looking for an apartment at present for I am now in the process of job hunting.

Yes, it seems I am destined to experience all the joys and disappointments of life. Thursday, I was given two weeks notice or to put it bluntly, I was fired. The reason given was "indifference". I believe, as so often is the case, that I was hired through the personnel department without my immediate boss knowing anything about me. So when I was "shoved" in his dept. he was not too happy to get me. I know I felt like a "square peg in a round hole", so they were not happy to have me, and I was uncertain and not happy with my job. I did my best, but it was not enough to satisfy them. I don't think anyone likes to get fired, it is the first time for me, and I am not happy about it.

So perhaps it is for the best, but it comes at one hell of a time. I hope you will keep this to yourself, I would not even worry you about this except I must give you an explanation about why I can't apartment hunt for you at the moment.

I naturally will try to find a decent job here, so we will not have to "get up" and move again. We would sure like to keep our house, but if worse comes to worse I think I could go back to Peru. I know you are independent just as I am, but if you decide to come to California we would love to have you stay with us, and we would be very disappointed if you don't.

Naturally, what has just occurred leaves us up in the air at the moment, but in one or two weeks time I should know if things will work out for us here. No doubt this letter sounds Discouraging, for at the moment I feel pretty low, getting fired for the first time takes a little

Getting used to, but don't waste sympathy or worry, I will get over it, and things always work out.

Again I ask, please do not say anything to anyone about me losing my job. It is a sad thing to have to say, but I think such news would only give my father an occasion to "gloat"

Love Borden

P.S. Our phone number has been changed-here is the new number.

DAVIS 3—2368

Gardena California

Friday March 30, 1956

BORDEN G. MEISENHEIMER
C/O CERRO DE PASO CORP.
PERU

Dear Mother:

Received your cards and letter today, may we wish you a happy Easter also.

I have not written to you, because I have been waiting for a reply from Cerro de Pasco Corp.

I wrote to my friend, Dr. Walter Keoppel march 10th, but so far all the news I have received from Oroya is a letter from my friend Manrique, who said he was happy to hear I would like to come back, and hoped I would find the terms Cerro de Pasco is going to offer me, satisfactory.

I know from experience of other fellows who have returned to Oroya, that things move slow at first, but this waiting is hard. If I get a favorable offer, the waiting will be worth while, but if there is no offer or an unfavorable one, I will kick myself for the time I have wasted waiting for an answer. Unfortunately I can not do much, at the moment, in regards to finding work here, for they always want one's past work record, and if too many inquiries from various companies start going back to C. de P. corp. they may adversely affect any offer I may get from C. de P.

I sent another letter to Dr. Koeppel yesterday, asking him to let me know what is going on, even so I hope I will receive further information next week, even if it is not official. Of course there is a good possibility I will receive an offer from C. de P. any day now.

If I receive an unfavorable reply from C. de P., I don't know just what I will do at the moment. In other words I am betting everything on a favorable reply from them, and must just sit and wait till I hear from C. de P., before I can make any further plans.

I will write as soon as I hear anything definite, which should be soon now. Until then, I will just have to sweat it out. At the moment I am going crazy because all I can do is wait, but if the answer from C. de P. is favorable, there will be so much to be done (selling the house not the least of my problems) I probably won't know which end is up.

Received a letter from my father, this week. He didn't have much to say, but at least he wrote.

I probably will not answer his letter, or write to you again, until I know whether or not I am going back to South America.

The kids are all fine, and Elizabeth puts up with the whole situation better than could be expected.

So, I did not have much to write about until I started this letter, and even less to write about now. I hope I can write again soon letting you know exactly what I am going to do.

Hope winter has blown itself out now, and you get some good weather for a change.

Love, Borden

BORDEN G. MEISENHEIMER
C/O CERRO DE PASO CORP.
PERU

April 2, 1956

Dear Mother:

I received word from Peru this Saturday, and they are happy to re-engage me on the same terms of the contract I did not renew, that is as "Assist. Chief analytical research chemist", At a salary of \$500/mo. So I will be going back to Oroya. They want me to visit some laboratories here on the coast and in Utah, so I expect I will be in this part of the states for a couple of months anyway.

We put the house up for sale, and if we can get our price, \$16,950 we will not lose anything on the deal.

I do not know if Elizabeth and the kids will go back with me, or follow later. They expect that a house will be available about July, but we will have to wait and see how things work out, as time goes by.

So I am busy once again, and will be busier in the future. I will keep you posted as I receive more information, but I can not tell you much more at the present.

Thank You very much for the Easter candy you sent.

Love, Borden

Sunday April 22, 1956

Dear Mother:

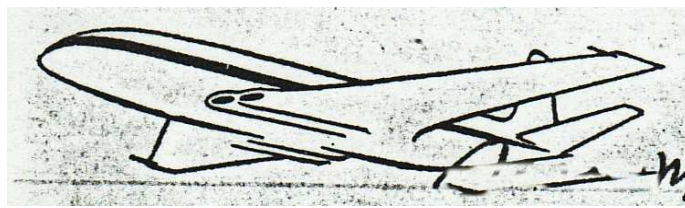
I was going to wait until I had something interesting to write, but my negotiations with Peru have been dragging, nothing has happened with the house, and I have heard nothing about my father; so I do not have much to write about. All I do know is that I will have to sell my car if I return to Peru, as it will cost too much to ship it down there. I hope to take steps to get my passport and other papers this coming week.

Enclosed is the receipt that you asked me to return.

I had a pleasant return trip to California, and we are all in the best of health at present.

Love Borden

Friday, July 6, 1956



Dear Mother:

Well here I am in Peru once again. In Fact I have been here since the 18th of June, and I feel pretty much at home already. I am kept busy at work, and the time seems to fly by. I hope to get a house soon so Elizabeth and the children can join me. Received two letters form Elizabeth, and it seems she and the kids are having a good time going about Los Angeles. I told Elizabeth to send you \$300 as payment on your loan. Elizabeth has sold some of the furniture she wishes to dispose of, and I wouldn't be surprised if the house is sold soon.

This is the winter season now, so the nights here are pretty cold, but the days are warm and bright. We had a 4th of July dance last Tuesday evening, and everyone had a good time.

My friend Manrique was very pleased with the electric shaver you got for him.

Since I am on my second contract, there is no doubt that Elizabeth and the children will come to Peru by boat.

About all the news there is for now except that I am glad to be back, and I am feeling fine.

Hope you are feeling well, and are having some nice weather.

Love, Borden

July 9, 1956

Dear Grandmother:

Received your letter and cards. Jeff & Joel & Judy think the cards are lovely. We are all fine. I am not upset in the least and won't be for I will not upset the kids. Jeff does his BM in the toilet every night after supper. He stopped for a few days after you left but he wanted to be a cowboy so badly, and cowboys don't wear diapers, so he has been going every day.

Jeff, Judy and Joel are taking swimming lessons, 12 lessons 12 days in a row, 45 minutes each and 4 children to a class. Joel didn't like the idea until today, the 6th lesson, and yelled for the time he got up in the morning until his lesson was finished. But today he's just happy as a fish in the water. You should see Judy swim and dive. She will be a good swimmer.

I've sold the bunk beds and maybe the dinette set, but not the stove. Didn't sell a blessed thing through the newspapers, but anyway I tried. The Californians, I don't think they'd take anything if you gave it to them.

I am enclosing a check for \$300 toward that money that Borden borrowed. Let me know if you receive this letter.

Love, Elizabeth

Sunday August 5, 1956



Dear Mother:

Received your letter, and as always was very pleased to hear from you.

Not much news from here; been working hard and submitted a report on my plant visits in the U.S. and Canada, which my boss thought was very good. In fact he is sending copies of my report to all the big shots here, and copies may go to New York.

As yet I do not know when Liz and the kids will come down, but I hope it will be soon. Since I am on a second contract, they can come by boat or plane, and knowing Elizabeth I know she will choose to come by boat. I do not know if they will sail from Los Angeles, San Francisco, or New York. If they sail from New York they may get a chance to see you.

