

Wed. Morn

Dear Dee, Beth, Anne, and Douthite,

We were so glad to get your letter yesterday. It sounds as if you're all fine, and your new apartment sounds wonderful. The picture of Anne was darling, and the school report on Beth really sounds good.

Today is my first day to be at home since school started as I have substituted at Franklin School in a 5th grade for a teacher who had to have an emergency major operation the last of August. She returned today, and I was really glad. I had only 23, and they were sweet, bad, clean, dirty, ~~almost~~ mentally-retarded children. My favorite was a little Negro girl who tried her hardest, but she was so slow mentally, but I adored her. She was scrubbed till she fairly shone. I will substitute all year, but I don't want any more long stints as you feel too responsible for the children's progress.

Randy leaves Viet Nam the 28th - Sat. Surely wish Barry were coming too. Our prayers are ever with all of our children who are so far away.

Dan continues to be so "almost" completely normal. His little period in solitary jarred him as nothing else ever has. He said the first week he spent trying to contrive a way to destroy himself, and the second week he said he "came to himself" for the first time in a long, long time.

The Kings came over one night last week. They are fine. Caroline is getting to be such a big girl. They've applied for a baby boy, but they were told it would possibly be a year as babies are more scarce since the pill. Melanie and Linda came out the same night the Kings. Melanie is having fun at kindergarten and at dancing school. Linda's mother is doing nicely recovering from her hysterectomy. There was a malignancy, but it is hoped it was all corrected. Let's hope so.

I'm going to town this afternoon to get material for new dropies for the living and dining rooms. These are filthy and I know they wouldn't stand another cleaning.

As you say things don't get through the mails, we'll not send Beth a birthday present nor will we send Christmas gifts. Tell the girls when they get back, we'll have a big birthday and Christmas party even if it will be somewhat late.

Julia's shop is doing fine. Her things are lovely, but I just can't see spending that much for clothes. All I've bought from her is some hose - and they were \$1.50. Guess I'm ultra-conservative.

Barry's letters continue to come regularly. Bless his heart. The lakehouse gets better all the time. The flour and meal chest ~~is~~ a conversation piece. Beloit & Doug will build a duck blind sat. Hope they get some. Tell all hello. Love the girls a lot extra for us and take care of yourself. We look forward to your letters and appreciate them so much. Bye now.

Love, Frances & Beloit