

Bob Aldridge  
Cal. Fly Wing Unit - Camp S.L.O.  
San Luis Obispo, Calif.



Miss Janet Balvin

~~Tyndall,~~

~~South Dakota~~

Watsonville, Calif.

%P.O. Box 904

February 20, 1947

Hiya Jan,

I guess you were beginning to wonder what happened to me. Well, don't be too surprised because I'm still alive and kicking.

Are you back in S.D. for good now? I'm just going by the address on your Christmas card and I don't know whether you just went back there for Christmas or not. Anyway I guess this letter will catch up with you somewhere.

Well, how are you getting along now? It's been quite a while since I've seen you.

Things with me are just about the same. I'm still pounding the books down here at Poly and doing a little flying whenever I get a chance. Dan and I were doing a little formation flying this last week end. He was in the BT

and I was in a Tuscombe. That was really a sight to see. No one thought we could do it but we did. We even put on a good demonstration over the airport. Joe and Bill were really flattered to see their Tuscombe fly formation with an army plane.

Drop me a line when you get a chance and give me all of the latest gossip about yourself. I guess I'd better sign off for now.

As ever,

Bob.

Bob Aldridge  
Cal Poly.  
S.L.O., Calif.



Miss Janet Balvin  
P.O. Box 904  
Watsonville,  
California

April 10, 1947

Dear Jan,

This is going to be a hasty letter. Dan is going to town pretty soon and I want this to get to you before Saturday.

---

Some things turned up this week that makes it impossible for me to get home this week end. I've got some work to do at school.

I'll write you a longer letter tonite but I want to get this in the mail now so you won't be expecting me this week end.

Bye for now,

Jane,

Bob.

Bob Aldridge  
Gen. Del - Cal Poly.  
San Luis Obispo, Calif.



Miss Janet Balvin  
P.O. Box 904  
Watsonville,  
California.

Cal Poly.  
April 10, 1947

Hiya Toots,

slin back again for another letter to you tonite. I hope you could read that last one. It was kind of rushed but I wanted to get it in the mail tonite. Dan had a date tonite but I talked him into waiting a few more minutes. (Of course I had the keys to the car.) What do you mean that slin mean to my buddies?

Did I tell you that we have a new head for the Aero Department? He is an Aeronautical Engineer and had a lot to do with designing the jet engine. He is really making a good school out of this place and isn't

afraid to spend some of the State's money.

Today he found out that I used to survey in the Artillery. He sent for me right away, to report to him. He is going to give me the men and equipment to "survey-in" our school airport. As far as I know now I am going to be in charge of the operation. I told him how many men and the equipment I would need after I looked over the layout. He wouldn't let the Civil Engineer students do it because they would take too long so I told him I'd have it finished by Sunday night. That means I stay

down here this week end.

I have to figure out the volume of dirt to be cut out of a hill and the amount needed to fill in several gulleys. It's really going to be a headache.

My calculations will be handed in to the Civil Aeronautics authorities for approval and also to the State Board of Education. It's a \$100,000.00 project.

Enough of the local news for the present. How is every little thing with you? You're not working too hard I trust.

I got the hotel reservation for you during the "Poly Royal". I found out that there is going

to be quite a bit doing down here that Friday too. Do you suppose you could make it down here on Friday instead of Saturday. If you could I will drive home Thursday (May 1st) night and we could come back <sup>here</sup> Friday morning. It would be a lot more fun to be down here both days instead of just one. If you can make it ok, drop me a line and I will change the hotel reservation of yours to two days.

I hope I didn't get you too confused in that preceding paragraph. I know it's very confounding.

There is only about one more thing I can think of to write about. Would you

consider going out somewhere next Saturday night that I am home? That will be next week I guess.

You ought to see Steve pulling his hair out over his Physics homework. I guess I'm lazy tonight because I haven't done any. Ah what a life we lead down here. (sez who!)

I guess I'd better sign off for now. This is getting to be quite a lengthy conversation.

Mucho Amour,

Bob  


P.S. What a mess this letter turned out to be. Did you ever see so much repetition?

Robert L. Aldridge  
Gen Del - Cal Poly  
San Luis Obispo, Calif.



Miss Janet Balvin  
P.O. Box 904  
Watsonville,  
California.

April 21, 1947

Dear Jan,

I guess a letter to you would be the best way to break in my new pen. It sure is swell. I was afraid that the point would be too fine but it is just right. Thanks again darling.

There is really nothing to write about but I wanted to drop you a line anyway — just to let you know I'm still thinking of you.

Classes today were just the usual thing. It takes me a week to get back in the grind and then I go home again. Life at Poly is really a lot of fun in that respect. I'm no exception though. Everyone down here is like that. Yep, this is really some school.

We had a lot of fun on the picnic yesterday. I wish I had asked you to go on it now but I really didn't know what the score was before. It was just something that our folks cooked up.

I'm not getting very far on this letter tonight so I guess I'd better go back to my home work. I'm not guaranteeing how far I'll get on that either but there is nothing like trying.

Well Jan, I'll be seeing you next Saturday night at 7:30. (or will it be 7:35?).

Bye for now.

All my love,

Bob

Bob Aldridge  
Gen. Del. Cal. Poly.  
San Luis Obispo, Calif.



Miss Janet Balwin  
P.O. Box 904  
Watsonville,  
California

April 28, 1947

Dearest,

I think that I ought to apologize to you for yesterday. I'm afraid that I wasn't very sociable because of having to rush around so much. Anyway I did enjoy your company very much yesterday.

When we got down here last nite, San Luis was all "socked" in. We searched for half an hour to find a hole in the fog but didn't have any luck. I had to land at Paso Robles and take a bus from there. This morning we rented a plane from the airport and flew over after the "BT".

What do you think of the "BT"? That is really an airplane,

isn't it? It really is something to fly.

Practically all the way down here last nite Dan was snoozing in the back seat with his feet perched up on top of the instrument panel. What would you do with a guy like that?

I wanted to remind you again to bring your bathing suit down with you. (also cap & towel!) I'm looking forward to your coming down next Saturday. Will have a lot of fun. There are going to be a lot of things doing.

I really do enjoy writing with this pen sweetheart. It is really swell and I think of you every time I use it. Thanks again honey. You are very thoughtful.

Did you receive a letter from your folks yet? I'm very anxious to know what they have to say about us. Solly honey, you mean every thing to me and your folks must approve.

I guess I had better sign off for now and get some home work done. Believe it or not I actually did all of my homework after I got here last nite.

Well sweetheart, be good and take care of yourself. I'll be seeing you next Saturday. Bye for now. I love you very much.

Yours only,  
Bob.

Bob Aldridge  
San Del - Cal Poly  
San Luis Obispo, Calif.



Miss Janet Balvin  
P.O. Box 904.  
Watsonville,  
California.

May 6, 1947.

Darling,

I just finished my studying for tonite and decided to drop you a line just to let you know that I still love you. It's 3:20 AM now. This will make the third night I have been up until 3:30 in the morning.

Do you know something? I told you before that you distract my attention all of the time. I can't get my mind on studying any more. It takes me three times as long as it should to do anything. Must be love.

I had a nice drive back down here last nite even if I was alone. It was as bright as day and I had a chance to think. All I could think of was you though. I sure did enjoy this last week end but San Luis seems awfully empty now

(over)

without you. I miss you already honey.