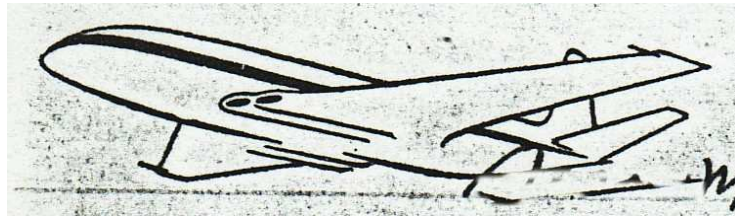
I wrote two letters to Grandfather, but as yet have received no reply. About all the news I get from there is through an old friend of mine. Hope you behave yourself, and are feeling good. What kind of summer are you having in Milwaukee?

I still hope, when we are settled here, that you have a chance to come to Peru and stay with us. We would love to have you, and I think my kids should have a Grandmother around to spoil them!!

I am in the best of health, and am quite content to be back here.

Love Borden

Sunday August 26, 1956

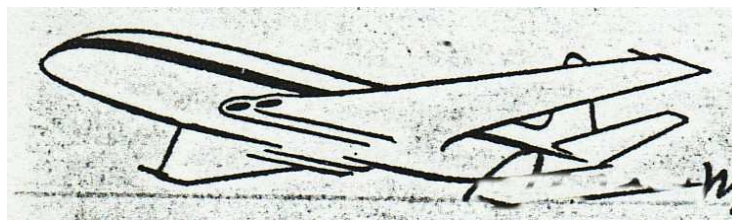


Dear Mother:

I was pleased to hear from you again, and I hope you get that job you have your eye on. I wrote to Elizabeth the first part of this week, and told her to start on her way down here. We have only a two bedroom house at the moment, but if a 3 bedroom house does not become available in a reasonable length of time, they will build another bedroom on our present house. I expect Elizabeth will sail down from New York, so I hope she has a chance to stop off in Milwaukee, to see you and her mother. I have had a nasty head cold for the last three weeks, but I finally seem to be getting over it. We had a heavy snow storm up here in Oroya last Wednesday, which is very unusual. It snows quite often on the mountains around this valley, but seldom snows right here. Quite a bit of the plant (Zinc refinery, and copper refinery) shut down yesterday because of the power shortage due to lack of water. However, the Pcantausfo hydro-electric installation will be finished by the first of the year, and then we will make up for lost time. I received one letter from my Grandfather, since I have been down here. He did not have much to say. My father is at home but is not showing any improvement. Elizabeth writes at least once a week, and she and the kids seem to be enjoying a California summer. Turned in a report on my plant visits in the states and they thought it was good enough to send to the big bosses in New York.

About all for now, hope the Braves stay up there in first place.

Love, Borden



Friday 10-26-1956

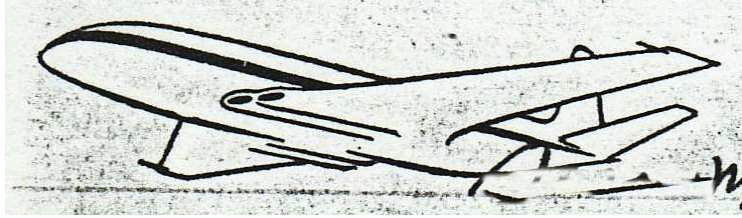
Dear Grandmother:

Well here we are back in Peru again. We had a wonderful boat trip. The Captain loved Jeff and Joel. He left them steer the ship and wear his cap. He made the trip most enjoyable for all the passengers. Those ships carry 52 people and we had 51 so the ship was full. There were a lot of children on board so Judy had a lot of fun. We are staying in the new hotel on Oroya.

Were supposed to move into our house today but it's 4:00 P.M. now so I don't see how they can move us today. I'm in no hurry to move as our household goods have not even been shipped from California. We found that out today. So it will take at least six weeks before it gets here. All I hope is that we get it before X-mas. So we'll live in our house but will have to got to the hotel for our meals. Jeff, Joel, and Judy are fine. The hotel we are staying in is right across from the railroad yards. So Jeff & Joel can see trains all day. They just love trains. The Indians here are just as poor as when we left. I shall have to stay away from town until I get used to their poverty again. Judy went to a birthday party today. Oh, yes she skipped a whole grade and is in 7th grade now, but I'm sure she'll stay there because of her arithmetic. She simply will not master the subject because she doesn't like it.

Love Borden & Liz and the kids.

11/29/56



Dear Mother:

Yes, thank you, I have received your check. I did not write you immediately because I was not sure I would cash it. In a few weeks I will send you a partial payment.

At the moment we are looking forward to the arrival of our household goods which at the moment are in customs in Callao, but should be here by next week.

The Strike is over, and things are getting back to normal at work. Right after the 1st. Of the year we are planning on two weeks vacation in Lima.

Love Borden

11/30/56

Dear Mom:

We certainly are happy the strike is over. There aren't many places we can go to and the idea that we can't leave Chulic makes us feel like prisoners. I'll be glad when our household goods get here. I wonder in what condition it will be. We haven't told Joel he had a birthday Nov. 18. Because when our things come I want to have a party for him. There are so many boys Jeff and Joel's age. This place swarms with children and the river is right outside our door. Jeff and Joel throw stones and sticks in it and wade and have a good time. Jeff and Joel are both growing, and getting more intelligent, I think.

Love Liz.



December 4, 1956

Dear Mother:

Enclosed is a check for \$250.00 as part payment of your loan. Please let us know if you receive the check. About this time next month I will send you the balance I owe you.

Not much news from here. We are still waiting for our house hold goods. It is in "customs" in Callao the last we heard. Last Saturday we were to a farewell party for two of our friends , outside of that things have been very quiet.

Love Borden

December 5, 1956

Dear Mom:

Have ordered a turkey for us for Xmas. Now all I have to do is hope our house hold goods come so I have some pans to cook it in. Each day I'm happier to be back. We received word yesterday that the sale of our home has been completed and the lawyer has a few details to clear up, and then he will tell us what has taken place. We received a Xmas card from Mae today. Bought a lovely artificial tree and bought Jeff and Joel a set of cowboy and Indian figures, Which they will love. Judy is taking Golf lessons now. The Golf course is right across the river from our house.

Love Liz.



12-13-56 7:30 P.M.

Dear Mom:

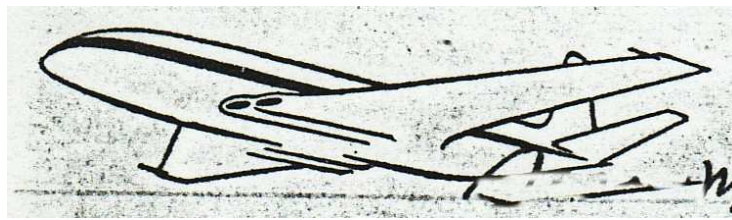
Received your letter of 12/8 today. Am very happy you sold our furniture and you got a very good price. We do not want you to spend anything on us for Xmas so in a few days we will send you a \$25 check. We owe you so much already for the time and trouble you have taken with our things. We still have not received our household goods. They were sent up from Lima by train Monday. We should get them any day, we hope. I hope we get it soon so we can get the house fixed by Xmas. You would be so proud of Jeff. When he has to go B.M. he goes all by himself and then tells me when he is through, and he speaks so well and has a good vocabulary. Today I took Jeff and Joel to the dentist, the first time in 5 1/2 years for Jeff and 4 for Joel and they had not a single cavity. Exceptionally good baby teeth the dentist said. By the time Judy was 3 she had cavities already. As I think I told you in our last letter, the strike is over. Thank goodness. Oh yes, the wife of the head of our ranches knows Charley McNiff very well. She used to be his secretary and told us how well thought of and respected he is in Laramie. He is a landmark to all the people there for he's been there so long.

I'm going to try preparing a turkey for Xmas. Hope it turns out. Also have a nice Xmas. We will be thinking of you.

Love Liz.

