

July 12

Dear Ones:

In line with my comments yesterday and a previous promise, here is the type of silly stuff I write (this is going to Willie):

Greetings and salutations - with a new typewriter ribbon! I hope you appreciate what a new ribbon means, beyond the obvious improvement in legibility. Because changing a ribbon on this typewriter was practically a major operation for the staff of this office, one sergeant especially. The first phase involved the elements of surprise and attack - so we sneaked up on the unsuspecting spools. But the typewriter held fast and they slipped from our grasp. The second landing was made in force on the left spool; we loosed it from its stronghold only to have it lash out viciously at the sergeant, whipping its ribbons around the sergeant, enmeshing him in its entanglements. We retired to remass our forces and only by the strength of overwhelming numbers did we tear the ribbon from the little dojiggers that go up and down in front and then wrench the right spool from its vantage point. The sergeant sat back to unwind himself from the python-like attack, his hands smeared from the carbon of the ribbon. The rest of us withdrew once more before facing the task of establishing a new ribbon in the affections of the motherly Underwood. Weak from the previous struggle, the machine offered little open resistance; instead it resorted to the fifth column - it pinched unwary fingers, it twisted the new ribbon, the intruder. At last it has submitted, it has taken the little black tape to its heart and is probably instilling it with the fury that its predecessor had. Only occasionally does the machine show signs of its resentment - things like misspellings and skippings. Yet I think it was worth the effort. You know my handwriting.

So now you know how I fill the blank spaces in my correspondence - me and my inspired imagination!!!

No mail today except a letter from one of the boys up at the Canal. I am trying to keep in touch with the old Camp Reynolds gang. I have read over all the articles on the Republican conclave - Bill Cunningham's reports were good. As for the TIMES report on the restatement of Russian economic principles: it shows that the Soviet recognizes not only the eternally changing nature of all societies but also that a capitalist state can evolve in the direction of true equality and freedom from economic control without sudden and violent revolution. The Russians are admitting that there is no infallible blueprint. And surely it is encouraging as a basis of understanding in future relationships with the Soviet Union. I am glad you sent it to me - but I wish you would skip all the bravos just because I grew up and studied when people were seeking to understand Europe and the Russian experiment without the blind wall of the ignorance of "capitalist" conservatism.



TIME magazine had an excellent story on Bowdoin - I couldn't help but think of your anecdote, Daddy. I haven't read the rest of the issue yet but the cover with the jap admiral and the background of the stern of a sinking jap ship depicted as a horse's ass is very clever. I'll let you know as soon as my subscription starts coming through; I hope you have written to me whether or not you received the bond I had sent to you for the 25th while I was down in New Cal.

Nothing special today; I'll try to catch up on my correspondence in preference to seeing the Dead End Kids. The bridge game last night was nothing special - nothing spectacular. Orientation has been put ahead to Friday this week. OK for now.

wrote to Mum & Yuh Street. weather still comfortable here.  
glad your heat spell has broken.  
Nothing special - Love - Sumner.