You looked so doggone sweet when you were sleeping on the way home. I had a heck of a time watching the road.

Please excuse me for writing on both sides of the paper. This is my last sheet so I guess I'll have to borrow some from Dan.

There is really some pretty music on the radio in these wee hours of the morning. No commercials to monopolize the air.

Don't forget to have your ring size measured if you can find time. I'll get that fixed for you as soon as possible then.

I guess I'll have to dig into Dan's stationary box now and see what kind of paper I can find. I'll be back in a minute.



CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC  
SAN LUIS OBISPO

I went to see about that housing business this morning. I think everything is fixed O.K. I'll tell you all about it when I get home this week end. No, I'm not trying to keep you in suspense again. I'd just rather talk it over with you personally.

I guess I had better get to bed now. It's almost 4:00 o'clock and 6:30 rolls around pretty early. Goodnite for now my darling. I love you very much.

Yours always,

Bob

Dear

*maybe you would like to  
listen to this.*

~~Just in case you can't make it to Cal Poly's big,  
15th Annual Poly Royal, "county fair on a college  
campus," here, May 2 and 3, I would like to have you  
listen to a coast-to-coast radio broadcast featuring  
Poly Royal and the college on Thursday, May 1, from  
8 to 8:30 p.m. (P.S.T.) It will be the Army's "Sons  
O' Guns" musical show originating from the campus and  
being broadcast over the Mutual Broadcasting system's  
nation-wide net-work. Check with your local Mutual  
station for the exact time they will put it on the air.~~

Yours for a bigger Poly Royal,

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



*Bob Aldridge*



"EL MUSTANG"  
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA



*Miss Janet Balvin  
P.O. Box 904  
Watsonville,  
California.*

May 13, 1947



Dearest,

I guess I should be studying but I can't concentrate on a thing tonight. I don't know what is the matter with me. It's been like this for over a month now. Do you have any idea of what it could be?

I got your ring back from the jewellers today. I think they did a pretty good job on it. It looks pretty good anyway. I sure hope it fits now.

Say, maybe I did the wrong thing by letting



"EL MUSTANG"  
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA

Skippy kiss you good bye last Sunday night. My folks say that he was talking about it the rest of the evening. Now my Dad wants to help me gas up the car next week end. I'm going to have to watch that family of mine.

Incidentally, don't you like the wings on the horse at the top of the page. I think they look cute. I call him "Mobile Oil after 5,000 miles."



I saw a bee-utee-ful  
Tie today. I was going to  
get it and give Bill a little  
competition. Then I looked  
at the price —————.

Incidentally, does Bill still  
stop at every drinking fountain  
he passes? I'll tell you  
something if you don't tell  
him. I drank 12 cups of  
black coffee yesterday. Shhhhh!

I've been doing a little  
figuring tonite and I  
think we could probably  
make that trip this  
summer if every thing works



out as we hope it will.  
That would really be swell,  
wouldn't it?

You haven't been having  
any more fainting spells  
around the office lately,  
have you? I hope you  
haven't honey. Please take  
care of yourself.

---

I'm back again. I  
had to take time out to  
pour myself another cup of  
coffee. This is only my  
fifth today but after all  
the evening is still young.



I'm getting a little dry on conversation now so I imagine I should do some home work. That is what I should do anyway.

Well Darling, I guess I'll be seeing you next Friday nite. I don't suppose I'll get to Watsonville before 7:30 P.M. I'll drop around as soon as I hit the big metropolis.

Goodnite for this time sweet heart. Always remember that I love you.

Yours, Bob.

*Bob Aldridge*



"EL MUSTANG"  
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA



*Miss Janet Balwin  
P. O. Box 904.  
Watsonville,  
California*

May 20, 1947.



Darling,

I won't write much of a letter this time. It's 3:00 AM now and I'm about ready to turn in.

When I got out to Steve's Sunday nite he wasn't ready yet. I got roped in on a steak dinner and we didn't get out of there until eleven.

On the way down I had a blow-out. It was my new recap too. There's not much left of the tire. It blew all to pieces.

I sure did enjoy the week end honey. It really



felt good to relax last Sunday — even going to sleep.

Did you receive a letter from your folks yet? I'm kind of anxious to know what they have to say.

Well sweetheart, I'll see you next Friday night so be good and take care of yourself.

Yours always,

Bob

*Bob. Albridge*



SAN LUIS OBISPO  
MAY 28  
4 30 PM  
1947  
CALIF.



*Miss Janet Balwin  
P.O. Box 904  
Watsonville,  
California.*



ADDRESS

NO. 1000

BY

May 27, 1947



Darling,

I wrote a letter to your folks last nite. It only took me  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours for five pages. Honestly, I was having a dickens of a time. I'm not much good at expressing myself that way, especially in a letter. I hope it does some good.

"Sinky" got 19 miles per gallon on the way down here. Pretty good, eh? Now I've got to experiment around until I find the size jets



that will give me the same performance without having the choke taped out. Follow me? I've got it bracketed in now. The size is between 35 and 48. Now tell me what you think about it!!

I'm getting into one of my very screwy letter writing moods tonight. I don't think you have ever been a victim of one yet. I warn you, if you value your sanity you had better hang up.



"EL MUSTANG"  
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA

I would like to write an article here that came out in our school paper. Maybe you would appreciate it.

---

Operation Morge For Dead Students.

To Student Body:

Subject:

Death of Students.

It has been brought to the attention of the general office that many students are dying and refusing to fall over after they are dead. This practice MUST stop.

On or after June 1st, any student found sitting ~~around~~ up after he has died will



be dropped from the student body at once, i.e., within ninety days. Where it can be proved that the student is being supported by a desk or other school property, an additional ninety days will be granted. The following procedure will be strictly followed.

If, after several hours, it is noted that a student hasn't moved or changed position, a member of the faculty will investigate. Because of the highly sensitive nature of the students and



"EL MUSTANG"  
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA

the close resemblance between death and their natural working attitude, the investigation will be made quietly so as not to disturb the student if he is only asleep. If some doubt exists as to the true condition of the student, extending a G. I. check is a fine test. If the student does not reach for it, it may reasonably be assumed that he is dead. In some cases, the instinct is so strongly developed, however, that a spasmodic clutch or reflex



action may be encountered.  
Don't let this fool you.

In all cases, a sworn statement by the dead person must be filled out on a special form provided for this purpose. P.U. 35-789-33½. Fifteen copies will be made. Three copies will be filed in the Records Office, and three copies are to be given to the deceased. Destroy the rest.

Form 83-a "Application for Degree" must also be filled out by the student.



Be sure to include correct forwarding address. If he can't write, his signature must be witnessed by two other students, preferably alive. Complete the case by pushing the body to one side to make room for the next incumbent.

By order of  
General Office  
Manager.

---

How what do you think of Cal Poly? Things are pretty rough.



"EL MUSTANG"  
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA

Now that I have used up seven pages on that nonsense I guess I'd better finish up. You must be wondering what goes on down here.

Things aren't so bad though, there were only 13 incumbents so far this week. Just wait until next week.

Well darling, I guess I had better hit the hay before I start making spasmodic grasps for a G.I. check. So — until Thursday, I'll say goodby.

Love, Bob.

P.S. And I mean "Love".

July 7, 1949

Dear Jannie,

Just a note to say hello. Everything is coming along fine here in Felton. No fires or anything else exciting.