1957

Friday Jan 11, 1957



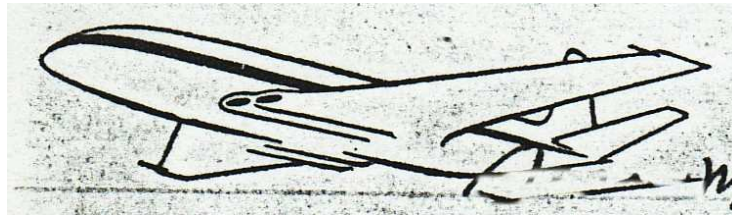
Dear Mother:

We received our household things about a week before Christmas so we had the house straightened out for the holidays. We had a few people over for a turkey dinner on Xmas, and several people dropped in for a drink later in the day. Santa was generous to the kids, and they had a very good Xmas. This last Monday we all came down to Lima for two weeks vacation. The days are hot (it is summer right now), and Elizabeth and the kids spend half of every day at the beach. I ordered a check made out for the \$25.00 I owe you, but it had not come through, as yet, when we left for vacation. It should be waiting for me when I go up the hill about a week from now. We did not expect to receive very many Xmas cards this year because so many people do not know that we are back in South America, but even so we received quite a few. As per usual, I do not have a great deal to write about. Hope you are not having too bad a winter, and hope you have gotten over the Flu and colds you have been having.

Love, Borden

Wednesday 1/16/57

5:15 PM

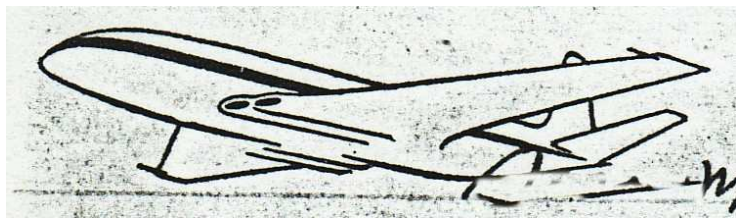


Dear Mom:

We are having a very nice time on our vacation. We go swimming every morning and Judy, Jeff and Joel are getting black. They love the ocean with its huge waves. Yesterday we saw three Dolphins. I thought they were whales. We also met a chief mate on one of the Danish freighters. He said if we wanted anything from the states, he would bring it down and go through customs with it. Mom, would you mind buying Judy a pair of black patent leather slippers for Sunday at Brower's. Would you see if you can get a slipper with some arch support. I am sending you a drawing of her foot as it is today. Please tell the man at Browers that we wont get the shoes until April so he takes into account that it will be 2 months until we get the shoes. And would you do me another favor. Buy Judy 2 pair of stretch socks — one in white and one in red. Put the shoes and socks in the smallest box they will fit in for he can't walk through customs carrying a large package. Please don't send anything else along. Also would you wrap the box and address it thus: Mrs B.G. Meisenheimer, C/O Mr. A. Barrios, Cerro de Pasco Corp., 891 Carabaya, Lima Peru. Then sill you wrap it a second time and mail it to this man: Chief mate Jens Gimbel, M/V "JONNA DAN", C/O West Coast Line Inc. 309 Carondelet Bldg. New Orleans, Louisiana. When Mr. Gimbel gets the package he will remove the first wrapping and when he gets to Lima, give it to Barrios who will see that I get it. Quite a process eh. Later on we'll send you a check. Let us know what it costs.

Love Liz.

January 28, 1957



Dear Mother:

We have just returned from a short vacation so I am later with this check than I had intended to be. Pleased to hear you have a better job, and hope you are feeling better now.

Next week Jeff and Joel will start Kindergarten, which will give Elizabeth more time to herself.

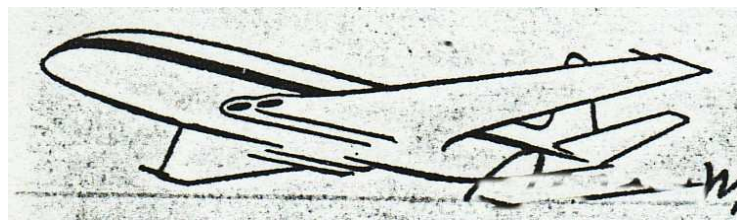
We had a very good vacation and Elizabeth and the kids were to the beach almost every day.

We also had a very nice Christmas. The rainy season has started in earnest and it rains all night long almost every night.

Love Borden

Feb 6, 1957

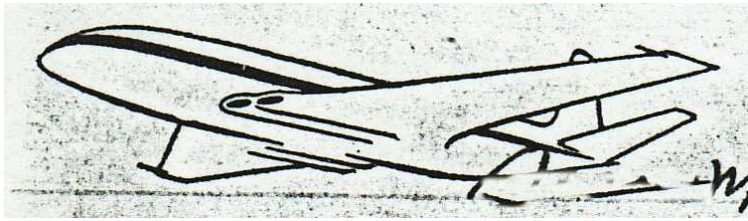
Dear Mother:



Would you do me a favor? Could you get me about 1 pint of black, liquid, stove polish. The kind of stove polish that is used on old-fashioned, black, cast iron stoves. I think you could find this stove polish at one of the hardware stores on the south side, like Bartelson's. If you can get the polish or "stove blacking" in a can rather than a bottle, it would be better. If you get the polish, please send it to me Air Express. I use this polish to paint my model trains and I tried all over Lima to get some, without any luck.

The family and I are all in the best of health, and are well settled in our house now. Jeff and Joel started Kindergarten this week. They go to school every morning from Monday to Friday.

Hope you have received the check for \$25.00 by now, and thank you for the loan. About all for now, for not much happens around here, so there isn't much to write about. Love, Borden



Thursday 2-21-57 11:15 A.M.

Dear Grandmother:

Thanks for buying the shoes for Judy. I misplaced your letter so when you write again, tell me what we owe. If we receive the shoes, I'd like you to buy something else for me and then we will send you a check to cover everything. I am sending you a roll of film of pictures of Jeff, Judy and Joel. When you have them developed, would you have a set printed for my mother. She will be only too happy to pay for a set. Jeff and Joel and Judy were happy to receive cards and money. Jeff and Joel go to Kindergarten for 9:00 to 11:30 AM. The first day Joel was there he asked if they served cakes. When the teacher said "no" Joel said "Well I'm not coming back to this place again." Joel makes her laugh at least once a day. You should hear Judy speak Spanish. When she speaks to her teacher, she starts to use Spanish instead of English. She studies Spanish 4 hours a week. Joel finally had his birthday party. He was so happy because children came and gave him presents. Jeff wasn't so happy 'cause Joel wouldn't leave him play with his presents. Sorry to hear about Mae

Love Borden and Liz



March 10. 1957

Dear Mother:

Sorry to hear about aunt Mae and hope she is not doing too badly. I remember her in my prayers. The Kids had bad colds, but that is past and they are all feeling fine now.

Received the can of heat resistant enamel you sent. However the contents of the can had all leaked out, and it was not the material I wanted anyway. So let us try again. I do not want a paint or enamel of any kind. I can get gallons of the stuff you sent here. I would like you to send me a black stove polish. "fry-pruf" or Stove-Brite are typical trade names. "fry-pruf" comes in a screw top can and is called "Stove and nickel polish". A pint can will cost about 40 cents. If you have trouble locating this polish give Clarence Heiser at a Meisenheimer Printing company a call. Tell him you want it for me, and I know he will be glad to get it for you. I perhaps should have given you the above information at first, but I was too lazy to look through about a hundred back issues of the "Model Railroader" for this information. By the way "Model Railroader" is published by Kalmbach Publishing Co. 1027 N. 7th St. in Milwaukee, 3 Wisconsin. Phone Broadway 2-2060, so they could probably tell you where to get stove polish, which they wrote about for painting model locomotives in an article in the April 1954, Volume 21, #4 issue of their magazine.

Send the polish air mail again. I know it is expensive but I need this material very badly. Again I am sorry to bother you, but I cannot locate this material here in Peru. There are plenty of old fashioned stoves in this country, but I guess nobody ever thinks to spruce them up.

When I finally get the material I want I will let you know, then you can write and let me know what I owe you. It probably seems a shame to you to spend about \$6.00 for a 40 cent can of stove polish, but that is one of the draw-backs of living in a foreign country.



Wednesday 3-27-57

Dear Mom:

We received the shoes yesterday. They are lovely but too small. In February Judy started wearing size 6a saddle shoes I bought at Browers. I am sending another drawing of her foot.

