

Copy of this letter
sent to brothers and sisters.

August 18, 1986

Mrs. C. W. Rich
30 1/2 Edgeview
Nashville, Tn. 37211

Dear

Mildred and I decided that a letter instead of a telephone call is in order because there are several things to discuss.

I have been in Milan with Mama and looking in on Aunt Ethel a good bit. I was pleased that it worked out for me to be keeping Mama the weekend Joy and David were there. Mama enjoyed their visit and we all celebrated July 4th together. Everyone, including several of grandchildren, has visited Mama at one time or another this summer. I think it pleases her. . . . The next time I was at Mama's was to keep her on Loretta's weekend off. Then I stayed on the following week while Mama was in the hospital. We have all been pleased that she recovered so well from the pneumonia. I have been back up there twice since then and stayed at Mama's. Ruth and Mer have had the weekends when Loretta was off and I have been there during the week working with Mer on Aunt Ethel's house. So, I have had opportunity to observe that Mama is gradually losing ground. She is considerably weaker, less alert, more confused and sometimes irritable. It is getting more difficult to understand her when she talks and that annoys her. In spite of all this Mama is still a sweet considerate person to take care of. Mildred and I are trying to find someone to fill in on Loretta's weekends off. We have a load on someone now. Even if we get someone we will still have to spend a good bit of time helping tend to all the business, buy the groceries and supplies, run interference between Betty and Loretta, see that the house is clean, etc. Ruth has been up many times and that has been a help.

I think all of you will be pleased at the way Mama's house looks. A new roof, new gutters and trim, fresh paint, a resurfaced driveway, clean windows and curtains and a wash down job on the house have gotten done. And, I hope in the next few days to have the front sidewalk edged and trimmed. I've been trying since last spring to find someone to do this!

As for Aunt Ethel, she is being adequately taken care of. So far, we have been pleased with Douglas Nursing Home. Physically Aunt Ethel looks good--she eats heartily, takes no medicine and is happy talking to and looking at Buster, a big teddy bear (he could talk sing, tell stories, etc. if Aunt Ethel would leave his tapes in) and to little Buster who sits on Big Buster's lap. It is cute and pitiful. Sometimes when I go for a visit I spend more time talking to the Busters than to Aunt Ethel. She has to be restrained most of the time, but doesn't complain too much.

These last three or four weeks have been very busy times. Mer and I have the task of cleaning out Aunt Ethel's house. It is both physically and emotionally draining. We have been advised to rent

the house and to do so we have to clear it out and clean it up. Clearing out her utility room, her junk catch-all bedroom, her attic, her closets, chest and dresser drawers, kitchen cabinets and refrigerator has proved to be one more big job. Most of that has been done. Now we are in the process of fixing it up. A new roof was put on earlier because of a hail storm. A new stove is in place, the shower is functioning, the painter is painting the outside now, the gutter man is next, also, new kitchen and den flooring is to be installed, and a new counter top put on and a new floor in her small bathroom, a new shower door, a storm door, a doorknob, and replaced storm windows are all in the hopper. All this work should be finished by the second week in Sept. Here's where you come in. The furniture that is yours will have to be moved out. We plan to have some kind of a sale for all the odds and ends of stuff by or before Sept. 12 and 13. We want you to make arrangements to have your "treasure" moved by then. What is left we have no choice but to sell. I am discouraging anyone from storing furniture at Mama's. We have not told her what we are doing and think it would disturb her to have Aunt Ethel's stuff brought to her house. And, to say the obvious, it may not be many months until we will be doing at Mama's what we have been doing at Aunt Ethel's. This is not an easy time for anyone involved--even the paid helpers--but we can make it as easy as possible for everyone. I am sure that all of you understand and will cooperate.

Now, shift gears to the farm. I drove all through it yesterday. John's cotton looks good. The pastures are green. The ponds are full. The renters are paying their rent. Edmond is supervising and tending to repairs. The man who bought the timber has not started cutting, but from my novice viewpoint the timber to be cut is so scattered and back away from the road that the farm will not look scraggly and bad because of the cutting. Half of the money has been paid and the other half will be paid before the year is out. I think \$40,000.00 was a good price for the timber. Edmond handled this well.

There's a young couple, the Teagues, living in a trailer on the Lonnie Holt road, who have approached Mer and Edmond about buying our land adjacent to their trailer. I honestly don't know how much acreage in this particular plot--I've been told 6 or 7 acres to 10 or 11 acres. That would have to be determined. The young man wants to know if we are interested in selling--says he wants to build a house and have pasture for a horse. So, I'm asking each of you to indicate by letter or phone how you react to this.

I do not have strong feelings either way. If we do decide it is the thing to do, we don't need to do it this year--will have ample income from timber sale to pay tax on! And thinking down the line to when we get serious about selling the farm, it may be best to keep this acreage. If perchance we have farm auctioned off in tracts, this particular strip on the road may be considered valuable for building sites. One family member pointed out that when we sell a segment we lose control. More trailers could pop up. On the other hand, a nice house and surrounding pasture would be fine. Mer doesn't believe the plot will accomodate more than one house without extensive grading. I can't tell by looking. I'm sure there are many pros and cons and at least seven opinions, maybe fourteen! Anyway, let me know yours.

I'll be in Milan Monday night the 18th to probably Thursday the 21st. I'll be in Nashville from Thursday to Saturday afternoon the 23rd. Then I'll be with Windy in Oak Ridge until Wed. the 27th. To make it easy for you, here's my telephone numbers:

Milan 901 686-1614
Nashville 615 833-2834
Oak Ridge 615 4825505

I'll admit that I'm hard to catch. If a rolling stone gathers no moss, then I'll never have any moss. I was in Milan working at Aunt Ethel's last week, got home Thurs. afternoon, went to Oak Ridge on Sat. so Elizabeth Ann and Robert could visit us there (Robert accompanying Elizabeth Ann for a violin solo in our morning worship service), back to Nashville on Sunday afternoon with Robt. Dan and E.A., and I'm driving back to Milan today, Monday, to get more things tended to on Aunt Ethel's house. I've turned into a tumble weed!

I'll be looking forward to hearing from all of you either by mail or phone. Do hope that all goes well with all of you. I know of some of the nice things that have happened this summer--Huey went to Hawaii, Mer went on a Caribbean cruise, Ruth went to Las Vegas, grand kids have done all kinds of stuff from getting pregnant to falling down volcanos - - why don't you bring me up to date on what is happening in your family.

Dear me! If Mer had written this she could have said it on one page, maybe a postcard. I'm too wordy for words.

Lots of love,

P.S. In case you haven't heard, Mama still talks about having her Christmas dinner. It is set for Saturday, the 27th, following Christmas on Thursday. For awhile Mama was asking everyone if they were planning to come. She hasn't mentioned it to me this last two or three weeks, but I don't believe she has forgotten about it. Hopefully, we will be able to follow through.