

Dear Alice: -

6/27/88
Novato, Ca.

Please forgive my not answering sooner your letter of March 5. Your project on the Adair elders sounds logical and interesting.

I have been trying to think of an "expression" or "saying" they had used, but can't seem to remember any. Guess my memory is really ~~lousy~~ ^{lousy} after all. I know Grandma "Maggie" Adair was the 2nd hardest working woman I've known, excepted only her mother Great Grandmother ^{Elizabeth (Zellman)} Miller of Brockton. Whenever I worked with or near her ^(Maggie) she kept pushing or nagging me to be quicker or work harder. I learned from her how to work hard.

Of course your father picked up "hard work" habits, possibly from Wes as well as Maggie. Your own mother worked hard, but I wonder if Maggie ever rubbed her the wrong way - the way she ^(Maggie) pushed others around her.

I remember Grandpa Wes for his work with the Methodist church and the kindly way he treated people, friend or stranger. He applied the "Golden Rule" to his life. ~~He said a stranger, he hadn't got next.~~ ^{He was a friend.}

I vividly remember working alongside Maggie, shocking bundles of oats. She wanted it capped "just right." Also I recall threshing time and once when D. S. Adair and I were pitching bundles up on the hay wagon that your dad ^{was} spreading the load. D. S. was a card. He got up a plan to needle Earl. I and D. S. got on opposite sides of a shock slid one hand way down the handle and together lifted

the entire shock onto the load. Instead of bundles arriving one or two at a time they were arriving 8 to 10 at a time and Earl started hollering to "stop that". H. S. laughed & laughed.

The hot weather these past weeks or so reminds me of the day your dad and I built a large straw stack together. The dust and straw would stick to the sweat on our skin. By the time we finished and slid down off the tall stack we were really dry. I then learned it was 114° and it seemed more.

I understand my sister Naomi has contacted you and Margaret that she is coming to Iowa for reunion with other Hendrickses to be held ~~Saturday~~ July 30 at Springbrook Park 4 miles north of Guthrie Center.

This reunion seems to be snowballing. My sister Ruth and her daughters Susan and Pattie are planning to drive over. Luther is the same, + a nurse ^{W. H. Ruth is away.} will come in + care for him. Also heard that Dewey Adair + Bonnie will come down from George, Ia. Bernice Aborn and 2 other ^{Shenandoah, Francis + Bernice} Aborns are coming. Naomi talked to me on the phone and mentioned that you and your sister Margaret (+ Marvin) planned to come too. Be sure to bring some pictures.

My brother Fred who lives in Seattle area phoned me + said he was taking 5 days of his vacation to fly to Las Cruces, N. Mex. to see our brother Maurice. That was the thing I needed to get me to get going too. So I am flying down to see Maurice also on ~~July~~ July 23.

Fred ~~took~~ ^{will take} a flight to El Paso with a stop in Phoenix. So I requested and bought a ticket to El Paso from Oakland which also lands in Phoenix about the same time. There I'll get on the plane Fred is taking on to El Paso, so we will travel together from Phoenix to El Paso.

We'll rent a car there to drive up to Las Cruces. We'll be there 5 nights, + both leave together Thurs. July 28. Fred ~~back home~~ ^{transfer at Phoenix to FLE, 250 +} (to work) to Seattle while I'll fly to Des Moines arriving Thurs. afternoon ^(at 1:30 PM). I have no plans for 2 days before the Sat. Reunion but perhaps ~~the~~ I'll either go down to Indianola or someone else will show up to visit with.

Maurice was found to have cancer and so was operated on Tuesday May 10. It was so widespread they took the entire right lung. Maurice had a tough operation with his heart rate dropping to only 40. They tilted the table sharply to keep blood going to his brain. His feet + hands were blue + cold and they had to medically stabilize his heart, after a mild attack. Afterward, he recovered in I.C.U. normally. He came home after 4 or 5 days. He feels ok except he has become very thin (under 140). His doctor gave him some different medicines now + has gained 4 pounds back and Maurice is optimistic.

Maurice's son Edwin, who came home when Maurice was operated on + who has been working in San Francisco went back to S.F. in early June. We had him out to our house last Sunday 6/19 for father's day. He phoned Maurice from here and found him chipper + getting up and about the house + patio. It was then I firmed up my plans to fly down to Las Cruces June 23.

I have telephoned and made room reservation at the (over)

Cottage Motel at 201 South Third St. in Guthrie Center (25⁰⁰ + 200)
the 'phone is (515) 747-2211 for July 29 + 30. (+31 if needed)

I'm coming alone, but I reserved a 2-bed room.
Norrine refuses to go to Iowa in hot weather. Also they
are holding one extra room (bb) in case someone
needs it. If you do, let me know.

We were pleased at the good news on Ralph.
I hope he continues to do well.

Norrine and I drove 350 miles up the coast
in May to visit ~~his~~ brother Charles Wedig during
the only rainy day in weeks. At a State Park Norrine
walked out on a grassy place to get a good view
and stepped in a small hole + turned her ankle.
Was in some pain and did no more walking on the
rest of the trip. She can still feel it some
6 weeks later, but puts in a full day on her
feet + walks a few blocks + does shopping ok, so
she insists she'll be ok while I'm gone.

Me I've had some Prostate swelling which
is painful, but I'm medicating it and it has slightly
moderated. I'm to see my Dr. Tues. 7/5 again for another
checkup. I'm going to keep planning my trip unless
he says otherwise. Since I am improving, I'm sure I'm coming.

Oh Yes, on Sunday July 3 Norrine and I are
going to a reunion of the Spencer family, ~~Lyle Spencer~~
clan. Lyla (Spencer) Nipon who married George Nipon
and who had a daughter Nicky (who married a wealthy Mexican)
are hosting the reunion at "Rossmoor" a beautiful home
area for retired elder citizens near Walnut Creek and
35 miles east of San Francisco. Laverne (Spencer) Turner
and her husband Bob Turner will come down from
Livermore, Ca. we may take a few pictures. I'm out of paper
so will close + mail this. Love, Orin and Norrine

Laverne + Bob
were Bridesmaid +
Best Man at our
wedding (Norrine + I)
4/5/1942.