Do you think you could get a pair of sandals just like you sent in 6 1/2, double A, I will sell this pair you sent. I think they were \$8.98, weren't they. Please let me know how much the next ones cost and I will send you a check for both pairs. The pair you sent were size 5 1/2 double A.

We are all fine now. About 3 weeks ago Jeff had a touch of pneumonia and Joel had bronchitis. But several shots of penicillin and they were alright but they lost so much weight. They are getting their weight back now. As you know, they both go to school and Jeff is learning to print. They have a very good English teacher. I am lucky to have such good teaching at a reasonable price. I am having a big party this Saturday and next Saturday to repay all our obligations. We wish it were over with.

Sorry about Aunt Mae. She lived to be quite old though. Pretty soon spring will come again, and no winter for months. Take care of yourself.

Love Borden and Elizabeth

Please wrap the box once and address it to me

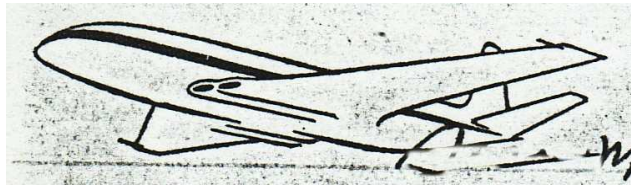
Mrs. B. G. Meisenheimer

c/o A. H. Barrios

Cerro de Pasco corp.

891 Carabaya

Lima Peru



Thursday April 13, 1957

Dear Mother:

Received the stove polish you sent, and it should last me a long while. I know
Elizabeth

Wrote to you a day or so ago, and I suppose she told you about the two parties we gave?
Entertained sixty people in all, so we are now caught up on our social obligations for
some time to come.

Today, most of the dollar pay-roll have a day off. However Manrigue is in
Lima, I am working, but not very hard. Elizabeth and the kids drove to Tarma, this
morning, with a friend of ours. They should be home by supper time tonight.

A week from this Saturday is the European dance, the first dance we have had
since New Years. I don't care to much to go, but probably will anyway. About a month
ago a fellow named "Budd", was fired from C de P because he owed the company, and
just about everyone else money. A few days ago he shot himself in Lima.

We bought ourselves a 30 Gal. fish tank. We only have 6 fish at present, but in-
tend to get more the next time we go to Lima, which will probably be the first part of
July.

About all for now, we are all in the best of health, hope you are the same.

Love Borden

However, on the other side of the ledger, I can get German built Locomotives here for \$22.00, which cost \$60.00 back in the states.

I have been spending most of my spare time working on my layout in my bedroom. I get a lot of fun out of it and it keeps me occupied in a place where there is not too much in the way of entertainment. Of course Jeff and Joel are crazy about daddies model rail road.

In about a years time Judy may be back in Milwaukee!! There are no good high schools down here, and since the company will pay up to \$1500.00 a year towards schooling plus traveling expenses, we may send Judy to school in Milwaukee. However, a year is a long way off, so who can tell. Elizabeth and I are also thinking of taking a trip to Europe on my next long vacation, that that also is two more years away.

About all for now, hope you are in good health, and that winter is about over back home.

Love Borden

April 16, 1957



Dear Grandmother:

Thanks very much for ordering another pair of shoes for Judy and giving them to us. I should get them the end of next month. I've bought Easter eggs, with a toy inside, for Judy, Jeff and Joel. We're all fine now. Joel is nice and fat again & Jeff has almost gained all his weight back. Jeff and Joel are doing so well at Kindergarten. They fixed the cutest Easter cards for me. Jeff is doing simple arithmetic already. Their teacher is English and by the time an English child is six he can read and do simple arithmetic and she is teaching English style. You know Judy skipped a whole grade and the first six months, school was quite difficult as she missed quite a bit skipping a grade but now it's easier for her.

I have another favor to ask of you. Would you buy me a dress just for using at dances, no long formal, at Smartware, size 11. A friend of mine is going on vacation this month. She doesn't need to have the dress until the middle of July so you have plenty of time to look for one. She leaves California the end of July so she must have it around the middle of July. I would like something sophisticated for around \$25. The last dress I bought at Smartware before I sailed, remember, was beige satin, empire style with floating panels, size 11. I just love it. Vogue showed some black chiffon dresses. Only don't get me anything sweet or girlish. I'm past that stage. Also the only jewelry I have is almost all sterling silver except for that Rhinestone set you gave me and my set of gold earrings & pin, so if that dress needs some special jewelry, will you buy it. Not too expensive though. When you know how much it costs, please let me know & I'll send a check. (we have about 7 large dances a year & I need one more dress for those dances) Will send her address in another letter.

Mom, I don't particularly care for black or any of the real bright colors like a clear

Red or green. If you can find a soft color, something I can wear many times & not let people know I've had the dress a long time. That's why I never buy red or rather can't afford it. You wear red once & no one forgets that you have a red dress. But if you find something you really like in a bright color, that you would like to see me wear, buy it.



Monday, May 6, 1957

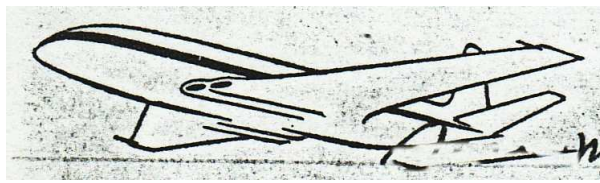
Dear Mom:

I hope it won't be too much work for you to buy that dress. If you can, I certainly will appreciate it. "Happy Mother's Day" I think Sunday May 12th is the date but since they don't observe that day down here and we get no papers from home, I'm taking a chance that May 12th is the correct date. When we go to Lima in August, I will look for something to send you. Did we tell you we bought a 30 gallon aquarium? It has only six fish. We have four boys the ages of Jeff and Joel living next to us and with Jeff and Joel that makes six boys. They have just put on Indian headpieces & taken out their rifles and machine guns & are killing Indians out in the back. What a racket. Personally I think boys are easier to raise than girls. Course Judy never had a sister or a brother close to her and now I realize that it's hard on her. She always has to look for playmates, but Jeff and Joel don't. You should see how nicely Jeff prints whole sentences and does some arithmetic already. Were lucky to have that English teacher. Saturday, April 27th, was the European Dance. It was very nice and the food was delicious. Wore a dress I bought at Gimbels in 1950 but never wore it because I thought it was too bare. I never showed it to you or Borden. Down here I can use it.

Take care of yourself.

Love Borden and Elizabeth

May 21, 1957



8:16 P.M.

Dear Mom:

Haven't received Judy's shoes yet. Should get them the end of this week on the beginning of next week. You certainly have spent enough on your house. Lets hope nothing falls apart or needs fixing for the next ten years. Yes, Jeff and Joel got your Easter cards with \$1 Apiece but there was no money in Judy's. Buying her two pair of shoes was more than enough.

Mom, we have another favor to ask. When you send my dress to that woman, would you please buy tow pair of blue jeans for Jeff, size 6 for school. Will you buy the best quality you can get for Jeff is hard on clothes. Also I suppose blue jeans in size 6 only come with belts. I don't want the ones with bibs as he is getting older now, and one t-shirt, size 6, long sleeved, No white one, and one more item. This is for our aquarium & you can get it at Sears. It was listed is the Sears spring & summer catalog for 1957. This is the information:

Automatic heater—thermostat. Heater, thermostat is separate tube. ADJ. Knob, pilot light, Steel clip. 110-120 volt, 50 or 60 cycle, AC or DC. Wt 8.0z. 71k8738 75watt for 15 gallon Aquarium \$4.18.

Will you please buy 2 of these 75 Watt heaters. Also have them wrap them very carefully. And Mom I think it takes almost a month when you send anything to California by Train. Railway express is more expensive but faster. So if you have the things purchases by the middle or early part of June, please send them on right away so they reach this address by the middle of July. Please send them to:

Mrs. Helen Clark
c/o Mrs W. H. Macy
5523 Grape Street
San Diego 5, California

Please be sure to send us the bill including postage. If you can send it by train which I Think (but I'm not sure) is the cheapest, we will appreciate it. So please make sure they pack those thermostats carefully.

