

Monday A. M. May 22

Hi everybody!

Long time no write - I don't know where time goes. It's good to hear from you - almost called to talk to you but can't talk long enough! Alice called last evening & said she would call you so maybe you heard the latest - John goes to Los Angeles for a convention and would leave June 8 & back 16th and we could visit either 3 or 4 days. Sounds fine & should be comfortable riding but I get nerve if he drives too fast! I'd like to take Jennette along!! You know - Chris never said a word to her about buying that house till he had bought it and then Pats Anderson is in with him - going to have another "Community Center" what could she do but go along. Dad told him to let them be their best change & not take in any more "hoboes"!! Jennette isn't able to take care of a whole house & wash etc. but he never considers her at all. She lets them do the cleaning up and they had done a lot but Chris is 83, so what can they hope to do. We helped move all their boxes & suitcases etc & papered the dining room - Chris was painting all the rest - put down new linoleum & a carpet. They are very well fixed up but takes a long time to get everything put in place. Bathroom downstairs & bedrooms upstairs (3) lots of closets that

need papering & cleaning out. She nearly balked on this deal but said maybe it will work out & at least will hold Chris down awhile and there's plenty of garden space for him to work in.

How is Grace? I must write to her & see how she is.

I need to get some housecleaning done before anyone comes but I don't get at it. I went to Garden Club sale last Tuesday & took cold & spent Thurs. in bed instead of at Nellie's Club. Didn't go to Ellen Saville's shower on Fri. night. either - just trying to get over this miserable cold. Went to dr. Sat. P.M. & got some medicine to stop my coughing & I feel O.K. today, but can't get enough sleep. Slept from 10-7:30 last night! Didn't go to church or anywhere.

Tidy & Jerry were here last evening.

I have a date with Martha for 10:45 on Wed. to trim & set my hair for the weekend. I suppose Lewy & Margaret will be down but whether Sun. or Tues. I haven't heard. Selling the house is quite a procedure.

Wait to hear from John again. I don't know when Rosemarie & the boys leave Omaha. They leave N. York on June 7 & plan to come

back first of Sept. + John to meet her at her brother's + drive home.

Dad told me to write letters + go to Irena for dinner and now it's 11:30 and I don't see him anywhere. He hasn't tried fishing yet - Too many things to do - I want to put in some flower seeds today - He has the garden in but he is using less than half as much as usual. A dozen tomato plants, a little corn, beans, beets + carrots, squash + melons.

Fern's birthday the 29th. I got her a photograph album for her new pictures.

We need rain - ponds are getting quite low. One beautiful big white iris in bloom + 1 yellow one. Dad mowed our yard then went over + mowed Carl's yard + borrowed their rototiller to work on the garden. Also mowed uptown - the folks mowed out uptown + took the key with them I guess. Anyway they didn't finish painting the house so Dad picked up the bicycle that was in the shed to hold till they finish painting. Ha! They owed quite a few bills in town. House all swept out clean anyway.

Rosie had those two kittens in a basket on the porch + one day they disappeared - whether she laid them somewhere or if some old cat got them for she stays in the chair on the porch.

most of the time

Good letter from Lot - she is finishing a 4th grade class for a teacher who had surgery - so she is extra busy. Alice is out on June 23. Orin gets to Chicago June 10 in P.M. so you will miss seeing them and we will too, unless we see them between planes in Omaha on 19th. Haven't written my letters for so long - I need to spend a week catching up on letters.

Eda Parker is 89 today.

I'll enclose Hazel's letter, that I should answer also from Aunt Bessie, Dorothy, letter from Carolyn - she expects her baby in June and quit teaching middle of March.

Not many flowers for decoration - some iris & spirea and big orange poppies. We watered some or they wouldn't have bloomed - too cold & dry. I got two geraniums, a petunia & 3 geranium plants in des Moines - I'll take them to cemetery then put them in my flower box that we got at a sale (made from piano wood) real good one.

Back from dinner at Irena & Dad's taking a nap and I think I will, too. I get so sleepy! Another week & Tommy will be home, then graduations & then the trip to Montreal -

makes me dizzy to think of all the goings on!

So glad Mrs. Kruse is better - maybe they can take a vacation this summer. Pops will enjoy going after Tom. Such a time the colleges are having - even Graceland at Lamoni had a foreign student who shot a girl because she quit going with him!

School is out this week at Mt. Ayr and maybe Mary & Wanda Robertson will come & help one a little. Wanda graduates from 8th grade.

Did I write you that Mike Combs is getting married in June? That's Bib & Maxine's boy that is 6 wks. older than Tommy! They both go to Maryville to college - she is a Bervington girl from Mt. Ayr.

They are putting up signs on road south to resurface the highway from state line to Grant City.

Had Pops out on tractor with the mower to cut weeds around the garden.

They say they are to put in the new phone lines this summer.

Let you know later what we decide to do.

Much love to each & all
Merrilee