How is Creston getting along now? I hope the little punk is feeling better now than he did when I was down there. He's such a cute little guy and his daddy is so proud of him - also of his mother.

Didn't have any trouble at all with Betsy on the way home, I left it with Dad to have Everett pick up. Guess it's fixed by now. Only took half a tank of gas to go to Arroyo Seco and back. That's about 20 miles per gallon.

Guess I'd better sign off for now. Give the little water-dog a kiss for me. Also my love to Mom, Skip & Smokey and especially you.

All my love,  
Bob.

Janet

Business of Sonny.

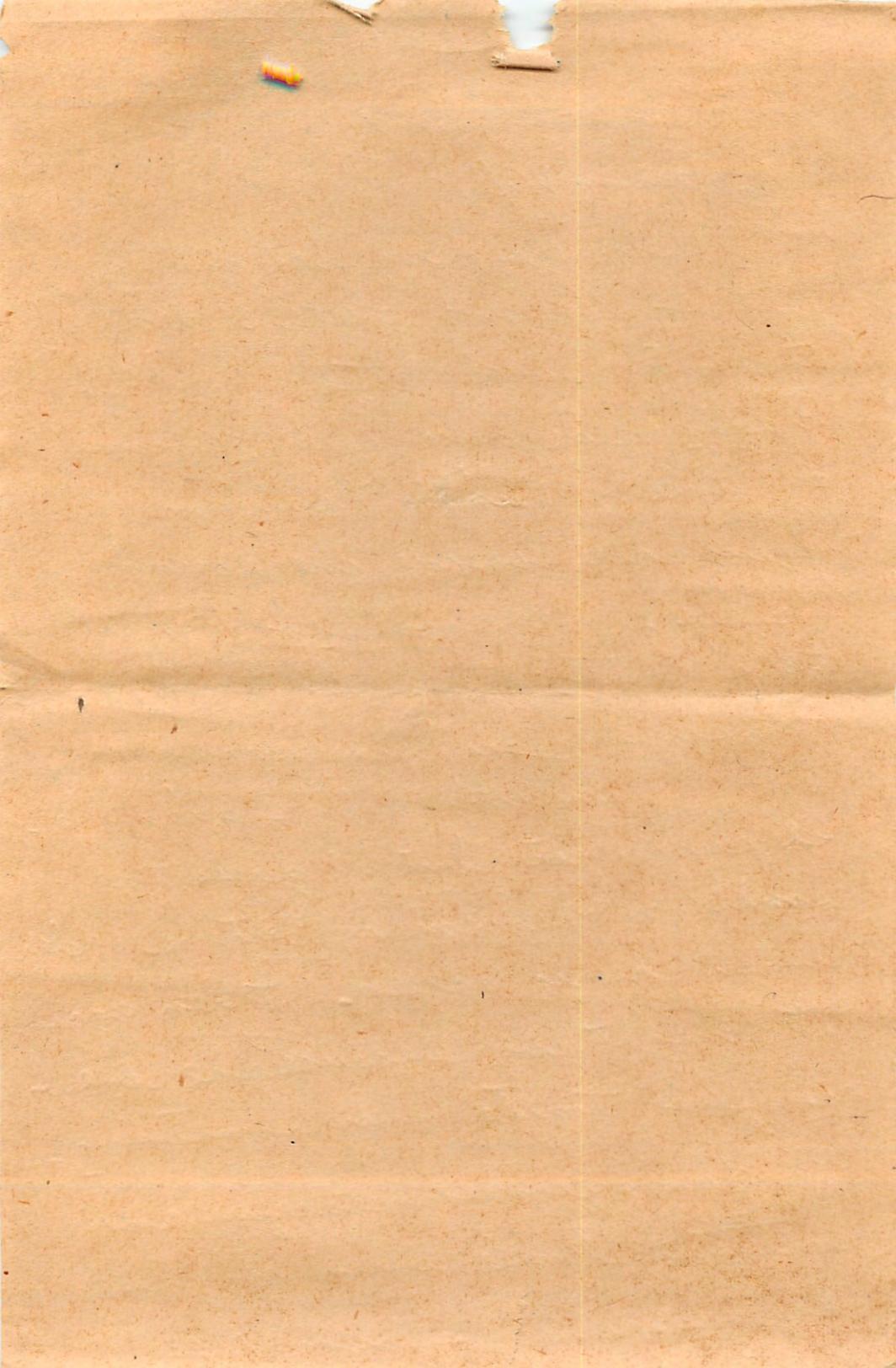
10-25-49

10:30 PM

My Darling Wife,

I'm lying in bed and I felt so lonesome that I decided to write you a letter. Les and Daddy sure miss their Mommie & Janie. "Punkin Noodle" is lying here beside me sound asleep. He looks so peaceful and contented and that big dimple in his chin shows up like a million dollar diamond. I pushed it but I guess the smile mechanism is out of order when he is asleep. Then again it might be because he blew a fuse tonite over something.

Janie looked peaceful and contented tonite when we left the hospital. I mean real.



contented. She looked just like her big brother looks now only of course he's a boy and she's a girl. Babys look so calm and cute when they sleep - not a care in the world.

I don't care what anyone says, I think Janie looks just like her big brother, I thought so the first time I saw her and I still think so. You just wait until we get her home where both of our moms can get a good look at her and see if they don't think so. Don't say anything to them about it but just wait and see.

When Pres sees Janie for the first time please pay particular attention and tell me every little thing that happens.

Did you ever notice that my two little girls' names are almost the same except that Fannie has one more "n" than Janie. I guess that's on accounta she's bigger.

Darling, you looked so beautiful tonite and you even smelled so pretty. I am so much in love with you my little bride. You are the most beautiful woman in the world sweetheart.

I wish you could see little  
 punkinhead lying here in bed  
 with his daddy. We have been  
 such good pals mommie. He  
 says that he misses you  
 big. He tells everyone that  
 his mommie is in the  
 "apool" to get a baby sister  
 whos name is "wane-wee"  
 and she says "waaa".

Nite-nite darling To you  
 two from us two.

Bobby

(over)

XOXO

Mommie  
 from  
 Daddy

XOXO

Janie  
 from  
 Daddy

XOXO

SLURP  
 Mommie  
 from  
 Cres.

XOXO

Janie  
 from  
 Cres.

smack  
 enough  
 smack  
 enough

P.S.

Cres just stirred,  
got up on his elbows, looked  
at me, smiled, said "da-dee",  
layed his little head back  
down and went to sleep again.

P.P.S.

I feel a little  
"Cres-quake" every once in  
a while too.

P.P.P.S.

Both of our "little ponks"  
are so cute,

P.P.P.P.S.

I'm losing ground in this  
bed inch by inch. Your  
whole half of the bed is  
absolutely vacant right now.  
Oh-oh — another "Cres quake."

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

*Rt. 5, Box 805*

*Watsonville*

CALIF.



*Mrs. Janet Aldridge  
77 Arthur Road,  
Watsonville,  
Calif.*



*...and please make  
people careful, amen*

*Remember - Only you can*

**PREVENT  
FOREST FIRES**

U. S. AND STATE FOREST SERVICES

March 30, 1950

Darling,

I just thought I'd write you a little note. It sure is lonesome over here without my little family.