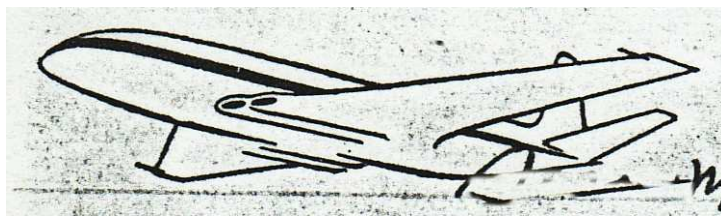
Enough of that. Last Saturday night we went next door for dinner and around midnight decided to go to a Peruvian dance. Had to hunt around for a car but finally get there. The music. Which is definitely different for ours, was very good. All Mambos and Peruvian music. Very strenuous I might add. Came home at 3:30 am. This Saturday is the British dance. Am having some people in for drinks first, Borden's boss among them. We have lots of fun down here, more than we could ever have at home. Borden is on the bowling team so we go bowling about every week and have a hilarious time. We are in 5th place but I'm hoping we can move up just one place.

We are all fine & in the best of health. I had Jeff and Joel's hair cut today, 5 soles or 25 cents apiece. That's more reasonable than \$1.25. Take care of yourself.

Love, Elizabeth

Sunday May 26, 1957

7:00 P.M.



Dear Mom:

We received Judy's shoes Friday. They are lovely and just right for her, a little large, but that is better than too small. Thanks much. Received your letter saying you had bought a dress. I'm so anxious to see it 'cause you know what looks well on me better than I do. Mom, I received a letter Saturday from my friend telling me to send my things to Downey instead of San Diego. I only hope this letter reaches you in time. The Address in Downey, that where Gin and Pat live too, is:

Mrs Helen Clark
C/o Mrs. J. R. Huggins
12031 S. Patton Road
Downey, California

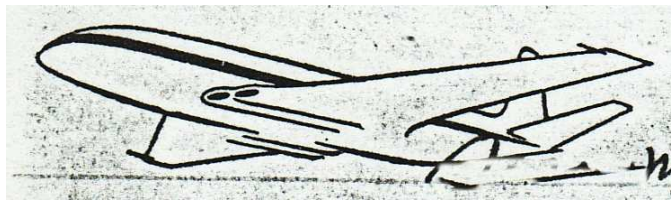
Please let me know right away, just a line or two, where you sent them. If they went to San Diego, I'll write immediately & tell her the things are in San Diego.

Just last night we went to the British dance. Had loads of fun. Came home at 3:00 AM. Had a cocktail party first. Entertaining like that is good practice for Borden and I.

Glad to hear you are taking up golf. All the people I know who golf love the game. All for now and take care of yourself.

Love Liz

Sunday, June 30, 1957



Dear Mother:

I had intended to write to you several weeks ago, but with one thing and another I have not done so until now. About a month ago Joel had his tonsils taken out, and a few days after he was out of the hospital he got hit in the cheek by a swing. He had a swollen cheek and a black eye for a week, but he is back to normal now. Judy has a touch of the flue, so she is in bed today, and we would not be surprised if Jeff got it next. However, all in all we have been in good health.

This Wednesday we will have the 4th of July dance, and Thursday a field day. The field day consists of games and prizes for the kids and a baseball game for the men. Beer, Soda water, hamburgers, and hot dogs are available for all, and we will get some fire-crackers for the kids which can be bought and shot off, here any time.

Manrique is in Lima for a month taking a course in instrumentation, and then he goes on vacation soon (3 months) so I will be in charge of the research analytical lab. For most of the next six months. Metal prices are down so business is not good, but we in the laboratory are busier than ever. I am due for a short vacation now, but I do not know just when I will have a chance to take it.

The nights here are now cold, but the days are cool and bright and very pleasant.

Hope you are having a nice summer and enjoying good health.

Love Borden

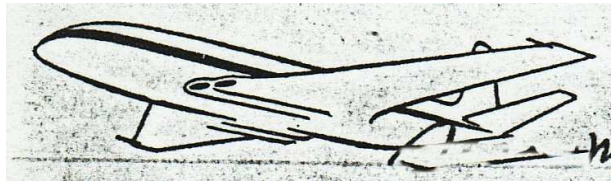
Dear Mom: Thanks for buying those things. I presume you sent them to Downey, not San Diego. Please send us the bill. My mother owes me \$13. I asked her to give the money to us. I'm glad Letha is with you. It shouldn't be so quiet. Thursday is the 4th of July and I am Worse than the kids — Looking forward to shooting off firecrackers.

Love, Eliz.

P.S. Do you think you could buy 2 packages of the enclosed medicated corn remover pads.

We can't get these down here. If you remove the pads for the box and tape them to some paper with scotch tape, and six in one envelope, they should come through. If you could do this we would appreciate it no end.

Liz



Sunday 7/14/57 4:00 PM

Dear Mom:

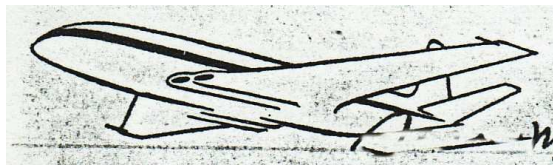
We received the corn pads yesterday. Thanks very much. It's odd but I can't find medicated corn pads here or in Lima. Also as soon as we get the check from the company, I will send it to you. It takes forever to get a personal check for the company.

We are all fine. I certainly am glad we decided to have Joel's tonsils out. He is so nice and fat & no more sore throats. Judy and Jeff and Joel have a month's vacation. Judy sleeps until noon every day. Wish I could say the same for Jeff and Joel. No such luck. We hope to go to Lima for two weeks the beginning of August. Borden doesn't know if he can get away from work.

Went to a party last night & wonder of wonders we came home at a respectable hour, 1:30 AM. Still can't believe we had that much sense. Saw the "Seven year itch" last week and we thoroughly enjoyed it. Tonight we are going to see "Oklahoma". So the movies are old but Not too old. The weather is lovely but very dry. Jeff's skin gets so dry I must put cream on several times a day.

About all for now, take care of yourself.

Love, Liz



August 12, 1957 6:30 PM

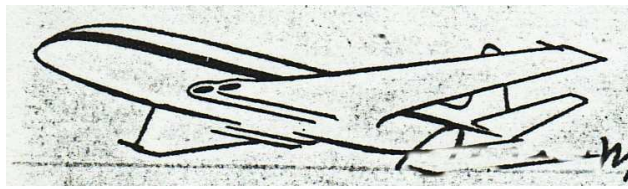
Dear Mom:

Enclosed is a check for \$26.00. As I told you I asked Mom to give you \$13 she owed me. Many, many thanks for doing all that purchasing. Mrs. Clark will be back on August 24th & I can see the dress you bought.

We are having the darndest weather. We're supposed to be in the dry season, cold nights but lovely sunny days. Well for the last week its been cloudy all day and cold. Jeff and Joel are just getting over colds. I had a small birthday party for Jeff. Both Jeff and Joel love parties, children bringing them gifts. Joel lamented for a week, will my grandma's send me a card and some money. He is such a ham. We spoil him rotten. Jeff is in first grade. Of all her pupils, Jeff was the Kindergarten teachers favorite. She says he is so sensitive, and that you will get much more affection from Jeff than Joel. Was pleased to hear that. Jeff and Joel went with a friend to see "Peter Pan" tonight. They saw it yesterday but wanted to see it again. I found a woman who was willing to teach Judy French. She told Judy that she had talent for learning French. Learning several languages will be wonderful for her. Her teacher says it is amazing how quickly she picks up French. Wish I could just learn a little Spanish. Enough babble about my three geniuses.

