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Faribault, Minnesota
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Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Johnson
3161 N. Buffum St.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212

Faribault, Minnesota

Dear Ralph, Alice and Helen,

I had very good intentions of writing you sometime ago but you know how that goes. We've been so busy around the house here plus working part time at the schools. I'm one of these who can't get going in the mornings and by the time I get home from working at the schools, I'm all out of the notion of starting in around here.

We painted the woodwork in our livingroom and diningroom last week a dark brown and the walls in the livingroom an Autumn white. Still have the dining room walls yet to do plus the hall into the bath and our bedroom. I bought inexpensive drapes (unlined) for the two rooms and a friend and I have been splitting some and sewing the rest together to make them fit. Also had to cut them off and hem them. Had to knock down some loose plaster in the living room and one thing just leads to another.

Wasn't Bob with Skelly Oil Co or just starting with them when we were in Milwaukee? Anyway, He is no longer with them. We were told the gas situation wasn't going to get any better for at least four more years and they would have to allocate more in the future and if you can't sell gas, there is no money coming in. So trying to maintain four big trucks, plus our own pickup and car, it just doesn't work. The Skelly trucks aren't new either and we had more money going out than what was coming in. We decided it wasn't worth it so the original owner bought the business back. Bob is now working for Montgomery Wards in St. Paul. He is in the Catalog store and sells everything. It's a 45 minute drive one way so if gas goes up to 80 cents a gallon, we may be moving closer to his work. No moving plans so far.

We got a nice letter from Bob's folks this week. They are in California for the winter. They are living in a friends apartment which is very comfortable and convenient except for being on second floor. The temperature was in the lower 90's the day she wrote the letter. That wouldn't be hard to take. So far, they like it there very much.

We had a nice vacation last August in California but I would never want to go back. We saw a lot of God forsaken country, and some very nice people but we tried to cover to much ground for the length of time that we had. It was all very nice but after this, we will take one state at a time.

HEY, have you still got that winter coat that Helen outgrew. If you don't have any use for it, send er this way. The enclosed loot ^{is} for postage and THANK YOU so very very much. Girls are sure getting good use of the clothes you sent earlier. When they go out the door, you might as well say, "there goes Helen". They don't get dressed anymore without putting something of Helen's on. I'm wondering now, how they got along before.

Thanks again and if ~~you~~ you ever want to get away for a weekend, drive down, over up, whatever.

Don't read this to closely, you'll find to many errors. Bye and WRYTE. See $\frac{1}{2}$ what I mean.

Love,

Wawa