How are my two little pumpkins. Tell Gus that daddy feels awfully bad about being so impatient with him and tell them both that I hope to spend a little more time with them next week end.

Well honey, the washing machine parts are in and I'll be able to fix it up for our little memorial next day off. I'm awfully anxious to fix it and get the clothes lines up for you so it won't be so hard on you.

Can't think of much more to write about so I guess I'll get to work. Come over and see me when you get a chance.

All my love to my little family,

Daddy,

R. C. Aldridge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville, Calif.



Janet A. Aldridge  
77 Arthur Road.  
Watsonville,  
Calif.

August 20, 1950

Honey,

How do you like the fancy pen I used on this check. That @#!!?\*\*\*XXO\$ pen of mine went dry.

Anyway, here's the check for Collier and also the blue paper for the collector to sign.

I did not mail the house payment in to the S.F. Bank yet as I haven't got the notice. I'll hold it a few more days.

Guess that's all there is to say. I sure enjoyed your visit tonite. Give the two punks each a squeeze & kiss for me. Did Cres give Janie her kiss that I sent home with him on the 17<sup>th</sup>?

Bye now Love,

Bob.

(Your husband for 3 years & 3 days.)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

~~DIVISION OF FORESTRY~~

P.O. Box 224

Soguel

CALIF.



Janet A. Aldridge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville,  
California

September 2, 1950

Darling,

I'm sure lonesome for you since I came back to work. Also for my two little pumpkins. Are they getting along fine? Maybe Janie has a new tooth by now.

I can't figure out why I am in this state of mind. I'm more homesick these last two days than I've been in a long while. I just keep wishing that I would have a run someplace just to get out of here.

Well, days-off are cancelled again. Did you ever see such a year for fires. I guess I'm lucky though because I do get a little time off once in a while. Poor Dad doesn't seem to ever be able to get home and when he does he's called back the next day. Oh well, we've got the time coming anyway. We'll either get it off later or get paid for it which wouldn't be too bad. If I don't get any days off this coming week I will collect 3 more days. That will bring the grand-total

up to 9.

I've got 25 more cigarettes to go before I quit smoking - also two cigars (if Gus doesn't get ahold of them first!!)

How is my little pal getting along? Is he taking care of Janie and Mommie while Daddy is away? I guess I will have to start playing out in the "Bull-Pen" with him next time I get home so that he will not be so afraid while he is in there. Maybe we can even take Janie in there too. I suppose we would let Mommie in too if she really wanted to.

I wonder if my little sweetheart is playing out in her play pen now. She is such a sweet little daughter. We are awfully fortunate to have such a sweet pair of pumpkins.

It just seems like I've fallen in love with you all over again honey. It was so different and nice to take you

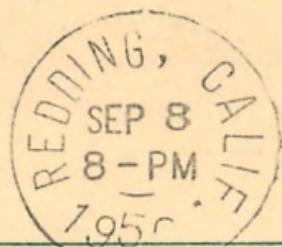
out to dinner. It has been  
an awfully long time, hasn't  
it? I still enjoy those  
drive-in movies though when  
we have the two little varmints  
along to squirm and fuss all  
over the place.

I'll have to get someone to  
stand by the phone for me  
this afternoon while I run this  
letter down to the post office,  
it's just a little ways down  
the street but I can't hear  
the phone that far away.

Guess I'd better sign off now  
and fix a sandwich to eat. I  
sure haven't been hungry at all.  
Bye for now my love and give  
our little children a kiss from  
their daddy.

Bob.

R. C. Aldridge  
Hotel Redding  
Redding, Calif.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Mrs. Janet Aldridge  
(Cous & Janie)  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville, Calif.

9-8-50  
Redding.

Honey,

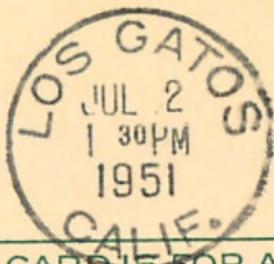
We're off the fire  
now and waiting for  
our release from  
Shasta County + Dist II.  
Expect to be on way  
home tomorrow but  
don't know for sure.  
It is possible we may  
go to another fire.

Bye for now honey.  
Give the kids my  
love.

Bob

P.S. Fire was 24,000 acres when we  
got it controlled. Boy was it hot!!

W. Aldredge  
Rt 2, Box 196-D  
Los Gatos, Calif.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mrs. Janet A. Aldredge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville,  
Calif.

7-1-51

Darling,

Maybe you have heard already but days-off are cancelled for July 4th so I won't be able to be home. Sure wish I could so I could see the little pumpkins all dressed up again but maybe they will put on their cowboy & cowgirl outfits again for daddy.

I'll be home Thursday & Friday. Three days next week. (Wed, Thurs & Fri)

Does little Jamie still wake up all night. You tell the little peanut to be a good girl. Tell C res to take care of things while I'm away. He's the man of the house now.

Love to all of you. Bob.

R.C.A.  
Rt. 2, Box 196-D  
Los Gatos.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mrs. Janet Aldridge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville,  
Calif.

Hon -

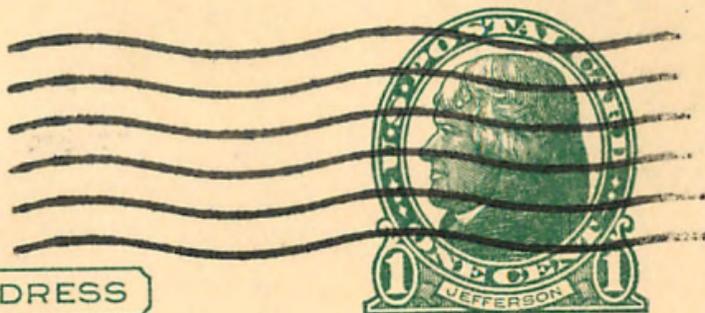
Thanks for the card.  
Glad the kids & you are  
O.K.

I mailed the check  
into the bank so you  
can cash a check  
when you receive this.  
Make it for \$30.00

That will be \$28 for  
groceries and \$2 for  
haircut. Hope you  
werent too short - she's  
been worried about it.

'Scuse the scribblin.  
See you Wednesday A.M.  
Love & Kisses to all,  
Bob.'

R. E. Aldridge  
Rt. 2, Box 196-D  
Los Gatos, Calif.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mrs. Janet Aldridge  
77 Arthur Road  
Watsonville,  
Calif.

August 16, 1951

Hi Darling,

Happy Anniversary  
to you. I'll be thinking  
about you all day.  
We'll celebrate when  
I get home again.

I'm thinking of Jamie  
too. I'll bet she shows  
the rest who is the  
prettiest little gal.  
Cres will give her all  
the moral support  
she will need from the  
masculine side of the  
family.

Doesn't look like we'll  
get on any fire - just  
sit around. Love, Bob

Bob Aldridge  
Route 2, Box 196-D  
Los Gatos, Calif.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mrs. Janet A. Aldridge  
77 Arthur Road  
Watsonville,  
Calif.

8-20-51

Sweetheart,

Sure enjoyed your visit last night. The kids were so cute and full of pep. I sure enjoyed it.

Tell Cresslin sorry the steam-roller ran out of gas but that Daddy will gas it up and give him a ride next time - if it's still here.

Nothing much to write so I'll be seeing all of you Wednesday morning - I hope.  
Love - Bob.