Love Elizabeth

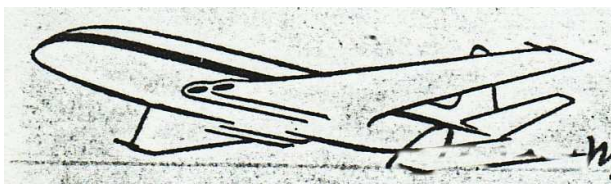
August 26, 1957, 3:00 PM



Dear Mom:

I received the blue dress yesterday. It's a dream of a dress. Darn we won't have a dance now until Thanksgiving. I can't wait to wear it. The thermostat for the aquarium was broken but Borden fixed it. When you ordered the thermostat & blue jeans from Sears, you also ordered two shirts. Mrs Clark says when she opened the package in Downey, Cal, from Sears, there were no shirts. I am sending you the invoice from Sears that you sent me. I don't know if you can do anything about it. We are going to Lima for 13 days tomorrow. We are going by taxi because we have so much junk. Saturday night we had a farewell party for our general manager. We all had a good time. Jeff is getting so big. I know he is going to be as tall as Borden but about Judy and Joel I couldn't say. Judy has not grown much. I hope she grows some but not too much. Since Joel had his tonsils out, he is so fat, but I think he will be short. He had the best disposition. I hope he keeps it. Haven't much news. Hope you are well and happy. Will write from Lima.

Love, Elizabeth



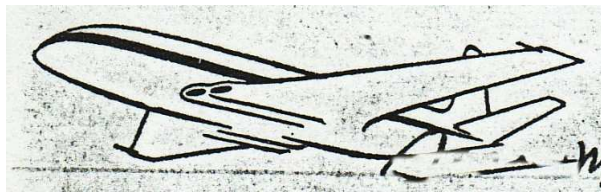
Sunday Oct. 6, 1957

Dear Mother:

Just got done listening to the "World Series" which the "Braves" won 7 to 5. It was quite a game, and I wish I were in Milwaukee at this time. Elizabeth and I have both got bad colds which is unusual at this time of year when the wet weather starts. Jeff and Joel had the Mumps a short time ago, but are ok now. Quite a few persons have been fired lately, because the price of metals is so poor, but it does not seem likely that I will be going home soon. Some time ago you wrote that Lawrence was in the hospital, but have not mentioned him since. How is he getting along? Thanks for the clippings for the Milwaukee Sentinel, when the Braves won the Pennant, they were very interesting. I got the news reports for the U.S. on my short wave radio, outside of that I rely on "Time" or "Sports Illustrated" for the news which of course is about a week behind the times. In regards as to what you should send the kids for Xmas, Elizabeth will write to you in a day or so. May I wish you a Happy Birthday, I am a bit late but better late than never. About all for now, for as per usual not much news from here.

Love Borden

Monday 10-7-57 3:30 PM



Dear Mom:

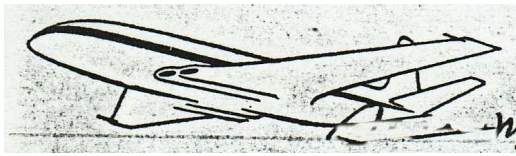
Listening to the baseball game 0 to 0 in the 4th. Just like being home only better. I bet Milwaukee celebrated last night when the Braves won. I bet the town is in a furor. Sorry we didn't remember your birthday on time but if Jeff isn't is bed sick lately, then Joel is. Jeff brought home a cold. Had him in bed Tues. Weds. Thurs. and Fri. & in the house Saturday and Sunday. He has about a degree fever he can't shake. Sent him to school today because he can't stand another day inside and neither can I. He gave his cold to Borden & I. It's been a long time since we've had such bad colds. I took Jeff's temp. at noon & it's about 1/2 degree above normal. Tomorrow when I feel better we'll go see the doctor. Joel doesn't mind staying in bed when he's sick but it kills Jeff to have to be quiet. He's still very nervous. About Xmas, mom, would you buy Judy some of those viewmaster 3 dimension color pictures. Enclosed is a list of the pictures she likes. But don't buy all of them as it will be too expensive. Jeff and Joel would like some 45 rpm records, could you get them these two albums, Pinocchio and Treasure Island. Also they love cowboy & Indian records. Could you get them some. I am enclosing a list of the records they have so you won't get duplicates. Be sure they're 45 rpm.

Please send them to Mrs L. F Bryan, Employment Manager, Cerro de pasco Corp. 300 Park Avenue, New York 22 N.Y. Tell her it's a Xmas present for your grandchildren.

Just heard the final score for today's game 1-0 How thrilling.

Love Elizabeth.

1958



Sunday January 26, 1958

Dear Mother:

As per usual, it has been quite awhile since I have wrote to you last, and yet I still do not find that I have a great deal to write about. At the moment I am sitting on our front porch in my shirt sleeves enjoying the sun. It is a beautiful warm day which I imagine is in quite a contrast to the weather you are having. We received your Christmas package shortly after Christmas, and the kids enjoy your records and slides very much. It should not be too long before Judy is back in Milwaukee for we have decided to send her to St. Mary's Academy. We do not think this is the best school by far, but we feel she should be near relatives for at least two more years. Perhaps when she is a bit older we will send her to a better school, not so near to Milwaukee. Perhaps I have already told you that I spent 10 days in the hospital because I cracked

A bone, or tore the muscles in my left leg. However it seems to be perfectly fine now.

As you know, business is a bit off all over the world, but the mining industry has been hit hard by the low prices of copper, lead, and zinc. Due to this situation quite a few have been fired recently, although I have been recommended for a raise next month.

Even so the outlook here is not very good. Peru in general is having it financial problems, and it is possible that the cost of living may go way up so sharply in the next few months that it will no longer be advantageous to work here. At the moment, my boss "Jacobi" is on three months vacation. Every one in the department hopes he does not come back, but I think it is a hopeless wish. In General he is not bad to work for, but he gets his off days when he is impossible. I suppose no one is perfect to world for, but he can be more difficult than most. We are in the best of health, but we have been up here

on the hill for some time without a break, so we are looking forward to my next short vacation in Lima, which I plan to take the first of March. Guess this is all the news for

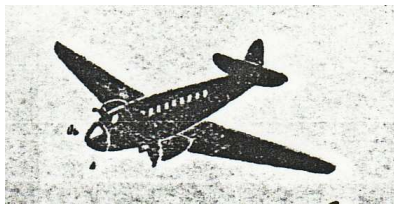
Now so will close.

Love Borden

Dear Mom:

Jeff and Joel received the records and love them. They play them by the hour & invite all the kids in. Judy likes the slides too. They are educational. The slip is too big, so she will bring it back in August. She hasn't grown much & is slender. Will be glad she is near you and my mother for awhile yet. School starts Feb. 3rd & I am very happy. Jeff and I read his reading book every day and he is reading quite well. He is getting tall and is going to be a big boy. He eats and eats and eats. But Joel is still a pip-squeak. He has such little feet & is still very tiny. Had a party at the general managers house last Thursday to introduce us to the American ambassador. There hasn't been an American ambassador up here for the last ten years & maybe longer, so he really is an unusual person. Had a nice time, and it was a good experience. Received all of your birthday cards with money in them except Judy's. Don't know what happened.

Love Liz.

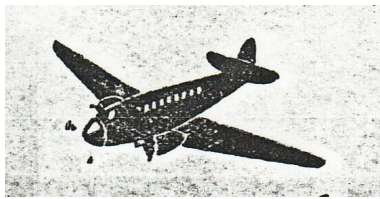


Sunday May 19, 1958

Dear Mother:

First let me wish you a belated "happy mothers day". I do not have much to write about. We are all in good health, and one day is just like another. Except for work, it does get quite monotonous here once in awhile. We have not moved to the larger house as yet, but expect to do so in about three weeks. It is winter time here now and there is quite a bit of frost when I go to work in the morning. We hear from Mrs. Rinke "that your car has been laid up, because you do not have the price of a new spare tire" ??? Perhaps, as usual, she may have gotten the story wrong, for it seems hard for me to believe that you could have had such serious financial reverses. However, if there is any truth in the story, and you need financial assistance, for God's sake don't hesitate to write. I may not be getting rich down here in South America, but I earn more than we need. As for Judy not thanking you for your Christmas present, perhaps she didn't, but you know how kids are, if you don't grab them and make them write right away, they keep putting it off until they forget. Perhaps I do not write as often as you feel I should, but the reason for this is that I do not have anything to write about. Naturally, if anything of importance should happen we would let you know, and we hope you will do the same.