Bob Aldridge  
Rt 2, Box 146-D  
Los Gatos, Calif.



Mrs. Janet Aldridge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville  
Calif.

June 10, 1952  
Tuesday eve.

Hello Sweetheart,

I felt a little lonesome for you today so I picked up some stationary at the store to write you this missel. I hope you're not too tired today. Please try to get as much rest as possible.

Tell my big pal that I'm thinking of him. I sure appreciated his help when I was working on Betsy the other day. I don't think I could have found the trouble without his and Jamie's help.

How is my little sweetheart? She sure is a big helper to her mommie, she looks so sweet and efficient in her apron. Give her a big kiss for me.

Now, how is the "little bean".  
He sure is a contented baby.  
He's really not much trouble at  
all honey. He cries when  
something is bothering him and  
when it's fixed he's happy again.  
Daddy is really proud of him.

The kiddies should have  
seen all the bunnies on the  
road up to Burrell this  
morning. They were all over  
the place, I had to slow  
down to keep from running  
over them.

Poncho did the cooking today  
because Charlie is on his day off.  
He did pretty fine for someone  
who doesn't know anything  
about it.

There is nothing to write  
about. Nothing exciting has  
happened. I've just been

catching up on some odd small jobs today.

I really hope you're feeling good honey. I hate to see you looking so tired and dejected. Please perk up and smile once in a while.

Remember that I need your help and backing to advance in this work and the next advancement is the one that puts us on the gravy train. Stand behind me darling and give me the moral support that I need.

I'll say goodnite now. I love you very much. God Bless my little family.

Your faithful husband,  
Bob.

Bob Aldridge  
Rt. 2, Box 196-D  
Los Gatos, Calif.



Mrs. Janet Aldridge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville,  
Calif.

June 17, 1952

Darling,

Do you realize that in two more months we will be married five years. It doesn't seem that long does it?

I'm wondering how the little kiddies colds are and hope you won't have to be up much tonight. Please try to get as much rest as possible honey.

Please remember what you told me, honey, about eating and keeping your moral up. I can't help worrying about you honey but please remember — it is a sacrifice now but our day will come.

I'm sorry I was so onery  
last nite. I felt bad about  
it all day today. Honest  
sweetheart, I really have.  
Please forgive me and help  
me to keep my patience. You  
and the children mean  
every thing to me.

Tell Cres & Janie that we had  
new tires put on the rear  
wheels of the truck, had the  
brakes fixed and put in a  
new battery. They are so  
interested in those things.  
It is understandable with Cres  
but for a little girl, Janie sure  
takes an interest.

What are we going to do  
next week end precious? Better  
start thinking — or shall we  
just take off somewhere?

I love you dearly,  
Bob

Bob Aldridge  
Route 2, Box 196-D  
Los Gatos, Calif.



Mrs Janet Aldridge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville, Calif.

June 18, 1952  
Burrell

Darling,

Just a short note before retiring. I just finished talking to you on the phone.

I'm sorry I seemed so short but I can't talk freely with other people around. I'm sure you understand what the reason was. I really was glad to hear from you though.

I'm just hoping you weren't too lonesome. Please keep cheerful honey.

I received your card today. It was swell to get it. Thanks a lot sweetheart.

Nite-nite baby.

Your husband

(over)

P.S. Darling - we don't realize how lucky we are. The more I see of other people's marriages the more I realize how perfect ours is. Maybe it would help you if you could see more of some other marriages. I'll explain when I get home.

All my love to  
you and the kiddies,

Bol

Bob Aldridge  
Route 2, Box 196-D  
Los Gatos, Calif.



Mrs Janet Aldridge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville  
California.

June 25, 1952  
Burrill.

Hello Baby,

I'm sorry that I didn't get a chance to write to you yesterday or this morning but I was busier than a skunk in a cabbagepatch. I had to get out the payrolls, meal records, inventory, etc. This morning we had to go to Santa Cruz and Felton.

I've got a new crewman now. He's from San Lorenzo. Seems to be a pretty good man. I think he'll work out fine.

How are the "Pumpkins 3"? Still full of the dickens I bet. How is little Janie's

cold? I hated to see her with such a bad cough.

Tell the peanuts that I've got that new picture of the bear family that I was telling them about. Smokey is holding his shovel and looks pretty m-a-d because a forest fire is burning. Eric is saying his prayers and Jeanie is holding their little pet deer. Of course Momie Bear is taking the picture so she didn't get in it.

How is the eating coming along ?? ! { @ # 7 ~

You'd better !!!

Bye for now little family  
Love - Bob.

Bob Aldridge  
Route 2, Box 196-D  
Los Gatos, Calif.



Mrs. Janet Aldridge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville  
Calif.

July 1, 1952  
Bunell

Hello Sweetness,

Just another note to tell you "howdy". Sure do hope you got some sleep today.

The boys are sure having a good time with our records. They are really getting the dust worn out of the grooves up here. I didn't know what a selection we had.

Well little peanuts I'm awfully sorry to tell you but the boys let the horned toad get away. She probably had to go home to her babies

anyway. Maybe we'll be able to find another one some day. We found a great big gopher snake today. It was longer than 3 feet.

Honey, days off are cancelled for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. That means I won't be able to get home next Sunday. I'll be home Monday morning instead. That will give us 2 sets of 3 days off <sup>later on</sup> and will be much nicer. We'll have more of a chance to do something that way.

Keep up your spirits  
honey. I probably don't help  
any by telling you that all  
the time. If you get too  
lonesome why don't you  
take turns taking Janie  
and Cus to bed with  
you. Can't help but  
worry about you sweetheart.

"Pistol Packin' Mamma" is  
sure getting a workout on  
the phonograph. It sure  
breaks up the evening and  
gives the boys something  
to do - listening to records.

I'll see you Monday  
darling girl. Until then  
I'll be loving you dearly.  
Give the "Beans" my love - Daddies

Bob Aldridge  
Route 2, Box 196-D  
Los Gatos, Calif.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mrs. Janet Aldridge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville, Calif.

7-2-52

Honey,

Don't do anything about my dentist appointment Monday morning. I will leave here early enough to get down there by 8:00 AM.

I'll be home after I see the dentist and will have breakfast.

Love, Bob.

3-19-53

Darling,

Your a little sweetheart and I love you very much. Youre so sweet that you make honey taste sour after one of your kisses. When you come into the room I have to turn off all the lights and put on my dark glasse because the brightness hurts my eyes. After hearing you talk all the birds songs and symphony artists sound like a huge discord of unearthly noises. I cant get over your scent-- it makes all the sweetest flowers and perfumes smell like like skunk juice. When I touch you it sends chills and thrills through me and makes the most beautiful sights look ugly.

I love you.,

No good & undeserving BOB...



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Refer to Number

July 25, 1953  
8:30 A.M.

Darling,

Just a line to say hello to you and the kiddies. I will probably only have one day off this coming week & I don't know for sure what day it will be. Probably Tuesday. The big shots from Sacramento are coming to make an inspection.

Mom, Jo Ann, & Uncle Albert stopped by last night. I hear Teddy will have a few more teeth pretty soon.

Well, nothing more new here and I have work piled up waiting for me so I'll quit now. I'm always thinking of my little (?) family.

Love  
Bob.

4/10  
Bob Aldridge  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Saguel

---

CALIFORNIA



Mrs Bob Aldridge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville  
Calif.

Aug 22

Darling -

Just a note to say hello so you will hear something from me during the week. I thought I'd drop this in the mail before I shove off for Santa Clara County.

Tell all of the little kiddies hello for me - by that I mean Roy, Dale and Poncho.

There's nothing new around here. We worked up at the new site this morning and just puttering around this afternoon.

When you write your folks again why don't you try to talk your Dad into coming out next Oct or Nov.

Guess I'd better sign off for now. I love you very much sweetheart. I'll see you tomorrow nite my darling.

All my love.

Your husband  
Bob,



Mrs. Bob Aldridge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville  
Calif.

3 cash  
11 cotton  
without tags |||||

39¢  
3

1.17

Wards



August 26, 33

Darling,

I got a chance to send a letter in to town to be mailed so thought I'd drop you and the kiddies a line.

My crew is the camp crew on this burn. It's kind of a lazy life - long hours but not too heavy work. I don't know how soon we will be home. It will probably be another week anyway.

There is some trouble making this stuff burn where you want it and getting a clean burn out of it.

Well she gotta rush. Lots of brass here today. My love to you and the little ones,

Bob.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**DIVISION OF FORESTRY**

Bob Aldridge  
Sen. Del.  
Soquel.  
CALIFORNIA



*Open*  
Mrs. Janet Aldridge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville,  
Calif.

November 8, 1953

Darling Jannie,

I got so lonesome tonite that I had to write you a line and that's a big ordeal for me. It seems harder than ever to come back here now. I've got 5 to miss now instead of 4.

Well tomorrow you will be our Happy Birthday Girl. I wish I had written this in time to reach you tomorrow but unless something comes up I will wake you up about 7:00 AM with a phone call. Happy Birthday though darling, I will be thinking of you all day.

Do you want some scoop about what I'm doing. Maybe if I tell you now I won't be doing so much yapping when I get home. Nothing much happened Friday. I just piddled around getting used to things again and cussing out the stupid reefs they had here. (Things were in pretty good shape though.)

Yesterday I brought the bookwork up to date and made out a bunch of "1st-of-the-month-reports" that hadn't been done yet. Last nite I had a chimney fire up above Davenport which took a couple of hours. It was a 21 mile run to the

fire. It was bound to be out one way or the other by the time I got there, however the damage was minor.

This afternoon we had another fire - about 3 acres of brush, grass & timber - way up Soquel Creek. We had to go clear up to the 4H Camp and then come back down Soquel Creek. It was 20 miles and took an hour to get there. The whole thing was a non-permit burn and what a mess. The one responsible will be stuck with suppression costs as well as going before the judge.

Ford finally showed up here today. There hasn't been a thing done at the new site since I left. A CYA crew that was scheduled to go up there the latter part of last month was called off. Ford admits he doesn't know anything about the septic tank, etc. and is leaving the whole thing up to me. I don't know too much either but I've got him fooled. Wonder how he will get his construction work done with Dad & I both gone ???!!

Burrell, Big Creek, & Sandy Point are all closed up now. Felton, Soquel & Conalitos are the only ones open - now we are

having fires close to the camps that are closed.

The manpower has been cut to 6 Foremen, 5 Drivers & 6 Crewmen. Two Foremen are getting layed-off and if they go down to drivers that will mean 3 of the present drivers layed off. Don't worry though - I'm not even on the layoff list. There were only 3 out of 8 that weren't. They were Al Day, Rylander, and me. Dick Whiteside is getting layed-off though. Ford kind of expects him to quit rather than go back to driver - I don't know though - I sure would.

I've got to take the truck to Santa Cruz tomorrow to get some work done on the engine. There are some valves sticking and it runs like one of Burt Diers drilling rigs. It is due for a valve adjustment anyway. The carburetor might need an overhaul too.

I've got a couple presents for Denny. One from the Employees Association, and one from Flay Rogers - the Corralito's driver. Dang nice of him to do a thing like that. I'll have Wednesday & Thursday off this week but I don't know yet about next week. I've got to pick Flay up at

Corralitas at 8:00 AM Wednesday morning and by the time we drive back here and then I drive home it will be close to 9:00.

Don't expect me before that. Flay is leaving us Friday so I don't even know who will relieve me next week.

Elmer won't be back till the 23rd.

I'm fishing for 6 days off in a row over Thanksgiving. I think it will work out but don't count on it until you see it.

I've got a little more bragging to do. I guess I've got a pretty good reputation with Les Gum which kind of surprises me because I argue with him so much. He was going to roll Felter on that fire last site until he asked Ford who was on duty at Soquel. When Ford told him I was he said "Roll Soquel then. ~~It's~~ They are closer and things will be taken care of when they get there." He didn't even roll an Assistant Ranger.

No hum - what a lot of yapping. I guess I'd better sign off. I can't even spell right now - either too many I's or not enough T's.

Happy Birthday darling - I Love You - Give the kiddies a kiss for me.  
Your hubbys, Bob.

*Bob Aldridge*  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FORESTRY



*Soquel*  
CALIFORNIA

*Mrs. Janet Aldridge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville  
Calif.*

11-13-53

Darling,

Just a note to give you some information. I will have Tuesday & Wednesday off next week. Then I will work 3 days and have Sunday & Monday off. Then I will work 2 more days (on 8 hour) and have the 26, 27, 28 & 29<sup>th</sup> off. Only 4 days over Thanksgiving instead of 6. We have gone on 8 hour now but of course I'm stuck until the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Give the kiddies my love. How's the tow truck. Love,

Easter - 1955  
April 10  
77 Arthur

Dearest Sweetheart,

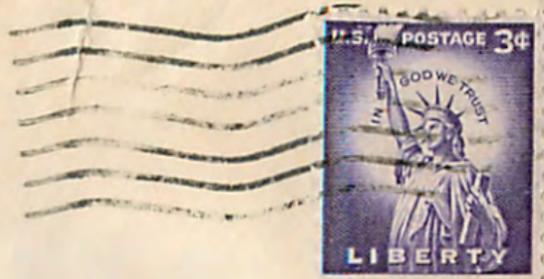
I think I will write you a real mushy love letter to tell you how precious you are to me. I love my little chickadee very much. You are the sweetest little green potato bug I have ever seen. My darling, you are my little cuddly squirrel puss. It means so much to me to just be near you and hear your angel chime voice saying such sweet melodies in my ear. I wish I could express in words what a sweet little pigeon bird you are. I love you - I love you.

All my love

Bob

P.S. I love you dearest.

Bob Aldridge  
1745 French St  
Santa Clara, Calif.



Janet Aldridge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville,  
Calif.

May 27, 1957

Darling-

It sure is hard to get started on a letter. I'm sure out of practice. I guess I'll give you an outline of what I did today.

We had an orientation lecture first this morning and that lasted for about an hour. They gave us a brief history of Lockheed and a review of the employee benefits, etc. Not too much news.

Next we were taken to our departments and the usual routine gone through there - briefing, introductions, etc. Then they handed me a bunch of manuals and said "browse through these." I browsed the rest of the day. Read all the pertinent data from the "Drafting Practice Manual" which was the best refresher course I could ask for.

The "DPM" refreshed me on a lot of drafting practice as well as Lockheed policy. It's the part I was worried about most.