Love Borden



Saturday Aug. 2, 1958

Dear Mother:

Well we have moved and are settled in our new house. Next Saturday we go to Lima for two weeks short vacation, and while on short vacation Judy flies to the States. She will leave Lima on Aug. 20th and will arrive in Milwaukee on Aug 21st at 2:40 PM. Local time. Elizabeth's sister Margaret, or her daughter Mary Margaret will meet her. As you perhaps know by now Judy is going to St. Mary's Academy, 3195 South Superior Street, Milwaukee 7 Wisconsin. Due to numerous considerations, our contemplated trip to Europe will probably be put off for another contract, so we will probably return to the states for three months next March. We do have hopes of spending a week in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil on our way, then sail up the east coast on a Grace Line passenger boat. Jeff is starting second grade and Joel is starting first grade, this term. Time sure seems to fly! The Mining industry is still in a slump, but I understand that things are improving in the states? We are all in the best of health, hope you are the same.

Love Borden

P.S. If there are any last minute changes in Judy's schedule, we will let you and Margaret Leonard know.

St. Mary's Academy, Milwaukee, WI Closed in 1991

August 28, 1958



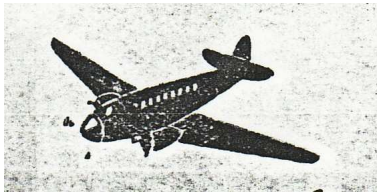
Dear Grandmother:

Received your letter on 8/24th when we returned from Lima. We Certainly didn't mean to hurt you. Over eight months ago I wrote Margaret that Judy was coming. I knew you worked so I didn't want to bother you. All this time Margaret never said she couldn't get her, or I would have made other arrangements. Did Judy tell you the Jeff and Joel had the measles and very bad in Lima. I've kept them home this week & will send them next Monday.

How does Judy look, thin no? I asked Margaret to get her a bottle of Homocebrin (Cod Liver Oil). When you see Judy ask her is she is taking it. Judy does not Menstruate yet & I don't think she will for a few more years. But there is always the possibility that she may. So when you are shopping, will you buy her a pantie they have for young girls & some Kotex.

While we were on vacation in Lima, a druggist filled my prescription wrongly & he almost killed me. I am beginning to feel that I will live again. That's why my writing is off.

Love, Elizabeth



Thursday Sept. 25, 1958

Dear Mother:

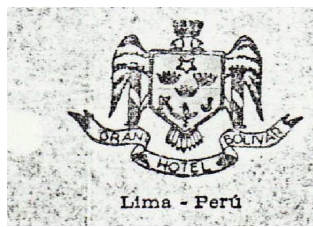
Just a short note to wish you a very happy birthday. I, Elizabeth and the kids are all fine

And hope you are the same. We are very pleased to hear from Judy that she likes school, we were concerned about how she would take to a boarding school. Things here, for the C. de P.

Corp. seem to get a bit worse all the time, so we are all a bit uncertain how long things can go on this way. I was informed that a good friend of mine was killed today. He is the first "gringo" to be killed in an industrial accident here in a long, long, time. Perhaps Judy has told you that we have a dog now. She is a German Shepard and her name is Sasha. We got her from a friend who is now on long vacation at his home in Switzerland. If he does not return we will keep the dog. Hear that Milwaukee did it again, but I don't suppose it caused as much excitement as it did last year. Hope they have a good world series! As per usual we don't have a great deal to write about, so will close.

Love, Borden

10/9/58



Dear Grandmother:

Excuse the paper. Am all out and must buy some. Thank you for the \$5 for my birthday. Yes Jeff received the money you sent. We bought him a ball and bat in Lima. He is getting very tall. Does very good work in school. Please don't send money for Xmas for Jeff and Joel. We are coming home for three months vacation in April. Jeff and Joel would like a tent to put up outside. Perhaps when they come home, you and they could go shopping for a tent. Joel went to a birthday party this afternoon and Jeff goes tomorrow. Once a year the school children receive a physical examination. The year, the report shows Jeff anemic. In a year he gained only 4 pounds and grew 4 inches. The Measles took a lot out of him. Now he is taking special vitamin pills.

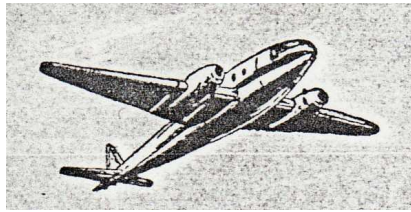
I blew myself yesterday. Bought two vicuna bedspreads, tanned vicuna skins. Now must put backing on them. Paid \$57 for the two. Maids are so stupid up here, believe it or not, they don't know how to peel an Orange.

We are glad Judy likes St. Mary's but she doesn't like the food.

Love Elizabeth

1959

Sunday March 7, 1959



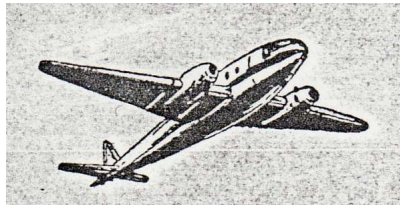
Dear Mother:

Sorry to hear of Uncle Lawrence's death, but I gather that it was not un-expected. Thank you for your invitation to stay at your house while we are on long vacation. Elizabeth intends to spend most of her time at her mothers, but we both would like to spend some time in town for shopping, etc. We will sail for home the first and second week in April. We have been having our labor troubles here. In fact we were all evacuated to Huanpani, a vacation resort 20 miles from Lima. I was there for six days, and got a good sunburn at the pool. The road to Lima is in poor shape due to the rains so we had a bit of a rough trip, down from the hill.

Things are not quite back to normal, but should be soon, we hope. We are all set to leave on vacation, but because we intend to come back this is not much of job. We are all in the best of health, hope you are the same. Will see you soon.

Love, Borden

P.S. Due to the condition of the road & railroad it may take longer than normal for this letter to reach you.

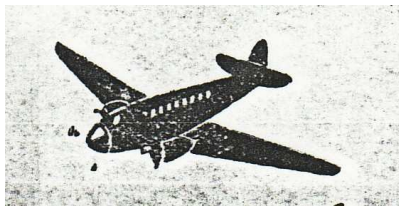


Sunday July 19, 1959

Dear Mother:

Arrived at Callao on Wednesday, July 1st. After a good trip. We stayed one day in New Orleans, and we like it there, although it was very hot. We found our house just as we left it, so it did not take us long to get back to normal. Had no ill effects from the altitude, and we are all in good health. The weather is very nice, hot days, and cold nights. Business is about normal, but the company cries as loud as ever! Haven't done much since our return, just taking it easy, and recovering from our vacation. It does not seem like we were gone three months. I seem to have more work to do than ever, so I should not work myself out of a job soon. Thank You again for your hospitality, and we hope you are behaving yourself these days. As per usual, except for the fact that we got here in one piece, there is not much to write about, so I will close this letter.

Love, Borden



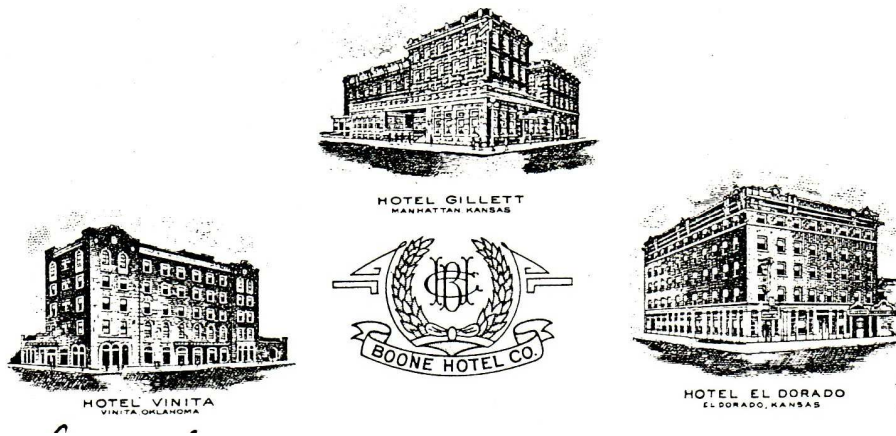
Sunday Feb. 25, 1962

Dear Mother:

Thank you for your letter, it is always nice to hear from you. In spite of the landslide you read about, the weather here has been normal, we always get a lot of rain this time of year.