I do have to furnish some of my own equipment. I've got more than I need except for a lettering stencil which is not absolutely necessary but handy. It's not too expensive.

The department I am in does not come under the union so that is a problem out of the way. Union membership is not compulsory anyway.

It sure is a traffic jam getting out of the parking lot at quitting time. It is better to wait for 20 or 30 minutes than to buck the traffic.

I just got in under the wire on being hired. They used up too many man-hours on overtime so they have stopped all overtime.

and hiring. I think this just applies to my department but I'm not sure. Anyway I just made it. I won't get to work any overtime until August when they start a new fiscal year and have a new allotment.

I feel a little more confident now but I wasn't too worried anyway. I even got to sleep at 11:00 PM last night. I know that all of your prayers have helped.

I sure enjoyed talking to you tonight even if it did make me a little sad. I was a little worried at first because you were not there and Janie sounded so sad & worried. I was afraid something had happened.

Give all the kiddies a kiss from their daddy and tell them I sure miss them.

I love you darling -  
Bob

Bob Aldridge  
1745 Franck St  
Santa Clara, Calif.



Mrs Janet Aldridge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville,  
Calif.

June 3, 1957

Hello Sweetheart -

I still can't get back in the groove of writing letters. Everything sounds so artificial when I start to write.

I'm awfully lonesome for you and the kiddies but at the same time I am happy because I know that things will work out better for us from now on. It took us (rather "me") ten years to really get started in something with a future but I guess it is better late than never. I just hope we can apply our future in the way God wants us to.

I have started to read over the pamphlet on Lockheed's group insurance plan. You think it over about CPS. I don't see much use of keeping it too as the benefits will drop and the payments go up when we convert it. We are paid up through June anyway. (This pen isn't writing too good.)

The work gets more interesting all the time. Not much to tell about it but it sure seems good to be back in something that I like again. Everyone is so nice to work with too.

Does Kathy still crawl into bed at 3:00 A.M.? How is Cress's impetigo, I sure hope he gets over it soon and doesn't miss any more school.

Has Janie washed the kitchen windows for you yet? How much does she get for that?

Tell the kiddies that I sure do like my new shirt, I wore it today and it is really comfortable to work in. The other shirts get so doggone hot.

Enclosed are some stamps for you that I got at the gas station. Did you get the ones at Ashcraft's last month?

I hope everything is all right there. I miss you and wonder how you are making out. Call if you need me.

God bless all of you.

Bob.

Bob Aldridge  
1745 French St.  
Santa Clara, Calif.



Mrs. Janet Aldridge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville,  
Calif.

*[Handwritten scribble]*

*[Handwritten scribble]*

June 10, 1957

Howdy Sweetheart-

I guess I'll try out my red pen for a change. Haven't used it for quite a while. It is quite a job to write a letter on Monday as there is not much to tell about.

I got to the plant about 7:20 this morning. The traffic isn't so bad at that time but 15 minutes later on the schedule would mean closer to half an hour by the time I got to work.

I'm sure anxious to hear if that fellow wants our house. I'm not getting my hopes built up too high but it is a suspense anyway. I'm sure praying that he will take it.

I got your letter - that is it was waiting here for me tonight. I don't know when it came. Gayle says that they

frequently have trouble like that as the post office is not big enough to handle the load.

I enjoyed the kiddie's letters too. They were real nice to write to their daddy. Les does a good job at writing - better than his dad. Jim does a good job at dictating and Janie at taking letters. I wonder if Jim really wanted his letter signed "Jimmy" though.

Sayle says that the little girls in the neighborhood are asking when Janie is coming up. They are anxious to play with her. There are no boys Creston's age though. It seems to be a girls neighborhood.

Sayle and Sonny are going to Carmel for a couple of days

next Wednesday so I will be baby-sitting with the cat.

The folks are coming over after a while to get the post hole digger that I brought up from the ranch. Dad is going to work some more on the patio tomorrow. Did I tell you about that — ?

There is a subdivision on the outskirts of Sunnyvale (towards Cupertino) that might be pretty nice. I haven't looked at it — just saw the sign. It would only be about 4 miles from work, I've been getting a pretty good layout as far as the tract homes are concerned. But the houses themselves, just the tract locations,

See why — 3 pages already. That's about all the news. I'll see you Friday unless you call me before. I will call Wed. night probably. If you should call and no one answers

I will probably be over at the folks place.

Now I had to start another page so I'd better think of something else to write.

We have a post office at the plant where I mail your letters in the morning. Everything is so convenient and when they finish building it will be better yet. There will be a cafeteria too but it isn't finished yet. <sup>There</sup> ~~it~~ sure ~~is~~ <sup>are</sup> nice working conditions at Lockheed. It does get awfully hot and stuffy in the afternoons though.

I am going to stop writing this time. All of you write again. I love you all. God bless you.

Bob.

~

Bob Aldridge  
1745 Franck St.  
Watsonville, Calif.



Mrs. Janet Aldridge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville,  
Calif.

6-17-57

Hi Baby -

Janie took up so many pieces of paper in her letter that I'll be lucky to squeeze in one sheet. I'm not in a letter writing mood anyway.

Janie wrote her letter all by herself but she wouldn't let me read the last page. She said it was secret so you'll have to tell me about it when I get home.

I have been wondering if Hall's are pretty sure of this sale and that is why they haven't come around to put the house in multiple listing. Hope so. Let me know wed when I phone if they have been by.

Really no news honey so I'm going to say good night. I'm kind of tired tonite. It has been a scorcher today. Janie is having a great time.

I love you

Bob

2

June 17, 1957

Dear mother

Michele is more  
fun to play with than  
Patty Karen  
Debey and  
Valerie. Michele  
and I went threw  
the sprinclar two  
times this afternoon  
and took a bath

Karen showed me  
where the store  
was. Michele  
won't ever want  
me to leave.

Instead of ~~the~~  
a bottle for  
Michele she  
has a nipple  
to suck on.

I miss you  
~~so~~ very much.

How is every-  
thing at home  
now.

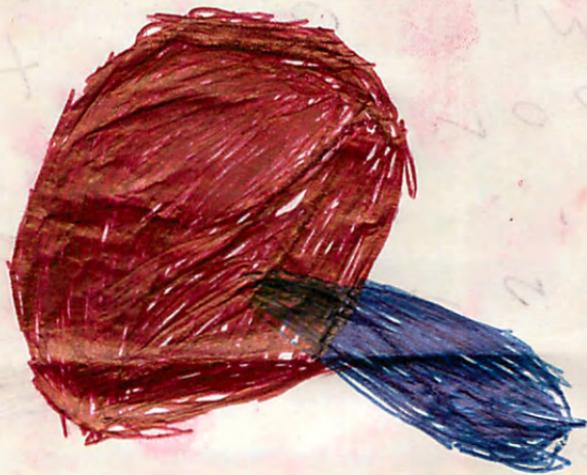
This ~~was~~  
afternoon at  
lunch at  
some Michele ate  
soup and cooked  
threw on the  
stove the  
thing with the very  
else



she had.  
We had toasted

chese and to dt.

This is  
Michelle's nipple



I forgo + to  
tell you she chewed a hole  
in it

Michele is in  
the spicilen  
right now  
in her  
peejams.

And getting  
her pictures  
taken  
the evening

spricler.

She is getting  
to look more  
like Kathy  
and I every  
day.

I love  
Lorene  
Aldridge

Bol. Aldridge  
1745 French St.  
Santa Clara, Calif.



Mrs. Janet Aldridge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville,  
Calif.

June 25, 1957

Dearest -

Am by myself at the folks place tonight. It is nice and quiet around here - nice for letter writing.

I stopped at some more subdivisions tonight but nothing we would be interested in.

There is a fellow at work who I've been trying to place. Finally tonight on the way home it dawned on me. Do you remember the red-head who moved in Wade's Trailer just behind ours? His name was Brown. They moved in just before we moved out. Well, he's an engineer in the aerodynamics group now. Sure makes me feel like a flop.

There was a design engineer working in our department for a couple days. Finally the group engineer got disgusted with him and sent him back. Consequently I got stuck with his job. The boss

told me that it was a little out of my line but it would be good experience for me. I've really been sweating blood over it. They wanted it done yesterday but I'm still not quite through with it. However the other fellows 2 days work was about 2 hours work and all wrong at that. Anyway I hope I'm doing the job satisfactory.

If everything works out OK I'll bring Jim back with me next week. He was up here once before so I'll bring him for the short week. Boyle wants to wait a few more weeks for the little ones as Michel is going to start swimming lessons week after next. What do you think about Danny & Kathy coming up? I don't know. Tell Creston his turn will come a couple weeks after Teddy's and it will be for a full week.

I'll quit for now.

Love + kisses

Bob.

Bob Aldridge  
1745 Frank St.  
Santa Clara, Calif.



Mrs. Janet A. Aldridge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville,  
Calif.

July 8, 1957

My Sweetheart -

I sure did enjoy having breakfast with you this morning. It is not very often that the two of us can sit down to a meal by ourselves but it is a real treat occasionally. I really did appreciate it very much.

Work went fine today. I can't begin to tell you how much I enjoy this job. I am learning new things all the time but at least I have broken the ice now and am starting to get down to earth. That 8½ year gap sure was hard to bridge in a way but in other ways it wasn't bad. Getting "bring" up to date on latest methods and materials was the worst along with learning company procedure & policy. At least now I don't feel that I am getting the "easy" jobs. I think they have enough confidence in me now that they give me jobs in my classification

As they come. I hope so anyway.

I broke out my pipe tonight. I've been getting the bug to smoke it lately. I guess the smell of pipes around me at work causes that. Anyway I am burning the cobwebs out of it. The tobacco is six years old but not bad - not bad.

I've been trying to think of some project I could work on at night. Something that would help pass the lonely evenings but I can't seem to think of any. Have you got any ideas on the subject.

How is little Janie today. I think she would probably be feeling normal again. I hope I'm not wrong and I hope none of the other kiddies have the bug. Give all of my "pals" & "sweethearts" a big kiss for their daddy. Even my "little baby boy" - whisper - whisper - secret - shhh.

I sure do miss you darling. I get a little dejected sometimes because

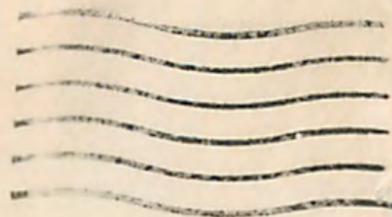
nothing has happened yet but elvis got faith that things will work out for the best, it will sure seem wonderful to go home to my family after work - Then everything will really be ideal.

Honey, I just can't think of anything else to write. I love you very, very much darling. You are the sweetest wife and the best mother that anyone could have. The children and I are very very lucky. You are the most beautiful woman in the world to me precious pumpkin. I love you.

your husband

Bob.

Bob Aldridge  
1745 Franck St.  
Santa Clara, Calif.



Mrs. Janet Aldridge  
77 Arthur Rd.  
Watsonville  
Calif.

July 16, 1957

Darling Baby -

I guess I pulled your trick this time. I'm sorry I didn't get a letter written to you last night but I guess you know how it is.

I am baby sitting with Michele tonight. Sonny is at his reserve meeting and Sayle is at her monthly hen party.

~~I~~ ~~just~~ have a feeling that we will get a bite on our house this week. I don't know why but I just think something might happen.

Well tomorrow is Wednesday already. The days don't seem to drag any way honey. What does it seem like ~~to~~ you? I sure miss you and the biddies

though. I hope it won't be much longer. By the way, how come you told Gayle that you think it will be a year before we get settled.

Aunt Lona & Bill will be staying at the Folbs place from Sunday to Thurs. Guess I'll have to drive home Monday, Tues, & Wednesday nights.

I sure am making a lot of hen scratching tonight. I guess it's the position I am writing in. Hope you can read it.

That is all the news precious. Give all of the little people a kiss for me. How are the chores coming along?

Love & kisses.

Bob

Dec. 15, 1975  
Manila  
5:00 AM.

Darling,

So many tender moods and feelings prevail over me when I am separated from you and the family which seem to escape me at home. I decided I should write some of my thoughts down so I can share them better with you when I get home.

I am constantly amazed at what Jim Douglass calls the synchronicity of situations. I wrote to you from Tokyo about how my arrival there was synchronized with the arrival of our Japanese friends. Now a less obvious series of timings seems to be taking place -- mostly in my thoughts. Could this be the result of being responsive to situations that occur?

If you remember, I had given you that package of pamphlets "Blessed are the meek" (by Thomas Merton) to take to the PLC meeting. (The first time I read it was when I was waiting in  
(over)

a gasoline line.) Had you put them in the envelope right away I would have forgotten them. But when I saw them on your desk the thought occurred to me that they might be better used here.

While waiting for the airport bus in Tokyo I decided to re-read that pamphlet to refresh my memory because I consider it the best description I've read about nonviolence. I got part way through when the bus came.

This morning I awoke early as is usual when I travel. (I'm staying at St Andrew's Seminary but will be going by bus to Tagaytay today.) I lay there quietly for some time trying to work out a reasonable explanation for my being here. I'm the only non-religious and possibly the only non-Asian. (There is supposed to be a priest from Hungary but I don't know if he showed up yet.)

Anyway, I then decided this would be a quiet time to finish reading Merton's piece and contemplating it. Then a strange realization came to me as I heard the electric fan stirring the humid atmosphere. It is too hot and sticky to even put a sheet over me. And the room is large and high and old -- typical of an old seminary or large tropical home. Here I was reading Merton's writing while listening to the instrument that caused his death and in a room which must closely resemble that Bangkok seminary room he <sup>last</sup> occupied not too far from here. Then I realized that maybe this pamphlet will relate well to Asians because of Merton's profound interest in Asian philosophy and religion.

(over)

But after I arranged all of these circumstances in some sort of order they just seem to make my purpose here more confusing. I have a lot of expectation and hope, though. In some way I feel I'm about to be exposed to new opportunities which will give me more hope than the dismal research on weapons. Maybe (I hope) that when I finish the book it will close that portion of my writing. And maybe it will help me with the last three chapters.

The 5:30 gong just sounded. I'm going to the Eucharist service at six. St Andrews, by the way, is an Anglican Seminary.

I probably won't mail this, and maybe I'll add more later. I hope I can show my love more. Bob

Darling,

Did I ever tell you that I love you very much? You are the sweetest little wife in this whole world. I do love you more than words can describe. You've given me the three sweetest children in the world. We've got lots to be thankful for today.

Your husband