Yes, we will be home soon, but perhaps not as soon as you expect. Although my contract is finished this 5th of April, I hope to stay on until the middle of July. Thus we do not expect to be home until the end of July. This will give me part of the month of August in Milwaukee for on Sept. 1st. I must be in Manhattan Kansas. What am I going to do in Kansas? I have accepted a fellowship from Kansas State University where I shall study for my PHD. I turned down a fellowship from M.I.T. hoping Judy will attend Kansas State with me. I was also offered a fellowship from the University of Arizona, but housing doesn't seem to be too good there. In Fact I received offers from all three universities to which I applied. I don't know how I will make out after being out of school ten years, but I want to give it a try! Fellowships do not pay very much, so I will be a little short on income for the next two years, and Elizabeth will help out by working if she can. After my PHD, what then? Too early to say, but perhaps a teaching career at some university. Perhaps you think I am crazy, but I hope you will offer your prayers for my success. See you in August.

Love Borden



Sunday Sept. 9, 1962

Written at Apt. G-9, Jardine Terrace, Manhattan Kansas

Dear Mother:

Arrived here in Manhattan during the wee hours (2:00 AM) of the 31st. We are in our apartment now, which is no smaller that we had hoped, and is very nice. Our things (the last we heard) are still in Texas, so although we miss the boys very much, we are glad they are not here right now. We were lucky that we brought enough along with us so we can just manage to live comfortably. We have had a lot of rain since we have been here, and today is another gloomy, wet day which is unusual for Kansas. We use your transistor radio to get the weather reports, and tomorrow is supposed to be cool, and sunny. We live at the edge of the University and it is very nice; a lot like Wisconsin, but not so flat. I have been very busy, writing exams, attending meetings, studying, etc. But it should slow up after the next week. After 11 years I have an awful lot to re-learn and make up, so it may take me longer to get a PHD than I care to take, but we will give it at least a year, and see how things look from there. Tomorrow will be a long day for Judy and I as we both have to be at the University by 7:00 AM. By spending at least a year here, we will give Judy a good start in Kansas State, and I certainly will leave knowing more than I do now. The Prof's here seem to be a very nice group of men, the University is beautiful, and so far I am having

fun, not much here in the line of entertainment so it is boring

For Elizabeth, but that will end when the boys get here. We do a lot of walking here, to church, the store, the University, etc. as there is only one bus line (6 days a week, does not run on Sundays or holidays.) with buses every half hour. Cabs are fairly expensive. The cost of living here, seems to be a little, but not much cheaper than in Milwaukee. No taverns, like Milwaukee here, and drinking is not encouraged on State property, although I do have as many as two beers in one day at home. As I said before tomorrow will be a hectic day as I must register as well as help with registration (8000) of the students, so I will close for now.

My Address is exactly as shown below:

B.G. Meisenheimer
G-9 Jardine Terrace
Manhattan, Kansas

Note: Kansas State University should not be included in the address.

P.S. Let us hear from you.

Monday Nov. 12, 1962

Dear Mother:

About time I drop you a line, and let you know how we are. Jeff and Joel are now settled in school, and have their T.V. set at home, so they are content, although they do not have the things here to keep them occupied as they did in Peru. Judy likes Kansas State U., and is earning her own spending money, which means she is on the go all the time, but it gives her a sense of independence, which is new to her, and which she enjoys. Elizabeth also works part time to ease the burden on our savings, but it has been a great change from our former way of living, and she is sure tired by the end of the day. As for me, I am fine, and am not getting any dumber, through my studies, although I am not doing very well. Don't know if it's my age, change in environment, too many other things on my mind, or the combination, but my memory just doesn't match up to my needs. Perhaps just as well, as it will take much longer to get another degree (more like 4 years instead of 2) than I care to take. So I learn what I can while I can, and we give Judy a good start in University, which was one of the reasons I came here. In the mean time I can think about what comes next.

I enjoyed the day I spent with you and Aunt Ann, back in Milwaukee. Looking back on it, in some ways we seemed to have turned back the clock for a good number of years, at least for a day. I sometimes have wished I had spent more time with you during the last ten years, but then again, I am afraid I must admit we seem to upset one another after a short time. I hope your drinking, when I am home, is caused because you get upset seeing me again, and is not your normal way of living. You have worked so hard all of your life for the security and independence you have now. I hate to see you waste it all by living in a

Lonely, but there are parts of everyone's mind that no one can reach and in this respect we all can be very much alone and lonely at times. However who am I to preach to you!

What do you suppose the robbers will do with Harry Treemann's coin collection?

I should think it would be very risky to get rid of, if it was just money they wanted!

So far we haven't had much winter here, but we will get it soon without a doubt. The leaves are not all off the trees yet, and tomorrow may be in the seventies. It has been a good many years since I have seen a real good snow storm (1955 or 56 I think) and although I probably will enjoy the first one, I certainly don't look forward to winter. Perhaps you don't either, but maybe it isn't so bad when you don't have to get out in it to go to work?

I don't hear much from Peru, but the little I do, is not very good. Labor troubles, poor prices for lead, copper and Zinc, and an uncertain political situation, does not make life any easier there. For that matter the whole world hasn't been a very nice place for all too many years.

We had a visit, a few days ago, from one of our old friends who used to work with me in Peru. He retired and went back to Canada about three years ago, and he is now, just travelling south as far as his money will take him, just for pleasure. He may even get as far as Peru. Any way, we had a nice visit talking over old times.

Give my fondest regards to Aunt Ann and the rest of the family. God bless you, and

Love,

Borden

Sunday Dec. 16, 1962

Dear Mother:

About time I wrote you a letter for Christmas, and before I get too busy. I believe you asked if I would be home for Christmas, at any rate the answer is no, I won't be able to make it. Perhaps because I have been out of school so long, I just can't settle down to the studies again so I shall leave school at the end of this semester. I was well aware that this might be the case so it comes as no surprise to me, or any great disappointment. My idea was to give it a try while I had the chance, and if it didn't work, at least I tried. Judy of course will stay on at school. I do have a job offer at the University, but will not take it. I hope I may get an offer from another corporation (not C.de P.) I have been interested in for some time which is also in Peru. However, I haven't made up my mind as to just what I will do for sure, and I expect I may return to Milwaukee for at least a few months. I still have the idea of a tavern in my mind, but the problem of becoming a resident of Milwaukee for two years, before I can be eligible own one, although the residence laws outside of Milwaukee County may be easier. Judy like it here, but Elizabeth and the boys will not be sorry to leave. As far as they are concerned, They all hope I go back to South America.

We had some of the cold weather that you had in Milwaukee, but no snow, and it lasted for only a few days, so we can't complain about winter very much. However, when it gets cold here it often gets very windy, which makes it very uncomfortable, and except for Judy we are not used to the cold weather.

I have dropped school (work of my studies), but will keep on instructing until the end of the semester. This, with packing, job correspondence, etc will keep me very busy, as I don't know just when I will write again, but will let you know where I am headed for next, when the Time comes.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Love, Borden

Jan. 1, 1963

Dear Mother:

Received your box of candy yesterday, and we are all enjoying it very much, and thank you for sending it. We had a very calm Christmas and New Years at home. The weather has been warm, above freezing, and we had a lot of fog last night. It sure wasn't a good night to be on the road celebrating New Years. Very many of the students here went home during the Christmas vacation, and are just starting to drift back now. School starts again on Jan. 6th. And from then until the end of the semester (about Feb. 1st.) we will be busy, I finishing up my teaching duties, and the rest of us packing. Judy of course must find living quarters for herself, but she shouldn't have too much trouble. I probably should have looked for another job, as soon as I made up my mind to leave C. de P., but I did want to try school once more while I had the chance, and also to get Judy started. The trouble is I never did get my mind back on the books, but kept thinking about what I wanted to do next, and still do now know what that is. I have a job offer here at the University, but that isn't what I want. Probably will be decided this month by the job I do or do not get. However, in spite of our uncertainty we are glad we left C. de P., and tried the books once again.

This is a rehash of what I have written before, and the main reason I have written is to Thank You for the candy. We hope you have had a good Christmas, and our best wished for the new year.

Love Borden